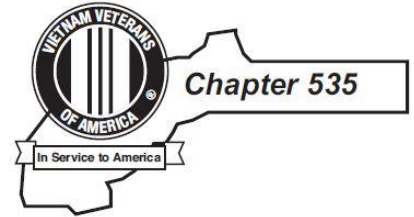




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 535



Website: www.vva535.org

Volume 33 Issue 2

February 2023

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 535 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2023

As you may be aware, President Dave Chaix and I traveled to Vietnam on January 1, 2023 and safely returned home January 23, 2023 around 11:00 p.m.

Our mission was centered on visiting the six Kontum area sites of the Vinh Son Orphanages, and the Pleiku site of the Sao Mai Orphanage. We also play tourist with travel 200 miles to the north of Hanoi, an area inhabited by ethnic minorities composed of indigenous tribal members from one or another of the 54 ethnic minorities in Vietnam. We primarily interacted with peoples of the Black Thai, Red Thai, White Thai, Bahnar, Jarai and Sedang tribes as well as with the Vietnamese.

We can report that the children of Vinh Son, long benefactors of support by VVA-535, are healthier than I have ever observed them over six return trips to Vietnam, dating to 2007. This trip was Dave's 20th return trip to Vietnam and he would agree that the children are doing well. We thank VVA-535 for the ongoing support, and we believe their good health is due to our dental

program and to improvements in diet over the years since Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage was established in 2001. Appropriate medical and vision care, as needed, has also added to the wellness of the children. Their caregivers, Catholic nuns and local volunteers, have done an incredible job of nurturing the needs of children who call the orphanage sites their home because of parental death or poverty-based circumstances. Overall, the FVSO program is a great success but there will always be a need for assisting them from infancy to adulthood.

Our tour began in Hanoi with visits to Ha Long Bay, Yen Bai, Sapa, Lai Chau, Dien Bien Phu, Son La and Mai Chau and Sa Thay. Later, we visited the orphanages in Kontum and Pleiku. We ended our travels with a few days in Saigon where the celebration of TET, the Lunar New Year, was in full tilt. This is the Year of the Cat in Vietnam, and Year of the Rabbit in China.

Bart Ruud

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.

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Upcoming Events

NCCVC Meeting – February 2, 2023
VVA 535 General Meeting – February 2, 2023
VVA 535 General Meeting – March 2, 2023
CSC: April 6-8, 2023 – Visalia
Chapter 535 Elections - April 6, 2023
CSC: June 9-11, 2023 – Visalia
Nevada County Fair – August 9 – 13, 2023
CSC :Oct. 27-29, 2023 - Visalia

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 Affairs Ric 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 Veterans Services Officer

Matthew Galvin ... 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 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.

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 (Potluck Dinner) of January 5, 2023

I am not aware of any minutes taken in the absence of the VVA-535 Secretary so there is not report at this time regarding outcomes of the January 5, 2023 meeting.

Armed Services committee adds 11 members, quality of life panel

By [Leo Shane III](#) and [Bryant Harris](#). Army Times. Jan 25, 2023



The Capitol building in Washington, D.C., is shown on Nov. 4, 2022.

House Republicans on Wednesday unveiled their membership and leadership plans for the House Armed Services Committee this session, including a new special panel focused on servicemember quality of life issues.

Eleven new Republican lawmakers were named to the influential panel, joining 20 returning

GOP members from last session. In a statement, Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Ala., said the committee will focus on “improving our national defense at a time when our nation is faced with unprecedented threats from our adversaries — including an increasingly aggressive China.”

Rogers has also said military personnel issues will be a major focus for the committee, and announced the formation of a “servicemember quality of life” panel to be led by Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb.

Committee officials did not release details of the panel's planned scope of work, but Rogers said it would be in keeping with “supporting our servicemembers and their families.”

RELATED



Republicans name chairmen for Armed Services, Vet Affairs committees

Rep. Mike Rogers will lead the military panel, while Rep. Mike Bost will lead the veterans committee.

By [Leo Shane III](#)

Rogers on Wednesday also announced his slate of subcommittee chairmen for the 118th Congress, who will work with him to set hearing and policy priorities for the next two years:

- Tactical Air and Land Forces — Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va.;

- Strategic Forces — Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo.;
- Seapower and Projection Forces — Rep. Trent Kelly, R-Miss.;
- Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems — Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wisc.;
- Military Personnel — Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind.;
- Intelligence and Special Operations — Rep. Jack Bergman, R-Mich.;
- Readiness — Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla.

Bergman is the only subcommittee chairman who did not serve as the ranking member on an Armed Services panel last year. But nearly all of the subcommittees will see differences in Republican assignments from last year.

Kelly served as the ranking member on the Intelligence and Special Operations subcommittee last year.

Wittman was the ranking member on the seapower panel last year, but now will oversee Tactical Air and Land Forces issues. His district is home to numerous military bases as well as the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division.

Gallagher and Banks have swapped Republican leadership on their respective subcommittees. Gallagher — who will also chair the House select committee on China — served as ranking member on the military personnel subcommittee last year, while Banks was the top Republican on the cyber and information systems panel.

On this day in history, Jan. 21, 1977, President Carter pardons Vietnam War draft dodgers

Some 100,000 Americans traveled abroad to avoid serving in the war

By [Angelica Stabile](#) | Fox News

President Jimmy Carter granted an unconditional and controversial pardon to the

many thousands of men who dodged the U.S. military draft during the Vietnam War [on this day in history, Jan. 21, 1977.](#)

Ahead of the 1976 presidential election, then-candidate Carter promised to pardon those who evaded the draft as a way to close the nation's book [on Vietnam.](#)

The day after his inauguration, Carter kept his word — and pardoned draft dodgers who had not committed violent offenses.

Carter's presidential proclamation read, in part, "Acting pursuant to the grant of authority in Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of the United States, I, Jimmy Carter, President of the United States, do hereby grant a full, complete and unconditional pardon to: (1) all persons who may have committed any offense between August 4, 1964 and March 28, 1973 in violation of the Military Selective Service Act or any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder; and (2) all persons heretofore convicted, irrespective of the date of conviction, of any offense committed between August 4, 1964 and March 28, 1973 in violation of the Military Selective Service Act, or any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder, restoring to them full political, civil and other rights."



President Carter is shown meeting with reporters after a press conference in the Executive Office Building on March 9, 1977. He pardoned Vietnam War draft dodgers on Jan. 21, 1977 — his first full day in office. (Getty Images)

Carter said during the presidential campaign that a pardon was needed "to heal our country after the Vietnam War." He also said that while

disagreements remained, "we can now agree to respect those differences and to forget them."

However — many people did not forget "those differences."

The American Legion, among many other groups, "had been vocal in its opposition to any form of amnesty granted to anyone who dodged the draft while others went to war," as the organization notes on its website to this day.

"Carter had outlined his plan to pardon the violators at the 1976 American Legion National Convention [in Seattle](#). The Legionnaires, many of whom booed the announcement, were adamantly opposed and explored possible legal and constitutional violations of such a pardon," the group notes.



President Jimmy Carter is shown smiling at a podium in front of an American flag in the 1970s. (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

After Carter issued his pardon, "American Legion leaders warned what such a move would mean for national security in the event of a future draft." Adds the Legion on its site, "The wartime veterans of the organization had argued ... that no pardons should be granted, hearkening to the same position of the World War I American Legion founders who demanded justice for 'alien slackers' who lived in the United States but used their foreign citizenship to escape conscription during [the Great War](#)."

Most draft dodgers fled to Canada

During the late 1960s to early 1970s, some 100,000 young Americans traveled abroad to

avoid serving in the war, according to History.com.

Ninety percent of them flocked to Canada — where they were eventually welcomed as immigrants.

Other people hid inside the United States.

About 1,000 Americans deserted the Armed Forces and also headed to Canada, too, History.com reports.



Anti-Vietnam War protesters are shown during one of the first demonstrations in 1967 in New York City. (Tim Page/Eye Ubiquitous/Universal Images Group via Getty Images)

While the Canadian government had the right to prosecute these deserters, they were often left alone.

After the war ended, the U.S. government continued to prosecute draft dodgers until a total of 209,517 men were formally accused of dodging the draft.



Anti Vietnam-War demonstrators on the left, and Jimmy Carter and wife Rosalynn Carter in Washington, D.C., during his Inaugural Parade on Thursday, Jan. 20, 1977. (Tim Page/Eye Ubiquitous/Universal Images Group via Getty Images)(Ron Galella/Ron Galella Collection via Getty Images)

Government officials estimated that another 360,000 men were never pointed out, according to History.com.

Those who were accused, upon returning home from Canada or from other locations, were threatened with prison sentences or forced military service.



The Carters on Jan. 20, 1977, in Washington, D.C. (Ron Galella/Ron Galella Collection via Getty Images)

Many people who fled the country returned home — while an estimated 50,000 Americans settled in Canada permanently.

While veterans groups criticized him for letting evaders off the hook, amnesty groups were angry that he did not include others who had been prosecuted — such as deserters, soldiers who were dishonorably discharged and civilian anti-war demonstrators, History.com noted.

Chelsea Manning to return to active duty after prison release

By [Meghann Myers](#) Army Times. May 15, 2017



In this June 5, 2013, file photo Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning, then-Army Pfc. Bradley Manning, is escorted out of a

courthouse in Fort Meade, Md., after the third day of his court martial. Manning could be placed in solitary confinement indefinitely for allegedly violating prison rules by having a copy of Vanity Fair with Caitlyn Jenner on the cover and an expired tube of toothpaste, among other things, her lawyer said Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015.

Pvt. Chelsea Manning is getting out of prison on Wednesday, and because her court-martial conviction is still under appeal, she'll be staying in the Army for the foreseeable future.

Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison back in 2013, but an order by former President Obama in January commuted her sentence to seven years from her initial arrest, which adds up to May 17, 2017.

She won't draw a paycheck once she's out, but she will be eligible for some benefits, according to an Army spokesman.

"Pvt. Manning is statutorily entitled to medical care while on excess leave in an active duty status, pending final appellate review," said Dave Foster. "In an active duty status, although in an unpaid status, Manning is eligible for direct care at medical treatment facilities, commissary privileges, Morale Welfare and Recreation privileges, and Exchange privileges."

The former intelligence analyst, who was court-martialed as Pfc. Bradley Manning, was convicted of leaking thousands of documents to Wikileaks in 2010. News of her return to active duty was first reported by [USA Today](#).

Soon after being incarcerated at U.S. Disciplinary Barracks in Leavenworth, Kansas, Manning came out as transgender and began taking hormones and living as a woman in prison.

Manning's fragile mental state, including a suicide attempt and subsequent stay in solitary confinement, informed Obama's decision to order her early release. It was a decision that

was met with fierce opposition from lawmakers and service members alike.

Shortly after his decision was announced, Obama told reporters he granted clemency to Manning because she had gone to trial, taken responsibility for her crime and received a sentence that was harsher than other leakers have received. He added that he did not grant Manning a pardon, which would have symbolically forgiven her for the crime.

"I feel very comfortable that justice has been served," Obama said at the time.

The Army declined to provide details about where Manning will be stationed, citing privacy and security concerns.

Flight school cheating ring ends in second chances for hopeful pilots

An investigator found as many as 27 students had violated the course's honor code.

By [Davis Winkie](#). Army Times. Tuesday, Jan 24, 2023



High school students fly in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a Meet Your Army event at Fort Rucker, Ala., Jan 9, 2023.

More than two dozen hopeful pilots who were caught cheating on a written test in September 2022 while attending the Army's flight school at [Fort Rucker, Alabama](#), received a second chance and passed a retest on Thursday, according to command officials and an internal investigation.

Army Times obtained a 212-page internal investigation by an [Army Aviation Center of Excellence](#) officer detailing the cheating ring among officers and warrant officers attending the service's initial entry rotary wing training course. They used an "altered" version of an official publication — which Army Times also obtained — that contained the answers to an open-book doctrine exam.

Aviation Center of Excellence spokesperson Lt. Col. Andy Thaggard confirmed the violations in a statement emailed to Army Times on Thursday in response to questions about the investigation. The spokesperson stressed that "all flight school students, regardless of if they are from the U.S. Army or one of our Allies and Partners, are briefed multiple times during orientation about...standards and expectations — including the Honor Code."

Thaggard added that the center's top general, Maj. Gen. Michael McCurry, met individually with the implicated students and decided to give "each Soldier...an opportunity to successfully complete flight school."

None of the students faced court-martial for the cheating, nor did they receive any administrative punishments that would "have a lasting effect on their career," Thaggard added in a phone interview.

After passing a rewritten, closed-book version of the same test on Thursday, Thaggard noted, "they have completed all requirements to graduate flight school, and they will all be moving on to the next assignment."

How the cheaters were caught

Instructors learned of the cheating during the course's "Aviation Doctrine Week" — the final classroom hurdle that students face after months of flight instruction before their capstone flight simulator exercise and graduation — in mid-September 2022. The week culminates in a major test, during which

students are allowed to use official Army publications as reference materials.

Students who reach doctrine week represent a significant training and financial investment.

On Sept. 15, the day before the final doctrine exam, a student approached cadre members before the test to inform them that a “cheat sheet” was circulating among his peers and he was “not comfortable taking the exam,” according to the investigation. The document in question was a doctored version of an aviation tactics techniques publication that contained answers to the upcoming exam.

Why the US must protect military training lands from encroachment

By Brig. Gen. Tyler B. Smith (ret.). January 25, 2023. Army Times



A soldier takes part in a land navigation course at Camp Williams, Utah, in April 2021.

Anyone who has served in our armed forces and encountered a difficult mission will tell you that when bullets fly, systems fail or other general chaos ensues, it’s the warrior’s training that enables them to overcome all impediments to get the job done. There is no substitute for tough, realistic training and testing to prepare our forces for the challenges they will face in the future.

While the defense industry is ramping up our capabilities to prevail in large scale combat operations against peer and near-peer threats, many of the facilities vital to training and testing

are in an encroachment chokehold from nearby development.

When our country’s military installations were first established, they were built in remote areas to ensure distance between nearby communities. But over the decades, with the rapid and unforgiving pace of urban sprawl and residential development, that distance is shrinking and, in some cases, no longer exists. Military bases once surrounded by open space or farmland are now seeing the aggressive encroachment of housing, transportation, infrastructure networks and other development that is compromising our ability to train and be mission ready.

While serving as commander of Camp Williams, Utah, I experienced firsthand the emerging crisis of encroachment. When a new subdivision was constructed just on the other side of the base boundary, we were forced to abandon one of our primary artillery firing points due to noise, vibration and risks posed by wildfires.

Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, discovered that the new enhanced performance 5.56mm round exceeded their installation boundary. The ability to conduct individual weapons qualification was compromised as military, state and community leaders scrambled to find a solution to continue training the most essential and basic skills for soldiers. Additionally, being the second busiest heliport in the nation, there is an ongoing struggle to address the development of wind turbines on nearby private land that would create a hazard for low level nighttime training.

Military aviation across the nation is methodically having to curb many flight tasks required to maintain pilot proficiency and ensure safety. At Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, there are two runways that can no longer be used to conduct high power run ups due to the noise impacts on surrounding communities.

And these constraints are increasing nationwide. Commanders rely on land, waterways and air space to prepare their forces for the ever-evolving mission. Over two decades ago, Congress recognized the impending threat of encroachment to our military readiness and gave the Department of Defense authority to enter into cost-sharing agreements with state and local governments and conservation organizations to promote military readiness and prevent encroachment from incompatible development. To lead this effort, DoD created the Readiness Environmental Protection Integration, or REPI, program, which prioritizes the conservation of open space and working lands near DoD bases. These solutions often involve conservation or agricultural easements, which allow private landowners to continue ownership and management of their land with certain restrictions that limit incompatibility with military training. Often these easements conserve land that contributes to a community's sustainability by providing climate adaptation, mitigation and resiliency benefits.

We've used REPI funds to protect over 3,700 acres of buffer land around Camp Williams by working with willing landowners, government agencies and nonprofit partners. These lands will protect exceptional recreation opportunities, access for wildland fire response and a vital migration corridor for mule deer.

Congress appropriates funds for REPI each year, but the program requires a cost sharing, or match, to be implemented. The match can come from a variety of non-DoD sources, including federal conservation or resilience funding, and state, local or private funding. Fundraising for matching dollars is increasingly a hurdle for these projects, and a lack of matching funds can kill them. Landowners are deciding between conserving their land (which can take years to secure the necessary funding) or working with a developer with deep pockets and quick signatures.

The military is not buying more land to establish new bases. To use the technology that our partners and defense contractors are developing and prepare our military for future wars, we must secure the buffer land around our existing installations and ensure our bases are adaptable to climate change and future development. As stated in a recent REPI report: "Protection of these parcels is time sensitive. Once these lands are subdivided and developed, the impact to nearby military operations is often irreversible."

Ensuring our service members can train on DoD lands and employ the equipment they'll be using in combat is the greatest way we can protect them and show our appreciation for their dedication and service. Each year more DoD installations seek to utilize the REPI program to relieve the rapidly rising pressures of nearby incompatible development. America's defense contractors have a unique opportunity to help create and advance positive environmental, community and military readiness outcomes right now, before these critical lands are lost.

**HERE ARE THE WEAPONS OF THE NVA –
BACKED BY RUSSIA AND CHINA
Soviet and Chinese weapons sent in a steady
flow to North Vietnam were used by the NVA
and Viet Cong**

By John Guttman 12/19/2022



Soldiers of the National Liberation Front, the Viet Cong, in the early 1960s display weapons from a variety of sources, from left, a captured American M79 grenade launcher; an American M1 carbine, captured from the French or South Vietnamese or supplied by the Chinese; and a K-50M submachine gun supplied by North Vietnam. (Sovfoto)

Vietnam has fought numerous invasions over the past two millennia, usually against China or whoever happened to have conquered China, including the formidable, ruthless Mongols. Whenever they could not defeat the invaders, the Vietnamese armed forces eventually wore them down by simply refusing to quit.

When the United States involved itself in bolstering the South Vietnamese government against the insurgent communist Viet Cong, it did so with the expectation of crushing a guerrilla movement.

In November 1965, however, the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) fought its first major battle against North Vietnamese Army regulars, who had been infiltrating the South via the Ho Chi Minh Trail snaking along the Laotian and Cambodian borders since the early 1960s. The communists also made extensive use of South Vietnam's rivers and, to a lesser extent, the east coast, to smuggle supplies in.



TOP: Inspired by the German Sturmgewehr 44 of World War II but redesigned and simplified in 1947 by Mikhail Kalashnikov, the AK-47 assault rifle was easy to maintain and operate under extreme conditions. A staple of the North Vietnamese Army, it was also the weapon of choice for some U.S. special operations teams. ABOVE: Soviet designer Semyon Simonov's SKS carbine was outclassed by the AK-47 but made a reliable supplement in NVA units. (Jeff Workman/Dreamstime; Martin Brayley/Dreamstime)



North Vietnam's home-manufactured K-50M incorporated selected components from the Soviet PPSH-41 and the French MAT-49 submachine guns. (Greg Proch)



Similar to but simpler than the Browning M1911 automatic pistol, Fedor Tokarev's TT-33 was adopted in 1931, and 1,330,000 were made in the Soviet Union alone by 1952. It and the license-produced K54 were standard NVA officer sidearms. (World of Triss/Alamy)



The NVA's principal squad machine gun for most of the war, the RPD Model 44 was much lighter than the American M60, but its barrel could not be changed, necessitating short bursts to avoid overheating. (Jose Marafona/Dreamstime)



Viet Cong troops fire a 12.7 mm DShK machine gun at U.S. aircraft during an air raid on a South Vietnamese village. An essential element in NVA and VC air defense, the DShK was dreaded among Americans as the “.51-caliber” and the “eater of helicopters.” (Central Press/Getty Images)



North Vietnamese troops support an assault with an M-43 120 mm mortar. (Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive)



Displayed is a cache of communist grenades, mostly Chinese Type 67s, captured by a U.S. Marine after an ambush in Cam Hieu village, Quang Tri province, in northern South Vietnam on Dec. 4, 1967. Although deadly within a 6-foot radius, Chicom—short for Chinese communist—grenades suffered from a high percentage of duds. (Ed Palm Photo/Getty Images)



The ancient art of planting punji stakes to disable enemy soldiers was revived by the VC and taught to the NVA. (Rolls Press/Popperfoto via Getty Images)



The RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade gave NVA troops an “equalizer” against American armored vehicles...usually if they could get around to the side or rear. (Sovfoto)



A latecomer to the war, the Soviet PK machine gun was essentially a squad machine gun based on the AK-47. Like the American M60's barrel, the PK's barrel could be changed when it overheated. (Greg Proch)

The next decade would see both sides, the Americans/South Vietnamese and NVA/VC changing and adapting their tactics against each other. Essentially the NVA was a light infantry force backed by whatever heavier support it could field, adding guerrilla tactics learned from the VC to their repertoire.

Initially the VC used whatever French, American or other weaponry they could get their hands on, but with each infusion of NVA troops came a steady flow of Soviet and Chinese arms that made their infantry the equal of their opponents. Although the North Vietnamese did not commit any air support to their ground forces—which in any event would not have had a chance against the Americans—the NVA added more artillery, tanks and anti-aircraft weaponry to its forces between 1968 and 1975. In the end, in spite of the horrendous price they paid on the battlefield, what they had proved to be enough.

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 _____

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

Who will be next to share?

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

January

2023

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

February

2023

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

March

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting Operation Rolling Thunder Begins (1965)	3	4
5	6	7	8 First Marine Battalion arrives in DaNang (1965)	9	10	11
12 Daylight Saving Time Begins	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22 Ramadan Begins	23	24	25 Medal of Honor Day
26	27	28	29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day Meet at Trailblazer's Pizza	30	31	

April

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Palm Sunday	3	4	5 Passover Begins Gold Star Spouses Day	6 VVA 535 VVA 535 Elections CSC Meeting	7 Good Friday CSC Meeting	8 CSC Meeting
9 Easter Sunday	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Patriot's Day	18	19	20	21	22 Earth Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

