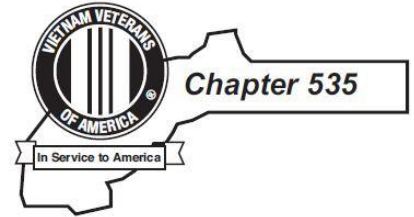




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Website: www.vva535.org

Volume 33 Issue 5

May 2023

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 535 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 2023

VVA-535 transition time to new leadership is upon us. Nominations for Officers and Directors had been set and closed and our elections occurred. Swearing in of new Officers and Directors did not occur in April as several electees were not present. Swearing in of the newly elected will be an order of business at our May 2023 meeting. Thanks are extended to Ralph Remick and Dick Corn for their work on nominations.

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 – May 4, 2023
- VVA 535 General Meeting – May 4, 2023

Placer Veterans Stand Down – May 9-11, 2023
CSC: June 9-11, 2023 – Visalia
Nevada County Fair – August 9 – 13, 2023
VVA National Convention – August 9-12, 2023
CSC : Oct. 27-29, 2023 - Visalia

Chapter 535 Officers

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Committee Chairs

Finance ...Ralph Remick & Kent Holley
Parade and Honor Guard Dick Corn
Membership AffairsRic Sheridan
Newsletter Interim Editor Bart Ruud
Victorian Christmas ...Cancelled for 2022; 2023?
Nominations Ralph Remick & Dick Corn
Veterans Assistance Ray James
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

Richard “Steve” Johnson: 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 of April 6, 2023

Apparently, in the absence of the Secretary, no
Chapter 535 minutes of the April meeting were
kept. Therefore, no recollections are presented for
reflection.

Placer County VSO appointed

While I have seen no PIO release on the
appointment of Richard “Steve” Johnson as
Placer County’s new Veterans Service Officer, I
know from attending the Placer County
Veterans Advisory Council meeting on April 11,

2023 that Steve was celebrating his 14th day of Placer County employment on April 11th.

- Steve joined the U.S. Air Force in 1999 and served 21 years 3 months
- Among other responsibilities, he served almost 8 years as an Avionics Technician/Maintenance Department Manager with duties aligned with the F-16, F-15, A-10 and U-2 aircraft.
- Steve holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Golden Gate University. He also has a Master of Education degree from Wayland Baptist University
- Most recently he was employed by Walmart as an Operations Manager.
- Steve is excited to assume responsibilities related to the needs of the approximately 27,000 Veterans and their families residing in Placer County

Vets Day at the California State Fair

July 27, 2023 has been designated as Vets Day at the State Fair in Sacramento. Veterans can attend free of charge providing they obtain free tickets through Vet Tix, a national nonprofit organization that provides free event tickets to those who have served our country. To become a VetTixer, create an account for free at Vettix.org. Once your status is verified through Vet Tix and the VA's verification portal, ID.me, you can experience events through Vet Tix. Tickets are free, however there is a nominal delivery fee.

Memorial Day

With May upon us, we are reminded that this year we celebrate Memorial Day on May 29th.

History and the Meaning of Memorial Day

The meaning of Memorial Day sometimes get's lost in translation. Below, we'll cover everything you need to know to finally understand the full Memorial Day meaning.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. It's difficult to prove the origins of this day as over two dozen towns and cities lay claim to be the birthplace. In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson stepped in and officially declared Waterloo N.Y. the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Regardless of the location of origins or the exact date, one thing is crystal clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War (which ended in 1865) and a desire to honor our dead. On the 5th of May in 1868, General John Logan who was the national commander of the Grand Army of the republic, officially proclaimed it in his General Order No. 11.

Part of the history of Memorial Day meaning will show that in the Order, the General proclaimed, "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land." Because the day wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle, the General called it, The date of Decoration Day.

On the first Decoration Day, 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery while General James Garfield made a historic speech.

New York was the first state to officially recognize the holiday in 1873. It was recognized by all northern states by 1890. Differently, the South refused to acknowledge the day and honored their dead on separate days. This went on until after World War I when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

With the Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363), it is now

observed on the last Monday in May by almost every state.

This helped ensure a three day weekend (Memorial Day Weekend) for Federal holidays. In addition, several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee .

HOW TO STORE AMMO SAFELY

FOR THE WHOLE STORY, WITH VIDEOS, SEE
https://www.libertysafe.com/blogs/the-vault/how-to-store-ammo-safely?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Tips%20for%20Storing%20Ammo%20blog%20%2801GXNTZTQ7KZSNZDZ75YX7QPDG%29&_kx=c3lQSJn03At8A6nub6-GwMu057uwfDpP_Ybh87FJRxo%3D.HdikN8

Any firearm owner knows the importance of maintaining a supply of ammunition. After all, without ammunition, your firearm is nothing more than an expensive paperweight. Recent years have shown that ammo supplies can quickly dry up in times of social unrest, political uncertainty, or supply chain problems, and keeping a supply of ammo stored safely in your home can help alleviate those shortages and keep you happily hunting, shooting, and recreating with your firearms and family while others have to go without, or pay outrageous prices for high-demand ammunition.

In this article, we're going to go over the reasons you should take safe ammo storage seriously and talk about some key factors to consider when developing your ammo storage strategy.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Reasons you should store your ammunition safely.
- Points to consider when storing ammo.
- Best places to store ammo safely.
- Store your ammo in a Liberty Safe

REASONS YOU SHOULD STORE YOUR AMMUNITION SAFELY

From the outset, there are several good reasons for being mindful to store your ammunition safely. The main two reasons are to protect the ammo itself from damage and deterioration and to protect others. Let's go into a bit more detail.



PROTECT YOUR EXPENSIVE AMMUNITION FROM DAMAGE AND DETERIORATION

Proper storage in a cool, dry place is essential for most valuables, but especially ammunition. The price of ammo has gotten so high that some people have actually started buying extra in hopes of using it as a form of currency, potentially trading it for goods or services when ammo is in short supply. However, any ammo is only as good as it's been stored. If your stockpile is corroded or damaged by heat, it's no good to you or anyone else.

KEEP AMMUNITION OUT OF THE HANDS OF CHILDREN, THIEVES, AND UNAUTHORIZED PEOPLE

Another primary reason for proper ammunition storage is to keep it out of the hands of children, other unauthorized people, and thieves. In some places, you could be held partially or fully liable if you haven't taken reasonable precautions

when storing firearms and ammunition, and they fall into the wrong hands. A good ammo storage strategy takes each of these factors into account.

POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN STORING AMMO

HUMIDITY

Humidity in the air, and especially direct liquid water exposure, can have devastating effects on ammunition. Quality ammo can be immersed in water without damage, as long as it's quickly dried off afterward and returned to a dry, cool location. But ammunition that's improperly stored in humid environments, or that has been subjected to flooding, a leaking roof, or another source of water contamination over any significant length of time will often be rendered worthless.

Note that the cardboard and/or foam packaging that many types of ammunition come packed in can also absorb water from the air, which can then react with the metals in the ammo to cause destructive corrosion. So, be sure to keep your ammo in a humidity-controlled, air-tight container, particularly if your home is not humidity controlled, or your local weather conditions are often humid.

HIGH TEMPERATURES AND HEAT CYCLING

Along with humidity, heat is the factor that will kill ammo the quickest. If you store your ammunition in the trunk of your car, for example, and it often gets hot where you live, the heat can damage the gunpowder and priming compounds inside the ammo and create the potential for dangerous overpressure when fired or render the gunpowder unreliable or inert.

Cycling between hot and cold environments frequently can accelerate ammo deterioration as well, so an unheated attic in the winter that gets hot in the summer (or a garage with similar

conditions) is a terrible place for long-term ammo storage. Remember, you need to keep your ammunition cool and dry to preserve it for the maximum possible duration.

FIRE RESISTANCE

When we talk about protecting ammunition from fire, it's not because of any safety issues, but rather to protect your expensive ammunition from loss. Even if ammunition is burned in a fire, the danger presented by exploding cartridges is actually pretty minimal, since it's the case, not the bullet, that may fly a short distance when the powder goes off. Sound wrong to you? Well, think about this: When a cartridge is contained within the chamber of a firearm, and the round is fired, the pressure is contained by the chamber, forcing the bullet down the barrel at high speed. However, when that cartridge is NOT contained in a chamber, by far the heaviest part of the cartridge is the bullet. So when the powder burns and the pressure builds up, the case ruptures, releasing the pressure, and perhaps launching part of the case a little way, but not with any real force. This may potentially damage an unprotected eyeball, but otherwise, there's very little chance of serious harm being inflicted by any flying projectiles when ammunition burns.

SPORTING AMMUNITION AND THE FIRE FIGHTER:

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AMMO BURNS?

However, keeping your hundreds or thousands of dollars of ammunition in a fire-resistant safe, vault room, or other fireproof storage area is a good idea, as long as it meets the other requirements for proper storage.

AMMO CANS OR OTHER SEALED CONTAINERS

Military-type metal or plastic ammo cans are not only convenient for carrying your ammo to the range, but if properly designed, they are also

waterproof, or at least effectively sealed to the outside air. This is extremely important to prevent humidity damage, as noted above. Ammo cans can be a great way to keep your ammo organized, stacked, and dry. However, ammo cans are not the only way to do so. Tupperware-type containers, plastic food-storage buckets, and gallon zip-top bags can be excellent and inexpensive ways to keep your ammunition sealed away from moisture.

Adding a couple of inexpensive silica gel desiccant packs to each container or ammo can is another hedge against invasive humidity, and is a good idea, especially for long-term ammo storage.

ACCURATE LABELING

We said above that the cardboard or foam factory ammo packaging can potentially absorb water from the air, but we still recommend ammo be stored in its factory packaging where possible (inside a larger, airtight container, of course), and not just because it makes it easier to organize and store. The labels of most ammo packaging contain all the relevant information you need to identify the type of ammo, the bullet weight, and other information. If you don't want to keep the factory boxes, at least tear off the end label and include it with the loose ammo in the sealed container of your choice, so you or your family will be able to identify the ammunition when needed.

If you wish to store hand-loaded or reloaded ammo, be sure to clearly label whatever containers you use, and it's always a good idea to include a printed or written card inside the container as well to remind yourself what the load is composed of. Trust us... you won't remember, even if right now you're sure you will. Write it down and include that information in every container.

HOW LONG CAN AMMO BE STORED?

Gunpowder contains volatile chemicals and oxidizers that are held in a stable, granular form, but powder and primers will still degrade over time, especially when subjected to heat and humidity, as noted above. Even properly stored ammunition has been known to corrode through its steel or brass casings as the "off-gassing" of some powders takes place over time. Most high-quality modern ammunition is loaded with non-corrosive powders and primers, and when properly stored, should last decades without meaningful deterioration. However, it's a good idea to check a sample of your supply once or twice a year to see if there are any indications of moisture, corrosion, or off-gassing.

If you find any of your brass cases exhibit pink staining, pinholes, green "verdigris," or other corrosion, dispose of that ammo immediately and double-check your storage containers and methods. Don't use corroded ammo. It's not worth the risk.

HOW MUCH AMMO CAN YOU KEEP IN ONE STORAGE SPOT?

Local ordinances may dictate a limit on how many rounds of ammunition may be legally stored in a residence, but in most places in the US, there's no formal recommendation or limit. However, it's your responsibility to learn and follow your local laws. There may be different rules within the same state, depending on what city you live in, so make sure you check.

For example, there may be a local law requiring you to keep your firearms and any ammunition securely locked up. There may be a local ordinance limiting the number of rounds of ammo you can legally store in your place of residence. If you rent a home or apartment, you may also be subject to a renter's agreement that may dictate how and where you must store your firearms and ammunition or may prohibit such items entirely. This also may apply to home/fire insurance policies, so read your documents

carefully. Please observe and follow all local laws regarding the manner of storage, and any limits on the amount of ammo you can store. If you don't like your local laws, work to change them.

BEST PLACES TO STORE AMMO SAFELY

As we've discussed above, the best place to safely store ammunition, as far as preventing damage and deterioration are concerned, is in a cool, temperature-stable, dry place with little or no chance of any contact with flooding or leaks from broken pipes. Ammo should be stored in airtight containers and labeled clearly. Never store ammunition in your vehicle long-term, or anywhere it could be exposed to heat cycling or humidity.

Most people recommend storing firearms and ammunition in separate, secure locations. This is to prevent the possibility of thieves, kids, or other unauthorized people getting access to both your firearms and ammunition. This is a decision that you must make for yourself, but it's a good idea. Some people keep one safe for their guns, and one for their ammo.

STORE YOUR AMMO IN A LIBERTY SAFE

If you decide to store your ammunition inside a fire-resistant safe, Liberty can help. We have a full line of [home](#) and [gun safes](#) of all sizes and capacities and in multiple configurations and colors. Have a look at our online catalog or use our handy dealer locator to [find a showroom near you](#).

Nurses in Vietnam: Putting Themselves In Danger To Keep Men Alive Among the first Americans to go over to the war, these women were in constant danger but are still often forgotten.

By Tom Edwards. Vietnam Magazine. 9/20/22



A nurse helps prepare a patient for an operation at the 7th Surgical Hospital, a mobile army surgical hospital (MASH), at Blackhorse base camp near Saigon in 1968. Nurses were among the earliest U.S. service members to arrive in Vietnam. (William Harrell)

"In Pleiku, the sound was faint at first, then gradually grew louder; a medevac chopper somewhere in the night sky," writes Diane Carlson Evans, a former Army Nurse Corps captain and the founder of the [Vietnam Women's Memorial](#), in her book *Healing Wounds*. "For grunts, the sound was a benevolent god with rotor blades; for nurses, an adrenaline-pumping bird that brought us merciless, soul-harrowing work."

For nurses in Vietnam that work occurred in Army field evacuation, surgical and MUST (Medical Unit, Self-contained Transportable) hospitals, on Navy hospital ships and aboard Air Force helicopters and planes. The average age of nurses was 23. About 65 percent had less than two years of experience, and 79 percent were women. They served in both active duty and reserve units. There was a range of tour lengths for nurses, although Army nurses, like other soldiers, served one-year tours.



U.S. Army nurses at the 93rd Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh, near Saigon, in 1968, work to stabilize a patient. Nurses in Vietnam often faced not only intense demands for patient care but also the threat of attacks on close-by military facilities and even the hospitals themselves. (B.J. Greenway Rasmussen Collection, Military Women's Memorial)

EASY TARGETS

Medical facilities were frequently near supply depots and airfields—targets for enemy fire, which could come from any direction at any time. Some hospitals suffered significant damage from shelling. Guards were on patrol 24/7, and barbed wire encircled the compounds. Nurses also had to deal with the loss of electricity, a lack of operating tables and shortages of supplies and equipment.

They responded with resourcefulness and creativity. Tables were constructed with discarded lumber and assorted scrap. Red Cross bags were filled with stones and used as traction weights. Combat nurses were scheduled for a 72-hour week—12 hours a day, six days a week—but after a major firefight with heavy casualties, a nurse's shift might be 24 hours or longer. Despite all the difficulties, nurse veterans say a high level of camaraderie and the appreciation of their patients kept morale high.

Nurses in Vietnam often faced more intense demands for patient care than had been the case

in previous wars. The widespread use of UH-1 Huey medevac helicopters enabled more of the severely wounded men to get to a hospital fast, sometimes within half an hour, substantially increasing the workload and pressure on nurses stationed there. Facilities for medical treatment admitted 133,447 wounded personnel between January 1965 and December 1970, and 97,659 of them were hospitalized.

The combination of fast transport and advances in medical care resulted in a survival rate of 98 percent for those reaching a hospital in an hour or less. On average, Vietnam War patients left the hospital sooner than those in World War II and Korea because of the improved medical care. During the Vietnam War, the hospital mortality rate per thousand was 2.6 percent, compared with 4.5 percent during World War II.

FIRST RESPONDERS



Hospital ship *USS Repose*, which operated mainly in northern South Vietnam, sailed to areas of heavy fighting so helicopters could transport casualties to the ship. (Naval History and Heritage Command)

Nurses were among the earliest U.S. service members in Vietnam. The first military women to arrive were Army Nurse Corps Maj. Jane Becker, Francis Smith and her sister, Helen Smith, who landed in Saigon on April 29, 1956, on a temporary duty assignment with U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group's Medical Training Team. Their task was to train South Vietnamese nurses in medical procedures. In

the summer of that year, Navy mobile construction battalions, the Seabees, made their first appearance in Vietnam. Hospitals were put on the Seabees' to-do list as the American military presence expanded in the early 1960s.

Army nurses arrived in Vietnam at one of two sites: Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon and Bien Hoa Air Base, about 20 miles outside the city. The Tan Son Nhut arrivals went to the 178th Replacement Company at Saigon's Camp Alpha. The Bien Hoa arrivals reported to the 90th Replacement Battalion at nearby Long Binh. From those points, it was on to their duty assignments. A variety of buildings were converted into hospitals. Some facilities had been turned over to the Army by the South Vietnamese. Often the acquired spaces were reconfigured into an "X" shape with the nurses in the center, where they could better monitor all the patients.

Prior to 1967, tents were the primary living quarters for nurses. The tents were replaced with Seabee-constructed buildings such as simple living quarters called hooches and Quonset huts. Hooches, like those in the Central Highlands town of Pleiku, were typically made of wooden-framed buildings with window screens. Some Quonset hut residences, prefabricated structures of corrugated metal, had individual rooms. In others, the nurses shared an open bay. When hospitals moved closer to combat operations, the nurses ended up in tents again.

Navy nurses also came to Vietnam early in the war. They served on two hospital ships, USS *Sanctuary* and USS *Repose*, and at two land facilities: Station Hospital Saigon and Station Hospital Da Nang.



Medical assistants unload a wounded man from a rescue helicopter onto the *Repose* in 1966. (Naval History and Heritage Command)

NAVY MATTER

In 1963 the Navy assumed responsibility for civilian and military medical activities at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. Two members of the Navy Nurse Corps reported in February of that year. They worked at Navy Station Hospital Saigon, a five-story inpatient facility with an operating and emergency area. Four Navy nurses attached to the hospital received Purple Hearts after a Christmas Eve 1963 Viet Cong bombing of the bachelor officers' quarters, where the nurses were staying. They were the first female members of the U.S. armed forces to earn Purple Hearts during the Vietnam War.



Lt. Cmdr. Dorothy Ryan, a Navy nurse, checks on a Marine aboard the *Repose* in 1966. (Naval History and Heritage Command)

The *Repose* arrived in February 1966 and was stationed off the coast of the Hue/Phu Bai area in northern South Vietnam. It served there until March 1970. The *Sanctuary* reached Vietnam in April 1967 and was stationed at DaNang. The ship's unofficial motto was, "You find 'em, we bind 'em." The *Sanctuary* left Vietnam in April 1971.

In March 1966 the Navy's Saigon hospital was transferred to the Army. During its Navy days, more than 6,000 patients were hospitalized. Approximately 130,000 outpatients received treatments. The Navy nurses at the Da Nang hospital served from August 1967 to May 1970, when that hospital was also turned over to the Army. It became the largest casualty treatment center in the world, with 600 beds and 63,000 patient admissions.

In 1966 the Air Force shipped to Vietnam 400-square-foot containers modified for use as hospitals. Within the next two years, a hospital at Cam Rahn Bay, about 200 miles north of Saigon, was the second largest in the Air Force, with 475 beds and 100 more for a casualty staging facility. Ultimately, Cam Rahn Bay evolved into the aeromedical evacuation site for the entire theater.

In 1968 the Air Force sent the first airplane specifically designed for medevac operations to Vietnam. The aircraft, a McDonnell-Douglas C-9A, was named "Nightingale" to honor Florence Nightingale, the English nurse noted for her work during the 1853-56 Crimean War. The Air Force assigned its first female nurses to Vietnam in 1966, the majority in Cam Rahn Bay. The following year, female flight nurses became part of the medevac crews.

ARMY OF CARE

As America's combat forces increased, so did the nursing force. In 1965 the Army had 113 hospital beds and 15 nurses in Southeast Asia. By December 1968, there were 900 nurses in Vietnam working in 23 Army hospitals and one convalescent hospital, totaling 5,283 beds. That year there were 11 Reserve and National Guard medical units in Vietnam.

During an 11-year stretch from the opening of the 8th Field Hospital in the central coastlands town of Nha Trang in March 1962 until March 29, 1973, when the last Army nurses departed after the cease-fire that ended U.S. military involvement in Vietnam, an estimated 11,000 women served there, including not only nurses but also other military women and civilians.



Air Force 2nd Lt. Kathleen Sullivan comforts a Vietnamese child as part of the military's Medical Civic Action Program, MEDCAP, which assisted people in villages. (U.S. Air Force)

The rising demand for nurses in Vietnam put staffing pressures on the Army Nurse Corps, which was simultaneously providing nurses in Europe, Guam, Japan, the Philippines and the United States. A shortfall of 2,000 nurses made recruitment the highest priority for Col. Mildred Clark, chief of the Army Nurse Corps from 1963 to 1967. (Her successor, Col. Anna Mae Hays, who held the position from 1967 to 1971, was promoted to brigadier general on June 11, 1970, making her the first American woman to earn a general officer's rank.)

WHY DID WOMEN VOLUNTEER TO BECOME NURSES IN VIETNAM?

Nurses volunteered for an array of reasons—including patriotism, a calling to help soldiers in need and a desire for adventure. Reflecting on a 30-year military career in a 2006 interview with *American Nurse*, Vietnam veteran Mary Jo Rice-Mahoney said: "It provided me the opportunity to travel around the world, learn about different cultures, perform various nursing procedures, make lifelong friends, and live through a combat experience. It's where my love of nursing began."



The C-9 "Nightingale" was staffed with nurses and medical technicians who cared for patients transported from Vietnam to larger hospitals in the Philippines. (U.S. Air Force) (U.S. Air Force)

Rice-Mahoney joined the Army Student Nurses Program at St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in 1968, during her third year in nursing school. She was commissioned a second

lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps six months before graduation and then reported to Fort Dix, New Jersey. She worked in an orthopedic ward and got what she described in the *American Nurse* interview as a crash course in "Combat Injuries 101." In March 1969, Rice-Mahoney was ordered to report to the 67th Evacuation Hospital at Qui Nhon in the central coastal region of South Vietnam.

WHAT DID VIETNAM WAR NURSES DO?



An Air Force crewman seriously injured in the crash of a C-5A Galaxy transport plane on April 4, 1975, is treated at a Saigon hospital. The aircraft was carrying Vietnamese orphans to the U.S. as Saigon was about to fall to communist forces. Among the dead in the crash was Air Force nurse Capt. Mary Klinker. (AP Photo/Neal Ulevich)

Nursing in Vietnam encompassed more than the treatment of combat wounds. As in previous wars, diseases were the most common threat to a service member's health, accounting for nearly 70 percent of hospital admissions from 1965 to 1969. Diseases such as malaria and hepatitis were frequent. Among the worst injuries were burns. The required treatment was the application of Sulfamylon, a thick cream applied to the affected area. It was reapplied every four to six hours after the previous cream had been removed, a very painful process. A heavy dose of narcotics did not keep many from crying out in pain.

Military nurses also treated allied forces, American civilians and Vietnamese men, women and children. In their free time, many visited local villages and their hospitals to participate in U.S.-funded health programs through the Medical Civic Action Program, or MEDCAP.

Time for relaxation was rare. The beaches at Cam Rahn Bay and China Beach in Da Nang were popular gathering spots. Nurses got together for music and dancing, broke the rules by riding in helicopters and airplanes to view the landscape and the South China Sea, attended USO performances featuring popular entertainers and had a one-week furlough for rest and recuperation out of the country. Australia, Japan, Hong Kong and Thailand were locations available for R&R.

LEAVING VIETNAM

The last Army nurses left Vietnam on March 29, 1973, two months after the cease-fire. However, more service and sacrifice were still to come. On April 4, 1975, as Saigon was about to fall to communist forces, the Air Force conducted Operation Babylift to fly orphans from Vietnam to the Philippines, a stop on their way to the United States for adoption. Air Force Nurse Corps Capt. Mary Klinker and about 130 passengers died when a Babylift C-5 cargo plane experienced a malfunction shortly after taking off from Tan Son Nhut airport and crashed. Klinker was 27.



U.S. Army nurse Sharon Lane, being congratulated upon her promotion to first lieutenant in August 1968, was killed in June 1969 during a Viet Cong rocket attack on the hospital where she worked. (U.S. Army/Vandamere Press via AP)



Diane Carlson Evans, founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial and author of *Healing Wounds*, left, observes Glenna Goodacre's work as the sculptor forms the clay version of what will be a bronze statue. (Dirck Halstead/Getty images)

The names of eight women are engraved on the wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. All were nurses—four died in plane or helicopter crashes, one from illness, one from a stroke and one from enemy fire. On June 8, 1969, 25-year-old 1st Lt. Sharon Lane of Canton, Ohio, was killed in a Viet Cong rocket attack on the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai in northern South Vietnam.

Evans, author of *Healing Wounds*, came up with the idea for the Vietnam Women's Memorial in 1983 and founded the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project in 1984. Ten years later her dream was realized. A groundbreaking was held on July 29, 1993, and the memorial was

dedicated on Nov. 11, 1993. The centerpiece of the memorial is sculptor Glenna Goodacre's bronze statue showing three military women with a wounded soldier.



Visitors lay flowers at the memorial, which depicts three women caring for a wounded soldier. (Luke Frazza/afp via Getty Images)

The 6-foot, 8-inch sculpture honors not only nurses but all 265,000 women, military and civilian, who served throughout the world during the Vietnam era. It is positioned about 100 yards from the apex of the V-shaped wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Evans served as president and CEO of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation (her organization's name since 2002) for more than 30 years.

Nurses who came home carried with them experiences and emotions that changed their lives. "I learned so many lessons, but it took me years to put them into words or concrete thoughts," Janis Nark, a Detroit native who served as an Army nurse in Vietnam 1970-71, said in a 2015 article, "Angels of War," published on the website of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. "Vietnam hardened me," she added, but also said, "It heightened my sense of humor. It made me realize what's important in life, and what isn't."

Tom Edwards, a Navy veteran who served in Vietnam 1968-69, is a freelance writer/photographer in Forest Lake, Minnesota. He thanks Diane Carlson Evans for her assistance with this article.

NURSES ON THE WALL

Eight women died in the combat zone. All were nurses.

2nd Lt. Carol Ann Elizabeth Drazba, 22, Pennsylvania, Army, 3rd Field Hospital, Saigon. Killed Feb. 18, 1966, in a helicopter crash.

2nd Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones, 22, South Carolina, Army, 3rd Field Hospital, Saigon. Killed Feb. 18, 1966, with Drazba in a helicopter crash.

Capt. Eleanor Grace Alexander, 27, New Jersey, Army, 85th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon in the central coastal region. Killed Nov. 30, 1967, in a plane crash.

1st Lt. Hedwig Diane Orłowski, 23, Michigan, Army, 67th Field Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon. Killed Nov. 30, 1967, with Alexander in a plane crash.

2nd Lt. Pamela Dorothy Donovan, 26, Massachusetts, Army, 85th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon. Died July 8, 1968, attributed to pneumonia.

Lt. Col. Annie Ruth Graham, 51, North Carolina, Army, 91st Evacuation Hospital in Tuy Hoa in the central coastlands. Died from a stroke on Aug. 14, 1968.

1st Lt. Sharon Ann Lane, 25, Ohio, Army, 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai on South Vietnam's northern coast. Died June 8, 1969, when a rocket struck the hospital where she worked.

Capt. Mary Therese Klinker, 27, Indiana, Air Force, medical team onboard a C-5 Operation Babylift plane transporting Saigon orphans destined for the U.S. Killed April 4, 1975, when the plane crashed after experiencing pressure problems after takeoff.

Mass. Air National Guardsman Charged For Leaking Classified Documents

By Bill Galluccio April 14, 2023



Photo: Getty Images

The 21-year-old Massachusetts Air National Guardsman accused of posting classified documents online was **arraigned in federal court** on Friday (April 14). **Jack Teixeira** was charged with unauthorized retention and transmission of national defense information and willful retention of classified documents.

Teixeira did not enter a plea and was ordered detained pending a detention hearing scheduled for next week.

Prosecutors said that Teixeira began posting classified documents in December 2022 to a private Discord server he ran. When Teixeira initially began publishing the documents, he transcribed them at work and then shared the text on the server. The affidavit says Teixeira

was worried he would get caught copying the classified material, so he took them home and photographed them.

He then shared those photos to the Discord server. He continued to post the documents for several months until **one of the users shared them on a public server**, sparking a massive investigation into the embarrassing leak.

Officials said Teixeira didn't have access to specific documents as part of his job as a cybersecurity systems journeyman with the 102nd Intelligence Wing. However, because he

worked on the network that housed classified data and could be in contact with documents during his job, he was required to have top secret/sensitive compartmented information clearance.

"This airman, even as a young man, his job was to work on this network that carried highly classified information," **an official told CNN**. "Because of this, the information carried on the network, people who work on it have to have that kind of clearance."

"It's not like your regular IT guy where you call a help desk, and they come fix your computer," the official added. "They're working on a very highly classified system, so they require that clearance."

Teixeira appeared to know he was under investigation. About a week before his arrest, he "used his government computer to search classified intelligence reporting for the word 'leak.'"

If convicted, Teixeira faces a maximum of **ten years behind bars**.

--- More on the Teixeira story ----

DEFENSE

21-year-old arrested over classified documents leak

WBZ

The suspected leaker of highly classified US intelligence reports to social media—which sparked unease from the White House to Kyiv—has been arrested. Yesterday, the FBI **took into custody** Jack Teixeira, a 21-year-old member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard's Intelligence Wing, at his **mom's home** in North Dighton, MA.

US authorities had been scrambling to find the leaker since it came to light earlier this month that hundreds of pages of sensitive

military documents (some labeled top secret) were floating around social media.

The leak represented a stunning breach of security for the Pentagon. The documents contained a detailed analysis of the war in Ukraine, including a warning that Ukraine's air defenses could soon run out, and also exposed how the US spies on countries it calls friends.

It all started on a small Discord server

What became a dramatic international incident began in the most mundane of places: a small group chat on Discord.

The group, called Thug Shaker Central, consisted of roughly 20–30 people (mostly men and boys from all over the world) who had formed an online community during the pandemic when opportunities for other social connections were cut off. They shared an interest in guns and military gear but also watched movies together or simply hung out, according to a young member of the group who spoke with the Washington Post.

The group's ringleader was a user they called "OG," who uploaded sensitive US government documents to keep his friends "in the loop" about world events, the member told the WaPo. The docs were never intended for widespread reading, but late in February, a teenage member of the group posted some of those docs to another Discord server affiliated with a famous Filipino YouTuber, and the cat was out of the bag—the secret documents eventually made their way to bigger platforms such as 4chan and Twitter for all to see.

While members of Thug Shaker Central who spoke with the NYT declined to identify OG, the FBI connected the dots that it was Teixeira.

Bottom line: Unlike whistleblowers like Edward Snowden, Teixeira does not appear

to have leaked these documents to air the US military's dirty laundry. But the fact that a junior Air National Guard member barely old enough to drink had access to closely guarded information will cause the Pentagon to review its processes around classified material. Almost 3 million people had access to classified documents as of 2019, according to the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.—*NF*

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

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						

May

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 VVA 535	5	6
7	8	9 Placer Veterans Stand Down	10 Placer Veterans Stand Down	11 Placer Veterans Stand Down	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day (observed)	30	31			

June

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 CSC Visalia	10 CSC Visalia
11 CSC Visalia	12	13	14 Flag Day Army Birthday	15	16	17 In Memory Day
18 Father's Day	19 Juneteenth	20	21 First Day of Summer	22	23	24
25	26	27 PTSD Awareness Day	28	29	30	

July

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 CA State Fair Vets Day Korean War Armistice Day	28	29
30	31					

PLACER VETERANS STAND DOWN

FREE to all Vets & their spouses and children

May 9 thru 11, 2023 Gates open at 8am

SERVICE PROVIDERS (MEDICAL & BOOTHS) AVAILABLE MAY 9th AND 10th ONLY

Meals & optional overnight accommodations, haircuts, showers	Dental, medical, eye services
Hearing van on site	DMV, legal services, and child support (Placer County)
Pet services, Veterinarian staff, vaccinations & supplies	Employment counseling & housing referral
Clothing & personal care supplies	VA Benefit Assistance
Health & Human Services Assistance Integrative Health Services	Opening ceremony Tuesday May 9th @4pm

EARLY CHECK IN! Optional: Check in on Monday the 8th from 3-7pm. Stay for dinner and spend the night, and you are ready to begin services Tuesday the 9th at 8am.



700 Event Center Dr. Roseville CA 95678
(formerly Placer County Fairgrounds)

ALL VETERANS, LEGAL SPOUSES & CHILDREN WELCOME
VETERAN ID REQUIRED - DD214, VA CARD, ETC.

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PRE REGISTER ONLINE (OR CALL 916-251-9249)
WWW.PLACERVETERANSSTANDDOWN.ORG

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