

AZ LZ – ARIZONA'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY–MARCH 2010

AZ LZ–ARIZONA'S STATE NEWSLETTER

America Needs Some Caring and It Always Starts With Us

Take Care of Yourself —Your Family Needs You

A lot of Vietnam Veterans don't make it from year to year, but this might be the year we could live a lot longer if we simply do what we need to for ourselves which would wind up affecting others in our family..

No preaching here to insult your intelligence, but, let's get that physical, checkup and blood work and make this year a better year for you and yours.

In fact, here is an idea you might care to put in place. And that is to invite your children on

a trip overseas or somewhere they desire to go and you pay half of their expenses for them. What an enjoyable time you would have benefitting them while you're able to do a wonderful thing for them. After all, how much time do you have left? Call your doctor and travel agent today in that order.

You'll read on another page in this issue that VVA-835 lost a soul to death and that too will happen to us, so making the most of our precious lives is what it



is all about. Take that former time in the field, on a Huey, base camp, where ever you happened to be stationed and capitalize on the adventure of it.

Doing Anything For Anyone Else Lately??

The other day, I was in a coffee shop and happen to see two California Highway Patrolman and I thought about what they do for the average person they usually don't even know. The same applies to the soldier, marine or airman who serves our country day after day without any thanks from any of us.

Here is what I'm driving at, simply buy lunch, dinner or a gift certificate for someone you don't even know

and bless them for doing something for YOU and YOURS over the last 40 years or since you have been out of the service.

A \$25 gift card is nothing to most of us, but what a blessing it would be to someone who could not afford it. Can you imagine the look on their face that YOU did it simply because you wanted to?

When you recognize someone in a restaurant enjoying their

meal, get their waiter's attention and pay for their meal. Do you think they could afford it, quite possibly or they would not be there to start with, but what a blessing it would be to "HONOR" them by paying for their meal and thanking them, for their service to America and to you. I know, we did not always get our due, but that was a long time ago, I've forgotten about it, and I know you have too.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ This is the **GET WELL ISSUE.**
- ◆ Do something **FOR YOUR FAMILY**
- ◆ **SCHOLARSHIP's** Anyone?
- ◆ Give it **AWAY**
- ◆ Use your **TALENTS**
- ◆ Time is **SHORT**
- ◆ We're in the **FALL and WINTER** of our lives.
- ◆ Make **2010 better**

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WHAT WAS THE
NAME OF THE SHOE
THAT THE VIET
CONG WORE
NEARLY EVERYDAY?

VIETNAM TRIVIA

CAN YOU NAME
THE FIRST BATTLE
OF VIETNAM? THEY
MADE A MOVIE
FROM IT, AND WHO
WAS THE MAJOR
ACTOR?

VIETNAM TRIVIA

DO YOU RECALL
THE NAME OF THE
MONEY THAT WAS
USED ON THE
ECONOMY AND
WHAT WE WERE
PAID IN?

General Eisenhower Warned Us . . .



It is a matter of history that when the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, General Dwight Eisenhower, found the victims of the death camps he ordered all possible photographs to be taken, and for the German people from

surrounding villages to be ushered through the camps and even made to bury the dead. He did this because he said in words to this effect, read on please

'Get it all on record now - get the films - get the witnesses - because somewhere down the road of history some jerk will get up and say that this never happened.' Countries in Europe are denying that this took place at all.

This week, the UK debated whether to remove The Holocaust from its school curriculum because it

'offends' the Muslim population which claims it never occurred. It is not removed as yet.. However, this is a frightening portent of the fear that is gripping the world and how easily each country is giving into it.

The author happened to visit Germany 2 weeks ago and saw language in German and English at Dachau, that stated "...Germany should be ashamed of itself for allowing this to happen to any race much less the Jewish peoples. This is a reminder for US, all of us, mostly Germans.

Next VVA Arizona State Meeting– 6 February 2010

The next VVA Arizona State Council meeting will be held on 6 Feb 2010 in Sierra Vista, AZ. **The Windemere Hotel & Conference Center.**

Meeting time is 0900 with Finance Meeting to end at 3pm. Have all of your reports ready for handing in at the meeting. Bring the agenda attachment.

Windemere Hotel Web Link

<http://www.windemerehotel.com>

Reservation Code: VVA1020

Room Rate: \$59.00 per night

Address: 2047 South Highway 92
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635.

Phone: 520-459-5900 Fax: 520-4581347

E-mail: guestservices@windemerehotel.com

Breakfast: American Style Breakfast at Windemere & Candlewood properties.

Lunch: Prepared by AVVA or Buffet

Traditionally Speaking. . .

Traditionally, members of the nations veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag only while wearing their organizations official head-gear. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed service members,

military retirees, and veterans to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U.S. flag. A later amendment further authorized hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. This was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14, 2008.

Got Talent?

Do you have a **specific talent** that might be able to be used for VVA in Arizona? If so and you're willing to express its use, please contact the VVA State Council or your own VVA chapter. A lot of us are extremely talented at a lot of things, so consider volunteering for that extra measure. Thank you.

Remember When We Were in Vietnam?



Your cell phone is in your pocket. He clutches the cross hanging on his chain next to his dog tag. Prayer was awfully important then and it still that of today to keep our loved ones protected. Ensure you write them and send them your love constantly will you?

WHAT AREA IN
VIETNAM HAD A
VAST TUNNEL
NETWORK??

USAA Expands its Membership to Veterans

USAA's services include insurance, financial planning, investments and banking products. After gradually expanding eligibility over the years, the company opened its doors in 2008 to veterans honorably discharged since 1996 — in addition to ac-

tive-duty members, National Guard and reserve personnel, and military retirees. This latest move increases its total customer base to about 60 million. "We think we can now handle this comfortably with financial strength and great customer service," said

retired Army Maj. Gen. Joe Robles, president and chief executive officer of USAA. While some other financial institutions led or had serious problems in the last year or so, USAA has done well during the economic downturn, Robles said.

LET ME KNOW
WHAT YOU THINK
OF THIS
NEWSLETTER, I
WANT TO MAKE IT
READABLE FOR ALL
OF US. THANKS
FOR LOOKING IT
OVER.

The Air Force Does It Again—With Sharpshooters

This 19 year old ex-cheerleader (now an Air Force Security Forces Sniper) was watching a road that led to a NATO military base when she observed a man digging by the road. She engaged the target (i.e., she shot him). It turned out he was a bomb maker for the Taliban, and he was burying an IED that was to be detonated when a US pa-

trol walked by 30 minutes later. It would have certainly killed and wounded several soldiers. The interesting fact of this story is the shot was measured at 725 yards.

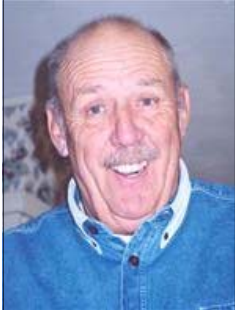
To say the least she is extremely proud of her doing in killing one more guy to hurt innocent people and we are pleased that she did. Good going Air Force.



SECURITY FORCES SNIPERS

Nothing blends in better with the enviroment like 1/4 carat diamond earrings and lip gloss

Norm Pully Passes On—A GREAT Vietnam Veteran of Chapter 835



Norman E. Pully, 67, passed away on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, in Fort Payne, Alabama, while on vacation. He was born on November 12, 1941 in Petersburg, Virginia. Norman served in the U.S. Navy for 22 years, retiring in 1980 as a Chief Boatswain Mate. Among medals and awards he received during that time were the RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, the National Defense Medal, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Campaign and Service Medals, the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. He also had received a Navy Letter of Commendation in 1977. Norman later served as a firefighter with the Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department, worked at the YPG Commissary and Naval Air Facility, El Centro, and retired in 2008 from Customs and Border Protection at the San Luis Port of Entry. He also had worked for the Arizona Department of Agriculture, Bard

Water District, Yuma Regional Medical Center and Fry's Foods. Norman obtained Associates Degrees in Fire Science, Animal Science, and Plant Science from Arizona Western College. During his 39 years in the Yuma community, Norman was an active participant in several organizations, including Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Southwest Bowhunters, Yuma Jaycees, Arizona Rangers, American Legion Post 56 and the International Association of Firefighters. He also was the founding President for the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter

835. The "omery ol' man's" favorite early morning pastime in recent years was meeting friends for coffee at local restaurants. Norman is survived by his wife of 49 years, Anita of Yuma; daughter's, Theresa Bucsko of Yuma, Norma (Kenny) Dameron of Waynesboro, Virginia, and Laura Pully of Snyder, Texas; grandchildren, Michelle (Justin) Collum of Glendale, Arizona. He will be sorely missed. Thank you Norm for YOU!

Help a Dying Vet—A Story For All of Us Going To Be There Someday

Dear Mr. Devine, I am writing to you from Tucson, Arizona where the person I am writing about also lives. He is a man in his 50's who fought for your freedom and mine but he is very ill these days and is likely to die. I'm looking for some help about my brother-in-law. His name is Ron Lockhart and he served in Vietnam twice. He contacted Agent Orange from it and eventually this is what forced him to have both of his legs amputated. Ron is in his mid - 50's now and he's not in good shape. He has an aneurysm close to his heart and he will die within moments if this should break. The Doctors want to cut him open and correct both of these problems at once. His chances of survival are 1 in

2000 and the Doctors are saying that he may very well die on the operating table because he is "very high risk" for having any sort of operation what so ever at this time. What Ron really needs now is SUPPORT. Is there any way we can get Vets, to send this loving man an email card a long with a letter or note? It would mean so

much to him to receive letters of support from people, and especially from Vets who have "been there and done it," and can let him know that they understand. email address is lockart.rd51@yahoo.com Once again, his name is Ron Lockhart Thank you for your prayers and your help. God bless you.

Calvin Dee Dotson is Promoted-A Vietnam Veteran of Chapter 432



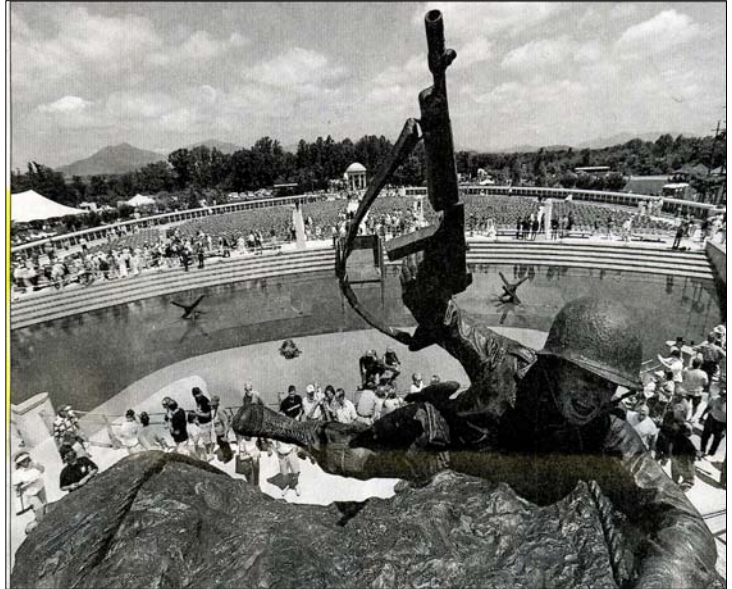
On Friday, November 27, 2009, Calvin passed away at the young age of 61, after a long and courageous battle with liver disease. Born 11-8-48, in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he was the second oldest of seven children born to Houston and Mary Ann (Hornsby) Dotson. Calvin is survived by his two sisters, Susan Dotson and Peggy (Dotson) Al-Nassar, two daughters; Jessica Metz and Jennifer O'Connell, and four grandchildren; Nicolas and Maya Metz, Diego Miranda, and Liam Bonilla. Calvin's father, mother, three brothers (Danny, Houston, Paul) and one sister (Kathy), precedes him in death. Calvin attended Kenilworth Elementary School, West High School, Phoenix College and the University of Phoenix, graduating with a degree in computer science. He was a proud Vietnam Veteran, serving during the Tet-Offensive. He was a soldier at heart and a jack of many trades including a skilled brick mason which he revered as an art. He was most recently employed at the Phoenix VA Hospital as a Data Base Manager. He will be greatly missed by his co-workers, family and friends, who will always remember his adventurous spirit, love of travel and the open road and most of all his deep and abiding loyalty to all of his fellow veterans. Calvin, we will miss you, but we also know that you are in a better place. Thank you for your service to America and to your family. You have been a blessing.

D-Day Memorial in Dire Need of Some Help

Lucille Boggess lost two brothers in the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. She wonders what will happen to the memorial to them and the other "Bedford Boys" whose deaths that day made their town in the Blue Ridge foothills a national symbol of suffering in World War II. "I'd be very saddened" if the financially troubled National D-Day Memorial in the southwest Virginia town had to close, says Boggess, 80. "This community made a sacrifice on D-Day. We want our young people to understand." Bedford lost 19 sons on D-Day, more proportionally than any other U.S. community. In all, 22

soldiers from the town of 3,400 died in the invasion. That loss prompted Congress to choose the town 200 miles from Washington for a memorial to the greatest amphibious assault in history. Congress gave little more than its good wishes.

Private funds covered the \$19 million construction cost. The memorial has relied on admission fees and donations since its dedication in 2001. Bedford's remote location, the recession, and the dwindling ranks of World War II veterans have combined to devastate the memorial's bottom line.



Don't Wait For An Army To Die

Significant numbers of Vietnam veterans have children and grandchildren with birth defects related to exposure to Agent Orange. A Ford Foundation public relations campaign to win the sympathy of the American people for the plight of Agent Orange victims in

Vietnam does not plan to address the plight of Agent Orange victims in America. On June 2, the Ford Foundation announced that it and the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin are hoping to mobilize resources to raise awareness.

Audie L. Murphy—Fan Club News

Did you know that 2LT Audie L. Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II was planning on staying in the Army and go to West Point? As you may know he got shot in the hip and was forbidden to attend that school. He became an actor in the early 1950's making war movies and westerns and a good friend of ours in Yuma, AZ started a fan club on his behalf. To her account, he came to visit her, they had many lunches together and he was honored up to his death in 1975 when he was killed in an airplane accident. He was a true gentleman and humble in all he received when the attention was focused on him. Be humble when praised is heaped on us

NATIONAL TEACH-IN ON VETERANS HISTORY

HISTORY, together with the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress, hosted a National Teach-In on veterans history. Educators and students nationwide can tune in and view this archived webcast right here on Veterans.com. The webcast was broadcast live from the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Vietnam Veterans of America is proud to support HISTORY on a campaign to pay tribute to the servicemen and women of America .



Where does the term "veteran" first come from? Originally, the word veteran meant "a person of long experience" or skill. Derived from the Latin term veterans, after the American Revolution the word veteran came to be associated specifically with former soldiers of old age who had fought for independence. As time went on, "veteran" was used to describe any former member of the armed forces or a person who had served in the military. In the mid-19th century, this term was often shortened to the simple phrase "vets." The term came to be used as a way to categorize and honor those who had served and sacrificed through their roles in the military. You learned a little more today, hopefully, read on.



Portrait taken in 1864 of American Revolutionary War veteran Manual Downing - born in 1761.

2009— Arizona Chapter End of Year Accomplishments

CHAPTER 432—Bill Wesp

Christmas Gatherings

We had our Holiday Party the third Thursday of Nov to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas etc and it was a great party as always

Veterans Day



This year we also had a surprise Lionel attended the award dinner for the Veterans Day Parade in Phoenix and our Chapter took First Place for a Veterans Service Organization Vehicle, Civilian. We had teamed up with a hot rod club The Central AZ T's. They have T Buckets and we rode in there cars with ROTC Cadets leading us as Color Guard and carrying the banner. This was one of the largest Vet Day Parades in the nation; we were number 97 of well over 100 entrants. And after standing around for hours to march most of us could not make the 2 1/2 mile march. We also had a good time riding in these older hot rods that were made way back in time.

Air Guard Refueling

We also had a new project this year, we got word the Air Guard Refueling Wing stationed in Phoenix was activated and had a empty cargo plane going overseas and were looking for things to bring to the troops. One of our members owns a factory that makes chips and salsa so with his help and other donations we sent pallet loads of chips and salsa to the troops. We got word back after they passed out the goodies to the other units there they were the most popular units on the Air Base Air Wing in Phoenix.

Veterans Gathering

Some of our other ongoing projects are our information and membership table at the VA every month, serving cake and ice cream at the State Vets Home for a Birthday Party each month. and supporting the sending of packages to the troops.



Golf Tournament

We also had our Golf Tournament, presented awards to the ROTC units, sent members to the Region 9 and National Conventions, and participated in the Memorial Day Program at the National Cemetery, and most recently The Pearl Harbor Day program at the Memorial in Phoenix.

CHAPTER 835—Bob Lukas

VVA Adopts A Family for the Holidays

We adopted a family here in Yuma that was nearly homeless. This couple in their 60's wound up having 3 extra weeks of shelter. VVA-835, thank you for your generosity of \$300 to keep them out of the cold (literally) and have them connect with a family that would also help them out. Our chapter usually has the tradition to **"ADOPT A FAMILY"** during the holidays and we were successful and I thank you.

Veterans Day-2009

October 8, 2009 was Faith Baptist Churches 2nd anniversary for celebrating Veteran's Day. This is by far the largest and most festive and honoring event I have ever seen. We usually have over 300 people visit the church and around 100 of them are VETERANS. Our guest speak was CSM Forbes Daniels from YPG. With that, challenge coins and a DVD was also provided to each man and woman that served in any of the branches. With 323 persons there about 150+ were former/present day personnel from the services.



Honor The Veteran



We held our first **"Honor the Veteran"** event at Desert Rose Retirement Center. There were a total of 33 veterans both men and women that received a VVA certificate and Challenge Coin for their service in one of the branches during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. These 70's to 90's aged group were certainly a blessing for us as we honored them with a gift.

July 4th 2009 – 21 Gun Salute

VVA 835 provided a squad of men to fire 21 rounds to honor our day of independence – July 4th. It was a real honor to be a part of this unit to bless all that watched.



Scholarship Issued for 2009 and 2010

VVA 835 is delighted to welcome our Mary Haynes into Vietnam Veterans of America, 835 Scholarship Program for year 2009 and 2010. She is studying to be a nurse and her main goal is to help people. We had the opportunity to interview Mary in our December 2008 meeting and find out something about her. She said "I learned a lot about Vietnam and felt so sorry about the homecoming and what the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines had to go through while over there.



2009— Arizona Chapter End of Year Accomplishments (cont'd)

CHAPTER 1011— Art O'Hagan

1. Donated \$1,000.00 to the Phoenix stand-down...and supported other veterans charities throughout the year.
2. Provided, thru Chapter member Mike Marks, a connection whereby the Phoenix Stand-down received over \$102,000.00 in cots, sleeping bags, blankets, socks etc., all shipped to Phoenix free.
3. Won the "Best Themed Entry in the Mesa, AZ. Veterans Day Parade...and also were the lead unit for the Mesa Veterans Day Parade...Parade President Bob Burns is a Chapter 1011 member.
4. Provided 200 "goodie bags" for Christmas to the residents of the State of Arizona Veteran's Home run by 1011 member Col. Joey Strickland, the Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services...and brought along several of the "Tilted Kilt" Calendar girls for the residents perusal and approval... several Tilted Kilt's are owned by a 1011 Chapter member...Col. Strickland increased the staff of the cardiac unit that day.
5. The 1011 Color Guard presented the colors on September 11th at the Arizona Diamondbacks game, as well as at the Apache Junction "Traveling Wall" visit, the Ahwautukee Comedy Club event for a fund raiser for "Boots for our Troops", they also coordinated a joint presentation with the Luke Air Force Base Color Guard at the funeral for a highly decorated Air Force Colonel in Mesa.... they presented the colors at the Apache Junction Cowboy Christmas fund-raiser...and the official groundbreaking for the City of Tempe Veterans Memorial Park on Memorial Day, chapter member Dave Lucier is President of the Tempe Veterans Foundation which is developing the park...
6. The 1011 Honor Guard participated at the Veteran's Day Memorial Service at Mesa's Mountain View Cemetery.
7. On December 14th, 1011 had their Chapter Holiday dinner...over 80 people in attendance.
8. At the Mesa Marketplace, 1011 members manned a booth for "Boots for our Troops" and raised over \$1,000.00 for the cause.
9. In cooperation with the Commemorative Air Force, 1011 participated at an event honoring the "Flights of Legends".
10. We participated in JROTC events providing certificates and \$25.00 checks to deserving cadets.
11. We provided support for the JROTC at their Association of the US Army (AUSA) annual luncheon.
12. 1011 was represented at the Veterans Medical Leadership Council luncheon.
13. Chapter 1011 presents a \$500.00 scholarship every semester to deserving veterans thru the Arizona State University Veterans Upward Bound program...run by Dr. Robert Mena, Director, a 1011 member.
- 14) We at Chapter 1011 has presented free tickets to the Arizona Diamondbacks game on Sept 11,2009 and the Championship game of the Arizona Fall League to members of the Arizona National Guard and also to veterans and families involved with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families.
- 15) We manned a booth at the Mesa Riverview Mall on Veterans Day in support of their Veteran's Day tribute.
- 16) We produced a Chapter video in cooperation with Jobing.com...Director of Government Relations@Jobing.com George Thorne is a 1011 member...go to www.vva1011.org or the Jobing.com website to check it out.
- 17) Chapter 1011 obtained another free motorized wheelchair for a Vietnam Veteran.
- 18) The chapter President Art O'Hagan was invited to speak to several Cub Scout packs and their parents (75+ in attendance) about veterans the evening before Veterans Day...and he provided dozens of "goodie bags" to the cubbies.
- 19) 1011 provides a volunteer VSO to the Mesa Vet's Center.



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What Is Your Membership Like and Its Satisfaction?

Sample Draft Member Satisfaction Survey Do you attend chapter meetings? () Yes () No – If yes, how often do you attend? () Monthly () Six times a year () Less – If no, is it because of the date, time, location or lack of communication on when and where or another reason, please explain?

_____ Are these meetings productive? () Yes () No – If no, how could the chapter improve the meetings?

_____ Does the chapter leadership communicate with the members? () Yes () No – If no, how can they improve?

_____ Would you like to participate in chapter programs as volunteer? *Please check the program(s) you would be interested in:* () Fund raiser () VA Hospital volunteer () Membership Drive () Educational Public Schools () Homeless Vets () Community Improvements () Welcome for Younger Vets Do you have a special skill or expertise that would benefit the chapter?

_____ Would you be interested in a chapter leadership role? () Yes () No Do you have any questions about chapter operation? If so, please elaborate:

_____ Do you have any suggestions for the content of the chapter newsletter?

_____ Is your membership in VVA a favorable experience so far? () Yes () No – If no, what can the chapter do to improve?

None of us ever know “how” things are going unless we ask, and his is one of those times. If our membership is stagnant, what do we do to fix it? And are we willing to adjust ourselves for the sake of others and gain new members? Try this survey and see where it gets you..

I Remember The Good Times of Vietnam

Oh yes, there were the hard times of 'Nam, but then there were also the great times, when those letters came over for us, or packages with broken cookies or cassette tapes with a scratchy voice. Those were the days, but then we also had Bob Hope, Miss America, Christmas with special gifts, a decent Thanksgiving and many others we can recall if we think of them. Why not recall some of those times and tell your grand children, they would love it and it might help you recall some of those fond memories you too enjoyed so many years ago.



Remember Those Little Vietnamese Kids??

Those little Vietnamese girls and boys were so precious in our sight that often we wanted to do something just for them knowing their financial state. That may not be possible, but we can help out the way less fortunate American girls and boys, in fact possibly adopt one during the course of a year. They would love that.



Is This Better Than a Hooch?

How many times do you recall sleeping outside in Vietnam? Well, it was rarely concrete, but mostly in a fox hole or the grass or dirt. At our tender age of 60-something, we can be grateful that "All of Us" have someone protecting us and we are sleeping in a comfortable bed with the one we love. Thank you troops.



Remember this from a **LOOOONG** time ago??

Veterans Day 2009—The Year of the Veteran—Chapter 835

Veterans Day in Yuma was simply wonderful.

Faith Baptist Church held a superb celebration that beat out any celebration for Veterans across the city. With 269 veterans and the families in attendance, All of the services songs were sung from Army to Merchant Marine. As well, all veterans were given a DVD of past historic events on what it “Means to be a Patriot” and a Challenge Coin with the Armor of God as a reference to...standing

fast and fighting for what you believe is true in accordance with God's Word. We thank Faith Baptist Church for honoring all for the Veterans in the city and making our day very special. In addition, we were provided with a nice breakfast and delicious lunch, made just for us.

It is organizations like that that make it a point to remember Vets from all services and branches to make their day extremely special.

CSM F. Daniels from YPG speaking with Jan Schumacher



and the

POW place setting for the one missing in action. (MIA)



A Battle of the Bulge POW

Jim Daugherty a World War II Army veteran from the Battle of the Bulge was in our audience. Captured by the Germans during the War, he survived, but barely and was released at end of the War in 1945 as a former-POW. Praise God for his safety to tell of it.



Merchant Marine Captains

Two ocean going captains of the Merchant Marines also made their way to our Veterans Day service. This husband and wife team were in the Merchant Marines together running two ships during World War II and finally met and married afterwards. She stayed for 30 years and he for 35 years in that branch.



Two Old Vets Discovering Each Other For the Second Time

The 82nd Airborne has finally come together after a lot of years and meeting for the first time. It appears that Raymond and Martinez have finally come together after 50+ years of not knowing where the other may have been. After all of these years, they happen to meet at a Veterans Day event and caught up on old times and made the most of their time apart. Spending time in

the field of Korea and Vietnam during the 1950's and 1960's, it was nice to have two brothers from the same unit catch up after all of these years. What a blessing to be able to relive the time of yesteryear with someone you had not seen in a long time. That is what life is all about, “running into those long lost friends from way back”. What a blessing for these two.



So, Vietnam Veterans — How Will We Be Making a Difference in the Next Generation in 2010?

Well, I too belong to a chapter and could we be doing more, of course. I'm not sure where the word we call **retirement** came from, but it certainly is **not in the Bible**, therefore, we're asking is there 2 or 3 major things each of you could endorse, or innovate or be a part of in 2010? I speak of things like this, because it seems at our age life really goes by quickly. Most of us are in our 60's (some early and some late) and some even older, but what kind of a difference are we making in the next couple of years? Here are some ideas and thoughts for you to consider and at the February meeting, you may be asked about things like this?

Ideas to Consider for Your Chapter for 2010

What To Do?	Why Do It?	How Much Effort or Cost?
Talk at schools, provide a self running slide show on Vietnam and the military in general, give them a DVD showing "what" Vietnam was all about; answer questions, encourage them towards a military career.	To show them "WHAT VIETNAM WAS ALL ABOUT". So many kids these days know zero about the "middle 1900's and especially the Vietnam Era. We can instill in the school administration that their kids need an outside influence. We can show and tell them some real history.	A letter to the schools costs about \$.44 and a DVD would cost about \$1.50 with a nice label using your chapter's parades, and things that you support. Locate some talented guy or gal that is willing to make a copyright free version of Vietnam and what it would mean to all of you. It could make a difference.
Get with the City Fathers and ask to have us attend certain functions where "we (VVA) can be recognized as a local organization that can do some good". We are not yet a household name and need to be. Maybe we could speak at selected "military-type" functions.	We may be able to get into certain functions that the city puts on whereby it may be a social gathering or semi-official and have us "recognized". Another thought is to , it may do some good. to have our name out there for "City of <where you live>" functions. If we make ourselves available for certain things, we'll get out there more.	Ask the city if they would supply the wood, we'll make / paint the crosses for the cemetery. Take pictures of the men actually doing the work showing "what" we can do. Have a photo opportunity and presentation around Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Ask someone in your chapter to take on the role of becoming a public affairs person for you.
Newspaper articles with photos about what Veterans (in general) are and what they do.	Develop a series of articles based on our own lives for the paper in the city which you live.	Should be complimentary, see your editor or newsletter point of contact.
Discuss a campaign about recruiting new members with the current members. Have a dessert at a restaurant officially welcoming the new members to VVA with wives	Start a contest asking all members to increase the membership. Provide a special "reward" for the most members recruited. Give a Vietnam / musical CD or DVD to those new members who firmly join VVA.	\$1.00 for the CD. Letter of invitation notifying of dessert. VVA pays for dessert of new members only.
Locate a book on the War in Vietnam and have it become a gift for someone that we'd want to recognize, extend thanks to, a guest speaker, etc.	It's always nice to reward someone with a nice gift or surprise when they have done something unexpectedly for VVA. You know the rule, 20% do 80% of the work in any organization.	\$25.00. There are also DVD's at Wal-Mart as we speak) on documentaries of Vietnam which are very good to make as a gift. How much: \$5.00 for 4 DVD's inside the package.
Speak at the Rescue Mission to the Veterans (in general) and let them know that we are behind them and attempt to offer to help them.	Our slogan works on behalf of the KIA/MIA's, but can it apply to those that are " lost in America ". Arizona has a huge number of homeless that we could help out just once. A year.	I've said before that ALL of us are one step away from being homeless and blessing and honoring those that live on the street is really a crime, so honor them, feed them and show them that we care.
Setup a program in which you honor WWII, Korea and Vietnam veterans that are in Living Assisted residences and give them a challenge coin and certificate.	Because they deserve it and you would too when you returned from Vietnam, so we make a difference in the lives of others while we can. Recognition is a neat thing to offer anyone that has served.	Coins are \$10.00 each with a certificate costing \$.50. Lunch would usually be provided by the facility in which they live. Go to http://www.nwt.com for coin information. See a smart guy for certificate creation.

The story of a man with a passion and great insight—Dusty Rhoades



This is story about a man that could named anyone, but some of us have a passion about things and get them done despite what else goes on in our lives. Testimonies about your life says a lot about your character, so we'll let a few remark about this fine man.

Sue Wudy says:

I met Dusty at the VA Sun City Clinic after I retired. Dusty was one of the volunteer drivers and I rode with him to learn the ropes. I enjoyed his company, friendship and will miss him. Dusty was always collecting items and we would drop them off at agencies that needed them. When my wife and I traveled, I would take all the bottles of shampoo, lotion, and any other items in the room such as the bags of coffee. All of these items we turned over to Dusty to help out our veteran brothers and sisters.

I have logged almost 800 volunteer hours at the clinic since I retired. I advised the staff two weeks ago about Dusty and his condition. A little later, I advised them of his passing. My plan is to continue to volunteer as long as I can. I know I will have good company with me in the van as a special angle will keep me on the straight and narrow!

Rich Suarez SAMS Post 48 Quartermaster says

Dusty was instrumental in starting Chapter 432 in Phoenix. He was also instrumental in starting the Arizona State Council. He worked and helped organize the first Stand Down in AZ and was in charge of all the clothing (collecting, storing and the distribution of same). He was also very instrumental in starting the first two 501(c3) corporations for the AZ State Council: Vietnam Veterans of Arizona Foundation and Vietnam Veterans of Arizona Resource and Referral. He generated the movement to collect and ship clothing, can goods, medical supplies to the National Disaster in the Mid-East.

He worked with the Native Americans and attended the first AZ Native American Veterans Conference in Kykotsmovi, AZ on Second Mesa. He was the first member of Vietnam Veterans of America in Arizona to receive recognition as the "**National Member of the Year**" at the Convention in Norfolk, VA.

That is just a few of the things he was involved with in the State that I can think of off the top of my head. I know that there were a lot of other things he was involved in and with. He was always thinking of ways to help veterans.



MICHELLE

WHAT WAS THE NAME
OF THE LAST
BATTLESHIP THAT
SERVED IN VIETNAM?

BTW: WE HAVE
NONE IN SERVICE
TODAY!!

A TOUR TO
VIETNAM CAN
BEGIN IN HANOI
AND END IN

SAIGON (HO CHI
MINH CITY) AND
COST ABOUT
\$3,500.00 FOR
TWO WEEKS

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SHE CAN HELP YOU
ARRANGE YOUR TRIP IF
YOU'RE INTERESTED TO
TRAVEL BACK TO VIET-
NAM.

Chapter 1011 Makes a Big Difference in a Student's Life



Photo and Scholarship presentation of the Chapter 1011 Chapter scholarship to young Navy veteran Tie Ginn at the ASU Veterans Upward Bound Program run by Chapter member Dr. Robert Mena...Chapter member Dave Lucier, President of the Tempe Veterans Foundation, looks on. 1011 contributes \$250.00 and VVA State Council kicks in a matching \$250.00...the check was presented in front of a group of other young veterans who, hopefully, will be inspired by this award to strive to stay in school and complete their education...aside from Dr. Mena having his PhD...there was a big round of applause for Dave and myself when we explained that about 35 years ago or so, we were sitting at ASU in exactly their position...trying to get thru school on the GI Bill. They really seemed to appreciate that we could relate to what they're going thru...coming home, going to school, working, **so this scholarship is a good thing that 1011 should make sure continues...**

COL. Robert L. Howard — America's Greatest Vietnam Hero

"The day that President Nixon draped the Medal of Honor's pale blue ribbon around Howard's neck, I sat before the TV in my parents' living room watching the evening news. Coming on top of his previous decorations - the Distinguished Service Cross and multiple Silver and Bronze Stars, plus eight Purple Hearts - Howard's combat awards exceeded those of Audie Murphy, America's legendary World War II hero, until then our most highly decorated serviceman. At last, Howard would get his due. I flipped station to station, but not one of the networks - not CBS or NBC or ABC - could find ten seconds to mention Captain Robert Howard or his indomitable courage. I found nothing about him in the newspapers. Twisted by the antiwar politics of that era, many in the media believed that to recognize a heroic act was to glorify war. They simply chose not to cover the ceremony. It might as well not have happened." He was wounded 14 times in 54 months of combat duty in Vietnam; Robert Howard was awarded a total of 8 Purple Hearts and is believed to be the most decorated living American. He died on December 23, 2009.



Robert L. Howard was one of America's most decorated soldiers. He served five tours in Vietnam and is the only soldier in our nation's history to be nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor three times for three separate actions within a 13 month period. Although it can only be awarded once to an individual, men who served with him said he deserved all three. ***We mention things like this to illustrate that there are still heroes out there in our midst*** and we should let our children and grand children know of them, so show them this article.