



July-September 2013

VVA-AZ Arizona State Council—Phoenix, Arizona

The AZ-LZ

Points of Interest

- YPG's first Commemoration Vietnam Event
- Arizona's 3rd Dinner in October 2013
- Ms Audie Murphy
- A woman's perspective of women in combat
- America's Plight "Modernism"
- WWII Navy Commander
- Miniature Drones
- Doing something nice for someone
- From the VVA President

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Yuma Proving Ground Sponsors Vietnam Veteran Event

COL. Reed Young, Commander of Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, near Yuma sponsored his first 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War by honoring the three Native American Indian Tribes in Southwestern Arizona. Yuma is home to the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Cocopah and Quechan or Kwtsaan Tribes all located in the Yuma area.

SGT Bravie Soto was the first Native America that was killed in Vietnam in May of 1967 in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.

Some of his relatives attended the event and were moved by the outpouring of those that attended and the meaning behind the

Commemoration. YPG entered themselves as a partner with the 50th Commemoration Directorate in Washington, D.C. in honoring Vietnam Veterans, the POW's and MIA's along with their families. Also to honor those governmental and non-governmental organizations that played a major role in the war. To pay tribute to the "home-front personnel and those advances in technology, medicine and sciences that played a major role then and last the Allies who fought along side of the United States to keep Communism from gaining a foot hold in that region which would have affected all of South East Asia and the many islands nearby.



Honoring The Native Americans



Yuma Proving Ground Honors Vietnam Veterans

COL. Reed Young, Commander of Yuma Proving Ground in Yuma, AZ hosted an event to honor the native Americans who fought in the Vietnam War in the 1960's and 1970's. The particular individual honored was SGT Bravie Soto who the Munitions and Weapons building at YPG is named after. Seventy people attended this event at the ROC Building atrium. This event was held in connection with Vietnam Veterans of America State Council of which Walt Schumacher who is Chairman for the State of Arizona. He was asked to be a guest speaker in which he discussed the passing on to the next generations about people's experiences in Vietnam which is important to those

family members. Tony Brockington who is the Chairperson for the Yuma Proving Ground worked "hand-in-glove" with everyone at YPG to ensure this would be a success and it was.

Walt stated *"that it is important for all Vietnam Veterans to get on with their lives even though we did not get that 'welcome home parade' and at our age we should focus on what is before us and that is our family (children, grandchildren and the great-grandchildren) who would like to know something about Vietnam and what we did over there. This would be a real educational and personal experience for them before we leave this earth."* **Time, now is of the essence.**



YPG Becomes A "50th Commemorative Partner"

Members of the YPG 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War receive the Certificate and Flag from the Program Office in Washington D.C. and was presented by Walt Schumacher, Chairman of the State of Arizona to the Chairman of Yuma Proving Ground, Tony Brockington.

SGM West is uncasing the Commemorative flag in the photos to the right. This memorable ceremony shows just how much people care for the Vietnam Veterans in America



This certificate allows YPG to perform numerous activities throughout the years from 2013 to 2025 for Vietnam Veterans, Activities, Personnel and functions that have improved the lives of the soldier.



Vietnam Veterans Came From Everywhere

Vietnam Veterans from YPG and throughout the Yuma area appeared for YPG's first Commemoration Ceremony for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. This historical event will be a memory for the nearly seventy personnel that showed up and listened to all of the information known by just a few. From the honoring to the informed talks and introductions of the staff, this was a day we'll all remember for a very long time.



What Is Yuma Proving Ground?



A large scale Army base about the size of Rhode Island that has testing characteristics for Munitions and Weapons of all types (mortars, artillery, etc) and Aviation elements such as planes, parachutes, helicopters. GEN George Patton used this location prior to going to North Africa during World War II and found it to be one of the best testing grounds ever, and it still is today. Thanks to all that work towards the freedom of America.



Insight On The YPG Commander

Yuma Proving Ground has had a lot of Commanders in its existence and I have served under twelve of them in my forty-three year career with the United States Army. Many of the them have been great Commanders, some have been very friendly, some have also been impressive in their duties as the leader of this Army base, but I must add that COL Reed F. Young, Ph.D in my eyes, he is a distinguished man that fully recognizes what he needs to do, how it needs to be done, when to accomplish it, to whom the responsibility should be with. Along with that, he has the personality and leadership that most Commander's should have, but frankly is in a class by himself when it comes to being one that you simply want to be around, a lot of the time. —Editor



COL. Young does what he does for the U.S. Soldier and does it well.



YPG's Commemoration Team

Tony Brockington - Chairman

Tony Brockington entered the U.S. Army via ROTC (South Carolina State University) as an Ordnance Officer in 1966. He served in Vietnam 1968-69, twice as an Ammunition Company Commander, in Quy Nhon and Pleiku, respectively. He was also a Battalion Operations Officer located Quy Nhon. During his tour, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Bronze Star Medal for Service, the Purple Heart, and the Army Commendation Medal for Service. He retired on 31 December 1986 as a Major.

Committee Members on the team consist of:

Ronald Basolet – Ron entered the U.S. Marine Corps in April 1972 at seventeen years of age. He was selected out of basic training to help with the evacuation of refugees out of Cambodia. Ron retired from the Marine Corps in August 1998 after 26 years of service.

Debra Browy - Debra joined the US Army in 1974 as a WAC (Women Army Corps). During basic training at Ft. Jackson SC, WAC's became Enlisted Women (EW's) and began training with men. Debra was one of the first three women in the Army to fire a 50 caliber machine gun

and throw hand grenades. She served in various locations both overseas and state-side during her tour. She left active service in 1977 to pursue her education. Debra has also served as a DA Civilian in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Michael Gaither - Mike served in the US Army from November 1967 to December 1980. He served in Viet Nam from June 1968 to September 1969 and was assigned to the 1st Division and the 82nd Airborne. Upon his return to the states he was assigned to the 508th Infantry at Fort Hood, TX. Mike was released from active duty on 7 December 1970 as a Corporal.

William Heidner – Who also served in Vietnam in the 1960s.

Randy Smith – In addition, Randy served in country of South Vietnam.

YPG should be pleased with their personnel who have volunteered to make a difference for the remaining Vietnam Veterans and provide them with a sense of honor. We certainly thank them for the efforts they will make over the next years for everyone. They should be proud.



Top photo is representative of Tony Brockington (YPG Chairman receiving the DOD Vietnam Certificate for the Program Office and the other showing the committee members of the Commemoration of the Vietnam War at YPG..

Living Bravie Soto's Legend

Bravie Soto
ON THE WALL: Panel 26E Line 4

PERSONAL DATA:
Home of Record: Somerton, AZ
Date of birth: 03/29/1941
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MILITARY DATA:
Service: Army of the United States
Grade at loss: E5
Rank: Sergeant
ID No: 66003281
MOS: 11B40: Infantryman
Length Service: 01
Unit: RECON PLT, E CO, 2ND BN, 39TH INFANTRY, 9TH INF DIV, USARV

CASUALTY DATA:
Start Tour: 12/13/1966
Incident Date: 09/05/1967
Casualty Date: 09/05/1967
Age at Loss: 26
Location: Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam
Remains: Body recovered
Casualty Type: Hostile, died outright
Casualty Reason: Ground casualty
Casualty Detail: Gun or small arms fire
URL: www.VirtualWall.org/ds/SotoEx01a.htm
Data accessed: 5/23/2013

It is not often one has a hero in their hometown, but we who live in Yuma do. It was a real honor to celebrate his life in a ceremony of him and the other Native American's that served in Vietnam during this longest war in the 1960's-1970's. We are honored to have known him and his family who came out to see the recognition that is likely long over due. We are proud to have served with men like him in the freedom of the country of Vietnam.

Bravie Soto
Sergeant
RECON PLT, E CO, 2ND BN, 39TH INFANTRY, 9TH INF DIV, USARV
Army of the United States
Somerton, Arizona
March 29, 1941 to September 05, 1967
BRAVIE SOTO is on the Wall at Panel 26E, Line 4
See the full profile or name rubbing for Bravie Soto

SGT Bravie Soto Honored



"There are a few men who have given above and beyond the call of duty and given their all (in their life) and SGT Bravie Soto is one of them. This is not an insignificant act to do as giving up the only thing you have to give up permanently and that is your only existence you will ever have on Earth."

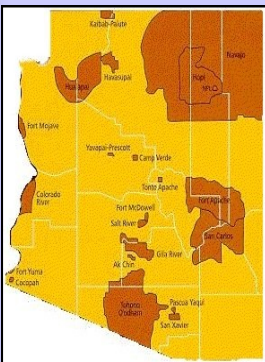


Vietnam's Coat of Arms

On the morning of Sept. 5, 1967, Sgt. Bravie Soto led a squad of men into the thick jungle of Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam. It was a sweltering late summer's day as they set out from their command post to patrol the perimeter of a rubber tree plantation. Soto and the seven men under his command would never return. Soto, a Native American, was the first Yuma-area resident killed in combat during the Vietnam War. To honor both Soto and all of those who served in the Vietnam War, a special commemoration ceremony was held at Yuma Proving Ground on 27 March 2013. The ceremony was part of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration program initiated in 2008 by the federal government to mark the 50th anniversary of the start of the American ground war in Vietnam, which will be in 2015. The ground war began on March 8, 1965, when about 3,500 U.S. Marines were sent to South Vietnam to protect U.S. Air Force bases from attacks by communist forces. The war would not end until Saigon fell to communist forces in 1975. By that time, about 58,220 US service members were killed and between 800,000 and 3.1 million Vietnamese soldiers and civilians had died. During Wednesday's ceremony at YPG, a memorial honoring Soto and other veterans was unveiled. Those attending included YPG commander Col. Reed Young, various Yuma County officials, Arizona State Council of Vietnam Veterans chairman Walt Schumacher, several Vietnam veterans, and dignitaries representing the Cocopah, Quechan and Colorado River Indian Tribes. Dale Howard, a member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes who served in Vietnam, said he was proud of the memorial. "It has been a long time in coming — recognition for all Vietnam vets." Schumacher, who served as a sergeant with the 1st Cavalry Division during 1967 and 1968, was equally pleased with the memorial. "I think this is great. We are commemorating and honoring Vietnam veterans. Each year that goes by, I can still fully recall my time in Vietnam. I can say that often times it was difficult, but I am proud to have served in Vietnam." As the memorial at YPG was unveiled, the story of "The Lost Squad of Ap Binh Son" was read aloud. It was written by Sgt. John Bradley III about the day Soto and his men were killed in Vietnam. Both men served in the 39th Infantry Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division. Bradley had been with a separate squad out patrolling the rubber plantation when Soto was killed. "We were at Camp Martin Cox, better known as Bearcat," Bradley wrote. "None of us had any idea what was to come to pass that day. It was supposed to be as close to a cake walk as the recon platoons could get." Bradley recalled Soto was "a hard figure to forget. Soto was of Native American descent. A looming figure — but quiet. He was older than most of us at 26 or 27." Three separate squads were sent out to patrol the perimeter at about 10:30 a.m. that fateful day. Each was assigned a separate area. About 20 minutes into their patrol, Bradley "heard all hell break loose to our right flank," he wrote. "The chatter of the small arms fire couldn't have been more than 200 to 300 meters from us. I remember hearing a lot of small arms fire and the sounds of hand grenades or maybe M79 (grenade launcher) rounds going off. We froze in our footsteps." The sound of the firefight lasted only about five minutes. Bradley's squad was ordered to ignore the sound and continue their patrol. At about 11:45 a.m., Bradley's squad and the third squad out on patrol returned to their command post. Soto's squad never showed up. As time passed, "it was more than evident to us that something was very wrong and we were all more than concerned about Sgt. Soto and his men," Bradley wrote. At about 2:30 p.m., Bradley was sent out with some of the other men to search for the missing squad. As they searched in the scorching heat, Bradley became aware of a powerful scent. "It wasn't just the unforgettable stench of raw latex. It was fear!" Soon, Bradley found the remains of Soto and his men. "They were taken totally by surprise," he wrote. "Their bodies had been found riddled with bullets and it was apparent that their bodies had been brutalized, even after they were dead. There were signs that a couple of the men had been shot execution style..." Including Soto, the dead were Edwin Prentice, William McDaniel, Kenneth Krause, Arnold Benson Jr., Elmer Byrd, Willie Jones and William Brennan. Remembering the sacrifice of men such as these and retelling their stories are of utmost importance, Schumacher said during the ceremony. "I would ask one favor of all you Vietnam veterans. ***Would you please consider telling your stories to your children, your grandchildren and your great grandchildren?*** Doing so ***will leave a legacy for future generations. We are at that age where we need to. Put the bad things behind you, put the good things before you.***"



"To the Native American Tribes throughout the United States, we salute you for making America a very proud and caring nation. It is a recognizable fact, the Native American's arrived to this land first and took care of the pilgrims over the next decades and those that followed with care and taught them the way of this new land that was before them".



Arizona's Tribes

The Quechan (Kwtsaan) Indian Tribe

The **Quechan** (Quechan: **Kwtsaan** - "those who descended", spelled "kwuh-tsan", also in English, **Kwtsan**, **Kwtsaan**) are a Native American tribe who live on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation on the lower Colorado River in Arizona and California just north of the border with Mexico. Members are enrolled into the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation. The federally recognized Quechan tribe's main office is located in Fort Yuma, Arizona. Its operations and the majority of its

reservation land are located in California, United States.

The first significant contact of the Quechan with Europeans was with the Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza and his party in the winter of 1774. Relations were friendly. On Anza's return from his second trip to Alta California in 1776, the chief of the tribe and three of his men journeyed to Mexico City to petition the Viceroy of New Spain for the establishment of a mission. Chief Palma and his three companions were baptized in Mexico City on February 13, 1777. Palma was given the Spanish baptismal name *Salvador Carlos Antonio*.



The Colorado River Indian Tribe

The Colorado River Indian Tribes is a geo-political unit consisting of the four distinct tribes associated with the Colorado River Indian Reservation: the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo. The combined tribe is governed by a council of nine members and overseen by a tribal Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer who come from amongst the council members. The four tribes continue to maintain and

observe their traditional ways and religious and culturally unique identities. Their reservations cover 1,119,444 km of land in Riverside and San Bernardino counties in California, and La Paz County, Arizona.

Today there are about 3,500 active members of the tribes. They are located in communities in and around Parker and Poston. The 2000 census reported a population of 9,201 persons residing on the reservation.



Colorado River Indian Tribes

Cocopah Indian Tribe

The Cocopah or Cocopa are Native American people who live in Baja California and Sonora, Mexico, and in Arizona in the United States. The Cocopah language belongs to the Delta-California branch of the Yuman family. In Spanish, the Cocopah are termed Cucapá. Their self-designation is Xawitł kwñchawaay or

"Those Who Live on the River." As of the 2010 United States Census, the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona's population was 1,009. The first significant contact of the Cocopah with Europeans probably occurred in 1540, when the Spanish explorer Hernando de Alarcón sailed into the Colorado River delta. The Cocopah were specifically mentioned by their name by the expedition of explorer Juan de Oñate in the year 1605.



“YPG Is one of the few Army bases that have multiple areas, bases and special force-type bases under its control. They have been in existence since 1942 when World War II began and General George Patton came to Yuma Test Station (previous name) to test Infantry and Artillery for the Desert Campaign in North Africa”

“Cold Regions Test Center in Alaska is also used for Cold weather testing and usage of equipment, clothing and other items requiring below freezing weather. World War II and Korea well proved the need for need for maintaining a cold regions base for the Army.

“Better than one-third of the world’s land space is in the Tropic, humid and or rainy aspects of weather. Every continent in the world (save Antarctica) has to some degree of these features which requires a form of special testing to ensure the American Forces has the right equipment”

Yuma Proving Ground In Pictures



3rd Annual Event Honoring Arizona's Vietnam Veterans.

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and the Arizona Military Museum as Official Partners of the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War are pleased to co-host the **3rd Annual Event Honoring Arizona's Vietnam Veterans.**

The 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War activities first stated objective is:

To thank and honor veterans who served in the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

Our special guest speaker will be **General Anthony Zinni, USMC (Ret).** He was the former CENTCOM Commander



"This is one event that you will not want to miss. This is a worthwhile dinner to celebrate the VIETNAM VETERAN"



What does the YEL-LOW color and three RED stripes mean?

DATE/TIME: **October 5, 2013. Sign in 5:30** pm for table seating.

PROGRAM: **Seating at 6:30.** Program begins at **7:00pm**

LOCATION: **Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 N. Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85253**

SEATING: Seating will be assigned to those who respond first

ATTIRE: **Business/casual or Army Class A or service equivalent**

COST: **\$45.00/person**

The affair will be a special experience including a Vietnamese Color Guard, a wonderful dinner, good music, short speeches, videos, TAPS, and a special presentation to Vietnam Veterans. It is open to those who desire to honor Vietnam Veterans. We look forward to seeing many Vietnam veterans, their families and friends.

Tickets are not issued, so we need your RSVP registration and check to confirm your attendance at this wonderful event. **Scottsdale Plaza Resort** rooms are set aside for your convenience at only \$125.00 per night to stay at this beautiful resort, particularly if you're travelling from outside the Phoenix area. Just call the hotel for room reservations at (480) 948-5000 or 1-800-832-2025. For other questions call 520-868-6777.

There will be several surprises not to be given out now. This being the third Arizona Dinner event honoring the various components of the Vietnam War, we know without a doubt everyone that attends will receive a real blessing before the night is over with. Former Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs will also be on hand. We are delighted that he and his wife will be in attendance. We are extremely proud and pleased that he provided a service for all veterans across Arizona.

May we high recommend that you be in your place for this dinner? Seating is for about 400 people and if you were at any previous dinner in 2011 and 2012, you know something about it and you will be extremely pleased with this one as well.

3rd Annual 50th Commemoration Dinner Reservation Form

I (we) will attend the event In Honor of Arizona Vietnam Veterans on **October 5, 2013** at **Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85253.**

The tables are rounds of ten people each. List the names of all ten people at your table; otherwise, you will be seated space available. If you desire to be seated with someone in particular, please register together on the same RSVP. Business attire/casual or Army Class A or service equivalent is appropriate for the dinner. Registration is at 5:30 to 6:30pm, when the program begins.

Please legibly print names, addresses, and contact phone numbers of attendees. No tickets will be issued. Attendees will be checked off a list when they attend the event. For questions, call **Joe at 520-868-6777.** Enclosed is (are) check(s) for the following listed attendees:

Event is **\$45.00** per attendee. Enclosed is my payment in the amount of \$_____ for members in my group.

Make Check payable to: Arizona Military Museum.

Mail check to:

Arizona Vietnam Veterans' Dinner
Joseph E. Abodeely,
Director, AZ Military Museum
9014 North Wealth Road
Maricopa, Arizona 85139



The Honoring Of the South Vietnamese Who Fought For Vietnam



A South Vietnamese soldier rests his eyes at a lonely outpost northeast of Kontum, 270 miles north of Saigon, March 25, 1974. The hill overlooks a vital North Vietnamese supply road and is located near the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting in South Vietnam since the cease fire. The soldiers on the hill say the enemy is "all around them. They were honorable soldiers who fought for a good cause and that was to save Southeast Asia from the dreaded Communism



A refugee clutches her baby as a government helicopter gunship carries them away near Tuy Hoa, 235 miles northeast of Saigon on March 22, 1975. They were among thousands fleeing from the Communist advance. Little did America know at the time what the South Vietnamese people and Army was going through. No one knew that the Vietnam War would be over within a month or so. This was not the kind of helicopter ride she was expecting.



Vietnamese soldiers of the 21st Recon Company rush to board waiting Huey choppers in the rice paddies near their forward command post in South Vietnam on Nov. 14, 1969. The men are to be transported into the interior of the U-Minh forest, the large marshy and swamp and forest area at the southern tip of Vietnam, long considered to be a VC strong-hold. For the previous month, an all Vietnamese operation called "Operation u-minh" had been attempting to drive the VC and NVA regulars from the area. It was the second such operation within the year. The good thing about the Vietnamese Army was that they knew the land of Vietnam just as good as the North Vietnamese Regular and Viet Cong.



In a sudden monsoon rain, part of a company of about 130 South Vietnamese regional soldiers moves downriver in sampans during a dawn attack against a Viet Cong camp in the flooded Mekong Delta, about 13 miles northeast of Cantho, on Jan. 10, 1966. A handful of guerrillas were reported killed or wounded. As most of us know the monsoon season was a treacherous one and often times it would rain very unexpectedly even when we were eating and fill up our food tray within a few seconds. The ARVN companies were proud units to work with and were extremely beneficial when it came to knowing their country, the language, the "thought-process" of the enemy and being there for America.



The South Vietnamese military then at the height of Vietnam was a force not to be reckoned with as they had modern weapons, training by the American's for a time that would last if they were left on their own. They received class room training on techniques that would benefit their status while in the field and provided great support to the American's because they knew their own country and of course the language. We were always pleased and gratified to work with them throughout all of the campaigns during the Vietnam War.



We so appreciate the Vietnamese populace for supporting their troops with food, clothing and especially the support that they needed each and every day just as the American's did. Both countries worked off of each other to gain that trust and admiration that was needed to defeat the enemy then. The Vietnamese that have migrated to America have been superb supporters of this country knowing it was the best thing they could have ever done and was come almost 20,000 miles and leave all that they owned for a new start and they got it.



Vietnamese and American Veterans

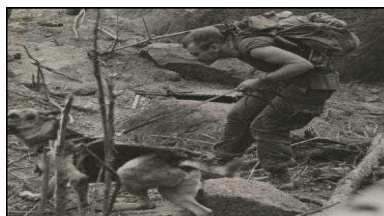


The Vietnamese ARVN's and civilians usually don't get a lot of credit for doing a good job during the war in Vietnam, but they did and here are a couple of things to remind us of what they accomplished.

Without the Army and other forces of South Vietnam, the American loss of life and credits of taking back Vietnam for the South Vietnamese would have been much worse than it was.

We thank The ARVN's for performing a great job with the Americans for fulfilling their mission to their people.

Military Dogs in Vietnam



Between the years 1964 and 1973, America had deployed an estimated 4,000 dogs and 10,000 handlers to help defend South Vietnam from invasion from North Vietnam. During the ground war, Veterinarians and Vet Techs were also deployed throughout South Vietnam to help manage the diets and medial health of the war dogs.

The success of the war dogs and handlers walking point, tracking, guarding, patrolling, and protecting American lives and military assets, ultimately reduced the enemy's capacity for surprise attacks. As a result, the enemy placed a price tag on the heads of the war dog teams and hunted them with extreme prejudice.

Korean War—60th Anniversary

Plans are being set to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, July 27. Thousands of veterans from across the nation, as well as representatives from other UN nations, are expected to be present at the Korean War Memorial for the 9:30 a.m. ceremony.

The event will be broadcast live, and VFW Posts are encouraged to share in the commemoration by hosting "Pancakes for Patriots"-type events to honor and help educate local communities about the service and sacrifices made by so many of our VFW members and their families.

The current June/July issue of *VFW Magazine* is dedicated to Korean War veterans, and it highlights our \$600,000 donation towards building their national memorial—tops among all veterans' organizations. How about your Chapter honoring the Korean War Veterans.

State of Arizona Becomes Commemorative Partner

SCR 1014-Vietnam War; Commemorative Partner

Would support the efforts for the State of Arizona to be recognized as a partner in the official Department of Defense 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War. To be recognized as such, there has to be at least two events a year that that recognize Vietnam veterans and thank them for their service. Arizona already meets that requirement.



Thank You For Our Freedom

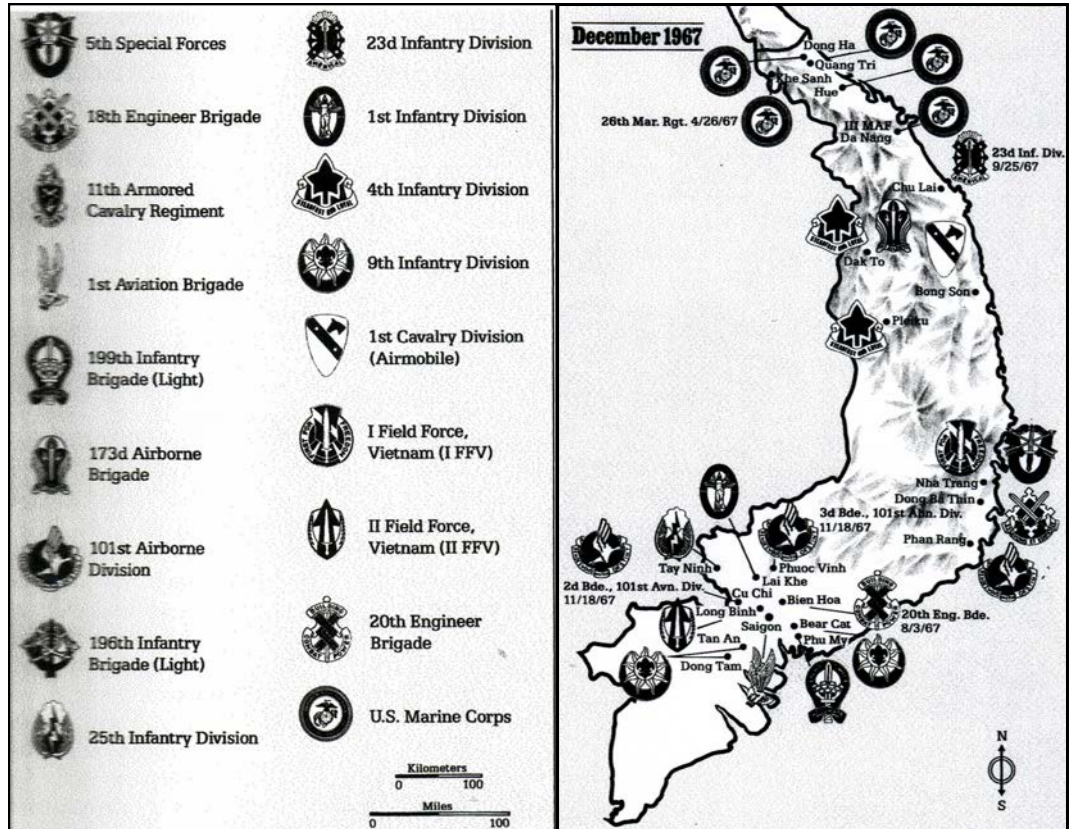


We don't have to be a wizard to know that **FREEDOM** is not free, but we should thank a veteran every chance we get and consider doing something for them every chance we get. We see the veterans in airports, the grocery store, the restroom, the restaurant and may others places such as our church, our home and even on the base they work. Please make a statement somehow, someday to thank that veteran for what they have done for you and your family. Want to make a close friend, buy them a cup of coffee, they will truly enjoy that a lot. This is a quite an aerial shot.

An Early Look of Vietnam's Military Divisions

As we all know there were scores of units in Vietnam, and we have all seen many documents to quickly identify who they were and when they were there, but, seeing them first hand on one document along with their names we can quickly identify with them and see where we were so many years ago.

It was a great time to be in the Army with our fight against Communism for the cause of the Eastern Hemisphere. [Had we not gone to Southeast Asia, do any of us have any idea where things would be today? Well, think about Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, The Philippines, Burma, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Sri Lanka and others to eventually include Australia and New Zealand.](#)



FY2014 VA Funding Is Out

The House Appropriations' Subcommittee on Military Construction/Veterans Affairs approved its FY 2014 funding bill, which would provide \$63.1 billion for VA programs and \$9.9 billion for military construction. Overall, the bill calls for \$147.6 billion, including a \$1.4 billion increase over FY 2013. Members of the Committee spoke at length about VA's disability claims backlog and requested, as part of the funding bill, about \$344 million for a single DOD-VA electronic health record and \$155 million for the Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS), a paperless claims process system. They also included \$136 million for the Veterans Claims Intake Program, which aims to eliminate the paper-based system by digitally scanning existing paper health records. VA has testified that they believe VBMS will help to eliminate the backlog by 2015. The bill now moves to the full Appropriations Committee for approval.



Jacksonville, FL—Next VVA National Convention

TUESDAY, August 13, 2013

9:00am – 5:00pm	Situation Room opens (meeting planner)	Boardroom 4
9:00am – 5:00pm	Elections Committee office open	Boardroom 2
9:00am – 5:00pm	THE VETERANS MALL open	Conference Ctr A
9:00am – 6:00pm	Credentials Office opens	Client Office 2
9:00am – 12:00pm	Convention registration open (Pre-registered delegates only)	Registration Office
1:30pm – 6:00pm	Convention registration open (Pre-registered and on-site)	Registration Office
4:00pm – 5:00pm	New Delegates briefing	City Terrace 9
4:00pm	National Board of Directors meeting	Clearwater
6:00pm – 7:00pm	AA meeting	Orlando
7:00pm – 11:00pm	Welcome home party Featuring "The Klaxxics Band"	Preconvene Area

WEDNESDAY, August 14, 2013

7:30am – 8:00am	New Delegates briefing	City Terrace 9
8:00am – 5:00pm	Election Committee office open	Boardroom 2
8:00am – 4:30pm	Convention registration	Registration Office
8:00am – 4:30pm	Credentials Office open	Client Office 2
8:15am	Convention floor open for delegates	Grand Ballroom
(Note: Registration, VVA Office, Credentials Office, Media Office will be closed during Opening Ceremony)		
9:00am – 12:00pm	Convention opening session	Grand Ballroom
	Presentation of Colors – National Anthem – Pledge of Allegiance – Introduction of Officers Welcome – John Rowan	

11:00am - 5:00pm	THE VETERANS MALL open	Conference Ctr A
12:00pm – 1:15pm	AVVA luncheon (Advance tickets required)	Ballroom 6/7
1:00pm – 6:00pm	Spouse tour – St Augustine	Newnan St. Entrance
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Committee hearings on resolutions Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee POW/MIA Committee PTSD and Substance Abuse Committee Veterans Benefits Committee Veterans Incarcerated Committee	City Terrace 4 City Terrace 7 City Terrace 12 City Terrace 9 City Terrace 11



This page shows a ***snap shot*** of some of the agenda that will take place during the week of August 13-18, 2013 for the National Convention. There will be a myriad of speakers and awards to be given out, honoring of those that have performed well. And of course new officers for the next three years from President to Secretary as well as the Regional Directors.





"Our life and the lives from before are the same with one thing in common and that is HISTORY. That words always repeats itself no matter what happens"

Arizona Military Museum Award

The Arizona Military Museum is one of those rare historic place no one should miss. If you happen to have a classroom of children or a group of young people in any setting, this is the place to be for an afternoon. This museum is the only of its kind in all of Arizona and will be hosted by either the Director of the Museum or one of his subordinate hosts. This is a well worthwhile day to be educated by this particular museum and the folks that manage it such as Joe Abodeely. This is a very proud day for him and we are all delighted that this award was made at this time. Please make an effort to see the museum and take your children to see it and teach them what it is like to know their history as they should. You may even learn something new from it as well.



The Best of The Best Has Been Awarded



Daughter's of the American Revolution-Diane Montoya from the Camelback Chapter Regent



LTG Kicklighter presents Joe with the 50th Commemoration Flag for the Arizona Museum-2012

Dr. Anne Woosley, Executive Director of the Arizona Historical Society, presenting Col. Joe Abodeely of the Arizona Military Museum with the 2013 AI Merito Award at the annual Arizona History Convention. Translated literally for merit, the AI Merito recognizes individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to the preservation and public appreciation for Arizona's rich history. AHS honors the Arizona Military Museum in recognition of excellence in exhibits, public programs, and collections promoting an understanding of the men and women in uniform who have served their state and country.



The Arizona Military Museum—A Synopsis

The Museum

Opened in 1981, the museum is an all-volunteer nonprofit association and an official activity of the National Guard through a memorandum of understanding. It is located in the historic “Old Arsenal Building” at the Papago Park Military Reservation in Phoenix, Arizona. The building is the largest adobe structure in continuous use in Arizona and is also being used as the Regional Training Institute (RTI) for training by the National Guard. The structure was built in 1936-1937 by the Work Projects Authority and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 31, 2010. The National Register is the official listing of the Nation’s cultural resources worthy of preservation.

The Arizona Military Museum has a library, archive room, and meeting room, in addition to 7,132 square feet for displays. Combining history, art and prose, the exhibits provide a chronological presentation of uniforms, accoutrements, artifacts, and weapons from the 1500s to the present and shows Arizona’s military history and its diverse cultures—Spanish, Mexican, Navajo, Apache, and “Buffalo” soldiers. Exhibits include a wide variety of military materiel and artifacts, some of which date back to the seventeenth century.

Themes of displays include Conquistadors, Spanish-colonial and Mexican periods, U.S.-Mexican War, Civil War, Arizona territory, and Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, On the Border, WW I, WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, and the history of the USAAF, USAF, and the Air National Guard, War on Terror, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Women in the Military, and Medal of Honor. There are special displays dedicated to prisoners of war (POW), military communications, and the 158th Regimental Combat Team (Bushmasters).

History of the Museum

The Arizona Military Museum is operated by the Arizona National Guard Historical Society, a private non-profit corporation. The Historical Society’s purposes are: “To enhance the appreciation of the history of Arizona and the contributions of the Militia of Arizona and the Arizona National Guard to the State of Arizona and to the Nation...” To accomplish its purposes, the Historical Society shall strive: “...to discover and memorialize the history of the Military of Arizona, the Arizona National Guard, and the general military history of Arizona, and to establish and maintain a museum on land leased, owned, or otherwise controlled by the Society.” The policy statement states that the Historical Society is “...to portray events, persons, and other historical information relating to...the military service of Arizonans in wars and other military actions in Arizona and around the world.”

Civic Involvement

For its role in the Arizona State Centennial celebrations, the museum was designated an Official Arizona Centennial Legacy Project. As such it participated in the “Official Military Pavilion” for Best Fest in Phoenix, and displays at Arizona Statehood Day. In addition AMM has made specific parts of its collection available online through the Arizona State Library’s Arizona Memory Project.

Educational Outreach

Target audience includes all those interested in Arizona’s and U.S. military history. Museum attendance last year was over 1,500. Thousands have attended other outreach events and used on-line materials provided by the museum on the Arizona Memory Project (see above) and the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA). The museum impacts the general public, veterans’ community, their families, and visitors to metropolitan Phoenix as demonstrated by the public response at patriotic holidays and veterans’ events.

Awards and Recognition

The Arizona Military Museum is recognized by the Center of Military History, certified by the Arizona Historical Society (AHS), a member of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), Museums Association of Arizona (MAA), and Central Arizona Museum Association (CAMA). The museum also partners with other Arizona museums, most notably with the Heard Museum as part of its exhibit “Native Words, Native Warriors”, the dedication of the first American Indian Veterans National Memorial, and event Honoring Arizona Indian Vietnam Warriors in May 2013.

Personal Perspectives from the Director

Some senior officers in the Arizona National Guard had foresight to establish a historical society in 1975. Their vision was to focus on the Arizona National Guard. The historical society limped along until 1980 when a new group of officers and directors on the board decided to establish a museum in dedicated space in the “old Arsenal Building” and to broaden the scope of history to include service of Arizonans in more recent military conflicts. I have been privileged and honored to have served as president of the historical society since 1980. I took over the duties of director of the museum several years ago, too. I am a native Arizonan, have a varied military background, and am a part of Arizona’s military history and have a passion for the museum.

Details Of The German Surrender

On May 7th in 1945, the German High Command, in the person of General Alfred Jodl, signed the unconditional surrender of all German forces, East and West, at Reims, in northern France.

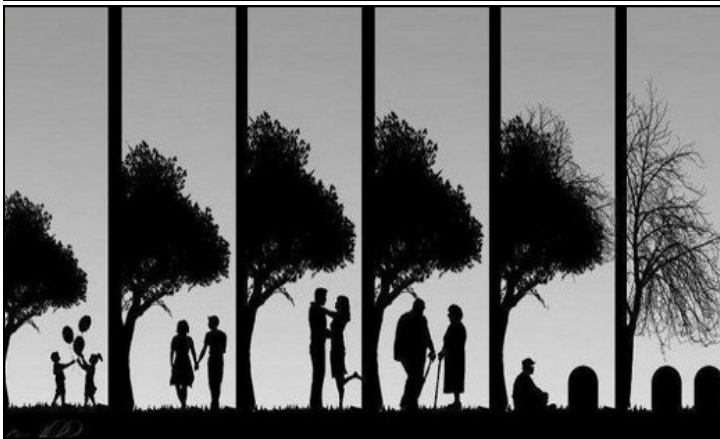
At first, General Jodl hoped to limit the terms of German surrender to only those forces still fighting the Western Allies. But General Dwight Eisenhower demanded complete surrender of all German forces, those fighting in the East as well as in the West. If this demand was not met, Eisenhower was prepared to seal off the Western front, preventing Germans from fleeing to the West in order to surrender, thereby leaving them in

the hands of the enveloping Soviet forces. Jodl radioed Grand Admiral Karl Donitz, Hitler's successor, with the terms. Donitz ordered him to sign. So with Russian General Ivan Susloparov and French General Francois Sevez signing as witnesses, and General Walter Bedell Smith, Ike's chief of staff, signing for the Allied Expeditionary Force, Germany was at least on paper-defeated. Fighting would still go on in the East for almost another day. But the war in the West was over. The eighth of May 1945 spelled the day when German troops throughout Europe finally laid down their arms: The main

concern of many German soldiers was to elude the grasp of Soviet forces, to keep from being taken prisoner. About 1 million Germans attempted a mass exodus to the West when the fighting in Czechoslovakia ended, but were stopped by the Russians and taken captive. The Russians took approximately 2 million prisoners in the period just before and after the German surrender. Meanwhile, more than 13,000 British POWs were released and sent back to Great Britain. Your courage has defeated the Nazis. The war is over. This is "VE Day" in Europe, May 9, 1945.

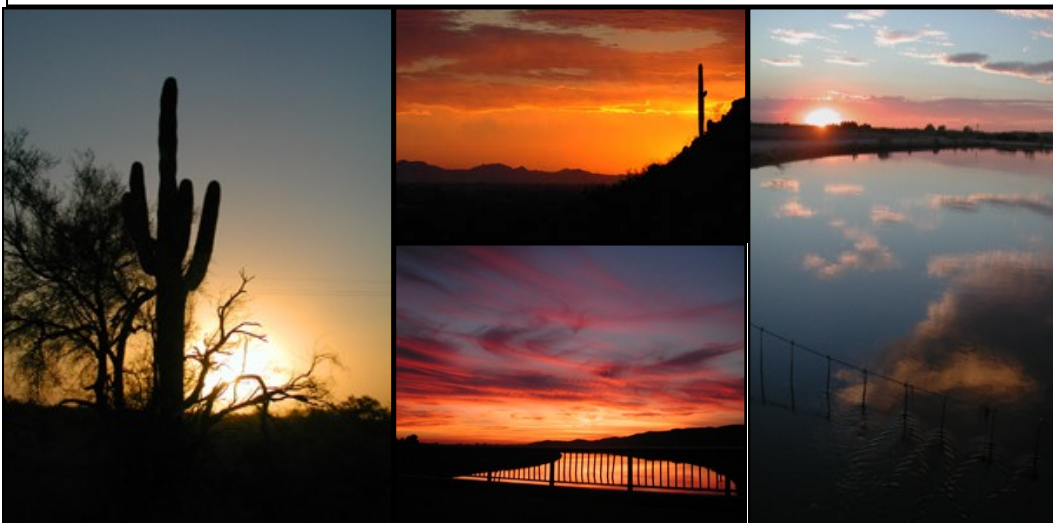


Want To See Your Life In Pictures??



To all of you Vietnam Veterans reading this article. Life goes by **REAL FAST** doesn't it? May I recommend that you do a few more things for your VVA Chapter or State Council? Try teaching a short grammar school course on Vietnam (what it was like to be there), or how about a short talk on the war (something of interest to the kids). Write your "story" about your tour in Vietnam (you did a lot over there and had some good times, just like I did). How about taking some of your children back to Vietnam for a two week trip. I did and it was wonderful. It cost me \$500 for two weeks, might be more now, but it was trip I will never forget and really, I would do it again.

The Beauty of Arizona And The People In It

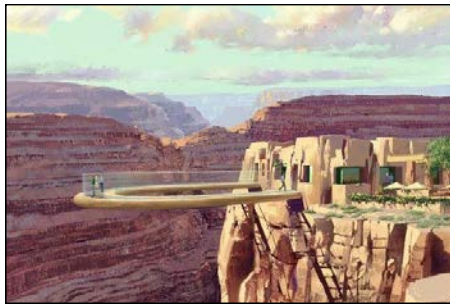


There really is beauty in everything. If you look at our world, which is the only one we have, there is a lot of beauty in that too. How about your family, your lovely wife and children. **Tell them that they look beautiful to you and mean it.** You know beauty is in the eyes of the beholder and if you are behold'n, then say it. It's all about **ATTITUDE** and sometimes we could improve on it, **like every day.** It will increase your relationship with them.

They Did It Right—With Beauty



A little color goes a long way, but, this is beautiful and the Greeks do it very well.



The Grand Canyon skywalk. A little high for me, but great to see over for sure.



The new city hall in Hanover, Germany. They make everything to last for 500 years.



The Seven Sisters Mountains, the 39th tallest in the country of Norway



The view from a \$10,000 per night hotel in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)



One of the tallest mountains in Southern Norway. Most of this country is like this.



Amazing construction from Barcelona, Spain. True color that the eyes enjoy.



Beautiful Village in Hallstatt, Austria near the Swiss Alps. A fairy tale area to be sure.



Beautiful balance of predator and prey in nature. We wonder who will win?

My 2013 Inconclusive Travel Plans

I have been in many places, but I've never been in **Cahoots**. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in **Cognito**. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in **Sane**. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

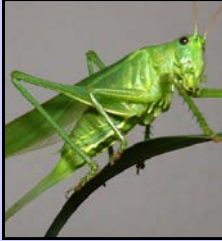
I would like to go to **Conclusions**, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in **Doubt**. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in **Flexible**, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in **Capable**, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in **Suspense**! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! Don't laugh, you too (regardless of your age now) will be there sooner than you think.



Compared to the entire world and the universe for all time, we humans are truly all categorized as grasshoppers when it comes God's creation as that we are that small and insignificant in size, but not meaning.

"We are all the same from the neck down" but different from the neck up. The main thing is that each of us has a heart for each other"

"As the world moves on from year to year, we are mesmerized as to how much destruction we can do to each other, simply because there is another one of us just around the corner. What a shame that life is not valued more than that, simply because of trust"

How Much Do You Think You Know?

Rhode Island

75 kilometers
 7.5×10^4 meters

Rhode Island is the smallest state in the U. S. A. However, it could still fit the world's population on it. Did you know that Rhode Island has the longest official state name? (The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations)



Rhode Island



Boeing 747

Boeing 747

65 meters
 6.5×10^1 meters

The Boeing 747, which flies, is an airplane. Since 1969, it's been shorter than a redwood tree. Before then, it didn't exist, so it wasn't shorter or longer. And yes, its wingspan is longer than the Wright brother's first flight (37 meters).



Eiffel Tower

Eiffel Tower

320 meters
 3.2×10^2 meters

For 41 years, the Eiffel Tower was the tallest man-made structure in the world. 200 million people have been to the Eiffel Tower, which is almost the population of the U.S.A!

Thou

25.4 micrometers
 2.54×10^{-5} meters

Although the word "thou" is most commonly known as being an old form of the word "you", a thou is also a unit of measurement. It is equal of one thousandth of an inch; in fact, that's where it gets its name. THOUSandth. Pretty cool.

Human

1.7 meters
 1.7×10^0 meters

I'm going to assume you are a human. I am a human too! Did you know that there are over 7 billion of us? That's a lot. In fact, if you met each person for one second, it would take you about 200 years to meet all of them! Better get started now!



Human

Total Human Height

Total Human Height

10 million kilometers
 1×10^{10} meters

If all the 7 billion humans stood on top of one another, and the bottom 6.99 billion humans didn't crumple under all the weight, the stack would be approximately 10 million kilometers tall.

Cost of War In Dollars

<u>War Name</u>	<u>Years Fought</u>	<u>Cost Of The War</u>	<u>Total KIA's of American's</u>
World War II	1941-1945	≈\$296,000,000,000	405,300
Korean War	1950-1953	≈\$30,000,000,000	35,500
Vietnam War	1960-1975	≈\$111,000,000,000	58,209
Gulf War	1990-1990	≈\$61,000,000,000	294
Cold War	1945-1990	≈\$18,500,000,000,000	≈ 400
Iraq War	2003-2011	≈\$815,000,000,000	4,487
Afghan War	2001-2014	≈\$630,000,000,000	2,200

The cost of war with lives, money involved, the destruction and annihilation of any given economy anywhere in the world has quadrupled this century already as compared to the last 3 to 4 centuries. **In other words, we are killing ourselves all because of TRUST.**

See It As It Is Happening. . .

Don't you wish you could on occasion see "something" as it is happening? Sometimes, we do in our minds eye, but then we still don't see it all. Take a look at a few of these things and think back if we have ever been in that situation. All of these photos go to show you that LIFE IS SHORT. God does not want us to do "dumb stuff" in our lives, simply live for Him and provide the Gospel to those that do not know The Lord Jesus Christ. Let's not have Satan "eat us up" and allow the world "to gobble us up" with things of the world and "be prepared" for those things that come across our way such as "being chased by a bull", no matter where it might be. ☺



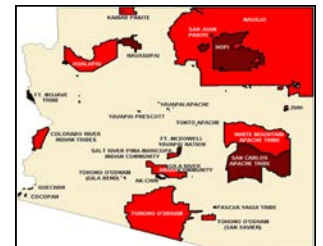
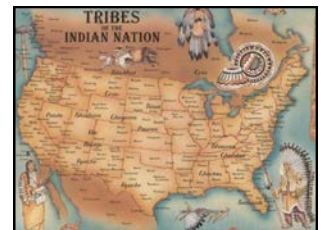
Native American Information

Navajo Nation Veteran Home

The Navajo Nation's Housing Authority approved \$14 million to construct a 60 bed Tribal veteran's home in Chinle. The pre-proposal request for qualifications for design services was held on Friday, 19 April for interested architectural firms. The design team will be selected by 1 June. ADVS is acting as advisors and subject matter experts for this project. When completed, the Navajo Veteran's Home will be the first of its kind on tribal land in the country.

San Carlos Apache Veterans' Cemetery

The San Carlos Apache Tribal Council has approved \$5.5 million to construct a new Tribal veteran's cemetery and is in the process of filing an application through the US Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration division for funding. ADVS is also acting as advisors and subject matter experts for this project.



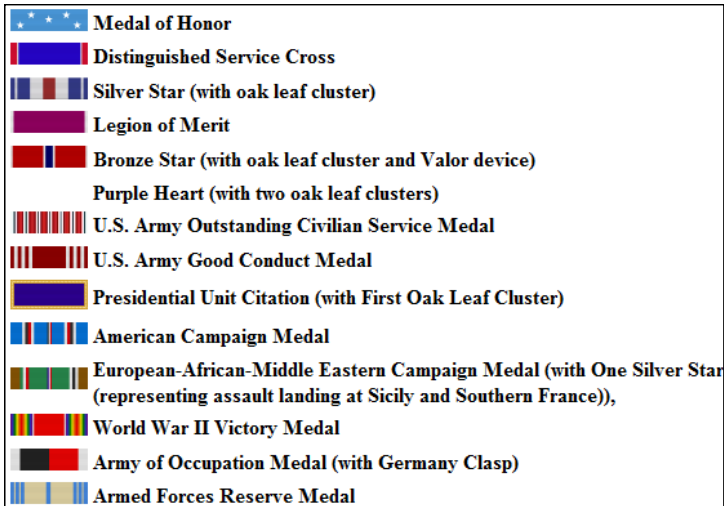
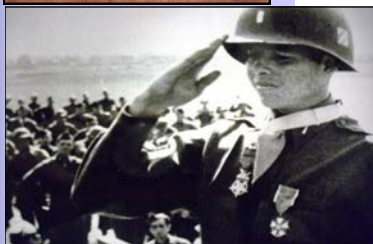
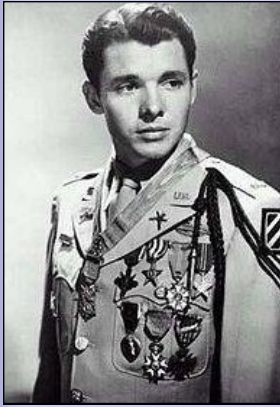
Military Family Relief Fund

The Arizona Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee approved four applications at their last meeting on 23 April 2013, providing \$20,431.56 in assistance for hardships caused by service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

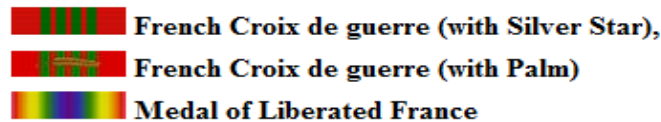
The Arizona Military Family Relief Fund has awarded 33 grants totaling \$95,246.90 to assist the families of Arizona's service members and veterans since the beginning of 2013. Since 2008, the MFRF has awarded 441 grants totaling \$1,365,274.69.



A Little About Mrs. Audie Murphy

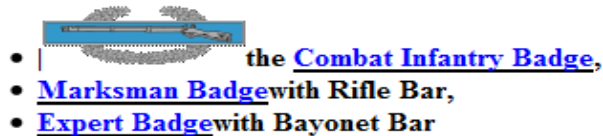


French Legion of Honor - Grade of Chevalier



Belgian Croix de guerre (with 1940 Palm)

Additionally, Murphy was awarded:



Pamela Murphy, widow of WWII hero and actor, Audie Murphy, died peacefully at her home on April 8, 2010. She was the widow of the most decorated WWII hero and actor, Audie Murphy, and established her own distinctive 35 year career working as a patient liaison at the Sepulveda Veterans Administration hospital, treating every veteran who visited the facility as if they were a VIP. Any soldier or Marine who came into the hospital got the same special treatment from her. She would walk the hallways with her clipboard in hand making sure her boys got to see the specialist they needed.

Many of her boys weren't Medal of Honor recipients or movie stars like Audie, but that didn't matter to Pam. They had served their country. That was good enough for her. She never called a veteran by his first name. It was always "Mister." Respect came with the job.

Who She Was and How She Was

"Nobody could cut through VA red tape faster than Mrs. Murphy," said veteran Stephen Sherman, speaking for thousands of veterans she befriended over the years. "Many times I watched her march a veteran who had been waiting more than an hour right into the doctor's office. She was even reprimanded a few times, but it didn't matter to Mrs. Murphy. "Only her boys mattered. She was our angel."

She went from a comfortable ranch-style home in Van Nuys where she raised two sons to a small apartment - taking a clerk's job at the nearby VA to support herself and start paying off her faded movie star husband's debts. At first, no one knew who she was. Soon, though, word spread through the VA that the nice woman with the clipboard was Audie Murphy's widow. It was like saying General Patton had just walked in the front door. Men with tears in their eyes walked up to her and gave her a hug.

"Thank you," they said, over and over. The first couple of years, I think the hugs were more for Audie's memory as a war hero. The last 30 years, they were for Pam. One year I asked Pam to be the focus of a Veteran's Day column for all the work she had done. Pam just shook her head no. "Honor them, not me," she said, pointing to a group of veterans down the hallway. "They're the ones who deserve it."



What Do You Believe?

"I believe I can be a better person"

"I also believe that I can live my life better than I have"

"I also believe that my life is likely going to be over sooner than I think and I should seriously think this and act now"

"I also believe that I can be a better father, grandfather, mother, grandmother and I should make up somehow for the people I have hurt in the past, because a hurt does not ever disappear on its own and it's up to me to do something about it."

"My number one failure in my life is being way too **"PRIDEFUL"** and I need to get over that, right now, before it is too late, *for me*" †

I Believe... That just because two people argue, *it doesn't mean they don't love each other.* and just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do love each other.

I Believe... That we don't have to change friends, *if we understand that friends can change.*

I Believe... That no matter how good a friend is, They're going to hurt you every once in a while and *you must forgive them for that.*

I Believe... That *true friendship grows, even over the longest distance,* the same really goes for true love.

I Believe... That *you can do something in an instant* that will give you heartache for life.

I Believe... That it's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

I Believe... That you should *always leave loved ones with loving words.* It may be the last time you see them.

I Believe... That *you can keep going long after you think you can't.*

I Believe... That *we are responsible for what we do,* no matter how we feel.

I Believe... That either *you control your attitude or it controls you.*

I Believe... That heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, *regardless of the consequences.*

I Believe... That my best friend and I *can do anything or nothing* and have the best time.

I Believe... That sometimes the people *you expect to kick you* when you're down will be the ones to help you get back up.

I Believe... That sometimes when I'm angry I have the right to be angry, but that *doesn't give me the right to be cruel.*

I Believe... That maturity has more to do with *what types of experiences you've had* and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

I Believe... That it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes, you have to *learn to forgive yourself.*

I Believe... That no matter how bad your heart is broken, *the world doesn't stop for your grief.*

I Believe... That our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but, *we are responsible for who we become.*

I Believe... That you *shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret.* It could change your entire life forever and you have to realize that it could happen.

I Believe... *Two people can look at the exact same thing* and see something totally different.

I Believe... That your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people *who don't even know you.*

I Believe... That even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you, *you will find the strength to help.*

I Believe... That credentials on the wall *do not make you a decent human.*

I Believe... That the people *you care about most in life* are taken from you too soon.

Let's hope and believe that **NONE** of us are perfect and **NEVER** will be. We simply have to get out of our **PRIDEFUL** spirit that is built into all of us and recognize that **ALL of us are no better and no worse than the other.** So, think about what you have done to make life miserable for someone else and *call them up and apologize to them in the most sincere way you possibly can.*

Is This A Mosquito?

No. It's an insect spy drone for urban areas, already in production, funded by the U.S. Government. It can be remotely controlled and is equipped with a camera and a microphone. It can land on you, and it may have the potential to take a DNA sample or leave RFID tracking nanotechnology on your skin. It can fly through an open window, or it can attach to your clothing until you take it in your home. Given their propensity to request macro-sized drones for surveillance, one is left with little doubt that police and military may look into these gadgets next.



SR-71 Goes Into Retirement



In April 1986, following an attack on American soldiers in a Berlin disco, President Reagan ordered the bombing of Muammar Qaddafi's terrorist camps in Libya. Our duty was to fly over Libya, and take photographs recording the damage our F-111's had inflicted. Qaddafi had established a 'line of death,' a territorial marking across the Gulf of Sidra, swearing to shoot down any intruder, that crossed the boundary. On the morning of April 15, I rocketed past the line at 2,125 mph.

The SR-71 was an expensive aircraft to operate. The most significant cost was tanker support, and in 1990, confronted with budget cutbacks, the Air Force retired the SR-71. The SR-71 served six presidents, protecting America for a quarter of a century.



Unbeknownst to most of the country, the plane flew over North Vietnam, Red China, North Korea, the Middle East, South Africa, Cuba, Nicaragua, Iran, Libya, and the Falkland Islands. On a weekly basis, the SR-71, kept watch over every Soviet Nuclear Submarine, Mobile Missile Site, and all of their troop movements. It was a key factor in winning the Cold War. In the first 100 years of manned flight, no aircraft was more remarkable. The Blackbird had outrun nearly 4,000 missiles, not once taking a scratch from enemy fire.

On her final flight, the Blackbird, destined for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, sped from Los Angeles to Washington in sixty-four minutes, averaging 2,145 miles per hour and setting four speed records.

U.S. Navy Hero Brought Back Home For Funeral

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that a Navy pilot, missing from the Vietnam War, has been accounted for and will be buried with full military honors along with his crew. Navy Lt. Dennis W. Peterson of Huntington Park, Calif., was the pilot of a SH-3A helicopter that crashed in Ha Nam Province, North Vietnam. Peterson was accounted for on March 30, 2012. Also, aboard the aircraft was Ensign Donald P. Frye of Los Angeles, Calif.; Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Technicians William B. Jackson of Stockdale, Texas; and Donald P. McGrane of Waverly, Iowa. The crew will be buried, as a group, on May 2 at Arlington National Cemetery. On July 19, 1967, the four servicemen took off from the USS Hornet aboard an SH-3A Sea King helicopter, on a search and rescue mission looking for a downed pilot in Ha Nam Province, North Vietnam. During the mission, an enemy concealed 37mm gun position targeted the helicopter as it flew in. The helicopter was hit by the anti-aircraft gunfire, causing the aircraft to lose control, catch fire and crash, killing all four servicemen. In October 1982, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) repatriated five boxes of remains to U.S. officials. In 2009, the remains within the boxes were identified as Frye, Jackson, and McGrane. In 1993, a joint U.S./S.R.V. team, investigated a loss in Ha Nam Province. The team interviewed local villagers who identified possible burial sites linked to the loss. One local claimed to have buried two of the crewmen near the wreckage, but indicated that both graves had subsequently been exhumed.



**“PEOPLE
WILL BE
PEOPLE,
and
sometimes
you just
cannot
change
them, no
matter
what”**

Let It Go. . . And Here's Why

When people can walk away from you let them walk. Your destiny is never tied to anybody that left. The Bible said that, they came out from us that it might be made manifest that they were not for us. ***"For had they been of us, no doubt they would have continued with us"*** 1 John 2:19

People leave you because they are not joined to you. And if they are not joined to you, you can't make them stay. Let them go! And it doesn't mean that they are a bad person it just means that their part in the story is over. And you've got to know when people's part in your story is over so that you don't keep trying to raise the dead. You've got to know when it's dead. You've got to know when it's over. Let me tell you something. I've got the gift of good-bye. It's the tenth spiritual gift, I believe in good-bye. It's not that I'm hateful,

it's that I'm faithful, and I know whatever God means for me to have He'll give it to me. And if it takes too much sweat I don't need it. Stop begging people to stay. Let them go!! If you are holding on to something that doesn't belong to you and was never intended for your life, then you need to... **LET IT GO!!!** If you are holding on to past hurts and pains... **LET IT GO!!!** If someone can't treat you right, love you back, and see your worth... **LET IT GO!!!** If someone has angered you... **LET IT GO!!!** If you are holding on to some thoughts of revenge... **LET IT GO!!!** If you are involved in a wrong relationship ... **LET IT GO!!!** If you are holding on to a job that no longer meets your needs or talents... **LET IT GO!!!** If you have a bad attitude... **LET IT GO!!!** If you keep judging to make yourself feel better... **LET IT GO!!!** If you're stuck in the past and God is trying to take you to a new level in Him... **LET IT GO!!!** If you are struggling with the healing of a broken relationship... **LET IT GO!!!** If you keep trying to help someone who won't even try to help themselves... **LET IT GO!!!** If you're feeling depressed and stressed.... **LET IT GO!!!** If there is a particular situation that you are so used to handling yourself and God is saying "take your hands off of it," then you need to... **LET IT GO!!!**

I say all of this to let you know we are all NOT joined at the hip and should just understand that “sometimes” people are not always our cup of tea and we should do what? **LET IT GO!!!!** Otherwise. It will eat us up internally and that is not the thing to do.

The Rise Of The Modern Gentlemen

Be prepared to pay for you and your date's meals. If she offers to pay, kindly refuse and remind her this is a real "date" (wife or girl friend) and you pay the bill. If you don't have the money, then you should not have invited her out.

It seems that the modern gentlemen of today is a thing of yesterday and tomorrow holds no promises either. But that is not what men are supposed to do in this life. God gave us a wife to take care, to love, to protect, because, she is the weaker sex. That only means that she is weaker physically and we are to care for her physically, emotionally and financially in ALL respects. So the next time, she has no money in her purse, give her half of yours. When she has a birthday coming, you better buy her something nice along with a card and oh yes, when you are taking her somewhere in the car, be sure **YOU OPEN THE DOOR.**

Vietnam Traveling Wall

The Main Street Buckeye Co. hosted the American Veterans Traveling Tribute in Buckeye, Arizona from May 9th - 12th. This mobile group of memorials and exhibits – anchored by an 80% replica of the Vietnam Wall and a Gold Dog Tag Display of all casualties in the Global War on Terror – honors all those who served while paying specific tribute to those that gave all in that service. Below is the schedule that was provided to celebrate this event.

Thursday May 9th – Opening Ceremonies

12:00pm - Wall Opens to Public, POW/MIA and Gold Star Wreaths, Blessing of Wall and viewing

6:00pm - Evening Ceremony

Friday May 10th – Law Enforcement Firefighters Day

7:00am - Reveille, Posting of Colors, Schools Visit and viewing

6:00pm - Opening Ceremony

Saturday May 11th—Colors Posting

7:00am - Reveille, Posting of Colors and all day viewing

6:00pm - Evening Ceremony, Candlelight Vigil

Sunday May 12th - Mother's Day, Mothers Receive a Flower

7:00am - Reveille, Posting of Colors

10:00am - Church Service



Modernism—A Major Problem in America



This building is NOT modern. It has likely been around for 300 years



This building is very modern. It has likely been around for 5-10 years

MODERNISM

Modern artistic or literary philosophy and practice; *especially* : a self-conscious break with the past and a search for new forms of expression

20th and 21st Century Ideas

American modernism is an artistic and cultural movement in the United States starting at the turn of the 20th century with its core period between World War I and World War II and continuing into the 21st century. **It is also a dangerous position to put Americans in to create a future for the younger generations.**

We all recognize that America has a lot of difficult problems that it is facing and the government, much less the average person really does not know what to do about it, or do we? At our age, we grew up in the “*White Picket Fence Generation*” where “*Father Knew Best*” and frankly we listened to father and mother as well. But what has really gone wrong with our country. One could point to “the changing times” or “different people” or “immigration” or even a “new world” because of “new things”. In other words, things or events in our lives in the 21st Century that have GREATLY progressed from the beginning of the 20th Century (1900 and later).

Haven't we always had “changing times”? How about those “different people”, well, they have always been here. And then “immigration”, Mmm, that is what built America is all of us coming from somewhere else. The “new world”, well there was one back in 1901 as well and the “new things” became instant hits in the early 1900's as well.

The one thing we have always had in America from day one is the “Family Unit”. That means a Father, Mother, Grandparents, and in some cases Grandparents were on the scene most all of the time. It seems since the middle of

the 20th century, a lot of that has disappeared in our American society where the parents, grandparents and those people that are “involved” in the family unit of America, are no longer.

Instead, we have turned to the modernizing of our country and of ourselves to make life easier on us and others and the sibling, parents or other people in “this family unit” are not there any longer for the other person. And I ask why? But, let's look at the definition of “MODERNISM”.

In the widest definition – modernism is the feeling of modern thought process, personal character appeal, and the practices of up-to-date lifestyle and technologies.

But, being specific, the characteristics of modernism can be defined as the modernist movement that took place and being practiced in various fields of **social communication and personal lifestyle – such as – modernism in personal and business communication, modernism in literature, modernism in arts, modernism in poetry, modernism in architecture, etc.**

Mod-ern-ism

Modern character or quality of thought, expression, or technique. A movement in the arts, technology or architecture **that aims to break with classical and traditional forms.**

What Represents Modernism in our Lifestyle?

Modern communication, modern language, modern clothing, modern traveling, modern office environment, modern home environment, modern residential designing, etc. We all simply love the way modernism provides us to live !! **We do??**

You don't have to agree with all that is being said, but LET'S BE HONEST, America has major and I mean a major problem with the Family Unit. **It has fallen apart to the point that over 50% of the families today do not have a leader in their family and that is the father.**

When we were growing up in that “White Picket” Fence generation, Dad went to work, Mom stayed home, the children respected their parents, they listened to the one parent in the home at that time, they did pretty well in school, they accepted guidance from their Grandparents, they respected their Aunts and Uncles, they did not disrespect their Sisters and Brothers and helped them out the way they should and became “best friends” and kindled that relationship for the next several decades and “were there for them”.

So what has happened and based on what is going on today, what do we think will happen and how to fix it, see the next page for more and answers. **Read Carefully Please.**

Modernism—A Major Problem in America (Cont'd)

**“Communicati
on is the BEST
vehicle we
humans have
with each
other and if
we don’t use
to the better-
ment of others
shame on us,
because we
too, would
expect the
SAME THING,
right??**



It's either **THIS**
(above) or **THIS**
(below), **you** make
the choice, just make
the **right one**.



I don't mind saying this, but it all starts with the **FATHER**, as he is the head of house or the leader in the family. If he is irresponsible, then the family is going to be placed in an "irresponsible position". Then there is **MOTHER**, who should be at home raising her **CHILDREN**. Yes, this sounds right out of the Bible or in yester-year times, and yes, that is true as it worked for them then and would for us today. Please read on . . .

A **FAMILY UNIT** needs a "thing" called a **RELATIONSHIP** that is developed with a Mom and Dad at home raising their family in accordance with how families should be raised with one cohesive family leadership called Mom and Dad. As children grow up they need to be connected with their Mother and Father and everyone in that household has that responsibility to become their own person, but in the person of Jesus Christ, as He founded the family to start with.

The one piece that all children require in their growing up years (and beyond) is **SECURITY** in their lives knowing Dad will love them, take care of them, train them, teach them, guide and provide for them. Young girls need it from their Father's while young boys need it from their Mother, but today is a world of void and insecurity.

That "Face-to-Face" relationship is critical for **EVERYONE** in the home of growing children knowing they believe they are loved and cared for. Children today are plugged into the world with technology, and the desire to "know the person" in the next bedroom or next door is non-existent and consequently, it then becomes a "heart" issue and a great deal of "apathy" sets in simply, because we and they "do not open our mouths" to say "*Hello, how are you?*" or "*How was your day?*"

You **CANNOT** be plugged into the world and be plugged into people at the same time. It is one or the other. We all need to develop that **QUALITY** time, not quantity. And you do it by listening, teaching, asking questions what your kids are thinking or have been taught without your knowledge. We cannot co-exist without each

other and cannot do it in front of a television watching movies, texting, doing Facebook, email or things of that like.

For those of you reading this, it was written to show that "our family" may be in jeopardy as well, maybe some of you need to do something about it, as you see your children in trouble, homeless, jobless, apathetic, drunk, on drugs, alcoholic and tattooed, you name it.

As the head of our house, we Vietnam Veterans should read and think on this topic very carefully and not wonder why it happening, simply know that it is happening and do something about it. In our later years, we should grasp what we can while we can and help fix it the best we can. Intervene if you have to, knowing that if you don't ever wonder why if some of your family is in trouble.

The next two generations are upon us and if we ignore it, we are foolish. Think about being on your death bed right this moment. You will wish you did things a lot differently than you did over all of the years you were alive. Death sneaks up on us very quickly and without our knowing it.

You do not want "Anti-Children", you would prefer children that talk to you, grandchildren that have something to do with you.

Here is where to start. You, the **FATHER** take control of your family and your home. Focus on your children and grandchildren. Build that relationship. Get rooted in the Bible, as all of the answers are in there. Center yourself with your wife and always know that the "buck" stops with you.

Why is this article so important? Well, me just like you see the kids of today that give little thought to life, the caring for others, the nurturing of younger family members, the respect for family members and the desire to learn and become a valuable member of society much less their own family.

This is not across the board, but it appears to be worsening over time and unless we correct this, the **MODERNISM** of today will simply be a **NOVELTY** and their world along with world of their family will simply, not be. And that is something we do not want.

People is what this world is all about .

MCAS-Yuma Air Show—50th Anniversary Event for VVA-AZ

March 9, 2013 was quite an event for all of Yuma, Arizona in that the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) held their annual event for the year 2013 in which there were several big events. One event we must give credit was the introduction of the F-35 Fighter jet to the United States Marine Corps as their main fighter jet.

The second event which was a first was the introduction of the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War Commemorations, and in **particular the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War**. Displays with many rare artifacts, documents and items directly from the country of Vietnam back over fifty years ago. There were over 900 people that traveled through the tent to see these items which scores of people were vitally interested in and some even wanted to purchase right then and there.

We had the honor of having our allied troops from Canada on hand as well as they were extremely instrumental in helping us with the North Vietnamese enemy.

The U.S. Marine Corps provided us with a wonderful time by sharing all of their equipment, Drum and Bugle Corps and flying planes throughout the day that provided military entertainment. We appreciated MCAS for providing a nice 50th Commemoration.



COL. Robert Kuckuk, Cdr



"The Commandant's Own"

THE UNITED STATES MARINE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS



Admiral Nimitz' Honor

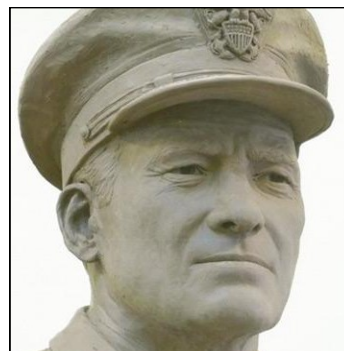
The Naval Order of the United States has selected the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial as the permanent home of the Admiral Nimitz Sculpture. Crafted by Oregon artist Rip Caswell, the 8-foot, 600-pound bronze statue pays tribute to the legendary World War II admiral, Chester William Nimitz. The statue is scheduled to be unveiled in conjunction with the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial's annual End of World War II ceremony on Sept. 2, 2013

Ten days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Nimitz was selected as commander in chief, U.S. Pa-

cific Fleet, with the rank of admiral. Nimitz, despite the losses from the attack on Pearl Harbor and the shortage of ships, planes and supplies, successfully organized his forces to halt the Japanese advance. As resources returned, Nimitz commanded the defeat of the Japanese navy in the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Battle of Midway and in the Solomon Islands.

Later, Congress created the grade of fleet admiral of the United States Navy – the highest grade in the Navy. Nimitz took the oath of that office Dec. 19, 1944.

"We are honored and thrilled to host the statue and are sure that it will be a focal point for many years to come," Michael A. Carr, president and chief operating officer of the Battleship *Missouri* Memorial, said in a news release. "(Fleet Admiral) Nimitz was the United States' signatory at the historic World War II surrender ceremony on the decks of the USS *Missouri* (BB-63). The reunion of these two icons of American history is a fitting homage to the day that peace was restored to the world." Thank you Admiral Nimitz for your superior command of the US Navy.



The Band of Brothers

You may have served in combat or while preserving peace. You may have retired out or you may have served for a short time. You may have been a draftee or a volunteer. You may have served in the Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard or the Merchant Marines,

BUT YOU SERVED. YOU

DID YOUR JOB HONORABLY and for that I am **PROUD** to call you brother.

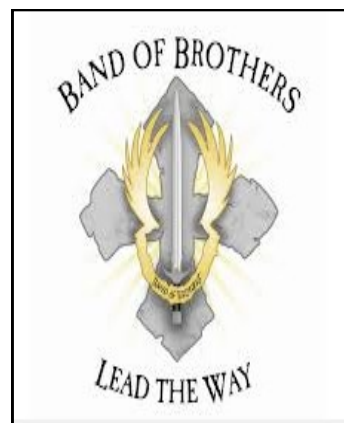
You may have served during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Persian Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan, But you served, you did not run.

You have earned your DD 214 with those words

"HONORABLY DISCHARGED" two of the most noble words in the world.

Again I am proud to know each and every one of you.

This is Band of Brothers' Day; and we all appreciate all of the men and women that proudly served and honorably.



Do Something Nice For Someone

I don't need to tell you that the world is not such a nice place, but we have done it to ourselves. We have no one else to blame except for you and me and others that are around us. We are all to blame for the way things are. Yes, there are differences of opinion, but **LET IT GO**. When you see a situation that you don't

like and cannot do anything about it, **"SHAKE IT OFF"** (see the elephant). Instead, send a nice card, yes, it will cost you .48¢, but don't YOU like to receive mail too. It has to start with some one and that someone can be you. You know when we get older (as we are now), it seems like we don't have

as many friends as we used to. Why is that? Maybe we have not kept up with them as we should have. Give them your heart once in a while and show them that you really care. If insects can do it (to the right) then why can't we humans show some compassion towards people we don't even know?



America Has Missed So Much

What an incredible display. This could be one of the last surviving Christian symbols in the country! This is about 70 miles from Amarillo outside of town called Groom, Texas.

These are the pictures of the crucifixion of Christ. Sculptured from metal by a man near Amarillo, TX. The crosses are made of metal also. The man did this out of the kindness of his heart. Someone donated the land on which to erect them. In **CHEMISTRY**, He turned water into wine. In **BIOLOGY**, He was born without the normal conception. In **PHYS-**

ICS, He disapproved the law of gravity when He ascended into Heaven. In **ECONOMICS**, He disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5,000 men with two fishes and five loaves of bread. In **MEDICINE**, He cured the sick, the blind and with out administering a single dose of drugs. In **HISTORY**, He is the beginning and the end.

I mention all of this because, have you looked at America through the news, and maybe around you personally? **America used to be a lot better country when God was in the lives of MOST of the people in this great country.** It can still change, but it has to begin with all of us to lead and guide our families, begin today before . . .



Better Say It Now, Before It's Too Late—The End Is Around The Corner

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end,
Yet the days go by and weeks rush
on

And before I know it, a year is gone,
and I never see my old friends face,

For life is a swift and terrible race,
He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell.
And he rang mine but we were
younger then.

And now we are busy, tired men.
Tired of playing a foolish game.

Tired of trying to make a name.

'Tomorrow' I say! 'I will call on Jim
Just to show that I'm thinking of him.'

But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes,
And distance between us grows and grows.

Around the corner, yet miles away,
'Here's a telegram sir,' 'Jim died today.'

And that's what we get and deserve in
the end. Around the corner, a vanished
friend.

Remember to always say what you
mean. If you love someone, tell them.
Because when you decide that it is the
right time it might be too late.

Seize the day. Never have regrets.
And most importantly, stay close to
your friends and family, for they have
helped make you the person that you
are today

Update On New Warfare Medal

The Pentagon announced today that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has cancelled the creation of the Distinguished Warfare Medal, and instead will create a new device to affix to existing medals to properly recognize drone operators, cyber warriors and others who are making a tremendous real-time impact on battlefields far away.

John E. Hamilton, national commander of the 2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and its Auxiliaries,

said the right decision was made.

"The VFW is appreciative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their review, and commends Secretary Hagel for taking this issue on so early in his tenure. This decision will clearly keep medals that can only be earned in combat in their high order of precedence, while providing proper recognition to all who support our war fighters re-

gardless of their distance from the fight."

The shape of the new device, the medals it can be affixed to, plus award eligibility, are expected to be determined within the next 90 days.

Most fraternal organizations fully agree that medals already in place should not be superseded by this new one being the Purple Heart.



You either see it with your eyes which is the visual input and output for the body or the “eye-gate” and the brain is place where you figure it out in big hurry or it takes you forever and never get it. But, all of you are pretty smart, I believe.



“ You are a Vietnam Veteran, please remember those that went before us, tell your story to your family and do just one thing for one Vietnam Veteran in 2013, 2014, 2015, until you die”.



This is your hat, you wear it everyday, make the most of wearing it as one day you won't be having it on any longer. . .

Can You Find The “ODD” Characters?

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RRRRRRBRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR  
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6

[illegible]

One of the first things to go in our frail body is the mind and memory and for some of us the hair, so look at the letters and numbers above and find the ODD BALL characters that do not belong there. If you can, you are still in your right mind, maybe!!

19th Annual Vietnam Remembrance Day

19th Annual Viet Nam Remembrance Day Ceremony
In-Country Viet Nam Veterans in conjunction with the Vietnamese Community
in Arizona & many generous Veterans Organizations
Which was held on Sunday - April 28, 2013

This day is recognized as a day of commemoration,
a day to pay the proper respect to those who sacrificed so much during this
war.

On this day we give our appreciation to our Vietnam veterans - give thanks to
with a display of kindness and admiration that means so much to those who
expect so little.

To those that join this day of remembrance - "welcome home".
To those whose names are inscribed on the Viet Nam War Memorial - "thank
you".

This day is for the living to pay proper homage to the fallen
and to the cause to which they gave their lives.

DATELINE: April 30, 1969 - - U. S. Military Personnel in Vietnam reached 543,300

DATELINE: March 29, 1973, U.S. troops withdraw from Vietnam under terms of the Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam (commonly known as the "Paris Peace Accords")

DATELINE: April 30, 1975 - - NVA captures Saigon, Vietnam War Ended

DATELINE: November 13, 1982 - - Vietnam Veterans Memorial

VA Has Hotline to Answer Questions On Health Care-Benefits for Women

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new hotline — 1-855-VA-WOMEN — to receive and respond to questions from Veterans, their families and caregivers about the many VA services and resources available to women Veterans. The service began accepting calls on March 27, 2013. “Some women Veterans may not know about high-quality VA care and services available to them,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “The hotline will allow us to field their questions and provide critical information about the latest enhancements in VA services.” The hotline is staffed by knowledgeable VA employees who can provide information about benefits including health care services for women. Callers can be linked to information on claims, education or health care appointments as well as information about VA cemeteries and memorial benefits. Staff can answer urgent questions and provide referrals to homeless and mental health services as well as provide Vet Center information. Women make up nearly 15 percent of today’s active duty military and 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve forces. The population of women Veterans using VA benefits including health care is growing rapidly. Since 2000, the number of women using VA health care more than doubled, from nearly 160,000 in 2000 to more than 354,000 in 2012. Based on the upward trend of women in all branches of service, the number of women Veterans—and female VA users—will keep climbing. The VA is committed to making improvements for the growing population of women Veterans, including the way it communicates with them. In 2010, VA established an outbound call center to contact women Veterans and encourage them to enroll in VA health care. “In VA health care alone, women constitute only 6 percent of VA patients, but those Veterans have a high perception of the quality care they are receiving,” said Irene Trowell-Harris, director of VA’s Center for Women Veterans. “Many women who served don’t self-identify as Veterans and therefore don’t think they qualify for VA benefits. We need to correct existing misinformation and misperceptions so we can serve more women Veterans with the benefits they’ve earned.” Women Veterans are entitled to apply for the same benefits as their male counterparts, which include health care and pharmacy benefits as well as education benefits, disability compensation, home loans, employment assistance and more. The hotline (1-855-VA-WOMEN) joins numerous other VA hotlines that provide critical information and assistance to Veterans, such as those for Veterans in crisis and in danger of becoming homeless. Veterans can also receive information and apply for benefits online at VA’s www.eBenefits.va.gov and manage their health care at MyHealtheVet.va.gov.

A Poem For The Nana’s and Grandpa’s

The computer swallowed Nana, yes, honestly it’s true!
 She pressed 'control' and 'enter' and disappeared from view.
 It devoured her completely, the thought just makes me squirm.
 She must have caught a virus or been eaten by a worm.
 I've searched through the recycle bin and files of every kind;
 I've even used the Internet, but nothing did I find.
 In desperation, I asked Mr. Google my searches to refine.
 The reply from him was negative, not a thing was found 'online'.
 So, if inside your 'Inbox,' my Nana you should see,
 Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her, and send her back to me.
 This is a tribute to all the Nana's & Grandpas, who have been fearless and learned
 to use the Computer... they are the greatest!
 We do not stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.



After parents the best thing for grandchildren ARE the GRANDPARENTS

Excellence in Appearance Award

SOUTHERN ARIZONA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY-SIERRA VISTA

The Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery has been awarded the “**Excellence of Appearance Award**” by the VA’s National Cemetery Administration for its outstanding layout and general appearance.

The monumental award was presented to Administrator Joe Larson on Tuesday, 28 May 2013 in a special ceremony. The columbarium expansion project is progressing very well and to the point of being finished on time. The completion date has not yet been determined because of weather related material delivery delays but should be close to 1 July 2013. The expansion is adding four columbaria walls which will increase the available space for cremated internments by 2600 niches.



VVA-835 Memorial Day Event In Yuma, Arizona—May 2013

I want you to know that every conflict we have ever been in from World War II forward has an anniversary: World War II is celebrating its 68th year from 1945 to current day. Korea is on it's 60th year ending in 1953 and Vietnam is celebrating a period of years from 2011 to 2025 marking the time that we first entered that War, therefore it would be the 50th plus for us in that conflict.

Let me mention to you that we have from the beginning of my memory, the "BATTLE FIELD CROSS" which has been used for over 200 years. I distinctly recall the thousands of battlefield crosses in the cemeteries throughout America and even in Europe, particularly France. The French people that live there that are still alive remember what the American's did during World War II.



These cross have been depicted and used in many variations and have also been referred to as the "Field Cross" or the "Soldiers Cross". Where it lays is considered by all of us a tranquil, hallowed and sacred ground, an a symbol of the ultimate sacrifice of the life of a military man or women given in service to their country.

Memorial Day was first observed in Columbus, Georgia on April 26, 1866, nearly a year after the American Civil War ended. The head of the former Union Soldiers and Sailors from the Grand Army of the Republic chose to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Major General John Logan, the Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic declared that a Memorial Day should be held on May 30th every year to remember those that have gone before us.

The first cemetery to be used was Arlington National Cemetery which held 20,000 of the Union men and better than 300,000 of the Confederate dead. General Ulysses Grant and his wife attended with other Washington officials and the entire ceremony surrounded around the mourning drape. After the ceremony, children, their parents went thru the cemetery singing to the dead men, saying prayers and "missing" those that they knew during that terrible four year war on American soil.

At the end of the 1800's, Memorial Day was celebrated each and every year throughout the nation in cities and the smallest of towns with proclamations were given to remember that day. The Army and Navy adopted proper observance at all facilities, but not until after World War I did it expand to honor those in all "American Wars" regardless of location. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by Congress and to be observed on the last Monday in May of every year.

One day, one year, maybe soon, we too, any of us may be in this very cemetery or one like it and I ask you are you ready for it? Have you as an American, done what you can for America? The very least we can do is simply do one thing, and that is remember our Fathers, maybe our mothers, our Uncles, Grandfather's, brothers and so forth who served maybe as far back as World War I, mine did and I think of him quite often knowing he served America back in 1917. Today, while you see headstones, close your eyes and you'll also see that there is a "cross" in the fore-front of our minds that those in front of you all across this area of Yuma in all of the cemeteries, gave all they had which is a large percentage of those that served in the military.

Now, we know not all died from wounds, but overall in foreign countries that take the time, make the effort to spend whatever it takes to do one simple thing and that is to **remember** the fallen one's to include those behind me. I look at the word MEMORIAL in the holiday name itself and think to myself that is what all of us should do is to have a **personal memory** for what all of them have done for us. This is fitting to remember or provide a wonderful special memory of those in our own families or those that we have known for some time that have gone before us to save us from whatever terror was out there at the time.

This Memorial Day is for the **memory** of those that in some cases gave you personally and me indirectly the liberty that we all have today. Can we bow our heads, give thanks for the many who died, giving us that lasting peace that we are seeking called "freedom". Make it a commitment that we will never, ever forget, nor will they (behind me) be forgotten or allow their deaths to be in vain.

Many consider the 20th Century to be the bloodiest of wars in all of history. We have had seven wars or conflicts as well as today's "War on Terror". The number died, maimed, permanently wounded, adversely affected is just staggering. You and I both know the weapons of war have changed significantly and our nations enemies have changed over the previous 238 years.

In closing, please, for those that are gone in your family, remember them, tell the stories to your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren before it is too late for you. Honor them every chance you get and do it often for the memory of them, you and the memory of your children and family so they know who their hero's were. If you happen to have any "living hero's", do the same, honor them, get their stories, pass them along, write them down, preserve them. And why, because you may not ever have another chance to do it.

In honor of those who never came home, to those unsung hero's of our nation, to those that are still fighting for us and especially those that are going to be in warfare supporting us, we thank you and we honor you. God bless our suffering families, God Bless the One who gave us life in the first place, Jesus Christ and God Bless our children of the future who are the next generations and God Bless America. **Ladies and Gentlemen, we don't know what have until we have lost it.**

A Powerful Reminder—Freedom Is Not Free

A SPECIAL RECEPTION. A POWERFUL PRESENCE. A SPECIAL INVITATION.

A powerful visual presence--There will be a reception and photo op to provide an educational, historical context for the viewing of the U.S.S. Arizona and the U.S.S. Missouri Gun Barrels (center cannons). Speakers, including Secretary of State Ken Bennett, provided a status update of the World War II Memorial, a press conference provided informational speakers and background history regarding:

- History behind the Gun Barrels and the WWII permanent Memorial at the State Capitol
- Announce the Dec. 7th WWII Memorial Dedication and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Event
- Arizona State Capitol Museum exhibits
- Arizona State Capitol Museum Guild kick-off a membership drive and reach out for board members

Who made this possible was: American Legion Post 1, Arizona Veterans, Development Directions, Eternal Freedom Foundation of America, Arizona Capitol Museum Guild, Bartholomeaux PR

WHO--Secretary of State, Ken Bennett, Marshall Trimble (official state historian)

--HONOR GUARD, MUSEUM GUILD TABLE

--SEA CADETS, EFAA

--ARIZONA ART ALLIANCE and VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM VETERANS

--AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS, ASU VETERANS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

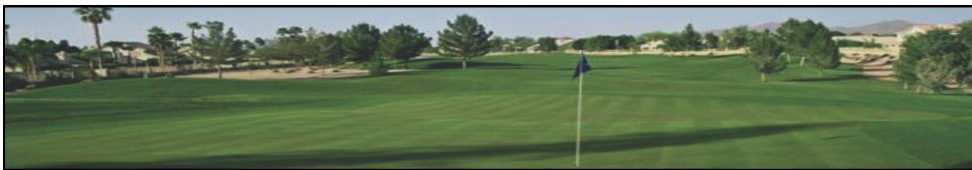
--UNITED ARIZONA VETERANS, NAVY LEAGUE

—VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

DATE IT WAS HELD: 11 May 2013



Arizona Wounded Heroes Golf Tournament



On Saturday, May 18th 2013, a golf tournament was held at the Alta Mesa Golf Club for those Wounded Heroes. Several of us stepped up and made a huge difference for those that love to play golf and cannot. There was a dinner for them that evening with guests and it was a wonderful time. Please come up with your thoughts and ideas to

truly help out these troops that went into the service to protect us American's in our land and they have come back scarred and damaged due to the war over in the Middle East. You will **NEVER KNOW** what you can do unless you think of it NOW and act on it **RIGHT AFTER THAT**. It is important for your children to see it too.





"The Asian Americans over the decades have provided a GREAT service to America. They should be commended for ALL they have done. Simply follow the history for their history in any country, especially America".

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month—May

Our country's cultural richness stems from the many immigrant and native legacies which bind us as one Nation from many peoples. Our strength as a Nation resides in the hearts and minds and spirit of our people, united in preserving freedom and justice, and in our willingness to work hard to earn our own way. Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have contributed enormously through language, the arts, music, literature, science, and medicine, adding their own hopes and dreams, to the countless threads that give color and resilience to the fabric that is America.

Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month commemorates both the arrival of the first immigrant Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, linking our national east and west coasts. So many Chinese immigrants were instrumental to this uniting of the continent. And so many Asian and Pacific Islander Americans since have likewise served and sacrificed for our country. More than 292,000 of them have defended this Nation. Over 67,000 men and women of Asian and Pacific Islander descent currently serve on duty in our Armed Forces around the world.

America is safer, and our democracy is stronger, because of their service in uniform. These Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, from the first brave immigrants to today generation of vibrant Americans, have made positive and lasting contributions to the greater good of our society.

Their impact has been truly significant—from operating small businesses to leading multinational corporations; from teaching in our most rural classrooms to lecturing in our greatest universities; from volunteering to care for the sick and homeless to commanding the formations which defend us, preserving peace in a dangerous world. Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are fully interwoven into every aspect of American life, bringing with them the hopes and dreams to build an ever-greater America. On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, it is a privilege to celebrate the rich histories of all Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, including over 22,000 of our co-workers, during this month which honors their heritage.

Vietnam—There and Back

Hello. First of all, allow me to thank you for your service to our country.

I am a Vietnam historian and author, and am currently working on a book to be published in late 2014. This project will tell the story of America's involvement in Vietnam through the eyes of the men and women who served there. The flyer to the right is about my project.

I am looking for volunteers to share their memories of service and their photographs with me. I am looking for volunteers from all branches of the military, and having seen combat is not a requirement for participation.

I am asking for your cooperation in sharing this flyer with your members. It contains all of my contact information. I live in Detroit, Michigan, and can make arrangements to visit your post to scan photos or interview members on evenings and weekends beginning June 1, 2013. I am willing to travel throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois as well as in Canada.

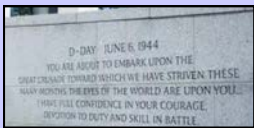
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Lisa Lark

313-410-8477 or lisaalark@gmail.com



A Great D-Day Story



**"There is NO
GREATER HERO
than those of World
War II and that
especially on D-Day,
June 6th, 1944
where the largest
invasion during a
war ever took place,
and the world was
saved from Nazism.
Thank God for those
brave men who
gave their all during
that day in June."**

Upon graduating high school, I snuck to Yuma, Ariz., to marry my sweetheart, Wilma, on June 6, 1943. I was only 19. But the next few years would be very different for me, as I was drafted into the Armed Forces in October that year. I reported to Fort Sill, Okla., then was transferred to Camp Wolters, Texas, where I trained for the U.S. Army Infantry for six weeks. Next thing I knew, on my first wedding anniversary, I was on the high seas, looking at the beaches of Normandy in France. Once we landed, each foot soldier had at least a 75-pound backpack on him, plus the added weight of the water we waded through—all carried while being directly fire upon. Not a pretty sight! Not a man said a word, but tension grew with every step.

I was a Browning Automatic Rifleman with the 29th Division on Omaha Beach. Once the beach was cleared, they fought across the hedgerows of Normandy. These hedgerows separated the individual pastures and apple orchards and made a virtual redoubt of each successive field. German machine gun fire rippled through the silence. Rifle fire cracked between the long bursts. The flat crash of mortar shells came along with the dreaded 88 artillery shells. I saw my buddy wounded maybe 15 minutes into combat. It was bad. The days were exhausting, and the nights seemed twice as long, with counter attacks one behind the other. The rain came every day and night. My platoon was the scout platoon for the whole company, and this meant we were to search out and find where the enemy was hiding. We encountered a lot of Germans, with almost hand-to-hand fighting at a close range.

Our objective: the city of St. Lo. This was a key city to win, as it was the trade center of Normandy. Ten days after landing on the beaches, we were able to take it. But it wasn't until July 18 that we liberated the city and secured it. A war correspondent who saw the unit capture St. Lo dubbed our group, the 115th Infantry, the "Indestructible Clay Pigeons," describing it as one of the finest fighting units in the whole Army. By that point, we had sustained great losses: Two out of every three men had been killed or wounded. As Infantrymen, one of the things we came to believe was that no matter where we served or what outfit we were in, the front would always be the same: savage, dirty, frightening horrible hell.

En route to Paris under General Patton's orders, the five tanks we were supporting got too far ahead of our front lines and were knocked out: only 50 men left in our company, and some wounded, including myself. The German Panzer Division cut us off from our troops. We were prisoners of war.

As POWs, we were moved to East Germany and then into Poland. There, we dug air raid shelters and water lines with picks and shovels. When the snow began to fly, it was off to the railroads to shovel snow off the tracks during the worst winter that area had seen in 40 years. Our clothes had begun to wear thin, and the soles of our shoes were worn out. Many of us had frostbite. We lived on less than 700 calories of watery soup a day, eating it slowly, savoring each bite so as to make it last longer, to make it seem more than it actually was. We were infested with lice; they fed on every part of the body. Dysentery, too, was the order of the day, along with sores breaking out on feet and legs. When imprisonment occurs with the terrible scenes around you, you put your mind into another world. You design, you build, you make plans in your mind. You try to keep your mind far-removed from the circumstances around you, try to forget the environment you are in. Meanwhile, the Red Cross didn't know where I was or if I was alive. Wilma was working the swing shift as a Rosie the Riveter at the time, building planes at Tinker Field. She would get off work at midnight and write me a letter. Every night. All those letters came back in a bundle, and still she kept writing.

As the war was winding down in Europe, we were being marched into Czechoslovakia. The Russian Army liberated us there, but many of them were ruthless. Some were drunken, spraying bullets, raping, and looting. After the war was officially over, our POWs were still dodging bullets and bombs as a result of pockets of SS troopers still holding out. We stayed in a vacated Nazi apartment until we could get on top of boxcars and ride out to the American lines. I had been a POW for 331 days. We were outside of Dresden when the bombing occurred, where more than 20,000 people died.

After a long wait, we flew to a hospital and eventually home. Good old home. At home, Wilma was called in to the office at her job and told I was alive. When she came back to the floor to tell her friends, she started sobbing so hard they thought I'd been found dead. That trip was a long way for a teenage farm boy from western Oklahoma to go and mature into a man. When I returned to my wife, we farmed the same land we've owned since 1947 and we raised five children: Charlotte, Vikki, Kathy, Doug and Jill. Now we have eight grandchildren and 19 (soon-to-be 20) great-grandchildren. Wilma and I will be celebrating our 70th wedding anniversary this June. My family enjoys each day of freedom and hopes that future generations will cherish that freedom that was won for them. My story is dedicated to the memory of all those servicemen and women who never are able to return to their homes or see their families again. Freedom is not free.

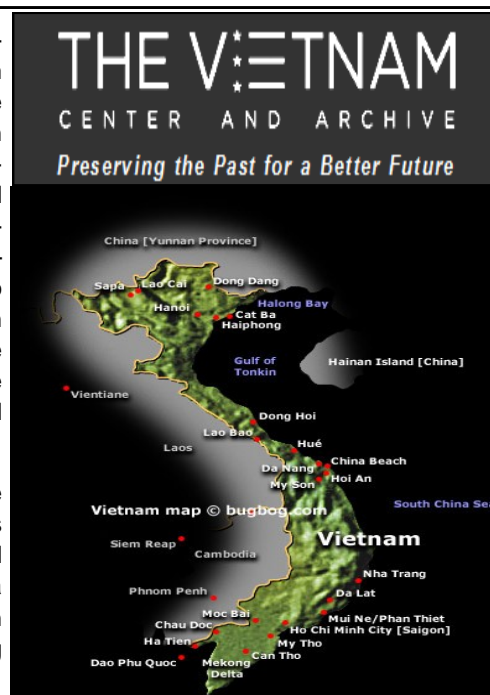
Edward Fowler, Jr., US Army Veteran

The VIETNAM Archive

The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University collects all forms of original documents and Vietnam related memorabilia related to the Vietnam War and the overall collective experience of those involved in the Vietnam war and its aftermath which is now nearly 50+ year later. The archive preserves this archival material in a state-of-the-art-facility located on the university campus of Texas Tech University. The archive, along with the Vietnam Center, greatly encourages the dissemination of information from the archive to all who are interested in learning more about this critical time in United States history, and promotes the study and understanding of the Vietnam War, the nation of Vietnam.

In an effort to preserve the history of this 20th Century milestone for future generations, the Vietnam archive collects materials related to the experience of people involved in the war in Southeast Asia. In addition to collecting materials related to the American experience in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia, the Vietnam Archive also collects materials related to the North-and-South Vietnamese perspectives, as well as the perspectives of allies who fought alongside each nation. While much attention is given to the military and diplomatic aspects of the war, the Vietnam Archive also strives to preserve the records of people indirectly involved in the war and their families on the home-front.

The education of this event is critical to the future generations that do not know anything about this War and it is imperative to teach this generation and the next and next what it was all about, as there is a lot to learn from it. From photos, video, articles, in country items, stories, interviews and everything YOU care to share to make it very important.



What Happened To The Roman Empire?



The date of the fall of the Roman Empire in the west (Europe) is very commonly put at 476 AD, and it is usually explained with breaking under massive barbarian invasions. However, in 476 AD, Rome was no more an empire: at the time it controlled only Italy and there was only symbolic change: this was the first coup by a German barbarian whose leader no more took up the title of Roman Emperor after his first battle with them. The fall of the empire was a 40-year time of almost unhindered German conquest: First, the Visigoths attacked the Eastern Roman capital Constantinople in 395 AD, after which they roamed all across the Balkans, then Italy, and then totally sacked Rome in 410. They went onto Gaul and Hispania. And after two decades they finally settled in France in 418 AD. The Romans had some attempts at a conquest, with little success. (When armies numbering hundreds of thousands met on the Fields of Catalaun in 451 AD, both the "Roman" and the Attila the Hun side was dominated by Germanic allies.)

In 268 AD, first, the Ostrogoth Empire (Ukraine) with its enemy vandals attempted with a grand invasion of the Roman Empire with 320,000 men in multiple armies and navies. They then ravaged the Aegean Sea and all of the Balkans. But when the main force met the Imperial Roman army at Naissus (Serbia), it was eventually destroyed. However, the remaining force of 35,000 had to rush into Italy: the 100,000-strong Alemann (Germany) army descended from the Swiss Alps. The Franks (France) conducted a raid all the way down to Hispania (Spain and Portugal) and the Roman provincial governor finally defeating them declared a separate Gallic Empire in 274 AD. The Queen of Palmyra had another separatist empire in the Asian provinces and Egypt in 260-272 AD. The Neo-Persian Sassanide Empire was seeing all of these events attempting to decide what to do. The major thing that took place was a sweeping epidemic that went through the Empire at this time killing off tens-of-thousands of people every day with a disease that took years to die off.

Rome was so critically weak by 400 AD, that the churches in place in Rome and the areas outside of Italy stated the major problem was that the entire economy, people, country, morals, learning and caring that it literally fell apart. And what took place after that was a ban on worship, statues, books, even the Olympics; and all of the "modern" things of the day. Directly after that was a plague in 390 AD. The result was a terrorized, lost industrial knowledge, and a ruined economy. This killed the Roman Empire in its ability to resist. **Who else is next?**



'VA Claim Backlog' Letter To The President

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) today co-signed a bipartisan letter requesting President Obama take immediate action to end the backlog of disability claims within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Senator McCain sent a similar letter to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki on April 12th urging the Department of Veterans Affairs to use its resources effectively and efficiently to address Arizona veterans' concerns in a timely manner. Senator McCain released the following statement:

"Veterans have served and sacrificed for this country and they deserve an agency that can adequately respond to their needs and understand their interests," said Senator John McCain. ***"In Arizona alone, there are over 20,000 pending disability claims, more than 17,000 of those claims are older than 125 days – this is unacceptable. I will continue to fight until this problem is resolved and we are able to fulfill our responsibilities to our veterans."***

April 29, 2013

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request that you take direct action and involvement in ending the current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability claims backlog.

After a decade of war, and despite the VA's efforts to modernize, more than 600,000 veterans are still stuck in the VA's disability claims backlog. While the average wait time for first time disability claims currently ranges between 316 and 327 days, veterans in certain parts of the country are waiting even longer – 681 days in Reno, 642 in New York, 625 in Pittsburgh, 619 in Los Angeles, 612 in Indianapolis, 586 in Houston, and 510 in Philadelphia. In the worst cases, veterans have waited and continue to wait 800 days, 900 days, and even more than 1000 days for a disability claims decision from the VA.

In the last four years, the number of claims pending for over a year has grown by over 2000%, despite a 40% increase in the VA's budget. As a reminder, during this same time period, Congress has given VA everything it has asked for in terms of more funding and more employees; however, this has not eliminated the backlog of claims. Solving this problem is critical for veterans of all generations. We need direct and public involvement from you to establish a clear plan to end the backlog once and for all.

This country must be grateful for the safe homecoming of every single man and woman who has served in harm's way. Our joy at their return must be reflected in our commitment to helping all who have served. We respectfully ask you and your administration to find a solution that ensures that no veterans are stuck in the VA backlog.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Bob Casey, U.S. Senator

Dean Heller, U.S. Senator

John McCain, U.S. Senator

Group of 64 other U.S. Senators



Mother's Day

Anna Jarvis was born in the tiny town of Webster, West Virginia. Her birthplace, known as the Anna Jarvis house. She was the daughter of Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis. The family moved to nearby Grafton, West Virginia in her childhood. She graduated from Augusta Female Seminary, now Mary Baldwin College in 1883. Anna's mother Ann Jarvis had founded Mothers' Day Work Clubs in five cities to improve sanitary and health conditions. The Mothers' Day Work Clubs also treated wounds, fed, and clothed both Union and Confederate soldiers with neutrality. On May 12, 1907, two years after her mother's death, Anna held a memorial to her mother and thereafter embarked upon a campaign to make "**Mother's Day**" a recognized holiday. She

succeeded in making this nationally recognized in 1914. The International Mother's Day Shrine was established in Grafton to commemorate her accomplishment. By the 1920's, Anna Jarvis had become soured by the commercialization of the holiday. She incorporated herself as the Mother's Day trademarked the phrases "second Sunday in May" and "Mother's Day". She and her sister Ellsinore spent their family inheritance campaigning against what the holiday had become. By the time this was written, **you should have blessed your Mother big time.**



Father's Day

Father's Day was founded in Spokane, Washington at the YMCA in 1910 by Sonora Dodd who was born in Arkansas. Its first celebration was in the Spokane YMCA on June 19, 1910. Her father, the Civil War veteran William J. Smart, was a single parent who raised his six children there. After hearing a sermon about Jarvis' Mother's Day in 1909, she told her pastor that fathers should have a similar holiday honoring them. Although she initially suggested June 5, her father's birthday, the pastors did not have enough time to prepare their sermons, and the celebration was deferred to the third Sunday of June. In the 1920s, Dodd stopped promoting the celebration because she was studying in the Art Institute of Chicago, and it faded into obscurity. In the 1930s Dodd returned to Spokane and started promoting it again. She had the help of those trade groups that would benefit most from the holiday, for example the manufacturers of ties, tobacco pipes, and traditional present to fathers. Since 1938 she had the help of the Father's Day Council, founded by the New York Associated Men's Retailers to systematize the commercial promotion. Americans resisted the holiday during a few decades, perceiving it as just an attempt by merchants to replicate the commercial success of Mother's Day. But the trade groups did not give up: they kept promoting it and even incorporated the jokes into their adverts, and they eventually succeeded. By the mid 1980s the Father's Council wrote that "Father's Day has become a 'Second Christmas' for all the men's gift-oriented industries. **Did you remember your Dad on this day?**

A GI's Story About His Mother When He Was In Vietnam

You know when you were in Vietnam how you missed you family, but you especially missed your Mother as she was the one that truly and really cared for you in your growing up years and probably still does. Now, I realize that most of our Mother's have passed on, but you still have that memory of her and maybe you'd like to pass on this poem to your son or daughter

who is possibly in the service and possibly, they could look and keep it for next year or at any time this year. Yes, while parents in general are the best thing to have happened to us, Mom's are by far the best as they raised us to be the person we are. Read this with care about Mom.

When soldiers are lonely in Vietnam and their minds are filled with fear, they write "I love you to their girls", but forget the one most dear

I know your girl is wonderful and fills your heart with joy, but your Mother is one who raised you from a baby boy.

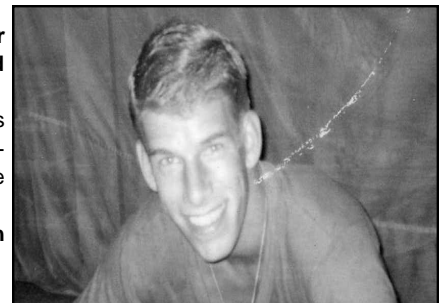
Have you stopped and really thought how much she has done for you for if so, I am sure you really know, she deserves your love most true

Who has loved you since a tot and care for you your entire life I'm telling you dear soldier, it was neither your girl nor your wife

So all us soldiers in Vietnam, let's show our Mother's we care by writing them today and attaching this little prayer

To my Mother, I send my love, I pray you bless this one so dear and guide her through the coming years mostly Father I am praying for that in the years to be

I find more ways of showing Mom how much she means to me.



Happy 4th of July 2013



The 4th of July is a day that seems to be disappearing from our country. Why not take moment and find a parade that you and your family can see and you can show your children and grand children what the "4th" means to you and should mean to them. Ask them why we have 50 stars, why 13 red and white stripes on our flag. They may not know certain things about the "4th", and it is up to you to teach them. We hope you all have a wonderful 4th of July as we celebrate our country's birthday. By the way, how many years is it? Mmm, I think it is . . .

"The men and women that gave their all from the time this country was born, should be relayed to your children and grand-children so they know "WHY" they have their freedom.

It is our very own responsibility to tell them and tell them well WHY they have their freedom and in this day and age, the freedom is on the line, unless we as parents and grandparents truly illustrate to them what it took to gain and keep the free-doms we so enjoy today this year in May 2013".

A Wonderful Memorial Day—2013

In Remembrance A Heartfelt Tribute to Memorial Day

In Memory

*When called to action in a war
Men train to be a team
A bond is built like ne've before
It's all part of the theme*

*This sense of brotherhood runs deep
Committed they will stay
In times of battle they won't sleep
Together they will pray*

*When into action they are thrust
They enter with a plan
They fight with unity and trust
While under one command*

*As death surrounds them every day
Amid conflict and strife
Each mission has a course to stay
Despite the loss of life*

*For those of you who've trod this path
This verse will bring to mind
A grief that will forever last
For those you left behind*

*To men and women who did pay
This price to keep us free
We offer a salute this day
You're here in memory.*

— Arden Bagmark



A Vietnam Trooper Goes Home

Donald L. Wroblewski went home on May 13, 2013. He was born December 1, 1937 in Michigan City, IN where he also died. Donald (aka "Ski") served with the 1st Cavalry Division at An Khe, Vietnam as a cook for the 2nd Brigade at that location. He served well and was in the U.S. Army for 14 years when he ETS'd.

I have known "Ski" for more than thirty years and found him to be the man you'd like to be next to either on the Combat field or serving you a great meal. It just so happens that he and I were in Vietnam at the same time, yet did not know each other then, but he is my brother-in-law and is to me and many others, an honorable man. I appreciated his kindness, his capability and ability to

look out for his family, be there for anyone and had a soft voice that you would prefer to listen to over and over in conversation. A grand man has left Earth and he is out of pain, and yet he leaves his son Geoff, daughters Annie and Trisha and his loving wife Carol. Let's always remember those who leave us earlier than expected as it will our turn next. Thank you Ski. For serving your country and taking great of your family over these many years.

But, most of all thank you for being the man that I have always admired and looked up to for a very long time. You are a man among men and I have always appreciated knowing you. —Editor



Filing A Disagreement With The VA

The purpose of this section is for you to individually identify each area of disagreement that you have decision notification letter. Please list only the issues or disabilities for which you disagree.

In the Specific Issue of Disagreement column in Item 15, please individually identify in separate box the issues you disagree with. For example, left knee condition, hearing loss, etc.

In the Area of Disagreement column in Item 15, please check the area for which you disagree. For you disagree with the effective date that VA assigned for a particular benefit, check the "Effective [Award]" option. If VA granted a benefit, but you disagree with the evaluation that we assigned, check "Evaluation of Disability" option. If you were claiming service connection for an injury or disability that we believe to be the result of your military service, and VA denied that claim, please check the "Service Connection" column. If you are disagreeing with our decision for reasons other than listed in the Area of Disagreement column, please check "Other" and specify your reason.

If you disagree with a disability evaluation that we have assigned and believe that the evidence justifies a specific evaluation, please list the percentage that you believe the evidence to warrant in the Percentage Evaluation Sought If Known column within Part III of the form. To assist, please refer to our decision notification letter where we indicate what the evidence must show for the evaluation we assigned at next higher evaluation.

There is extra space provided for you to explain why you feel we incorrectly decided your claim, or any disagreements not covered by the form. Please utilize this space to briefly and clearly explain your disagreement with our decision.

The **VA Form 21-0958** is at the following link New Notice of Disagreement form attached as a .pdf file.

<http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-0958-ARE.pdf>

DOD Employees To Have Mandatory Leave

On Tuesday, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel notified Defense Department civilian employees that most of them would face up to 11 days of furloughs this fiscal year which will begin on July 8, 2013. Speaking to clarify the memo he released on the subject he said:

"I have decided to direct furloughs of up to 11 days for most of the Department's civilian personnel. Furloughs for up to 11 days represent about half of the 22 days that can legally be imposed in a year and also about half the number we had originally planned."

This halving of previous furlough plans reflects vigorous efforts to meet our budgetary shortfalls through actions other than furloughs as well as Congressional passage of an appropriations bill in late March that reduced the shortfalls in our operating budget and expectations of Congressional action on our reprogramming request."

Up to 20 percent of DoD civilians paid with appropriated funds would be spared the mandatory unpaid leave for reasons that range from safety to military readiness. Their ranks include nearly 30,000 shipyard workers who were protected "because it would be particularly difficult to make up delays in maintenance work on nuclear vessels, and these vessels are critical to mission success," Hagel said.

Electronic Claims Adjudication System Continues Deployment

The VA announced this week that 46 of 58 VA regional offices are now capable of handling electronic disability claims. The VA has scanned more than 100 million documents for conversion to electronic files as part of its Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). While that process continues, it also began accepting fully electronic claims applications, beginning in February. Resulting claims have been resolved within 125 days. VA acknowledged there have been some challenges. Last month, the system was taken off line for a time after claims officials across the country found themselves being knocked out of the system.

Budget Forecast For 2014

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its budget forecast this week showing the annual budget deficit should shrink this year to its smallest level since 2008 — \$642 billion — down from an earlier estimate of \$845 billion. The reason for the adjustment is a combination of spending cuts and tax increases enacted over the past two years, coupled with a stronger than expected economy. Although positive, it's important not to construe this forecast as anything close to sunny skies ahead. The overall federal debt sits at \$16.9 trillion and is forecasted to grow, but at a slower rate in the near-term, to \$25.2 trillion by 2023 in the absence of any changes to laws that govern federal taxes and spending.

A Note From Our President—Gene Crego



Vietnam Veterans of America

Arizona State Council



I wanted to take moment and bring you up-to-date on a few things regarding the State Council. Life has been pretty busy for me as I visit and speak at a lot of functions throughout the “**Veteran Community**” in Arizona.

-Some relatively current news is that a Mr. Jim Vale, the Director of the Veteran Service Organization of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) National, he came to Phoenix to teach local Arizona VSO's a “**VET-PRO**” program which creates an electronic situation versus paper, thus, circumventing the use of a printer or other situations and the fact that often times VSO's are in rural areas. The Department

of Veterans Affairs, Mike Klier provides \$10,800.00 to VVA-AZ on an annual basis and has recommended that VVA-Arizona State Council apply for a grant that matches that amount for an annual total of \$21,600.00.

-We are trying encourage all of the VVA Arizona Chapters to at least hold one 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War event honoring veterans, allies, the home-front personnel and others within your given city where your chapter is located. All of the information about the 50th type events is located in the April-June 2013 “AZ-LZ” issue. If you need any additional information, call Walt Schumacher at 928-920-0907 or prov2007@yahoo.com.

-On October 5, 2013 in Scottsdale, AZ will be the 3rd Annual Arizona Department of Military Affairs co-hosted with the Arizona Military Museum to once again commemorate the Vietnam War. This year is being held in a different location and all of the details of the dinner is in this newsletter on earlier pages. If you are planning on attending, I would strongly recommend that you send in the reservation page with your check to Joe Abodeely as soon as possible.

-On April 17th, 2013, I had the pleasure to take some “Veteran Trials” to Capital Hill in Washington DC. We wound up visiting our two Arizona Senator's John McCain and Jeff Flake. In addition, we also visited the Representatives namely Paul Gosar, Ann Kirkpatrick, Matt Salmon and Kyrsten Sinema for the purpose of mainly addressing “*veteran issues*” namely the huge backlog of Veteran Affairs claims and the plaque that is embedded in the ground for the “Three Vietnam Soldiers” statue in the Washington Mall.

**VVA CHAPTER #095**

P.O. Box 1343
Prescott, AZ 86302-1343

VVA CHAPTER #106

P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, AZ 85713

VVA CHAPTER #432

P.O. Box 10363
Phoenix, AZ 85064-0363

VVA CHAPTER #835

P.O. Box 6281
Yuma, AZ 85366-2513

VVA CHAPTER #975

P.O. Box 184
Kingman, AZ 86402-0184

VVA CHAPTER #1011

1042 N Higley, Suite 102
P.O. Box 402
Mesa, AZ 85205

VVA CHAPTER #1020

5539 S Santa Elena Ave
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

VVA CHAPTER #1043

P.O. Box 1043
Sun City, AZ 85372-104



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