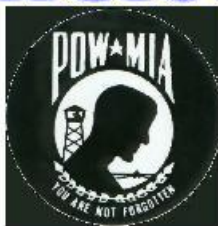


V.V.A. Chapter 975 Newsletter



December 3rd. 2011

CHAPTER NEWS

Presidents Report:



Ralph McKie

Hello Everyone:

I would like to wish everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

It's been a busy year and productive one. We have 140 members in our chapter at this time, with more joining all the time.

We have been able to keep our Veterans Service Office open and Dave Clark and Tom McCain have seen and helped numerous Veterans fill out and file benefits.

We were able to award 4 \$1000.00 scholarships to Mohave County students for last year's school year. We will award 3 more \$1000.00 for this school year.

We have had numerous successful rummage sales to raise money for our chapter. Also we had the BBQ Raffle and Fender Guitar Raffle which we did well on.

But the best event that I have ever been involved with was The Moving Wall. I will say it again this event could of not had happened if it wasn't for all the participation by numerous members for putting in long hours and making this a very special event. I also want to thank all of the volunteers that we had that helped look up names and do rubbings, also those who read the names of the fallen from Arizona. Also to all of the sponsors that made the event happen. Thanks to the Patriot Guard Riders for providing 24 hour security. Thanks to everyone for making this event a big success.

Hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas

I am looking forward to 2012!!

1st V.P. Report

Friends,

I just created a petition entitled Donna K. Jacobs Medical Center Director: Establish Increased Veterans Medical Benefits In Mohave County Arizona, because I care deeply about this very important issue.

I'm trying to collect 10000 signatures, and I could really use your help.

http://www.change.org/petitions/donna-k-jacobs-medical-center-director-establish-increased-veterans-medical-benefits-in-mohave-county-arizona?share_id=uExIFBPsJK&

It'll just take a minute!

Once you're done, please ask your friends to sign the petition as well. Grassroots movements succeed because people like you are willing to spread the word!

Dave Stafford



Donna K. Jacobs Medical Center Director: Establish Increased Veterans Medical Benefits In Mohave County

www.change.org

We are lacking sufficient Medical Care in Mohave County Arizona. Our clinic is way too small and out ...

2nd V.P. Report:

On December 2nd and 3rd a rummage sale was attempted at my house in Kingman. I had built up a large amount of saleable items in my garage. We had the sale on Friday but it snowed on Saturday morning so this day had to be canceled. We did manage to make \$260. on the sale. This will be another sum to be used for our Memorial Park project.

Forrest Blackstock
2nd Vice President

Secretary's Report:

Thanks to Dick Southern; the following information is available for all veterans.

Please Note The Current Information Regarding DD-214.

Please pass on to other vets.
It's official; DD-214's are NOW On-line.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following web site for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's

on-line: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

This; may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the on-line web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center mail room and processing time.

Kingman Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on January 26th 2012

At: The Kingman VFW Post, 10386-3036, John L Ave.

Lake Havasu Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on February 24th 2012.

At the Lake Havasu Knights of Columbus Hall, 186 London Bridge Rd.

Bullhead Meeting: General Meeting will be at 1:00PM on December 17th 2011

At the Sunridge Village Retirement Complex, 839 Landon Drive, Bullhead City

POW/MIA

Subject: AMERICANS IDENTIFIED: There are now **1,679** Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. On November 8th, DPMO added two names to the list of accounted-for US personnel: **Captain Charles R. Barnes, USAR**, listed as MIA in SVN on 3/10/65, and **SGT David E. Lemcke, USA**, listed as KIA/BNR in SVN on 5/21/68 in SVN. Captain Barnes' remains were recovered 6/27/00, and identified 8/8/11. SGT Lemcke's remains were recovered 6/23/11 and identified 9/12/11. Previously, DPMO had announced the name of **LCDR Edward J. Broms, Jr., USN**, listed MIA in North Vietnam on August 1, 1968. His remains were recovered 8/4/93 and identified 9/12/11. Earlier, DPMO announced the name of **Sgt. 1st Class Marvin F. Phillips, USA**, listed as KIA/BNR in SVN on 9/26/66. His remains were recovered on 6/24/10 and identified on 7/29/11. **The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 904;** another 63 US personnel, recovered post- incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 967. Of the 1,679 unreturned American veterans from the Vietnam War, our POW/MIAs, **90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control:** Vietnam—1,288 (VN-472, VS-816); Laos— 326; Cambodia—58; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters—7; over 450 were over-water losses.

ACCOUNTING COOPERATION: On September 9th, JPAC hosted a military Arrival Ceremony at the flight line on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to honor remains of fallen U.S. personnel from the Vietnam War whose identities remain unknown. The remains were recovered in Laos and Vietnam during joint recovery missions. JPAC's Underwater Recovery Team (URT) recently suspended operations off the coast of Vietnam and redeployed to Hawaii. Some 35 US personnel concluded field operations in Vietnam, testing a new recovery process. Vietnamese Recovery Teams (VRTs) handle all logistics requirements and advance preparation, before being joined by a smaller number of US personnel. This new recovery construct is viewed as a way to expand the pace and scope of field operations, called for by Vietnam since the League Delegation's visit in March 2009. Initial reports indicate the process is working well; however, increased accountability will determine success.

V.A. NEWS

VA Lawsuit ~ Lack of Care Update 14:

On 1 NOV, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals announced it will hear oral arguments before an 11-judge panel next month in a landmark case [i.e Veterans For Common Sense et al. v. Peake, Case No. C 07 3758, U.S.D.C. (N.D. Cal. 2007)] filed by Veterans for Common Sense (VCS) and Veterans United for Truth (VUFT) against VA in July 2007. VCS and VUFT sued VA because of long delays veterans faced obtaining VA disability compensation benefits and VA healthcare, especially treatment for post traumatic stress disorder. In a huge victory for our veterans, last May a three judge Court of Appeals panel ruled in favor of VCS and VUFT, saying the long delays violated veterans' constitutional due process rights. Every day 18 veterans complete suicide, the Court of Appeals found. According to recent VA reports, more than 850,000 veterans are now waiting, on average, five months for a VA claim decision. An additional 250,000 veterans are waiting four more years for VA to decide their appealed claim. —With our expert legal team from Morrison & Foerster and Disability Rights Advocates, VCS will continue the fight to win this very important case, so that our nation's veterans receive the prompt and high-quality medical care and benefits they have earned and need for their future. I said VCS Executive Director Patrick Bellon. VA delays will worsen as troops come home and leave the service unless something is done. Reform is the only option. On October 21, 2011, President Barack Obama announced end the Iraq War by the end of 2011 and bring our troops home, foreshadowing a surge of hundreds of thousands of additional, new veteran patients flooding into VA medical facilities and filing disability claims.

V.A. NEWS: Cont.

Medicare Reimbursement Rates 2012 Update 03:

Now that the —Super Committee has been declared a failure, and the Christmas break, the 1st Session 212th US Congress has less than two weeks to stop the 29.4% cuts in Medicare/Tricare payments to physicians mandated by the Sustained Growth Rate (SGR) formula to be imposed as of January 1, 2012. The SGR is a flawed formula that continues to reduce physicians payments that the Congress has provided temporary suspensions to restore the reduction and sometimes provide a slight increase. But the situation is becoming more critical as doctors are now refusing to take new Medicare/Tricare patients, others simply have not renewed their Medicare practice, they basically require payment in advance for services. The 14 OCT Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (Med Pac) letter to the Senate Finance, House Ways and Means, House Energy & Commerce Committees, recommends a —doc fixl to Medicare program but it does not correct the problem. The —doc fixl, which requires Congressional approval, calls for a 10 year freeze on Medicare payments to primary care physicians. Specialist would experience a 5.9% annual cut for 3 years and then a freeze for the next 7 years.

This situation impacts almost everyone because providers will simply increase their fees and those not on Medicare will pay more, insurance rates will increase to cover these additional costs. It really will impact military retirees over age 65 because their Tricare For Life (TFL) requires their participation in Medicare Part B. Thus the Broken Promise of —free life time health care now typically requires annual payments in excess of \$1000, per participant. The current administration has proposed further cuts in Medicare/Tricare. The Med Pac —doc fixl is not a solution. Unless the Congress acts with either a band-aid fix or with a permanent fix, the SGR again mandates a 29.4% cut in physician reimbursements effective 1 JAN 2012. Access to quality care is the #1 healthcare problem faced by members of the military community whether active duty or retired. Deployed troops shouldn't have to worry whether their doctor will refuse to see their sick spouse or child because of these large payment cuts.

Members of the military community are urged to contact their elected officials and urge them to sponsor legislation to replace the SGR with a more realistic computation that will at least match the Consumer Price Index as used for Social Security cost of living increases or some other workable index. One way to do this is to send your legislators the editable message provided by the National Association of Uniformed Services^c, (NAUS) Action Alert available at <http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=57348501>.

[Source: NAUS Action alert 23 Nov 2011 ++]

Editors Notes:

It was suggested that a new format be used for the Chapter Newsletter. A request was made to list the Chapter news first, so I have done so and the remaining stories and information have been listed in a logical and concise sequence. I hope you like the new format. If there are any further suggestions or comments regarding the Chapter Newsletter; please feel free to contact me directly at; editor@vva975.org. Barbara Werth, Editor.

Chapter Newsletters will be sent monthly via Email. Newsletters will also be available at the meetings and in the “Comm’s Quarters” on the website.

Please note that Dave has set up all the Chapter Officers with an official Email Address. The new Email addresses are in the **Contacts List. Our Policy; concerning Email address are: Email addresses will only be given to officers of the chapter and others** with need to know, to be used for chapter business only, and will be kept confidential. All Emails will be sent “Bcc”. This keeps your address from being seen by others on the list. If you request the Email address of a member, **YOUR Email address will be provided to that person and they will contact you if they choose to communicate with you via Email.**

Any and all submissions are greatly appreciated and will be used as space permits.

Deadline for the next Newsletter will be; February 3rd 2012.

My Email address is: 975.comofficer@vva975.org and my Snail Mail Address is Jim Crumly,

P.O. Box 62, Bullhead City AZ. 86430-0062.

Barbara’s email address is; editor@vva975org.

Website: www.vva975.org Please check out our website for upcoming events, and the current Newsletter.

Contacts:

Title:	Name:	Email:	Phone:
President:	Ralph McKie	975.president@vva975.org	H: (928) 753-4009 Cell 928) 279-5772
1 st VP:	Dave Stafford	1stvp@vva975.org	Cell 928)716-6626
2 nd VP:	Forrest Blackstock	2ndvp@vva975.org	H :(928) 681-4709
Secretary:	Walter Werth	975.secretary@vva975.org	H: (928) 692-5667 Cell 928)727-1950
Treasurer:	Charles Smith	975.treasurer@vva975.org	H: (928) 279-3158
Chaplain:	Tom Hanlon	chaplain@vva975.org	H: (928) 758-3942
AVVA Rep:	Deb McKie	avvarep@vva975.org	H: (928) 753-4009
Communications:	Jim Crumly	975.comofficer@vva975.org	H: (928) 754-1757 Cell 928)285-2511
Webmaster:	Dave Stafford	webmaster@vva975.org	Cell 928)716-6626
VSO Office:	Wed – Sat	10am-12pm and 1pm -3pm	(928) 377-1101
Newsletter Editor:	Barbara Werth	barbaraschief@yahoo.com	H: (928) 692-5667