

V.V.A. Chapter 975 Newsletter





CHAPTER NEWS

Presidents Report:



Ralph McKie

I wish everyone a Happy 4th of July. We got here because of all the men and women that fought for our freedom. Today take a few minutes to pray and think of those who are still fighting for our freedom and safety. We live in the greatest country in the world. Have a safe and wonderful day.

Ralph McKie President of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Mohave County Chapter 975

1st V.P. Report:

Hello All. Hope your years going well. Here we are and half the year is over and we still have a lot of things to do before the year is over. Remember we still have a parking lot sale coming up, the county fair, and the wall and Veterans Day event in the park, not to mention any other things we come up with to raise money for the support of Veterans events. We are most fortunate to have relative good health and being able to help those out there that are not so fortunate. Now that the hot weather has come along be sure to stay covered up from the rays of the sun, drink plenty of water so as not to become dehydrated as these things could cause a multitude of problems. Also beware of the on-coming monsoon weather and lightning, very hazardous.

Hope to be seeing all of you at the up-coming events and meetings, also if you know of any veterans of the Vietnam War era be sure to invite them to a meeting or event.

That's all for now!

Dave Stafford US Coast Guard Retired
1st Vice President
Webmaster

2nd V.P. Report:

Our chapter will be having our fourth rummage sale on Saturday July 16th at Kingman Lanes, 3631 Stockton Hill Rd in Kingman. We have decided to start our sale early at 6 AM on Saturday morning to have our sale and escape the heat later on. In order for this sale to be successful we need to have at least eight members present at 4:30 A.M. Saturday morning to help unload the trucks and set up. We will also need several members present to run the sale and sale raffle tickets as well. I hope to be done, cleaned up and ready to go home by 1 P.M. Please call me if you can help. Thanks, Forrest

Kingman Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on July 28th 2011
At: The Kingman VFW Post, 10386-3036, John L Ave.

Lake Havasu Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on August 25th 2011.
At the Lake Havasu Knights of Columbus Hall, 186 London Bridge Rd.

Bullhead Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00PM on September 22nd 2011
At the Sunridge Village Retirement Complex, 839 Landon Drive, Bullhead City

VVA NATIONAL

Veterans' Attorneys Respond to VA Master Plan: The following statement is attributed to Mark Rosenbaum and David Sapp of the ACLU of Southern California, Harvard Law Professor Laurence Tribe, Arnold & Porter LLP, Inner City Law Center, Gary Blasi, a UCLA Law Professor and Massey & Gail LLP

We have closely reviewed the VA's latest press release and publication, as required by congressional mandate, of its final Master Plan for the West Los Angeles campus. The release is virtually identical to a press release from the same office dated August 2007. There is nothing new in the VA's newly released plan. And it remains merely a plan, with no firm commitments for any project. Indeed, the only progress the VA made in four years is to change the stamp on the paper plan from "draft" to "final."

The new release and finalized Master Plan, while constituting a frank acknowledgment of the core claims of our case that the VA is doing nothing to relieve homelessness of severely mentally disabled homeless veterans, makes no commitment to adding permanent supportive housing on the campus, despite the availability and underutilization of existing buildings that could be readily converted to permanent supportive housing for at least some of the 2500 chronically homeless vets in Los Angeles, the homeless veterans capital of our nation.

MilCon/VA Subcommittee Approves FY2012 Spending Bill: Washington, DC— U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) today announced subcommittee approval of the FY2012 Senate Military Construction, Veterans Affairs (VA) and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Johnson, Chairman of the subcommittee, announced \$142 billion in total funding, including \$72 billion in discretionary funding. This is \$618 million below the FY11 enacted level, excluding overseas contingency operations, and \$1.25 billion below the budget request. Military Construction funding is \$13.7 billion, \$1 billion below the budget request. VA discretionary funding is \$58.6 billion, \$2.3 billion over current funding. The bill also includes \$52.5 billion in FY 13 advance appropriations for veteran's medical care. One of the very few areas in which the bill provides an increase is for VA medical research, which is \$72 million over the budget request to maintain funding at the current level.

"This bill is a disciplined and fiscally responsible effort to meet the needs of our troops in this difficult budget climate," said Johnson. "It also responds to the growing needs of our nation's veterans including those returning from the front lines." "We had to make some tough calls to achieve bringing the bill in \$618 million below current funding and \$1.25 billion below the budget request," said Johnson. "My top priority as always was to protect and support our veterans. Since no military construction funding for overseas contingencies was requested, there is none in the bill.

POW/MIA

AMERICANS IDENTIFIED: There are **1,687** Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPMO recently posted the news that **SFC William T. Brown, USA, CA**, listed as MIA in South Vietnam on 11/3/69, and **Major Thomas E. Reitmann, USAF, MN**, listed as MIA in North Vietnam 12/1/65, are now accounted for. SFC Brown's remains were jointly recovered on 4/13/10 and identified 1/6/11. Major Reitman's remains were recovered 2/12/10 and ID'd 5/2/11. In mid-May, DPMO posted the names of Air Force **Col Leo S. Boston**, and US Army **CAPT Arnold E. Holm, Jr., SP4 Robin R. Yeakley** and **PFC Wayne Bibbs** as all accounted for. Col Boston, from Colorado, was listed as MIA in North Vietnam on 4-20-66. His remains were recovered 4/26/00 and ID'd on 4/4/11. CAPT Holm, from CT, SP4 Yeakley, from IN, and PFC Bibbs, from IL, were listed as KIA/BNR in South Vietnam on 6/11/72. Their remains were recovered 7/29/08 and ID'd as a group on 2/7/11. **The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 896;** another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 959. Of the 1,687 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 – 1,294 (VN-475, VS-819); Laos – 328; Cambodia – 58; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters – 7. Over 450 were over-water losses.

POW/MIA Cont.

ACCOUNTING COOPERATION: As of today, JPAC has one Research Investigation Team (RIT), one Underwater Investigation Team (UIT), two Recovery Teams (RTs), and one Underwater Recovery Team (URT) in Vietnam. There are only two RTs in Laos, far less than allowed for each 30-day Joint Field Activity (JFA), and the number of personnel operating in Vietnam is also greatly reduced. The operations were even smaller until passage of the FY2011 budget was confirmed, and then some of the previously planned operations were restored. The UIT is a month-long survey by the USNS Bowditch along the coastline of Vietnam, though not yet along the northern coastline.

Executive Director Comment: The League found very capable partners and fellow advocates in the leadership of the **VFW, The American Legion, the DAV, the Jewish War Veterans (JWV), AMVETS and the VVA, inspired by General Robert “Doc” Foglesong USAF (Ret) US Co-Chairman.** The family groups representing the Korean War/Cold War and WWII united with the League to push for strengthening the USRJC and its support team, JCSD. It is still a work in progress, but there is reason for cautious optimism that the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) will restore at least some of the personnel previously assigned to JCSD, as well as much of the funding that was diverted elsewhere. We all are watching the situation closely, as there has been a significant failure in working with the families, not only in the League, but all POW/MIA families, all wars. To say that there is growing dismay and disappointment is an understatement. Letters to the President and his National Security Advisor, copied throughout the leadership, would not have been necessary had DPMO leadership listened to the views of their primary “customers,” namely the families.

4th Of July Editorial:

I AM THE NATION

I was born July 4, 1776 and the Declaration of Independence is my birth certificate. The bloodlines of the world run in my veins, because I offered freedom to the oppressed. I am many things and many people. I am the Nation.

I am 270 million living souls and the ghost of millions who have lived and died for me.

I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and fired the shot heard around the world. I am Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry. I am John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain Boys and Davy Crockett. I am Lee and Grant and Abe Lincoln.

I remember the Alamo, the Maine and Pearl Harbor. When freedom called, I answered and stayed until it was over, over there. I left my heroic dead in Flanders Field, on the rock of Corregidor, on the bleak slopes of Korea and the steaming jungle of Vietnam. I also left my blood in the deserts of the Middle East in the 1990's and now the War on Terror.

You can look at me and see Ben Franklin walking down the streets of Philadelphia. You can see Betsy Ross with her needle.

Yes, I am the Nation, and these are the few of the things I am. I was conceived in FREEDOM, and GOD willing, in FREEDOM I will spend the rest of my days.

(Based on an article published in the “American XPOW magazine”, 1996, author unknown.)

May we always possess the integrity, courage and strength to keep ourselves unshackled and our nation a citadel of freedom and beacon of hope! The fourth of July is the greatest secular holiday in the United States.....our nation's birthday, the day the Declaration of Independence was drafted by Congress in 1776.

It's time to celebrate with picnics and fireworks, to give prayer of thanksgiving to remember patriots who struggled throughout America's history to win and preserve our freedoms, especially those who sacrificed their lives.

“POOR IS THE NATION THAT HAS NO HEROES....SHAMEFUL IS THE ONE HAVING THEM.....FORGETS”

“DYING FOR FREEDOM ISN'T THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN....BEING FORGOTTEN IS!”

Susie Stephen's Harvey

V.A. NEWS

VA Medicare Subvention Update 04: American Legion National Commander Jimmie L. Foster is urging the organization's members to push for congressional support of a bill that, if enacted, would allow military veterans to use their Medicare benefits at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities. The bill, H.R. 814, was introduced earlier this year by Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA) ranking minority member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and longtime supporter of veterans. As the law stands, the VA's Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is prohibited from seeking third-party reimbursements from Medicare for the treatment of non-service connected medical conditions suffered by veterans, even if the appropriate treatment is routinely covered under Medicare. This means that many Medicare-enrolled veterans who wish to be treated at VA medical centers – but have their care covered by Medicare benefits – must seek treatment elsewhere. H.R. 814, called the Medicare VA Reimbursement Act of 2011, would lift that prohibition.

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 at, barbaraschief@yahoo.com directly. Barbara Werth, Editor.

Chapter Newsletters will be sent monthly via Email and twice a year in January and June by regular mail. 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 August 3rd 2011.**

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 barbaraschief@yahoo.com

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

Contacts:

Title:	Name:	Email:	Phone:
President: 279 5772	Ralph McKie	975.president@vva975.org	H: (928) 753-4009 Cell 928)
1 st . VP: 928)716 6626	Dave Stafford	1stvp@vva975.org	Cell
2 nd VP:	Forrest Blackstock	2ndvp@vva975.org	H :(928) 681-4709
Secretary: 1950	Walter Werth	975.secretary@vva975.org	H: (928) 692-5667 Cell 928)727
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: 285 2511	Jim Crumly	975.comofficer@vva975.org	H: (928) 754-1757 Cell (951)
Webmaster: 716 6626	Dave Stafford	webmaster@vva975.org	Cell (928)
VSO Office:	Wed – Sat	10am-12pm and 1pm -3pm	(928) 377-1101
Newsletter Editor:	Barbara Werth	barbaraschief@yahoo.com	H: (928) 692-5667