



**POW/MIA Report: UPDATE: Release Date February 17, 2011 AMERICANS IDENTIFIED:** There are now **1,699** Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPMO just posted the news that the remains of **CDR Frank Green, Jr., USN, MSgt Ralph Reno, Jr., USA, and SFC James Moreland, USA,** have been identified. CDR Green, listed as MIA in North Vietnam on July 10, 1972, was recovered December 9, 2008, and his remains were identified November 1, 2010. MSgt Reno was recovered August 29, 2000, and his remains were identified as part of a group on October 5, 2010. SFC Moreland, recovered April 12, 1995, was identified October 13, 2010. The League is deeply grateful that these three Americans can at long last receive the honor they deserve and that their families no longer endure uncertainty. **The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 884;** another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 947. Of the 1,699 American POW/MIAs from the Vietnam War, our unreturned veterans, **90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control:** Vietnam – 1,301 (VN-477, VS-824); Laos – 332; Cambodia – 59; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters – 7. Over 450 are considered over-water losses. **Can you believe it? We finally broke through the 1,700 mark!**

**ACCOUNTING COOPERATION: MG Stephen Tom, USAR, Commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC)** is now in Cambodia, visiting two excavation sites. One is a JPAC Recovery Team (RT), and the other is an Underwater Recovery Team (URT). He will next be in Laos where he will hold POW/MIA consultations. To facilitate the 30-day Joint Field Activities (JFAs), the Lao Government recently approved 45-day visas that will enable the sites to be extended if needed for completion, and supported JPAC requests related to team safety that are most welcome. JPAC continues to seek the greatest possible flexibility, seeking to expand cooperation. Unfortunately, the Defense Intelligence Agency's Stony Beach Lao specialist is still on hold and yet to be allowed to participate in in-country operations, a disappointing decision by the Lao Government that also requires further, timely attention. Although there have been serious obstacles to overcome in ensuring availability of helicopter support in both Laos and Vietnam, there is at least temporary good news in that ADM Robert Willard, USN, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) granted a waiver to allow JPAC teams to be transported to remote sites. The certification issues are NOT fully resolved, however, and **this issue continues to seriously jeopardize JPAC's ability to conduct field operations.**

### **V.A. News: Government Shutdown**

The chairwoman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee recalled last week how a government shutdown in 1995 affected veterans. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) was speaking as the possibility of another closing of government services inches toward reality as lawmakers differ on how to fund federal agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs. —More than 400,000 veterans saw their disability benefits and pension claims delayed, she said, according to a report in Army Times. —Money that they were counting on didn't come to them. Payment of GI Bill education checks were delayed for hundreds of thousands of our veterans. Telephone calls from our veterans to veterans' benefits offices went unanswered. Mail from veterans to our VA offices wasn't opened. It wasn't answered. If another shutdown takes place, it will happen at midnight 4 MAR, the newspaper reported. If both sides agree on funding before then, the worst will be averted. But the problem is in how much money is required to keep agencies operating. Republicans have used the possibility of a government shutdown as a way to force Democrats to accept more cuts to the federal budget. Unaffected by any shutdown would be the Defense Department, federal law enforcement and other essential workers. [Source: NGAUS Washington Report 8 Feb 2011 ++]

## V.A. News: Cont.

### **ADVS State Veteran Legislation Update Arizona Senate**

Friday 18 Feb 2011-was last day to hear House bills in House committees and Senate bills in Senate committees; Inclusion of any legislation in this report does not constitute endorsement of that legislation by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. **These are just a few of the new laws being submitted.** For the complete report please contact: **Dave Hampton @azdvs.gov.**

#### **SB 1224- unemployment benefits; military spouses; dependents**

Exempts spouses and un-emancipated minors from being disqualified from unemployment benefits if they are changing locations with a member of the Armed Forces under orders

**Original Sponsor:** Sen. K. Sinema, D-District 15, et al

**Latest Major Action:** 25 Jan 2011-First read and assigned to Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs and Senate Rules Committee. 1 Feb 2011- Given "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs 7-0.

17 Feb.2011-Out of Majority Caucus.

#### **SCR 1030- state trust lands; Veterans cemeteries**

Would ask voters to amend the Arizona Constitution to allow use of State trust land for veterans' cemeteries.

**Original Sponsor:** Sen. Senator Frank Antenori, R-District 30; Rep. David Gowan, R-District 30, et al

**Latest Major Action:** 31 Jan 2011-First Read, assigned to the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee.

## V. A. News Cont. Arizona Senate

#### **SCR 1031- property tax exemption; disabled veterans**

Would ask voters to amend the Arizona Constitution to exempt the primary residence of a 50% service related veteran or surviving spouse of such from Arizona property taxes.

**Original Sponsor:** Sen. Senator Frank Antenori, R-Dist. 30; Rep. Steve Montenegro, R-Dist. 12, et al

**Latest Major Action:** 31 Jan 2011-First Read, assigned to the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. 15 Feb 2011-Given a "Do Pass" recommendation in Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs 7-0.

#### **SCM 1003- depleted uranium; veterans**

A concurrent memorial urging the U. S. Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans or service members exposed to depleted uranium in obtaining a health screening test.

**Original Sponsor:** Sen. K. Sinema, D-District 15, et al

**Latest Major Action:** 25 Jan 2011-First read, assigned to Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee and Senate Rules Committee. 1, Feb 2011- Given "Do Pass" ; recommendation in Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs. 17, Feb 2011 Out of Majority Caucus.

## V.A. News: Note To all Veterans

### **"FIGHTING THE BATTLE AGAINST POST-TRAUMATIC HEADACHE & MIGRAINE"**

A Free Educational Program for Headache & Migraine related to Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder --

March 5, 2011 2:30 PM - 5 PM Doubletree Hotel & Conference Center 2651 Perimeter Parkway Augusta, GA 39090

Free registration, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. To Register: Please call 800-843-2256 or visit

**[www.headaches.org](http://www.headaches.org)**

## VVA National News:

**Looking for: “Volunteers” of Chem- Bio Testing:** VVA is a plaintiff in a lawsuit seeking to illuminate the long-term harm done to service members who "volunteered" for testing of chemical and biological agents at Edgewood Arsenal, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, from the 1950s through the 1970s. The law firm that is representing VVA, the organization Swords to Plowshares, and six individual veterans, is seeking the names of "each and every" VVA member who is a "former member of the armed services who participated in programs of human experimentation into drugs, chemicals and other substances" . . . including the dates that these members participated in the programs and the specific "drugs, chemicals and other substances," if known, that were tested on each of these members. Any VVA member who participated in this testing should please contact ASAP Bernie Edelman, VVA's deputy director for policy and government affairs, at: **1-800-882-1316 ext. 118**, or via e-mail at [bedelman@vva.org](mailto:bedelman@vva.org) . Ref: VVA' Web Weekly

## VVA National News Cont.

**Important Message from the National Elections Committee** It has come to the attention of the Elections Committee, that some of the individuals that are running for office wish to send out campaign material to the National Board and State Council Presidents via e-mail, by using the vva.org address. The committee strongly discourages such action even though there are no current rules in place to prevent it. Two things to remember:

1. Your campaign material must be registered with the committee before being sent out or placed on a web site.
2. The candidate carries the ultimate responsibility for information that is out on the internet.

Caution, is the word to the wise because many things can be manipulated and viruses can be attached. Remember as the prospective candidate you will be the one who is accountable for the information. The committee wishes to thank all candidates for their cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,

Scott DeArman, Committee Chairperson

## Presidents Report:

Hello all!

We had two good days at WinterFest in Lake Havasu City February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> the weather was beautiful. **We are having our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Expo on March 5<sup>th</sup>** at the Crossing which is located across the river from the Avi on the Arizona side. We will need assistance to set up 300 Chairs and 40 Tables on that morning. **March 19<sup>th</sup> we are having our second annual NFL Basket Ball** fundraiser and if you didn't attend last years game you should try and make this one as it is just a fun time watching these two teams play each other. The NFL team will be playing the Mohave County Sherriff's Department team.

**March 26<sup>th</sup> we will have a Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony for March 29<sup>th</sup>** at the memorial at Locomotive Park.

It will be at 10.00 A.M We would like to have all Vietnam Veterans to be there to celebrate Vietnam Veterans Day. **Last but not least we are having our 3<sup>rd</sup> Rummage Sale on April 16** so talk with your neighbors and friends and gather all those unused items and call Forrest Blackstock at 681-4709 or me at 279-5772 and we will pick up those items.

Thank You all; Ralph D. McKie

## **2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report:**

Rummage Sale April 16th

We; are in the process of collecting saleable items for our next Rummage Sale scheduled for April 16th at Cerbat lanes in Kingman. Please look in your garage and closets in your homes; talk to your relatives and neighbors about donating items for our sale. If one of your neighbors are having a yard sale, ask them if we can have what they don't sale. Again let's try not to get heavy stuff like freezers or refrigerators as we don't want any of our members hurt with these heavy items. With your help we can make this sale a success. Give me a call if you need something picked up. I will be at our next meeting in Lake Havasu and our meeting in Bullhead City next month if you want to bring your stuff there. My phone numbers are: 928-681-4709 or 928-716-4709.

VVA Mohave County Chapter 975

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Forrest Blackstock

## **Secretary Report:**

I cannot believe elections are just around the corner. That means my second year as your Secretary is coming to a close. I am not running again for personal reasons. It has been a rewarding time and I cannot say enough about the time I have spent as an Officer in your Chapter and a **member of the Board of Directors**. It is so much fun being a part of such a worthwhile organization.

I recently brought a guest to our Jan. General Meeting in Kingman. He is a member of the Tucson VVA. After our meeting, I asked what he thought of our Chapter. He could not believe all the things we were involved in, from helping all veterans, fundraisers, parades, fairs, bike runs, Welcome Home celebrations, Scholarships, etc. etc. He wished his Chapter was as active as ours. As I have often said, our Chapter does not follow, it leads.

It is not too late to run for my Secretary position. Just let one of the members of the **Election Committee** know at one of our next two meetings. It's your turn to step up and help our Chapter continue its growth to become the best Chapter in the State of Arizona. I can guarantee you will get to know firsthand how rewarding it can be.

**Aloha**

**Rich Poliska, Secretary Chapter 975**

**Scholarship News:** We have four applicants for our three awards. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting before the LHC General Meeting to see if they all qualify. I will present the names and a short bio at the LHC meeting and will invite the finalists to the General Meeting in BHC so you can get a chance to meet them. I thank the Committee members, Judy Lacy and Gene Crego, for helping to get this program up and running. All the hard work is done and now we just need to keep raising funds each year to continue. What a great way to show our communities that we are active in **Mohave County**. You will be meeting the most valuable assets of our towns and cities, our area youth. I know you will be impressed by them.

We need volunteers from each major city to form the 2012 Scholarship Committee. So put your hand up or go to the Principals Office for detention.

**Rich Poliska, Scholarship Chairperson 2011**

## Communications Officer Report:

We are selling tickets for our 1<sup>st</sup> raffle of the year 1<sup>st</sup> prize a 42" big screen TV 2<sup>nd</sup> prize 2 night stay at Riverside Hotel and Casino in Laughlin to be raffled off at our March Meeting in Bullhead.

We will be having another raffle 1<sup>st</sup> prize will be a custom Fender Guitar Date and Time **to be announced**.  
We will be having a Basketball fundraiser in Kingman again on March 19th.

We would like to see you at some of our functions and help out at our booth, at a community function this year. Or, just help sell some raffle tickets.

We will again be having a Veteran Expo March 5<sup>th</sup> this year at the Mohave Crossing.  
There will be Vietnam Veterans day festivities in the various communities in March.  
Keep an eye on our website for more Chapter activates.

VVA Mohave County Chapter 975  
Communications Officer  
Jim Crumly

## Chapter News:

The Lake Havasu Vet Center now has a PTSD group for all veterans every Tuesday - 1pm at Quality Inn, in a conference room. There are groups and counseling in Bullhead City and Kingman, also. Contact office manager Jeanette at 928-499-5083 for more information. The Lake Havasu Vet Center is in the process of have a permanent site in Lake Havasu. Due to government red tape this procedure is not fast.

**Lake Havasu February Meeting:** General Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2011

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

**Bullhead March Meeting:** General Meeting will be at 6:00PM on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2011

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

**Kingman April Meeting:** Annual Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on April 28th 2011

At the Kingman VFW Post, 10386,3036 John L Ave.

## Editors Notes:

Chapter Newsletters are via Email only. 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 May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011.**

My Email address is: [975.comofficer@vva975.org](mailto: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](mailto:barbaraschief@yahoo.com)

**Website: [www.vva975.org](http://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 <sup>st</sup> VP:	Dave Stafford	1stvp@vva975.org	Cell 928)716 6626
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP:	Forrest Blackstock	2ndvp@vva975.org	H:(928) 681-4709
Secretary:	Rich Poliska	975.secretary@vva975.org	H: (928) 754-4183
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 (951) 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	<a href="mailto:barbaraschief@yahoo.com">barbaraschief@yahoo.com</a>	H: (928) 692-5667