

V.V.A. Chapter 975 Newsletter





CHAPTER NEWS

Presidents Report:



Ralph McKie

The Moving Wall is coming to Kingman Arizona October 20th to the 24th it will be set up in Firefighters Park

2nd V.P. Report:

**** IN REMEMBRANCE OF CINDY ****

I would just like to thank all the help and support that I have received from our VVA and AVVA members after the death of my wife Cindy Blackstock..

Cindy helped our chapter in many ways especially in our fundraising projects like the Harley run in Laughlin, Basketball games; and especially the rummage sales. She was also the alternate rep for our AVVA members.

Again I would like to thank you for your support.

Forrest D Blackstock

2nd Vice President

Secretary's Report:

The "Original Moving Viet Nam Memorial Wall" set up by the Viet Nam Veteran John Devitt; in association with the Mohave County Viet Nam Veterans of America Chapter 975, will be in Kingman October 20th to the 24th 2011. They arrive at Firefighter's Memorial Park late Wednesday October 19th. Set up of the Wall will be Thursday morning, October 20th. Later that afternoon, the opening ceremony will begin at 1:00PM.

Saturday morning there will be a reading of all the Arizona Veterans names that are on the Wall. There are approximately 600 names to be read. The reading will begin at 10:00AM and last until all the names are read. The Viet Nam Veterans booth will be open to provide memorabilia and there will be an artist at the booth to sketch or draw portraits of loved ones from a picture, or of family members who visit the Wall.

Tear down of the Wall will be on Monday at 4:00PM, October 24th 2011. Volunteers who have not attended the meeting at the American Legion in Kingman, but do wish to volunteer their services; or to get further information, should contact Ralph McKie, (President) Mohave County Viet Nam Veterans of America Chapter 975.

The Patriot Guard Riders will escort the Viet Nam Wall into Kingman Arizona

Kingman Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on October 27th 2011

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

Lake Havasu Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on November 17th 2011.

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

Bullhead Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00PM on December 17th 2011

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

POW/MIA Sept. 23, 2011

Subject: SOLDIER MISSING FROM VIETNAM WAR IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Specialist 4 Marvin F. Phillips, 20, of Palmer, Tenn., will be buried Sept. 26 in his hometown. Forty-five years earlier, on Sept. 26, 1966, Phillips and three aircrew members crashed into nine feet of water, off the coast of South Vietnam, when their UH-1B Huey helicopter was struck by small arms fire. The only surviving crewmember, was rescued and the remains of a second soldier were recovered by other aircrews in the area. Extensive searches were conducted but no sign of the remaining two crew members were found.

From 1992 to 1998, joint U.S./Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), interviewed witnesses and investigated locations where an American soldier had purportedly been buried. In 2010, the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons notified U.S. officials that a villager in Tra Vinh Province was in possession of human remains thought to be related to a U.S. aircraft crash. Following an interview with the villager, the remains were turned over to the joint U.S.S.R.V. team. At the time he recovered the remains there were three U.S. aircraft crashes in the water near the villager's home.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used dental comparisons and mitochondrial DNA – which matched that of Phillips' sister—in the identification of the remains.

V.A. NEWS

VA Project ARCH: Project Arch is a program that has been a long time coming. The statute authorizing the demonstration was passed in 2008 but this is the first year where money was provided for the test. Project Arch, which just started 29 AUG is a three year pilot to provide healthcare for veterans in rural areas far from present VA facilities. It brings vet healthcare closer to their homes. Humana is managing 4 of the project's 5 sites: Farmville, Virginia, Pratt Kansas, **Flagstaff Arizona**, and Billings Montana. The 5th site is Aroostook County Caribou Maine will have healthcare provided by Cary Medical Center.

The Virginia project will cover Primary Care, including routine preventive care, diagnostic imaging, and laboratory services.

The Kansas project will cover —primary care, including routine preventive care, diagnostic imaging, laboratory services as well as behavioral health screening and assessment.¶

The Arizona contract will cover: —Acute inpatient medical and surgical care, including related consultations and ancillaries as well as outpatient specialty consultations including related diagnostic imaging and laboratory services.¶

The Montana project will cover —acute inpatient medical and surgical care, including related consultations and ancillaries...Outpatient specialty consultation, including related diagnostic imaging and laboratory services. —

The Maine project will cover —Acute inpatient medical and surgical care, including related consultations and ancillaries, —as well as —outpatient specialty consultation, including related diagnostic imaging and laboratory services.¶

What all this ultimately means is if you live in rural areas around these VISNs (Veterans Integrated Service Networks) you will be able to choose to get health care without travelling long distances to a VA hospital or clinic. If you are interested in participating you should speak to your VA Care Coordinator. You can qualify for this program if you have the following travel times:

If you live more than 60 minutes driving time from the nearest VA health care facility providing primary care services, or live more than 120 minutes time distance from the nearest VA health care facility providing acute hospital care or live more than 240 minutes driving time from the nearest VA health care facility providing tertiary care.

For additional info on Project ARCH refer to <http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/arch/index.asp>. [Source: TREA News for the Enlisted 16 Sep 2011 ++]

V.A. NEWS: Cont.

Veterans' Court Update 11:

The nationally recognized success of Buffalo's Veterans Treatment Court has spurred creation of a new committee to give even more help to veterans struggling with a variety of issues.

The New York State Bar Association's new Special Committee on Veterans will —find innovative ways to expand critical legal assistance to veterans statewide, said association President Vincent E. Doyle III. Doyle, a senior partner in the Buffalo law firm Connors & Vilardo, said he has named as co-chairmen of the new panel Michael C. Lancer of Buffalo and Karen R. Hennigan of Brooklyn. They will work with a network of attorneys statewide who are familiar with veteran's issues. Veterans and military personnel —should be treated fairly by the legal system, but sadly too many come home from war with myriad problems that seem insurmountable, and many hesitate to seek legal assistance even for military benefits for which their service entitles them, said Doyle. Pointing to the —unique legal needs of military veterans, Doyle said the goals of the State Bar committee are to expand the availability of civil legal services to veterans, develop training programs statewide for lawyers on veterans affairs and create a legal resource guide for veterans and attorneys.

Lancer, a partner in the Buffalo firm of Rupp, Base, Pfalzgraf, Cunningham & Coppola, is a former military attorney who served in the U. S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. —When dealing with veterans as a group, we tend to see the same problems over and over again, Lancer told The Buffalo News. —These include drug and alcohol abuse, mental health problems, domestic violence and homelessness, and this tells me we are not doing enough on a societal level. —If we address these issues more proactively, we will see fewer veterans in court, Lancer said. Doyle said Hennigan, an assistant U. S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, is a major in the U. S. Air Force Reserve. —The legal needs of veterans are not necessarily unique or complex, but the people are, and the military experience may affect how veterans cope and interact with others.

Hennigan told The News. Doyle said the new committee is spurred by the success of the Veterans Treatment Court, which was created and has been run since 2008 by Buffalo City Judge Robert T. Russell Jr. Doyle noted that the special court was lauded by U. S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki last year and had inspired nearly a dozen similar treatment courts nationwide. The president of the 77,000-member legal association said creating the special panel to help veterans with similar issues fits his theme of —Justice for All being promoted by the State Bar this year. Doyle also credited the Bar Association of Erie County, which set up its own veterans assistance committee a year ago, and said he hopes the State Bar's efforts will —increase public awareness about military culture, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury problems of vets. [Source: Buffalo News Matt Gryta article 12 Sep 2011 ++]

VVA NATIONAL/Related V.A. Reports:

Convention Resolutions Committee Report

According to the September/October Issue of The VVA Veterans Magazine, the VVA passed several resolutions to submit to The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Department Of Veterans Affairs policies. These resolutions are listed in the "VVA's Marching Orders", section of the Magazine and include:

VIN-3: PTSD and Parole/Clemency: VVA resolved and strongly recommends the U.S. Sentencing Commission and states that have no parole review for individuals sentenced for life, establish special and specific mechanisms in their specific courts systems and boards of pardons, where such exist, to address the issue for service connected veterans of with (PTSD), who were arrested prior to 1980 and thus were not afforded an opportunity to present evidence of the influence of PTSD on their criminal actions.

VIN-4: Retention of Benefits for incarcerated Veterans: VVA resolved and strongly urges and recommends to the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government that the Code of Federal Regulations be amended, removing the reduction in payments to veterans with service connected disabilities who become incarcerated on a felony conviction for more than 60 days. VVA asserts that such payments are income earned as a result of disabilities incurred while serving in defense of their country and that the regulations and policies which create such reductions are patently unfair and discriminatory to disabled veterans. The laws and regulations involved in this resolution are: 38USC 5313 and 38CFR3.665.

Veteran Hearing/Mark-up Schedule:

Following is the current schedule of Congressional hearings and markups pertaining to the veteran community. Congressional hearings are the principal formal method by which committees collect and analyze information in the early stages of legislative policymaking. Hearings usually include oral testimony from witnesses, and questioning of the witnesses by members of Congress. When a U.S. congressional committee meets to put a legislative bill into final form it is referred to as a mark-up. Veterans are encouraged to contact members of these committees prior to the event listed and provide input on what they want their legislator to do at the event. Membership of each committee and their contact info can be found at

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/committees.tt?commid=svete>:

September (Date TBD). The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will conduct a hearing on "Is This Any Way to Treat Our Troops? Part IV: Lack of Progress and Accountability. Hearing -TBD (Formerly September 20, 2011). HVAC, Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing entitled "The Federal Recovery Coordination Program: Assessing Progress Toward Improvement." 4:00 P.M.; 334 Cannon Hearing - October 20, 2011. HVAC will hold a full committee hearing, topic to be determined. 10 A.M.; 334 Cannon HOB

Hearing - November 16, 2011. HVAC will hold a full committee hearing, topic to be determined. 10:00 A.M.; 334 Cannon HOB

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; November 3rd 2011.

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