



POW / MIA Report:

AMERICANS ANNOUNCED AS ACCOUNTED FOR: There are now **1,773** US personnel listed by the Department of Defense as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The names of six US personnel, previously missing and unaccounted for, were announced last week, including Lt. Col. James H. Ayres, of Pampa, Texas, and Lt. Col. Charles W. Stratton, of Dallas, Texas, both U.S. Air Force, missing in Laos since January 3, 1971. Remains were jointly recovered during several field operations from 2001-2005. In addition, the names of five Army personnel involved in a UH-1D helicopter incident in Laos on January 5, 1968, were also announced. Sgt 1st Class John T. Gallagher of Hamden, CT, was individually identified November 13, 2006. He will also be included in the group interment of remains that includes Chief Warrant Officer Dennis C. Hamilton, of Barnes City, Iowa; Chief Warrant Officer Sheldon D. Schultz, of Altoona, PA; Sgt. 1st Class Ernest F. Briggs, Jr., of San Antonio, Texas; and Sgt. 1st Class James D. Williamson, of Olympia, WA. The group remains of this crew will be buried on Aug. 14 at Arlington National Cemetery.

The identification of the remains of these six Americans, plus three previously missing and unaccounted for, but not yet announced, brings to 810 the number of US personnel returned since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of 1,773 still listed as missing were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

VVA National News:

(Washington, D.C.) – Vietnam Veterans of America is sponsoring a 25th Anniversary Parade celebrating and commemorating the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Saturday November 10, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. “We’re expecting the largest gathering of veterans in Washington since the dedication of *The Wall* in 1982,” said VVA National President John Rowan. “We are inviting veterans of all wars to join us as we honor the men and women who served our nation during the Vietnam War.” The festivities will begin at 10:00 a.m. with star-studded Opening Ceremonies at the parade’s starting point on the Mall at 7th Street between Jefferson and Madison Drives. The parade will step off at 11:00 a.m. It will consist of individual participants, including many prominent Vietnam veterans from all walks of life; military vehicles; floats, motorcyclists, and marching bands from around the country. The parade will end at the Washington Monument Grounds, where participants will take part in a variety of events, including unit reunions. “We are issuing a special open invitation to everyone who served in the military during the Vietnam War era,” Rowan said. “Come and join us in Washington in a landmark event.” Application forms for individuals and groups who would like to join the parade are available at http://vva.org/25thEvent/event_info.htm or by calling toll free 877-727-2333.

Chapter News:

Next meetings:

INCOMING!!! DATE CHANGES !!! AND PLACE CHANGES !!!

September meeting will be at 7:00 PM on the 27th of September, at the Bullhead City, MOOSE Lodge, 2620 Miracle Mile

October meeting will be at 7:00 PM on the 25th of October, at the Kingman VFW Post 10386, 3036 John L Ave.

November meeting will be at 7:00 PM on the 15th of November, at the Lake Havasu Knights of Columbus hall, 186 London Bridge Rd.

Sub Committee Chairperson To Visit Our September Meeting: 7:00 PM September 27. Sheila Shutts, the Sub committee Chairperson, has accepted our invitation to speak about the progress on getting a VA counselor, and clinic in Bullhead City at our September Meeting.

Presidents Report:

Hello Members,

As a chapter, we've been very busy. In August, we started with our first monthly breakfast with the help of our Chaplin Tom Hanlon. Sunday, August 19th was the Democratic picnic, and Sunday, August 26th was the Republican picnic both held in the Hualapai Mountains above Kingman. We spoke with those holding and running for office to help support all veterans by passing State and Federal Bills for veterans. Many at both picnics seemed to be very supportive. Many were veterans themselves or had family members who served. September is continuing to be busy. We had members in the Dolan Springs Parade on Sept. 1st with our 1st Vice Ralph Mckie. On the same day in the evening Heather Ching of AVVA helped VFW Post 10386 in Kingman and Avi Special Events Supervisor Jennifer Wilson with a BBQ for 9/11 Torches Across America to New York City. On Sept. 13th thru 16th was the Mohave County Fair in Kingman. We had plenty of wind each day. Our neighbors Andrea Reese (The wood rose lady) and her husband on our right, and Pat Lawler (The sunglass man) on our left helped with suggestions from past experiences at the fair and with some of their equipment to help keep our booth standing. Entertainment Director Don West let us borrow his E-Z up to replace ours that had been damaged by wind. The winner of the Eagle Statue donated by Roger and Nancy Griffiths was Bob Hartnett of Kingman (a Vietnam veteran). Congratulations Bob!

Saturday Sept. 22nd, is the VVA/AVVA Arizona State Council meeting at Calico's Restaurant in Kingman starting at 10:30AM. Until 3:30PM. With a lunch break at Noon until 1P.M.

Saturday, Sept. 29th is the Andy Devine Parade. We will have two floats. The Devoe's will be using their Chevy one ton flatbed for Gold and Blue Star Mothers and Families. The second float will be with the National Guard from Kingman, courtesy of Sgt. Jared Johnson. We will be using it for Veterans from WWII to the present. Some of our members will be riding their motorcycles also.

Saturday and Sunday of October 6th and 7th will be the Kingman Air Show. The chapter will have a booth.

Sunday, October 7th, we will be supporting 1st Marine Division Assoc. for "Operation Support for the Troops" from noon until 4P.M. at the Bullhead City Park next to Hwy. 95.

Saturday, November 3rd is the Veterans Parade on Northern in Kingman. We will try and have the same set up as the Andy Devine Parade.

Either Sunday, November 11th, or Monday, November 12th will be the Veterans Parade in Lake Havasu City.

The same day at 1P.M. at the AVI will be a Veterans Day program with Orange County Chapter 785 (California) and Mohave County Chapter 975 jointly.

Our meeting in November will be on the 3rd Thursday, because of Thanksgiving which is Nov.15th in Lake Havasu City.

We hope to have a chapter get together in December.

I would especially like to thank the following VVA members for all the help they gave me this past month especially with the Fair activities:

Mike Canright, Jim Crumly, Henry Gonzalez, Roger Griffiths, Ken Hildreth, Tom Hanlon, Noel LaBonte, Rich Poliska, Sisto Sandoval, Charlie Smith, Dave Stafford, Vic Tyynismaa, Mark Young, and last but not least my 1st Vice Ralph Mckie who worked his tail off trying to make everything come together. (See the AVVA Report for more thank yous). All of VVA and AVVA working as a team has made Chapter 975 strong and it will be even stronger in the future if we continue on our course.

Membership is now at 60 and growing. We expect some new prospects to attend the next several meetings. The membership's support of our chapter has been exceptional. Keep up the good [work!](#)

1st VP Report:

Hello, how is everyone. First let me thank all that showed up at the Dolan Springs Parade. Dave Stafford, for riding with me, and keeping me awake, LOL. Thanks Dave, for helping decorate my truck. Thanks to: Chaplin: Tom Hanlon, Mike Canright and his daughter, and Mark Young for their help and support in making the parade a success. We had a good time and the crowd liked the sounds of the motorcycles. We also talked to a few Vietnam Veterans at the VFW hall and the American Legion Hall. Both VFW and American Legion let us put up Vietnam Veterans of America posters on their boards.

Thanks again for the fine JOB.

Next onto the Mohave County Fair:

Thanks to all that got involved in this, as we had some problems with the wind. We set up on Tuesday and by Wednesday the wind had taken our booth down. But thanks to Gene and Sue Crego, Charlie and Linda Smith and their daughter, and both our booth neighbors and Don West, fair organizer, they were able to get us up and running. We had a lot of Vietnam Veterans stop by the booth and we handed out a lot of information and applications. Thanks to Chaplin Tom Hanlon and his wife Nana, and Noel Labonte for helping. We got a lot of exposure and hopefully we will get some membership out of our hard work. We brought in some where around \$530.00 dollars at the booth. Thanks again to all that helped at both of these events.

If I left anyone out I am sorry!!

Again Thanks to all and may God bless you all

Welcome Home
Ralph McKie
1st Vice President

Chaplains Corner:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your prayers and support for Chapter 975 and for those on the prayer list in the Dispatch each week. It means so much and it pleases God to hear and answer our prayers! Please keep giving thanks and praying and please specifically pray for our Ch 975 family and friends, our service men and women, our brothers and sisters in arms who are wounded, sick or recovering and for their families, friends and doctors, nurses and VA and other Hospital / nursing homes that are taking care of them. God bless and keep you until we meet again!

Chap Tom

AVVA Report:

Sept. 2007

Thanks to all who worked the Mohave County Fair Booth with us and to those members who stopped by to lend a hand if we needed it.

I was there each day along with volunteer time put in by: Linda Smith and her daughter, Audrey. (Audrey is not a member but she worked hard for us. THANKS! Audrey), Barbara Tyynismaa, Nana Hanlon, Nancy Griffiths, Bertha Gonzalez, and last but not least, our VVA President who also happens to be a proud member of AVVA, Gene Crego.

I'm happy to say we have three new members from the Fair and one who joined earlier at the monthly breakfast. A BIG welcome to: Patricia Marcikese, Ray Higuera, and Margaret and Ronald Foote. This brings our AVVA membership total to 19. We also have several more prospects who want to attend one of our meetings and possibly sign up.

My objective is to at least keep pace with our VVA chapter. They have approximately 60 members. It would be great if we can get our membership on a par with theirs.

At 19 we are the largest AVVA affiliated chapter in the state of Arizona as of a few days ago. We are running neck and neck with Tucson who at last report had 17 members (a little friendly membership challenge might be in order don't you think).

Now for more good news (We are on a roll with a BIG smile). The "Quilt Raffle" brought in \$116.00 total and the merchandise we put up for donation brought in \$ 232.00.

Congratulations! REBECCA PECK of Kingman. She was the happy winner of the quilt.

The quilt is pure profit as it was donated. The merchandise cost a total of \$75.00 so we made a profit of \$157.00. That makes a GRAND TOTAL of \$273.00, plus we have approximately \$99.00 balance brought forward, which will give us around \$372.00 in the kitty. Soon we should begin to show a CLEAR profit on our AVVA Chapter merchandise. I will give a full report on that at the meeting.

Thanks so much for all you do to help our veterans, their families and our communities.

See you at the meeting,

Sue

Chapter Webpage:

We now have a chapter Webpage, Courtesy of our new Webmaster Dave Stafford

<http://www.vva975.org>

Check out the Webpage, Dave has done a great job.

Editors Note:

As of the August meeting I now have a new title. My new title is Communications Officer.

To me it's just a title change to reflect everything that I have been doing, besides the newsletter.

Our policy; concerning Email address are:

1. Email address will only be given to officers of the chapter, and others with a need to know to be used for chapter business only, and kept confidential.
2. All Emails will be sent as "Bcc". This keeps your address from being seen by others on the list.
3. 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.

I recently upgraded my MS Office software, and in the process I may have lost a couple Email addresses so

if you have received this Newsletter via USPS / “Snail Mail”, and you have an Email Address, please Email your address to me. This is so I can Email you the Newsletter. This would not only be faster, but it saves the Chapter money that could be used for better purposes. Any and all submissions are greatly appreciated. **Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter will be November 2nd, 2007, due to the change in the November meeting date.**

My Email address is jimwc@frontiernet.net, and my Snail Mail address is Jim Crumly, P.O. Box 62, Bullhead City, AZ 86430-0062

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