

# The North Carolina Vietnam Veteran's Veteran's Voice

December, 2010

## Attendance

The November 23, 2010 meeting (It is also the last formal meeting until January 25, 2011) was held at the Cary VFW. In attendance were: Al Ely, Ron Harris, Bo Williams, Bob Allen, Bill Dixon, Ron Wagoner, Joe Harsch and the Chef, Dennis Abels



## December POW/MIA Ceremony

The December 4, 2010 POW/MIA ceremony will be held with Ray Price Harley Association and the Marine Reserves and the kick off the TOY'S FOR TOTS campaign. NCVVI needs a good turnout of its members. Also there will be a formal presentation by Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 of the \$500.00 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place raffle that the orphanage project won. We only need \$9,500 more to reach our goal.

## Candle Light Service



**The annual NCVVI Christmas Candle Lighting Service will be held on the N.C. State Capitol Grounds at the NC Vietnam Memorial Sunday 19, December, 2010 starting at 6:00 NCVVI Members and family will meet after**

## Education

**Trivia Question: What was "Project Eldest Son?"**

Bob Matthews gave the education report. Nine Wake Schools will be teaching the LOV curriculum in the second semester. Bob would like for members to visit the teachers. Mike Lynch, Bob Matthews, Joe Harsch and Bill Dixon went to DC to see "Song" the Vietnamese guide who had come to the US to interpret for the former Viet Cong that "The Bridge Back" stayed with on the trip back to Vietnam. The members met several Vietnam Veterans on the trip and were able to make a presentation of the Orphanage Playground project to them. It was very well received. Also present was a teacher from Saint James School in Maryland who has taken students to Vietnam for the past 11 years and he was very interested

### *Special topic*

*Education*

*Upcoming Events*

*Old / New Business*

*Information*

*Membership renewal form*

### *President:*

*Ron Wagoner*

### *Vice President:*

*Joe Harsch*

### *Treasurer:*

*Bud Gross*

### *Secretary:*

*Bill Dixon*

### *Directors:*

*Bill Dixon*

*Bobby Thrower*

*Dennis Abels*

*Bo Williams*

*Lee Booher*

in the Bridge Back Education Foundation and having it go to Maryland. Bob is also putting together the “Bridge Back Foundation” end of the year “Report Newsletter.” If you know of someone who may need a tax-deduction, please send them a copy of the “Report” when it becomes available. The Education and the Playground projects would make very worthwhile recipients of any and all tax free donations. Remember, what we get donated we don’t have to raise ourselves. Please plan on sending out a minimum of 10 “Reports.”

### Old Business

The 2010/2011, NCVVI scholarship essay topic has been selected: **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TEACH LESSONS OF VIETNAM IN SCHOOLS TODAY?**

The T shirts that were being purchased and to be printed has been put on hold for the time being.

NCVVI, had a good turnout to participate in the North Carolina Veterans Day Parade held on November 6, 2010.

NCVVI held a very successful Veterans Day Observance, November 11 at the NC Vietnam Memorial on the Capitol Grounds. Bob Matthews was the Key Note speaker and did his usual bang up job. Raleigh’s Mayor Meeker was in attendance as well as Raleigh City Council member and NCVVI member John Odom. After the ceremony several members met at Appleby’s for a free lunch and then met to attend as guest to the Hurricanes game. NCVVI had a good time, the Hurricanes looked like they had been hit by a tornado as bad as they lost.

The University Theatre at North Carolina State University in Raleigh presented 6 performances of the Shirley Lauro play, “A Piece of My Heart,” which tells the story of 6 women who served in Vietnam. The presentation was October 28-November 7, 2010

### New Business

The need for additional copies of the NCVVI patch was discussed and the decision made to talk with Del to see if he could use our original patch to have some new ones made.

Vietnam Service Ribbon pins for new members was also discussed. If Bud does not have any in stock the president will order 10.

The new book about Vietnam, The Matterhorn will be discussed at 7:00 PM, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Quail Ridge Book store. This editor has not read it at this time but understands it has great reviews. This would be a great venue for NCVVI to attend.

21 and a Wake Up, an independent film written, produced, and directed by Vietnam Veteran, Chris McIntyre. It stars Danica McKellar, Faye Dunaway and Amy Acker. It has the distinction of being the first American film about the Vietnam War to be filmed on location in Vietnam. The film based on real events, is set at the 24<sup>th</sup> Evacuation hospital at Long Binh, and follows the lives of three young nurses. Keep an eye out for it!

“The Last Firebase,” Ted Sampley’s old POW Shack that set for decades between the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Memorial was destroyed by fire. The Shack was now owned I believe by Rolling Thunder and will be rebuilt.

**Vietnam gets \$1 million from the US to locate missing Vietnamese troops.** There is an estimated 300,000 North Vietnamese soldiers still unaccounted for since the end of the war in 1975.

Global Spectrum Foundation (who we work through with the Orphanage) is very interested in doing a joint **Casino Night with NCVVI for the Orphanage.** It will be in Fairfax, Va. area. They would like to do it during TET. This year TET, the year of the Cat, is February 3, 2011 and the closest Saturday is February 5<sup>th</sup>. But our “pit boss” Dave Samuels and the North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Helicopter Pilots are scheduled for the POW/MIA ceremony. Even Dave can’t be in two places at the same time. So January 29<sup>th</sup> has been suggested. More information to come as it develops.

Dave is also talking with people at **Wake Med. about another Casino Night** to be held at Heather Hills in January. This fee will go to the NCVVI treasury where it is badly needed. NCVVI needs commitments from its members and a special training night was discussed, to train Black Jack and Texas Holdem dealers.

The local NCVVI Casino night for the Nuoc Ngat Orphanage Playground has been delayed for now. But it will be rescheduled for a later date.

Bill Dixon is to talk with Le at the Dalat Restaurant about a Charity Luncheon for the Playground to be held March 5<sup>th</sup> after the POW/MIA ceremony. The Marine Corps League of Orange County will be the guest readers. Tickets will be coming for members to get donations.

### Books You may like to read

**SEARGEANT BACK AGAIN:** After 30 years from its debut, Charles Coleman's (he lives in Morrisville, NC) ground breaking and insightful novel depicting the early signs of PTSD. The book is being hailed by scholars, medical doctors, historians and film critics as the first and most penetrating study of combat-related psychological trauma ever written. It is often cited as "the Vietnam War cult-classic that made PTSD real."

**MARBLE MOUNTAIN:** By Bud Willis a marine who flew more than 640 combat missions. (to be released in 2011) This is the story of "Medevac" out of Marble Mountain near Danang.

**THIS TIME WE WIN: REVISITING THE TET OFFENSIVE:** By James Robbins. Robbins explains, "The TET 'defeat' lies in wait when U.S. forces engaged weak, unconventional enemies who lash out under exceptional circumstances and briefly capture media attention. Terrorist such as Osama bin Laden view Vietnam as an example of the victory they are seeking: a vicious attack on the American spirit that result in demoralizing at home and full-scale retreat abroad."

**XO: INTO THE IA DRANG VALLEY:** By Alan Berry, he is a former U.S. Army artillery officer. The book chronicles the author's experiences as a young 1<sup>st</sup> Air Calvary Division artillery officer during the early stages of the Vietnam War

### **HOLIDAY MAIL FOR HEROES**

The American Red Cross is joining with Pitney Bowes to sponsor the **Holiday Mail for Heroes Program**. Between now and Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, the public is encouraged to send holiday cards with messages of cheer and appreciation. The cards will be screened for hazardous materials, sorted and packaged to be delivered to military bases, hospitals and veteran's hospitals and other organizations. All cards should be sent to: Holiday Mail for Heroes, PO Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD. 20791. Adequate postage for the cards to get to Maryland is required.

### **Upcoming events**

November 21<sup>st</sup> was the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Song Tay Raid.

December 4: Monthly POW/MIA ceremony with guest Ray Price, Harley Davidson Organization and Marine Corps Reserves kicking off Toy for Tots.

December 5: Benefit ride for Maya Cavenari. For more info, contact Monica Cash at 336-583-5569 or [mavector@nc.rr.com](mailto:mavector@nc.rr.com)

December 11: Ron Wagoner is putting together a trip to the "Special Warfare Museum" in Fayetteville. Please contact President Ron if you are interested.

December 13: Matterhorn discussion 7:00 Quail Ridge Books

December 19: NCVVI's Candle Lighting Service starting at 6:00

December 19: NCVVI's family get-together.

December 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING OUR COUNTRY ALL OVER THE WORLD AND THEIR FAMILIES.

December 31: Happy New Years eve, please celebrate safely

January 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR 2011

January 1: The monthly POW/MIA ceremony

January 25: NCVVI's first meeting of 2011 with Bo Williams as Chef

January 29<sup>th</sup> Casino Night for Orphanage in Fairfax, Va.

**YOUR DUES ARE DUE NOW; PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TO NCVVI, 601 COMPTON ROAD.  
RALEIGH, NC 27609**

**Trivia Answer: The genesis of “Project Eldest Son” was from the mind of SOG’s commander, 1966-68, Col. John K. Singlaub, a World War II veteran of covert actions. It was the calculated handiwork of one of the Vietnam War’s most secret and least understood covert operations. The operation was so secret that few G.I. s in South East Asia ever heard of it. Though obscure, this trick was not new. The project was for a lab in Okinawa to sabotage the enemies 7.62mm and 12.7mm ammunition with a special exploding powder generating a whopping 250,000psi. They also developed a special fuse for the Communist 82mm mortar round. 1,968 of these rounds were sabotaged. When a SOG team discovered an ammo dump, they planted Eldest Son; when a SOG team ambushed an enemy patrol, they switched a magazine containing one sabotaged round in the dead soldier’s weapon and left it in place.**



## Membership

NCVVI is proud to have you as a member.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(First Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(MI)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Spouse’s name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Zip code)

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home Phone)

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Work Phone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Occupation)

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Membership (\$20 per Year)      \_\_\_\_\_ (check amount)

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Membership (\$10 per year)

**If new, include a copy of your DD-214**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-MAIL ADDRESS :) **{Need this to send the unit’s monthly newsletter}**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Signature)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Date)**

**Reminder:** NCVVI holds a remembrance service on the Capital grounds, Raleigh, NC, the first Saturday of each month (12:00 noon) and the monthly business meeting on the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of each month in Cary, NC. (6:00 PM)

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.  
601 Compton Road  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Member of: N.C. Vietnam Veterans Council, Wake County Veterans Council, National Vietnam Veterans Coalition