

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans

The Veteran's Voice

February 2012



NCVVI WEBSITE:
www.ncvvi.com

BRIDGE BACK FOUNDATION WEBSITE:

www.bridgebackfoundation.org
www.Facebook.com/BridgeBack

President:

Ron Wagoner

Vice President:

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Bill Dixon

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North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. has been busy and will be busy for the upcoming month of March. Something of interest for every member. Pick and choose or participate in them all. NCVVI is an all volunteer organization do as little or as much that you choose.

February's POW/MIA Ceremony: Guest readers were members of The North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Helicopter Association. Thanks guys for a job well done. We look forward to your 2013 participation. There was a good representation of numerous other organizations present. Thank you all for your attendance. Steve Acai and Brock Nicholson were recognized for their hard work in getting the Vietnam Memorial called the "Last Firefight." They and their committee are the reason we have one of the Top Memorials in the country. We can't thank them enough for their efforts.

TET 2012: Members of NCVVI enjoyed a fun Tet celebration at the Light House Center on Tryon Road in Raleigh. If you have not attended one don't miss the 2013 celebration. Good food, good music, great displays. The editor of this news letter can attest to the fact that the 2012 was a lot more enjoyable than the 1968 TET

NCVVI's Bridge Back Education Foundation: We did an orphanage and "Lessons of Vietnam" presentation at the District 3 VVA leadership meeting in Durham February 18th. Those in attendance were very interested in what NCVVI had to say about expanding the educational program to their areas. All the bracelets available were quickly grabbed. Most stated they would be going back to their organizations and talking with their members and we could discuss it again in Asheville in March at the membership conference. NCVVI will have its "Wall" on display at the conference. March 27-30.

January 2012 NCVVI Meeting: This meeting had several new members in attendance. WELCOME new members. As an all Volunteer Organization NCVVI has something to offer everyone. And you can choose to do as much or as little as you wish with your participation in the many opportunities that are available. Whatever you choose you are a valuable and appreciated member.

February 28th NCVVI Meeting: Free dinner about 6:15 with the meeting starting at 7:00. A lot of things to be discussed. 1. The group trip to the Charlotte Motor Speedway's "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" celebration being held March 31st. 2. The 30th Anniversary

of "The Wall" celebration being held on Veterans Day November 11th, 2012. Going as a group, transportation, and lodging will be discussed.

February meeting Cont...3. Its election time. Want to run for an office you need to be there. Don't want to be elected to an office you need to be there. Its time for your hope and change if that is what you want. If you have not already renewed your membership for 2012, all were due January 1st, your dues need to be paid to vote or nominate someone. All offices are open, especially the secretary. 4. Follow up on old business, 5. New business, 6. Scholarship essay report will be on the agenda, 7. Guest Speaker, 8. Whatever you have on your mind.

NCVVI and its Bridge Back Foundation carrying on a long tradition of supporting orphanage



Soldier presenting gift to orphanage 7/18/69 – Vietnam, House, Jerry and Thomas, Marie to Nuoc Ngot Orphanage, 101st Airborne Division, U.S. Army, 426th Supply and Service Battalion

Hue, Vietnam (101st IO) - A Gift. Capt. Jerry House of the 101st Airborne Division's 426th Supply and Service Bn. presents a gift of cash to Sister Marie Thomas, director of the Nuoc Ngot Orphanage, which the 426th has been helping since March, 1969.

Date: 1969 July 18

Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 77th Field Artillery knew they were out numbered, despite the fact that they were armed to the teeth with plenty of delicious ammo. The opposing forces knew just where they were the weakest. The Nuoc Ngot Orphanage children's' eyes glued on the bulging pockets and the enticing scent of sweets motivated them into action. The attack was on! It was all over before it got started. Not a drop of blood was shed. But in the end, a few tears were.

The air was filled with the screams of glee as the soldiers opened up their pockets and started pulling out from their ammo pockets bar after bar of Hershey's chocolate. "These children need our help", said Sp4 Harold Roberts, a Cobra crew chief for B Battery, 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile), from Spokane, Wa. "They didn't choose to be here. They can't feed themselves. They can't defend themselves. "They are as human as you and me, and we're here to show our support."

The 101st Airborne (Air Mobile) has been supporting Nuoc Ngot Orphanage in Hue for the past three years. In-other-words, since the unit arrived in the area. Once a month a unit from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile), comes to the orphanage to show support; they bring food, clothing and money. They also provide the children with some laughs and good times.

In a place where the world saw Hue on TV as a place where the NVA fought our military during the TET offensive, it's hard to believe a year and a half later, that same city is the refuge for orphaned

children from all walks of life.

The 4th Battalion, 77th Field Artillery brought with them some special treats for the children as Sergeant Franklin Spencer, A Battery, 77th Field Artillery, from Chicago, IL, had the children gather around him for 30 minutes worth of magic tricks. This gave SP4 Richard Edwards, B Battery, 4th Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, from Moorestown, NJ, time to set up the projector, thread the film through it and set up the portable projector screen. "It was amazing to me to see 30 children of all ages sitting on the ground and spell bound while watching Tweety-bird cartoons on the silver screen." "I only wish I could have brought more cartoons for them as they seemed to enjoy them. They may not have known English that well, but they knew when to laugh at. "Just to see that sparkle in their eyes, the smiles on their face was enough to know the extra effort to bring the projector, films and projector screen to the orphanage was well worth it and rewarding"

With everything packed in that was going back to Camp Eagle, the soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, gave each child a hug, handed each another Hershey bar said goodbye to the children of the Nuoc Ngot Orphanage, got back into their vehicles and started their trek back to Camp Eagle. The mens' mood had changed. Some where quite, some reflective, a few had tears rolling down their cheeks of otherwise hard nosed faces. All that day realized those children had won their hearts with the innocence of their smiles.

Nuo Ngot (Sweet Water) Orphanage and NCVVI: On March 7th the members of the Bridge Back Team will leave RDU for Saigon, Vietnam. At this writing the playground equipment is sitting at the port in Danang. Customs in Vietnam have it held up, but it is expected to be cleared for delivery to the orphanage before the end of February. The team will be in Saigon for two days then fly to the Phu bi airport and travel by bus to the orphanage and to resort. The erecting of the playground should take 2-2-1/2 Days. Athens And Cary High School LOV classes have prepared 60+ envelopes of goodies that will be delivered to high school students in Vietnam. Bill Dixon also has a suitcase of items for the Quang Tri Home for the Blind. After the playground the team will travel to Dong Ha up on the DMZ spend the night there and fly to Saigon and then home. Come tell the bon voy age on the 7th and welcome home on the 17th. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution there is still time. Every member of NCVVI should be very proud of this project. NCVVI is not a big national organization but does big things. Thank you all for your support and backing.

Mount Soledad Cross Update: This is interesting...

Seems that one or two atheists and the ACLU can accomplish what over 2,000,000 veterans can't, or won't.!!! Considering that Arlington Cemetery is Government property, and all the other National Cemeteries are Government Property, how soon before we have to remove all the Memorial Crosses there..!!! Why do we tolerate such crap..????? What are the American Legion, the VFW, Military Officers Assoc, Fleet Reserve Assoc, and the other various Services Organizations doing to combat this???

The full Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals declined to review or reverse the Ninth Circuit panel decision calling for the removal of the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial cross. The Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego consists of six concentric walls with plaques honoring more than 2,800 veterans and a cross, which has been the target of litigation for the past 22 years because it sits upon government property. The Liberty Institute, representing Mt. Soledad Memorial Association, now plans to take the case to the Supreme Court. For more information on the cross and controversy, visit the Liberty Institute website at www.freemarket.org/ and the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association website at www.soledadmemorial.com/.

Joe Galloway will be in Mooresville NC. on May 17-19 to help dedicate a new small Veterans Museum. He will be selling and signing the book. (We Were Soldiers Once and Young).

Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration to Feature Live Music, Military Displays and More



The Charlie Daniels Band will perform, along with George Clinton, The Oak Ridge Boys and others during the Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration at Charlotte Motor Speedway on March 31.

Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration

On March 31, 2012, the veterans who proudly served their country during the Vietnam Conflict will finally get the recognition they are due – almost 40 years later.

The USO of North Carolina and the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters, along with Charlotte Motor Speedway, are hosting the free Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration 2012 event at the Charlotte Motor Speedway on March 31, 2012. Open to all veterans, their families, community members and media, the event has drawn overwhelming support, as more than 28,000 people have already reserved their free tickets. Remember, tickets are limited so please reserve tickets prior to the event!

“The service of our Vietnam Veterans, especially those that continued to serve after the war, has gone unrecognized for too long. These warriors were the mentors and leaders responsible for today’s highly respected and combat-proven military,” retired Army Lt. Col. John Falkenbury, USO of NC president, said. “The purpose of the celebrations is to honor the Vietnam veterans, educate the public on the service and sacrifices of the men and women that served, as well as their families, and to provide vital assistance by Veteran Service Organizations.”

Vietnam veterans never received the type of homecoming celebration that today’s troops receive as they return from service. To honor those who served and the military members who returned from combat, the USO of North Carolina is holding a long, overdue homecoming celebration. The Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration is set to be an unforgettable experience featuring live entertainment, displays and demonstrations, military salutes, and much more! Supporting partners for the event include Lowe’s, Coca-Cola, Coca-Cola Consolidated, Lorillard Tobacco, RJR, Golden Corral, General Dynamics, and New Breed Logistics.

Gates open to fans at 9 a.m. and opening ceremonies beginning at 11 a.m. Tickets to the event are free and available at www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/WelcomeHome. Event maps, parking information, directions are available online. The first 4,500 Veterans to arrive will receive a free lunch complementary of Golden Corral. The event will come to an end at 4:30 p.m.

Entertainment to Salute the Veterans The entertainment line-up includes some true legends and passionate Americans that are proud to salute the Veterans:

The Charlie Daniels Band, featuring Charlie Daniels, who was born in Wilmington, N.C., and was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on January 24, 2008. Charlie was raised on a musical diet that included Pentecostal gospel, local bluegrass bands and the rhythm and blues and country music from Nashville’s 50,000-watt radio stations WLAC and WSM. Charlie Daniels won the Grammy Award for Best Country Vocal Performance in 1979 for "The Devil Went Down to Georgia", which reached No. 3 on the Hot 100 in September 1979.

George Clinton, born in Kannapolis, N.C. on July 22, 1941, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997 with 15 other members of Parliament-Funkadelic. He has been cited as one of the foremost innovators of **funk music**, along with **James Brown** and **Sly Stone**. Clinton and Parliament-Funkadelic dominated diverse music during the 1970s with more than 40 R&B hit singles (including three No. 1s) and three platinum albums.

The Oak Ridge Boys will help the USO of North Carolina kick off the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans festivities Friday, March 30, at a private dinner and performance for event partners and more than 300 invited Vietnam veterans and their guests. The Oak Ridge Boys are known for their four-part harmonies which have earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA and ACM awards and millions of fans.

Rockie Lynne, a native of Statesville, N.C., is a veteran of the United States Army, having served in the 82nd Airborne Division. His debut single "Lipstick" on Universal Records, spent 10 consecutive weeks in the No. 1 slot on Billboard's Country Singles Sales Chart. His newest album, "Songs for Soldiers", is a longer version of the record he originally compiled to give away to troops during his overseas tour of U.S. Military bases.

The 82nd Airborne Division "All American" Chorus, stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., has performed across the country and overseas. They will join the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration to honor the Vietnam Veterans. The chorus is composed of paratroopers from every brigade in the 82d Airborne Division. The 82nd Abn Div has served the United States since World War II and currently has several brigades deployed to Afghanistan.

The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station -- Cherry Point, N.C., continues the fine tradition of serving as musical units that are an integral part of the military. It represents one of the finest organizations in musical excellence. This ensemble of Marine musicians completes more than 150 commitments annually and travels in excess of 30,000 miles. Throughout their travels, they uphold the old and honored Marine traditions of pride, professionalism, and esprit de corps.

Master of Ceremonies - Called "the next Marilyn Monroe," Chris Noel played opposite Steve McQueen in "Soldier in the Rain", and co-starred in "Girl Happy" with Elvis Presley! But in 1965, after visiting wounded veterans in a hospital, Chris realized her true calling. The starlet became a soldier and a DJ for Armed Forces Radio Network, and her daily radio show, "A Date with Chris," was an instant hit. While visiting Vietnam in person to sing for the boys, Chris braved sniper fire and experienced a terrifying helicopter crash. In the 1970s, as war raged abroad and at home, Chris got married to a handsome young Lieutenant . . . but her battlefield romance was devastated by a shocking tragedy. In the 1990s, after opening a number of shelters for homeless veterans, she went on to become a national advocate and icon for a lost generation of Vietnam Veterans.

Event Features Patriotic Displays and Activities The opening ceremonies will begin with a grand entrance from the Vietnam veterans' motorcycle groups, Rolling Thunder and Patriot Guard. These non-profit organizations have one thing in common besides motorcycles, their unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security. Be there as their motorcycles roar and rattle through Charlotte Motor Speedway's infield to start the celebrations.

Participants can experience a range of military exhibits, displays and demonstrations including:

- U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute demonstration
- Flag Story from U.S. Army Color Guard and Flag Troops
- U.S. Marine Corps Armored Vehicles
- U.S. Navy Suburban Recruiting Vehicles
- U.S. Air Force Flyover
- Coast Guard Static Displays
- The American Veterans Traveling Tribute, an 80 percent replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- Information tables and assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs
- World War II Half Track
- Numerous displays from North Carolina based Veteran Service Organizations
- A host of non-profit organizations devoted to supporting military members, veterans, and their families
- American Red Cross
- Displays featuring David Kennerly's Pulitzer prize-winning portfolio of combat photos from the Vietnam conflict.
- Various Vietnam-era helicopters provided by the NC Vietnam Pilots Association
- Coca-Cola Family Fun Zone where Coca-Cola will provide a variety of entertainment for the whole family including interactive games, the Coca-Cola NASCAR Show car, driving simulators and video game cans all free during the event.

Support Organizations to Provide Veterans Services The Department of Veterans Affairs will have mobile units and critical assets to process claims and conduct health assessments and numerous Veteran Service Organizations and military

non-profit organizations will be taking part in this great event. Veterans are asked to bring their **DD Form 214** so they can receive help, if needed. Additionally, over 40 military and veteran non-profits will be on site to provide information and assistance.

For more information on the Vietnam Veterans' Homecoming Celebration, visit www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/WelcomeHome, follow the event on twitter at <http://twitter.com/VetsWelcomeHome> and "like" it on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VetsHomecoming2012>. To see the PSA, visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/VetsHomecoming>. For display and sponsorship opportunities, contact

WOUNDED WARRIOR EVENT: The Triangle Warrior Foundation located in Morrisville, NC. We are holding a charity event at Buffalo Wings and Rings(Morrisville) on **Feb 29th**, to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project. We would LOVE your support in getting the word out both before and the day of the event. I am open to suggestions to local Vets/groups that I can reach out to that would be interested attending the event or making a donation. We appreciate your support. Buffalo Wings & Rings will give 10% of total sales. Also we are raffling off a flat screen TV & a John Casablanca's modeling scholarship valued at \$5000 & many other prizes.

March POW/MIA ceremony: The guest readers will be the Triangle Chapter of the Sea Cadets. All members of NCVVI are encouraged to attend.

February, 29 Wounded Warrior support: 11-11

February, 28 NCVVI Meeting: A lot of good information on the upcoming events to be discussed. Elections and a guest speaker. A meeting not to be missed.

February, 29 Wake County Veterans Council meeting: NCVVI members welcome, 6:30 American Legion Post 1

March 7th: The Bridge Back Team leaves for Vietnam at 8:30 AM

March 17th The Bridge Back Team returns from its educational and humanitarian trip to Vietnam

March 27th NCVVI meeting: Recap of Vietnam trip and the first meeting with new officers

March 28th NCVVI leaves for Ashville: The Bridge Back will have NCVVI's "Wall" at the VVA District 3 conference along with materials for the educational information on "The Lessons Of Vietnam.

March 31 Welcome Home at Charlotte Motor Speedway: NCVVI will have a bus making the trip. Please contact President Ron Wagoner for bus cost and information as well as tickets for the event. There will be some room for family, friends and guests. Ron's number 233-9446.

March 11th: Don't forget to Spring Forward when Daylight Savings Time begins

I have enjoyed doing the NCVVI's Veterans Voice News Letter. I hope you give the new secretary all the support they need. Whoever steps up and takes the job you can count on my support. *Bill Dixon*

Reach out to all Vietnam Veterans, keep a couple of newsletters and applications in your car or truck. See a Vietnam Veteran stop and share your organization with them or stick on their windshield. (Probably not if they are driving at the time). NCVVI is only great because of you and your efforts. Be proud of your group of men and women and what you do in the community.

Go to www.facebook.com/BridgeBack and like the page. Share it with friends, pictures of the team in Vietnam will be posted



Membership Application and Renewal

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 (\$25 per Year)** _____ **Associate Membership (\$15 per year)**

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

For new Vietnam Veteran members: **DD214 attached*** _____ To be provided later _____

(Signature) _____ **(Date)** _____

***Note: Full membership requires a DD214 showing Vietnam Service**

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 (4th) Tuesday of each month in Cary, NC. (6:15 PM Free dinner) At the VFW located at 522 Reedy Creek Road.

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