



POW/MIA Ceremony

President:

Dave Samuels

Vice President:

Benny Hoots

Treasurer:

Bob Krzynowek

Secretary:

Bonnie Kuhr

Director:

Ron Harris

The Veteran's Voice

Minutes
January 26, 2021



Attending: Bob Krzynowek, Dave Samuels, Benny Hoots, Dennis Abels, Ron Harris, Mike Lynch, Larry Kall, Bo Williams, Bill Dixon, Bonnie Kuhr

The pledge of allegiance was said. David Samuels presided. He thanked everyone for coming. And he was sorry for the meeting location. The meeting was supposed to be at Ihop but they were closed so it was moved to Sawmill Tap Room.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the secretary's minutes as sent. The treasurer's report on motion made, seconded and passed was accepted as read. January is the month for dues collection. So far, six members have paid their dues. Bob K. will send the list from last year and this year of dues paid to Dave Samuels. Dave Samuels will set up an audit. Bonnie reported a donation of \$100 to NCVVI from Nancy and David Turlington. A motion was made by Ron Harris and seconded by Dennis Abels to use this donation in the operating fund.

POW/MIA Ceremonies:

It was asked if there was some way of supplying power to the sound system without plugging in. No decision. There is a copy of the permit from the Capitol for the year with the papers.

December 20 – Annual Candlelight Ceremony. The Capitol police allowed us on the grounds. There were fewer attendees than usual. Bob White was there playing his bagpipe. At the end of the ceremony, Taps was played by Paul White. Both musical selections echoed in the dark, still night. The ceremony itself was reconfigured somewhat because of the small crowd and the wet ground.

January 2, 2021 ALR 124 Apex
NCVVI – Monica Cash
Went well. Able to get on the grounds.

February 6 – VV Helo Association
NCVVI and Association – David Samuels
Monica will not be there to live stream; Benny will do it. He also has the missing man table.

March 6 – VASS Post 296
NCVVI – Ron Fitzsimmons

Bonnie asked those in attendance to look over the reading of the names list. It was noted NCVVI's appreciation for all of those groups volunteering to read every month.

Scholarships: There is one outstanding for \$500. There were three students inquiring about the scholarship for 2021. It had been decided to cancel the scholarship for 2021. It will be noted on the NCVVI website that the scholarship has been canceled due to COVID but everyone is invited to participate in 2022. A motion was made, seconded and passed on October 27, 2020, "that NCVVI postpone the scholarship for one year based on the COVID epidemic."

Raleigh National Cemetery. Dave Samuels is involved with the wreath laying at the cemetery for Christmas. He saw the damage. There has been considerable flooding at the gravesites. (News and Observer carried an article on New Year's Day about this.) Dave queried the group to see if they would be interested in helping restore the site. Bonnie reported she had left voice messages to one of the VA organizations involved in the Veterans area. No response. The same from the reporter who reported this damage. Investigation will continue.

Election of officers will be held in March. A nominating committee was appointed: Paul White and Robert Kryznovek. All four positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, repeat Secretary, and Treasurer) are open.

Live Streaming:

January 13: Understanding the Vietnam War – A Report from a Frustrated Vietnam Veteran.

January 27: Understanding the Vietnam War Part II

Bo Williams was in Wake Forest and while there met a young Marine. Bo shared his experiences with him and the Marine said he was with JASOC for two years. He had been in Laos. Bo recommended him as a speaker at our meeting (again when we are back to normal, if ever).

The NCVVI.org site needs updating. There is a page on Resources with mainly mesothelioma resources. We have since received an email from a law firm offering assistance for veterans who face discrimination in seeking a job. Bill Dixon recalls that requests have come up in the past. It was felt that this site is not for endorsing businesses.

Next Meeting in February: D. Samuels raised a possibility of renting a room for our monthly meeting. Bo Williams said that when life gets back to normal there is the possibility of a room at the Elks. The Elks plans on opening in March. Mike Mitchell of the Elks would like to meet with Dave Samuels to discuss. Everyone present seemed to like the 1:00 time.

From Del:

My Trip to Vietnam Reconfirmed My Hatred of Communism

Dennis Prager / February 02, 2021

Ten years ago, I wrote a column reflecting on my reactions to visiting Vietnam. Given the lack of revulsion to, and even flirtation with, communism (or its more mildly named version, socialism) among many young Americans, it is worth revisiting.

It was difficult to control my emotions—specifically, my anger—during my visit to Vietnam. The more I came to admire the Vietnamese people—their intelligence, love of life, dignity, and hard work—the more rage I felt toward the communists who brought them (and, of course, us Americans) so much suffering in the second half of the 20th century.

Unfortunately, communists still rule the country. Yet, Vietnam has embraced the only way that exists to escape poverty, let alone to produce prosperity: capitalism and the free market. So, then, what exactly did the 2 million Vietnamese who died in the [Vietnam War](#) die for?

I would like to pose that question to some of Vietnam's communist rulers. "Comrade, you have disowned everything your Communist Party stood for: communal property, collectivized agriculture, central planning, and militarism, among other things. Looking back, then, for what precisely did your beloved Ho Chi Minh and your party sacrifice millions of your fellow Vietnamese?"

There is no good answer. There are only lies and truths, and the truths are not good.

The lie is the response offered by the Vietnamese communists, repeated by the world's noncommunist left, taught (until today) in virtually every Western university, and spread by virtually every news medium on the planet: The Vietnam communists, i.e., the North Vietnamese regime and the Viet Cong in South Vietnam, were merely fighting for national independence against imperialism, i.e., foreign control of their country.

First, they fought the Japanese, then the French, and then the Americans. American will remember being told over and over that Ho Chi Minh was Vietnam's George Washington, that he loved the American Constitution, after which he modeled his own, and that he wanted nothing more than Vietnamese independence.

Here is the truth: Every communist dictator has been a megalomaniacal, cult-of-personality, power-hungry, bloodthirsty thug.

Ho Chi Minh was no different. He murdered his opponents and tortured God only knows how many innocent Vietnamese (burying peasants alive was a favored method), so as to scare millions of peasants into fighting for him—yes, for him and his blood-soaked Vietnamese Communist Party, backed by the greatest murderer of all time, [Mao Zedong](#).

But moral idiots in America chanted "Ho, ho, Ho Chi Minh" at anti-war rallies and depicted America as the real murderer of Vietnamese—"Hey, hey, LBJ: How many kids did you kill today?"

The Vietnamese communists were not fighting America for Vietnamese independence. America was never interested in controlling the Vietnamese people, and there is a perfect parallel to prove this: the [Korean War](#). Did America fight the Korean communists in order to control Korea? Or did 37,000 Americans die in Korea so that Koreans could be free? Who was (and remains) a freer human being—a Korean living under Korean communist rule in North Korea or a Korean living in that part of Korea where America defeated the Korean communists?

And who was a freer human being in Vietnam—those who lived in noncommunist (but authoritarian) South Vietnam or those who lived under Ho, ho, Ho Chi Minh's communists in North Vietnam?

America has fought to liberate countries, not to rule over them. It was the Vietnamese Communist Party (and China), not America, that was interested in controlling the Vietnamese people.

But the lie was spread so widely and so effectively that most of the world—except supporters of the American war effort in Vietnam, the Vietnamese boat people, and Vietnamese who yearned for liberty—believed that America was fighting for tin, tungsten, and the wholly fictitious “American empire,” while the Vietnamese communists were fighting for Vietnamese freedom.

I went to the “Vietnam War Remnants Museum,” the Communist Party’s three-floor exhibit of anti-American photos. Nothing surprised me—not the absence of any truth about the communist North Vietnamese or the Viet Cong; not a word about the widespread threats on the lives of anyone who did not fight for the communists; not a word about those who risked their lives to escape by boat, preferring to risk dying by drowning, being eaten by sharks, or being tortured or gang-raped by pirates than to live under the communists who “liberated” South Vietnam.

Equally unsurprising is that there is little difference between the history of the Vietnam War as told by the Communist Party of Vietnam and what just about any college student will be told in just about any college by just about any professor in America, Europe, Asia, or Latin America.

I will end with the subject with which I began—the Vietnamese.

It is impossible to visit Vietnam and not be impressed by the people. I hope I live to see the day when the people of Vietnam, freed from the communist lies that still permeate their daily lives, understand that every Vietnamese death in the war against America was a wasted life, one of the more than 100 million human sacrifices on the altar of the most bloodthirsty ideology in history: communism.



Membership Application

NCVVI is proud to have you as a member.

A DD214 is required for full membership

(Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

(Spouse's name)

(Street Address)

(City) (State) (Zip code)

(____) _____ (____) _____
(Home Phone) (Work Phone) (Occupation)

_____ Full Membership (\$25 per Year) _____ (check amount) DD214 supplied ___Y ___N

_____ Associate Membership (\$15 per year)

(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 (4th) Tuesday of each month at a location to be announced.

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