

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans

The Veteran's Voice



NCVVI WEBSITE:
www.ncvvi.com

BRIDGE BACK FOUNDATION
WEBSITE:

www.bridgebackfoundation.org

Special topic

Education

Upcoming Events

Old / New Business

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Membership renewal form

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Hope you all had a great Christmas and New's Holiday and ready for a great fulfilling year! NCVVI has some awesome plans for 2011 and needs all its members.



There was no December meeting beyond the Candle Light Service held on December 19th. The Candle Light Service was well attended by NCVVI and guests. It was a very moving service to all. Thanks to those who participated and made it so special. And a special "Shout to our First Lady" Jenny Wagoner for hosting the fabulous party at her home after the Candle Light Service

This January 2011 Veteran's Voice is to give you upcoming events and activities as well as a report of the December activities.

Casino Night

NCVVI's Pit Boss, Dashing Dave Samuels needs all members to touch base with him concerning our Friday, January 28th Casino Night. NCVVI's money box is very low, so fortunately we have been hired to do a Casino Night. We need all members, associate members and any volunteers to step up and help. The location is the Heather Hills Swim Club building in Garner (Where we have been many times before). Dave's work number is 919.789.8855x24.

Monthly POW/MIA Ceremony

The December ceremony had Ray Price Harley Owners Group along with the Marine Reserve as guest readers. It was their kick off for the Toys for Tots campaign. The group supported by Rolling Thunder, Former South Vietnamese Military, guests, Restored Military Vehicles Association and NCVVI made for a large and cold crowd.

The January 1, 2011 ceremony had The Sea Cadets as guest readers. With the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle group, Rolling Thunder 4 & 7, The Patriot Guards, Blue Star Mothers, Restored Military Vehicles, American Legion Riders, American Legion Post 297, visitors and NCVVI in attendance.

The February 5th ceremony is scheduled to have The North Carolina Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association as guest readers.

The March 5th ceremony is scheduled to have the Orange County Marine Corps League as guest readers.

The April 2nd ceremony is scheduled to have the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Group as guest readers.

Vietnam and Vietnam Veterans in the news

DE-CLASSIFIED VIETNAM-ERA TRANSCRIPTS SHOW SENATORS KNEW GULF OF TONKIN WAS A STAGED FALSE FLAG EVENT: Over 1,100 pages of previously classified Vietnam-era transcripts released this week by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee highlighted the fact that several Senators knew that the White House and the Pentagon had deceived the American people over the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident. The LBJ Presidential tapes, declassified and released in 2001, proved that LBJ knew the Tonkin incident never happened. After dressing down his Defense Secretary Robert McNamara for misleading him, Johnson then discussed how to politically spin the non-event and escalate it as justification for air strikes.

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE PLANS TO RELOCATE THE U.S. ARMY ARMOR SCHOOL AND CENTER FROM FORT KNOX TO FORT BENNING: It is still in the works. The new installation staffed by an infantry/armor-blended organization called the Maneuver Center of Excellence is launching an expansion not seen at the post since the Vietnam War.

SHADOW OF THE BLADE: Is a movie available free-of charge for nonprofit and veteran's organizations that would like to show the film at veteran tribute events it was premiered in 2004. The film crew flew a huey 10,000 miles across the country for 10 months. They listened to the stories of Vietnam veterans and families who were personally affected by the war. Along the journey they met 12 Medal of Honor recipients and many war heroes, in addition to movie stars and mothers who lost their sons in war. The film ends in New Mexico on a sacred Apache ground where a Vietnam veteran and native American Ernie "Dogwolf" Lovato blessed the helicopter. The huey is now on display in the Smithsonian Museum of American History as part of an exhibit titled, "The Price of Freedom: Americans at War." To watch clips from the film, visit <http://www.intheshadowoftheblade.com/>

OLIVER STONE HAS REVIVED HIS PLANS TO FILM PINKVILLE, AN INVESTIGATIVE WAR FILM ON THE MARCH 1968 'MY LAI MASSACRE': The project was abandoned in 2007 where Bruce Willis was to play the role of helicopter pilot Hugh Thompson. This new project will have actor Shia LaBeouf, (his father was a Vietnam helicopter pilot in the area at the time) to portray Thompson.

ALELEGED PHONY SF COLONEL INVESTIGATED: When Elon University in NC honored some "hometown heroes" in November, it included a retired Green Beret colonel on a mission to speak out about human trafficking. William G. "Bill" Hillar for more than 5 years promoted himself as an expert in international trafficking and counter-terrorisms. He traveled the country speaking before charity groups, college students and even law enforcement organizations. Hillar was paid to teach classes at the Monterey Institute for international studies and on his website he claimed to be a retired Special Forces colonel. J.D. Hinton a retired Army Special Forces Soldier who makes it his business to ferret out phony war heroes and spec ops wannabes on his website; Professionalsoldier.com said, "only in his dreams, there is no record of Hillar in any Special Forces out fit—ever."

NEW VETERANS PARK FOR NORTH CAROLINA: When the North Carolina Veterans Park opens in Fayetteville on Independence Day, July 4, 2011, impressions and casts of hands from across the state will greet visitors. The bronze casts of 100 veterans' hands—one from each of the 100 NC counties—will be on display in the 18.3 acre park near the Airborne and Special Operations Museum.

CRAIG BONE AND ART FROM THE HEART; Craig Bone a former Rhodesian Light Infantry Soldier and Internationally known artist approached the American Red Cross with the project. Craig may be known to NCVVI Members as the artist that painted the "Operation Hump," November 8th 1965 battle that singers Big and Rich made famous with their song, "8 November." Lawrence Joel from Winston Salem

received the MOH as a result of the battle. Craig and three of the survivors were featured at a North Carolina Veterans Parade. In the ARC project, wounded soldiers who had an interest in art as a second career worked with Bone to create a piece of art and develop the back story for their work.

WARNING TO ALL VETERANS: Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, and Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefits and general information about the VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.

TRACK RATE OF BRAIN CANCER: The widows and families of Vietnam Veterans are asking Veterans Affairs, The Central Brain Tumor Registry and the American Brain Tumor Association to start tracking the statistical rate of brain cancer occurring in veterans.

USAA INSURANCE: American Legion members are now able to purchase USAA insurance.

RING LOST 45 YEARS AGO RETURNED: Steve Tanner, a Roseboro-Salemburg High School graduate and Vietnam Veteran opened a box sent to him in the mail. In the box, he discovered his high school ring that he had lost. Bill Thompson, another Vietnam Veteran, had the ring but does not remember how he came to have the ring. As it turned out Thompson who lives in California and Tanner who lives in NC, both 63 had been to many of the same places, including Vietnam, and Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Va. but at different times.

DRAFT DODGER AND WAR CORRESPONDENT MAKES MONEY WHILE IN VIETNAM: Joe and Elliot hung out together in Vietnam, writing dispatches just often enough to keep their Vietnam correspondence certificates valid. Elliot neglected to notify his draft board upon graduating from college. The two, "reporters" would go out into the boonies of the Mekong with the Australians and scrounge souvenirs. After coming back they would get with the Navy Public Affairs office who always happy to have reporters go out to interview sailors on the ships. As a result a lot of sailors who had never set foot on Vietnam soil had some very interesting war souvenirs.

THE WORLDS BIGGEST CAVE FOUND IN VIETNAM: The January 2011, National Geographic issue has the story and pictures. A local farmer, who had found the entrance to the Hang Son Doong cave, led the British-Vietnamese expedition to the cavern in a remote Vietnamese jungle in the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park. Measuring 262 by 262 feet in most places, the Hang Son Doong cave beats out the previous world-record holder. Explorers walked 2.8miles into the cave, before being blocked seasonal floodwaters-they think that the passage is even longer. In addition, for a couple of miles the cavern reaches more than 460 by 460 feet. The second team got flooded out.

FROM NCVVI'S FIRST PRSIDENT AND MAN BEHIND THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL ON THE NC STATE CAPITAL GROUNDS: Abbe Godwin, the designer and sculptor on the NC Vietnam Veterans Memorial presented Steve Acai with an elegant and powerful book published by HarperCollins Publishers. The book entitled, "The Mighty Fallen, Our Nation's Greatest War Memorials is not a simple photographic coffee table style book that included an inventory of memorials. The goal of the book is to use never before seen photos and text to tell the many stories of selected memorials in North America, and to learn what their creators wanted us to know about the deeds and sacrifices of those who served in the military. The North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Memorial, here in Raleigh, is one of those memorials that are included in the book.

LEADING VOICE FOR VIETNAM VETERANS, INSTRUMENTAL IN THE "WALL," VIETNAM MEMORIAL IN DC AND GO TO MAN FOR HELP GETTING THE NORTH CAROLINA VIETNAM MEMORIAL ESTABLISHED IS FOUND DEAD: John Wheeler, who was also the featured speaker at the dedication services of the NC Vietnam Memorial was found dead when his body fell out of a trash truck at the Wilmington, Delaware land fill. Police have called it a homicide and are investigating.

JOE HARSCH'S MILITARY HOME FORT MONMOUTH TO CLOSE: The Army Signal Corps is moving and Fort Monmouth, NJ is closing.

THE MAN SOME CALLED, "THE HERO OF THE VIETNAM WAR," DIES AND ALLIES WANT HIM BURIED IN ARLINGTON. Vang Pao, Laotian army general led Hmong forces in covert alliance with the US and is credited with saving thousands of US lives. Arlington already has at least one reminder of Hmong service, a modest plaque set on a piece of granite and identified as the Lao Veterans Memorial Monument. What is your opinion?

LOTTERY WINNER VIETNAM VETERAN: Jim McCullar the retired Boeing employee was one of the Mega Millions \$190,000,000 jack pot

Welcome Home: June 17-19, 2011

The Welcome Home 2011 has been designated to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the City of Chicago's 1986 Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade. Many events are planned but no parade.

DC Casino Night for Orphanage

The Board of Directors of the Global Spectrum Foundation has asked to have a Casino Night fundraiser to benefit the Orphanage Playground. They would like to hold it around Memorial Day or sometime in June or July. If they could have it on a Monday night the room would be donated. It will be a two day trip for NCVVI. Date will need to be discussed at the January meeting by all members.

Dalat Luncheon for the Orphanage

The tentative date is Saturday, March 5th after the POW/MIA service. Tickets prices are tentatively to be \$20 each or two for \$35. Discussion and suggestions are appreciated before and at the January meeting.

Bridge Back Foundation Website

Thanks to the generosity of Amnon Nissan, the Education wing of NCVVI has a website. It is currently under construction and covers the education and orphanage playground efforts of NCVVI. Presently there is a very large amount of Video, discussions and suggestions appreciated before and at the January meeting. Go to: www.bridgebackfoundation.org to see and appreciate your website. Also you should visit your NCVVI website at www.ncvvi.org.

Education

Bob Matthews has written a fantastic newsletter, "The Report" that all members need to read and distribute to any and everyone. In "The Report," Bob discusses the efforts of NCVVI and the Bridge Back Foundation past and future. NCVVI members have a lot to be proud of and need to share that pride with the public. Copy included with this newsletter. Most of the LOV classes will be getting started soon in the second semester. Teachers will be looking for speakers. Bob has also requested a meeting with the incoming Wake School Superintendent Tata, a former brigadier general.

Invitation to attend 2011 Vietnamese Tet Celebration
Vietnamese American Association of Raleigh:

Dear Friends,

Our Vietnamese American Community will mark the beginning of the year Cat with a Tet Festival which will be held on January 23, 2011 at the Lighthouse Convention Center located at 326 Tryon Road, Raleigh.

You are cordially invited to come and join us in this occasion. In addition to exhibits by many vendors and traditional Vietnamese food booths, we will have a special entertainment program performed by local talent. This will include songs, martial arts demonstrations and etc.

The doors will be open for public from 10-4. Official ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM

Your presence will be an honor for our community and we will be delighted to welcome you on January at the Tet Festival.

Sincerely yours,

Thien Dinh Truong, President

Found on Rolling Thunder site: THE FLAG DOES NOT FLY BECAUSE OF THE WIND THAT BLOWS IT. THE FLAG FLIES BECAUSE EACH SOLDIER'S LAST BREATH BLOWS BY IT.

Airborne Museum

Members of NCVVI had a great road trip to Fayetteville to the Airborne Museum and onto Ft. Bragg to see the Special Forces Museum. The displays at the Airborne were well done and informative. Pictures will be available at the January meeting. The Special Forces Museum which has been scaled back has some good **Song Tay Raid** displays.

Christmas Eve Day Breakfast

Veteran, President of Rolling Thunder Chapter 7 and NCVVI Associate Member, Monica Cash and her family held their annual Christmas Eve Day breakfast. There was a lot of good food and people in attendance. Ya'll come! Next Year! Parking is a premium, they may need to check on a shuttle bus.

NCVVI Calendar and Opportunities

See website for additions:

23 January: The Vietnamese American Tet festival, NCVVI and friends invited 10-4

25 January: The First meeting of NCVVI for 2011 at VFW Post 7383, Reedy Creek Rd. Cary. Dinner on NCVVI at 6ish.Bo Williams and company cooks. Meeting at 7:00

26 January: Wake County Council of Veterans Organizations meeting, at American Legion Post 1, Raleigh. Dinner \$8.00 at 7:00. NCVVI members invited

28 January: Please note this is a Friday. Casino Night Fund Raiser at Heather Hills Swim Club in Garner. All members and extra volunteers of draftees needed.

5 February: North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Helicopter Pilots are guest at POW/MIA service.

22 February: NCVVI general membership meeting. Cook to be volunteered.

23 February: WCCOVO meeting

5 March: Orange County Marine Corps Association to be guest readers at POW/MIA service

5 March: Bridge Back Foundation, Orphanage Playground luncheon at Dalat

22 March: NCVVI general meeting

30 March: WCCOVO meeting

2 April: North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Association will be guest readers at POW/MIA Service.

Vietnam Veterans of the NFL. As the playoffs are going on getting ready for the Super Bowl football is on a lot of minds. How about the Veterans who where members of the NFL?

Rocky Blier: Drafted in the 16th round of the 1968 NFL draft, figured he would be sent to the National

Guard or Reserve but was sent to Vietnam with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Hit by rifle fire and grenade shrapnel he was told he would never play again. But he did play again and was the Steelers 4th all-time rushing leader and won 4 Super Bowls.

Joseph Bellino: Earned the Heisman in 1960 for the Naval Academy, and was drafted by the NFL's Redskins and AFL's New England Patriots. Bellino, served in the Navy for 28 years.

John Butler: Served four years in the Marines including a tour in Vietnam, had his playing career cut short by a knee injury but became the General Manager of the San Diego Chargers.

Joe Haering: Served as a company commander in Vietnam went on to become an assistant coach for numerous teams in the NFL.

Ralph Haywood: After playing only 5 games for USC in 1943 he was drafted by the Marine Corps and sent to the South Pacific aboard the USS Iowa. Following the war he played 5 season for both the NFL and AFL before returning to the military for the Korean War. He served in the Marines for 32 years and is the only NFL player to serve in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Roger Staubach: Drafted in 1964 by the Cowboys out of the Naval Academy, where he earned the Hiesman. But to fulfill his military commitment he volunteered for Vietnam where he served as a supply officer. He returned to the NFL in 1969 winning 4 Super Bowls and was later inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Charlie Joiner and Ray Nitschke, both Hall of Fame players served during the Vietnam era.

Les Steckel: Enlisted in the Marines, serving in Vietnam. Played on the Quantico football team after Vietnam, retiring after 30 years of service. Worked as a coach of numerous college and NFL teams

Bob Kalsu: Drafted by the Buffalo Bills in 1068 and was the Rookie of the Year. In order to complete his ROTC commitment, he became a second lieutenant with the 101st Airborne Division. He was killed in action on July 21, 1970 near the A Chau Valley.

Don Steinbrunner: Played tackle for the Cleveland Browns until a career ending knee injury. He joined the Air Force and was offered a safe assignment but turned it down. In Vietnam on July 20, 1967, the C-123 plane that he was on was shot down killing all aboard.

Interesting website to visit about movie honoring Michigan Vietnam Veterans:

www.ourvietnamgeneration.com

Don't forget to visit the NCVVI website, www.Ncvvi.org, and the Bridge Back Foundation website, www.bridgebackfoundation.org.

One more thing: Please read the Bridge Back Report and share it with everyone, be proud of what you and your Veterans Group is doing.

YOUR 2011 DUES ARE DUE!



One more thing again; Comments, suggestions, news, events and what-ever that you feel that your fellow veterans would like to know send it to bill.dixon@ZipRealty.com



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 (\$20 per Year) _____ (check amount)

_____ Associate Membership (\$10 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)

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. (6:00 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