



The Veteran's Voice

June, 2009
Vol. 8, Issue 6

Members attending the June meeting included Bill Dixon, Bo Williams, Bob Matthews, Ron Wagoner, Joe Harsch, Bud Gross, Lee Wilson, Ron Harris, Dave Samuels and Bobby Thrower. A very fine meal was prepared and served by Bill Dixon.

Finances

Education

Upcoming Events

Old Business

New Business

Dues Due List

Education

Andy Hunt of Leesville Road High School will be leading the start up and instructing of LOV for their next school year. The course will also be starting up in Alamance County.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to Jerold M. Starr during this time of sickness. Jerold is one of the authors and the editor of "*The Lessons of the Vietnam War*". This book is used today in the study course affectionately referred to as "LOV" This manual and other information was shared by him for us to use in expanding the course into North Carolina. He has authored many publications including a special issue on "*Teaching the Vietnam War*", the official journal of the National Council for the Social Studies. Without his assistance, spreading the real story of Viet Nam would have been a real struggle. Thanks, Jerry!

(To read more about Jerry, check on [http://jerrystarr.info./](http://jerrystarr.info/))

President:

Ron Wagoner

Vice President:

Bo Williams

Treasurer:

Bud Gross

Secretary:

Bobby Thrower

Directors:

Bill Dixon

Joe Harsh

John Odom

Bob Matthews

Al Ely, III



C&E Classes Lead Way to Raise Supplies

One project of the C&E classes of EHS Social Studies Department was to gather supplies for the NCVVI "*Bridge Back Foundation*". The students raised over 1300 supplies to send with the Bridge Back Foundation when they return to Viet Nam. These will be distributed to school and orphan children during our trip to Viet Nam. The school and medical supplies are much appreciated and will be hand delivered to the children by the NCVVI members.

Old Business:

Onslow Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony:

After 10 years of hard work and two million dollars raised, on June 13, 2009, Onslow Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation members and others dedicated the new memorial. The unveiling was held within the Memorial Gardens, near the Beirut Memorial. All branches of the military assisted in the dedication. Kenji Horn, president of the Onslow Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation stated, *“It’ll be there and open to the public. For that type of memorial, something that’s there for everyone and not having to charge admission, not having government input, that sort of thing, I think that’s quite an accomplishment.”*

Bill Dixon, NCVVI representative, was one of the guest speakers. Below is a copy of his speech:

“Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for being here today!

Vietnam veterans, welcome home!

Men and women, who are serving our country today, thank you for your service and sacrifices!

A special thanks and appreciation to the Onslow Vietnam Memorial Foundation for their hard work and dedication to this day and this memorial.

We are all here today at this special place, not to celebrate war, because war is a terrible thing; it brings out the worst and best of men.

We are gathered here as a grateful nation, to commemorate and remember the men and women and their families who gave all that they had to give for their country, in a far off place called Vietnam.



I remember very vividly June 1967 when my plane landed in country at Ben Hoa airbase Vietnam, as a private E-1. It was a year that affected the rest of my life. The heat, humidity, smells and the fact I was in a strange place and at war hit hard as the door of the plane opened. I acquired many skills during my tour; working in an office, driving a jeep all over the country, KP, burning crap, experiencing a totally foreign culture to a North Carolina kid. Humping through the jungle, learning leeches are not lethal just uhkee, experiencing a thing called "TET" where the Long Binn ammo dump was blown, meeting my wife in Hawaii and June '68 as a much older specialist E-5, hearing the pilot say 'we have now left Vietnam airspace'.

This glass wall of names is not another abstract stature. These names represent real people and real families and what they gave so that we can remain free. This memorial will take its place as one of the most beautiful and finest in the nation.

I challenge you, the veterans of Onslow County, to get involved, assist the memorial foundation in finishing their vision and keep this sacred place, not just another memorial you visit on Veterans Day or Memorial Day but a place of gathering and reflection.

On the first Saturday of the month at 12:00 noon for the past 22 + years at the Vietnam Memorial on the State Capital grounds, North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. with Rolling Thunder, the Marine Corps. And Reserve and other veterans groups meet to call out the names of North Carolinians still missing in action in South East Asia./ You have an open invitation to join us and be part of the remembrance, and NCVVI would like to be invited to any events you hold.

Again, thank you, the members of the Onslow Vietnam Memorial Foundation for inviting me to this special day and place and to all the veterans here know you are my heroes. God bless this place and the United States of America!"



New Business:

NCVVI Member Recognized:

Ron Harris has been selected as the outstanding NCVVI member of the year (2008). His dedication to the organization and “behind the scenes” works were some of the aptitudes he was recognized for. Congratulations to a fine member!

Events:

Independence Day, July 4th, “a holiday in the U.S. commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence for the United States”

- NCVVI will celebrate Independence Day on the State Capital grounds with several events. A wreath will be placed at the Viet Nam memorial during the 11:45 AM- MIA/POW remembrance service. The “small wall” will be on display along with Viet Nam era vintage weapons and support equipment on the northwest corner of the Capitol grounds. There will be a service at the West entrance area of the capital building but our remembrance service will be held around the Viet Nam Memorial (east side of Capitol grounds). Also, there will be a “Tea party” celebration at Halifax Square with a color guard (provided by NCVVI). Our set up will start at 8:00 AM with disassembly at 3:00 PM. Meet us at the Capital and enjoy this very important day.

August 29th – CASINO NIGHT 6:00 PM Heather Hills Club House - 901 Claymore Dr., Garner. (Corner of Claymore and Aversboro Road, Garner, N.C.) Plans are set for a night of fun and entertainment. Shuffle the cards, spin the wheel, enjoy the sights and the fellowship. This event has been great fun in the past and we look forward to another night of enjoyment. NCVVI is your organization, come spend time with the other members and help raise money to fund our projects.

The Raleigh Elks Lodge #735 has graciously offered us the use of their facilities. Several types of events that could be held there were discussed. Maybe Texas Hold'em Tournament? An Events Committee was voted on and Dave Samuels, Bo Williams and Ron Harris have agreed to serve. Watch for upcoming events in *The Veteran's Voice*.



VA Reopening Health Care Enrollment:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has expanded access to health care enrollment for certain Veterans who had been excluded due to their income. Refer to: <http://www.veteranstoday.com/article7370.html> for more information.

July Meeting Meal:

Bob Matthews volunteered for chef de Nuit for July 28th monthly meeting located in Cary.

Dues Due List: (If your dues are paid up, please forgive this list.)

Acai, Steve	Dyer, James E.	McNeely, Michael J.
Amerson, Bill	Ely, Al	Melton, Norman
Beane, Phil	Faulkner, Brady	Murray, Lou J.
Beddingfield, Robert E.	Gibson, Hoot	Osman, Alfred T.
Bimbo, Carl L.	Harris, Ron	Palmer, Mark
Bozeman, Rob	Johnson, Steve	Patrikios, Bob
Brooks, David	Kelly, Edward J.	Peters, Ralph W.
Brown, Robert	Kenney, Whit	Rawlings, John
Bywater, Mike	Kenny, Dean	Samuels, David
Carter, Robert	Kesgen, Edward	Seagroves, Ted
Cook, George G.	King, Don	Sodan, Robert J.
Cook, Michael J.	Kuhr, Bonnie	Thrower, Bobby
Corbett, Vance	Larson, Keith	Wagoner, Ron
Davis, Kevin	Loving, Jim	Walters, Ron
Dawson, Robert L.	Mahnke, Nancy	West, Dale
Del Vecchio, RJ	Matthews, Robert G.	White, Bob
Dutcher, Dale	McBryde, Fred	Whitmire, W. T. (ret)
Dyer, George D.	McGinnis, Dwight	Williams, Bo



Membership 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}

(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