

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans

The Veteran's Voice



NCVVI WEBSITE:
www.ncvvi.com

BRIDGE BACK FOUNDATION
WEBSITE:
www.bridgebackfoundation.org

President:

Ron Wagoner

Vice President:

Joe Harsch

Treasurer:

Bud Gross

Secretary/News Letter:

Bill Dixon

Directors:

Bill Dixon

Dennis Abels

Bo Williams

Lee Booher



November 2011

The October 25th 2011 meeting of NCVVI was held with 12 members present and one new member, Bob Krgznovek. Dinner was by Chef Matthews.

It has been a tough month for the membership, Bud Gross had surgery and them had a nerve situation. Ange had a knee replacement and Betsy Harsch fell (they say Joe did not push her) and broke her ankle and had an operation where they put 7 pins in. Now neither she nor Joe can go through the metal detectors at the airport.

Casino night with the Elks, appeared to go well, it was announced that it would be done again next year. NCVVI held up its part well, with tickets sold, prizes and dealers. The total funds for NCVVI will be given at the November 22, meeting. All in attendance said they had a good time and ate very well.

POW/MIA Ceremony on November 5th had a good and varied attendance. There is talk that another name will be retired soon.

Veterans Day Parade was held on Veterans Day. NCVVI and the South Vietnamese Military had good representation. Thanks to Al Ely for bringing his truck with a trailer filled with bales of straw for the non marchers. The marchers picked up stragglers as they march down Fayetteville Street. Immediately following the Veterans Day Ceremonies held by the Wake County Council of Veterans, NCVVI held the POW/MIA ceremony with a lot of spectators who did not know about it before. NCVVI also picked up a couple of new members. Some shirts and bracelets were sold along with \$100 donated to the playground fund.

NCVVI had a table at the Dixie Gun and Knife Show, on November 19th and 20th. Thanks to Dennis Abels and his son, President Wagoner, Bill Dixon and Bob Matthews (sorry if I missed you if you helped) for their efforts in supporting NCVVI by manning the table. Hopefully some new members will come out of these efforts. Sales were slow.

Education report by Bob Matthews. Bob told those at the meeting that schools were in session and the if members would like to speak at a school to contact the teacher. Cary High School led by Russell Page

and Athens High School led by Jim Bahm Students are participating in the Bridge Back Distance Learning by participating with the orphanage and are preparing their envelopes with mementos and personal information to be carried by the playground erection crew to the students of Vietnam. It was a very successful aspect of the 2009 Bridge Back Foundation trip back to Vietnam.

November 22, 2011 the last NCVVI official meeting in 2011. The November meeting will end the business meetings for the year. But there are two big events for the membership in December by NCVVI.

The Annual Candle Light Service, will start at 6:00 at the NC Vietnam Memorial on the Capitol grounds, on December 18th. All members and friends are encouraged to attend this always moving time of remembrances. You might even think about asking President Wagoner if there is anything you could do to help.

NCVVI's Christmas get together, will be held immediately following the Candle Lighting Service. More information to follow as it gets closer to the date.

NCVVI Scholarship Czar Bud Gross announced it was time to select essay topics and that he would send out the list of non selected subjects for membership selection. The final selection for the essay topic will be announced at the November meeting.

Home Coming for Heroes, was being held in Fayetteville for 10 days around Veterans Day. At this writing I believe some NCVVI members attended some events and will report at the November meeting.

December 3, 2011 POW/MIA Service will be the last monthly 1st Saturday one this year. The next one will be January 7, 2012. It would be great to see all of NCVVI member's end 2011 by attending the December 3rd reading.

NCVVI's Orphanage playground project is continuing to move on. Permission to ship the playground equipment was received from Hue. Dave Samuels, Joe Harsch, Bob Matthews, and Bill Dixon went out to the WoodPlay office and assisted in the dismantling and packaging of the main piece. The large center piece was taken down and packed, a teeter tot, basket ball stand and hoop, extra swings, basketball and pump, badminton set, Frisbee, bean bag game, drill and other erection tools were all packed for shipment. Over 3,500 lbs was shipped November 21, 2011 to arrive in Danang around the first of February. Hopefully funds and the weather will allow the grading and concrete work after TET. The next step is to continue raising funds for the concrete and landscaping as well as the delivery and storage cost. If you would like to go and be part of the erection crew and or help with funds see Bob Matthews. The Bridge Back Foundation hopes to have a table with a display at the January TET Celebration along with a presentation to the Raleigh Lions Club in December. A generous donation was given by NCVVI member Lew and Joyce Feuenstien.

November Chef, will be Monica. She always has a delicious spread, so come and eat with NCVVI. Also Monica and Curtis always have a BIG CHRISTMAS EVE DAY BREAKFAST. And they say Ya'll come. See Monica for the address and directions.

2011 has been a difficult year for many of the members and friends of NCVVI. But as bad as we feel it may have been there is still a lot we can all be thankful for. As you enjoy your Thanksgiving remember the men whose names we call out the names of at our monthly ceremony along with their families. Give thanks for the men and women who are now serving our country doing what we did, missing Thanksgiving with our families and putting themselves in harms way. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU AND YOURS!**



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. (6:00 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