



North Carolina Vietnam Veteran's The Veteran's Voice

October, 2010



Finances

Special topic

Education

Upcoming Events

Old / New Business

Information

Dues Due List

Membership renewal form

Attendance

Del Del Vecchio, Ron Harris, Al Ely, Richard Johnson, Bob Matthews, Joe Harsch, Bill Dixon, Ron Wagoner, Dennis Abels, Bud Gross, Lee Booher, Monica Cash, Bo Williams and the newest member Bob Allen who served at MACV. The meeting dinner Chef was Al Ely.

Presidents Dinner

Ron Wagoner held his **president's dinner** and awards event at the Raleigh Elks Lodge. Hot dogs & burgers were enjoyed by all along with the Vietnamese supplied spring rolls. Bo Williams will be teaching a class on starting a gas grill in 12 easy steps. President Wagoner recognized the South Vietnam Military members with an Honorary Membership to NCVVI along with awarding two friends of NCVVI who have worked hard to support the organization. Bob Stempler and Amnon Nissan with Honorary Memberships. Lee of Dalat Restaurant and Dalat Seafood was recognized as Sponsor of the Year. Bill Dixon was recognized with a plaque for being past president. **And Bob Matthews was awarded the coveted North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc "Veteran of the year."**

Education

Due to a communication challenge the Wake County Teachers Academy was postponed until October 29th. All members are invited to participate on the new date. As requested earlier, **would all members please send a brief bio to the secretary so a speakers list can be prepared for the LOV teachers.** This will be an aid for the teachers to invite you when they are studying your time in country of MOS.

Bob Matthews had a new Vietnam Photo book that he purchased from Ollie's for \$10.00. It has some great pictures at a great price.

Some of the **Bridge Back Team** will be visiting the head of the Army JROTC at Ft. Monroe, Virginia on October 12th. They have shown interest in putting the **LOV curriculum in the JROTC program** nationwide.

Talks are still on-going with the **Moving Wall** group to come here as well as with the owner of a major sports team owner for financial support for the **Bridge Back** programs; more information later. A new packet of information for teachers has been prepared by Bob.

President:

Ron Wagoner

Vice President:

Joe Harsch

Treasurer:

Bud Gross

Secretary:

Bill Dixon

Directors:

Bill Dixon

Bobby Thrower

Dennis Abels

Bo Williams

Lee Booher

For those who went on the **Bridge Back** trip to Vietnam, **Mr. Song**, our Vietnamese guide, will be in Washington in November. There will be a cookout held in his honor by Global Spectrum. Anyone wishing to go should contact Bob Matthews.

The South Vietnamese Military organization has asked for NCVVI's help with a **petition** to have the former South Vietnamese flag (**Vietnam Heritage and Freedom Flag**) recognized by the city of Raleigh as it has been done in Charlotte. This will allow them to fly the flag on special occasions. NCVVI agreed to assist.

A design for a T-shirt to be sold by NCVVI was discussed again and a committee was named to have one designed and printed by Veterans Day.

NCVVI made a commitment to raise \$10,000 to tear out and re-grade the yard of **Nuoc Ngot Orphanage** and put in a playground. This is the orphanage the **Bridge Back** visited on the trip to Vietnam. Ron Harris and Bill Dixon are heading up a committee to create fundraising opportunities. Please give any ideas or presentation opportunities to either Ron or Bill, this is a very worthwhile project. An orphanage casino night is being scheduled for January.

Scholarship

It's that time of the year again when Bud needs scholarship essay ideas from us. Send your idea(s) to Bud at budgross@nc.rr.com. Bud has a list of 36 topics from previous years that we can also use.

Upcoming Events

October 16th: The Blue Star Mothers will be holding a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at Applebee's neighborhood Grill and Bar at 11805 Retail Dr. in Wake Forest. These funds are used to send **care packages to our troops**.

October 26th: **Monthly meeting** at the Cary VFW meeting hall, Dinner at 6:30

October 29th: **Teachers Academy** at Raleigh Lodge

October 30th: Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 will be having its Support the Troops Raffle. Tickets are \$10.00, prizes are \$2,500 for 1st, \$1,000 for 2nd, \$500 for 3rd. If you would like to support our military and possibly help the orphanage, purchase a ticket with the orphanage as the owner. It is a win/win. You support our troops and a very **deserving group of children**. Contact Bill Dixon for your raffle ticket. (434-7345)

November 6th: NCVVI will be marching in the **North Carolina Veterans Day Parade**, we need you and any of your Vietnam Veteran friends to march. Members of the former **South Vietnam military** will also be marching. An e-mail will be sent out as to time and place to meet.

November 6th: Immediately after the **Veterans Day Parade Ceremony**, the **Blue Star Mothers** will be the guest readers for NCVVI's monthly POW/MIA ceremony.

November 11th: **Veteran's Day**, NCVVI will be holding a special Veterans Day ceremony at the memorial. Please try to attend on 6 and 11

November 20th: Raleigh **Christmas Parade**

November 23rd: **Last regular meeting** of the year.

December 4th: Monthly POW/MIA ceremony with **Ray Price Harley Club and Marine Corps Reserve**, will be guest readers. It is the Toys for Tots kick off

December 19th: **Candle Light Service**. NCVVI's annual Christmas remembrance of our POW/MIAs

Trivia

Who was the first American to die in Vietnam? What year?

Vietnam in the news

Is Vietnam and the Vietnam war disappearing from the public awareness and news? Hardly, there seems to be more conversation now than ever. After doing a 30 day Google Alert on Vietnam War, there were 556 articles in which the Vietnam War was mentioned or the article was related to the war.

Vietnam War Myths and facts: 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era, August 5, 1964-May 7, 1975.

2,709,918 Americans actually served in uniform in Vietnam. (9.7% of their generation). The 1995 census shows that there were 1,713,823 surviving Vietnam Veterans and 1,002,511 is the 2000 census number for surviving Vietnam Veterans. So, from 1995 to 2000 censuses that is a loss of 711,000 or 390 per day. But, 13,853,037 is the number who claimed to have served in Vietnam in the 2000 census. (Four out of five who claim to be Vietnam vets are Phonies).

Cracks in Vietnam Veterans Memorial stump scientist: A team of scientists has been hired to inspect newly discovered vertical cracks. Its possible heat is the blame for the cracks, but are not an immediate threat to the memorial. The concern for the memorial stands in contrast to the state of the National Mall as a whole. The area is in a state of repair, it has been 30 years since the National Parks Service last renovated the mall. With 3,000 events each year it has more visitors than Yellowstone, Yosemite and Grand Canyon Parks combined.

Recording of Kent State shootings supports ideas of shots sounding just prior: A tape recording of the 1970 shooting deaths of 4 Kent State Univ. by Ohio National Guardsmen reveals the sound of pistol shots 70 seconds earlier. Forensic audio expert Stuart Allen conducted an extensive review of the recording and he detected four shots matching the acoustic signature of a .38-caliber revolver firing. Terry Norman, a Kent State student photographing protesters that day for the FBI, was carrying a loaded 38 revolver under his coat. He was not available for questions at the time of this article but denied firing it at the time.

Henry Kissinger at a State Department conference on Vietnam lamented the anguish that engulfed a generation of Americans as the war dragged on. He said that the core problem for the US was that its central objective of preserving an independent, viable South Vietnam state was unachievable-and the US adversary was unbending. "America wanted compromise and Hanoi wanted Victory," Kissinger said. He went on to say that he regretted that what should have been straightforward disagreements over the US approach to Vietnam became transmuted into a moral issue. The tragedy of the war was that the faith of Americans in each other became destroyed in the process, Kissinger said. "I believe that most of what went wrong in Vietnam we did to ourselves," Kissinger was quoted as saying.

Fake Vietnam Vet Charged: Michael Hamilton of Richlands, NC was indicted and charged with posing as a highly decorated Marine Colonel. He faces charges that he lied about Vietnam battle injuries and took more than \$30,000 in veterans benefits in the last three years for service related ailments

Next Meeting

Please mark your calendar for all the opportunities listed in your newsletter. Especially remember our next meeting on October 26th. Bring a Veteran for dinner on NCVVI. If you have suggestions or comments for the Veterans Report bring them to the meeting or email the secretary at bill.dixon@ZipRealty.com. **See you at the Parade**, rides will be provided to anyone needing one for the parade.

Trivia answer...

The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.

Did you know NCVVI has a great website? Have you looked at it?
If not, try it at www.ncvvi.org and let us know what you think.



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

Acai, Steve	Dutcher, Dale	McNeely, Michael J.
Beane, Phil	Dyer, George D.	Melton, Norman
Beddingfield, Robert E.	Dyer, James E.	Palmer, Mark A.
Bimbo, Carl L.	Faulkner, Brady	Patrikios, Bob
Bozeman, Rob	Johnson, Steve	Peters, Ralph W.
Brooks, David	Kelly, Edward J.	Rawlings, John
Brown, Robert	Kenney, Whit	Samuels, David
Bywater, Mike	Kenny, Dean	Seagroves, Ted
Carter, Robert	Kesgen, Edward	Sodan, Robert J.
Cook, George G.	King, Donald	Toothaker, David
Cook, Michael J.	Kuhr, Bonnie	Walters, Ron
Davis, Kevin M.	Larson, Keith	West, Dale
Dawson, Robert L.	Loving, John C.	White, Robert
	McGinnis, Dwight R.	Whitmire, Warren T. (ret)



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