

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans

The Veteran's Voice

September, 2011

Friday September 16, 2011 is National POW/MIA recognition day. NCVVI will have the calling of names at 12:00 noon at the memorial



NCVVI WEBSITE:

www.ncvvi.com

BRIDGE BACK FOUNDATION WEBSITE:

www.bridgebackfoundation.org



The Wall That Heals in Kinston: The Kinston VVA has the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial September 15th-19th in Emma Webb Park, Kinston. NCVVI's friends and comrades "The South Vietnamese Military" will be part of a wreath laying ceremony on Thursday the 19th at 10:00. On Friday a POW/MIA recognition ceremony will be held at 7:00 with Keynote speaker Red McDaniel. McDaniel a Kinston native spent many years in the Hanoi Hilton. NCVVI's Bridge Back Foundation will have a display and will have a presentation at Kinston Academy on Friday at 9:00. Activities are all free and ongoing 24 hours. NCVVI members are welcomed by event director Eric Cantu.

Lessons of Vietnam Encore Class: The first class by Bob Matthews will start at 6:00 at the McKimmon Center on NCSU campus. (Western Blvd and Gorman). 16 have signed up to take the class, NCVVI members should contact Bob to see what can be done to assist and are welcomed to sit in on the class. The Encore classes will be held for 6 Thursdays. The sign-up for the Wake County School's Continuing Education LOV class to be held at Athens High School on Oct. 13-Dec 14 is still ongoing. Who do you know that would like to find out what you did in the 60's? Have them call Bob @ 469-9892 to register.

Ralph J. Reno: One of the missing from North Carolina has finally returned home. The UH-34 Seahorse helicopter with 38 year old Master Sgt. Reno, two other American Soldiers and a squad of Vietnamese commandos crashed due to turbulence. His and the remains of 12 Vietnamese Nationals were laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, September 8, 2011 after 45 years missing.

Wake County's Veterans Service Officers: If you need assistance or know someone who does, Gary Raiford's direct number is 856-6533. This will get Gary without going thru a secretary. Gary reports he is seeing Vietnam Veterans more than any other.

President:

Ron Wagoner

Vice President:

Joe Harsch

Treasurer:

Bud Gross

Secretary/News Letter:

Bill Dixon

Directors:

Bill Dixon

Dennis Abels

Bo Williams

Lee Booher

Grand Finale Celebration of Salute Our Troops 2011: Was held Thursday September 15, 2011 at the Koka Booth Amphitheatre. Kangaroo Express collected donations from Memorial Day thru Labor Day. The campaign benefits the USO, Wounded Warrior Project and state-based military charities. At the writing of the newsletter the actual amount donated is not known but exceeds 2 million dollars. It was to be the largest check ever presented to the USO.

NCVVI's Casino Nights: All hands and friends are needed for both planned events.

September 24 NCVVI will be doing a Casino Night for Heather Hills in Garner. They have been very good to NCVVI. This one we set up, play the games, break down and go home. September 24th, with set up beginning at 6:00. As our "Pit Boss" will be out of town on a long planned trip please contact President Ron Wagoner with questions and your ability to participate. President-233-9446

November 4, 2011 will be a joint venture with NCVVI and Raleigh Elks Lodge 735. For this one NCVVI will be selling tickets, getting prizes, setting up, playing the games, breaking down and drawing for prizes. The Elks will furnish the lodge building and selling tickets, securing prizes and assist with the games. This is a 50/50 event for both organizations. Elks income will be donated to the USO and other Veteran projects. Tickets will be available soon, start getting prizes and items for the silent auction. A joint donation letter will be available for donations

North Carolina State Fair: Veterans and active duty will get free admission to the State Fair on Wednesday October 19th. Just show proof at gate.

NCVVI's Orphanage project: With the help of the local Vietnamese community and the hard work and dedication of NCVVI members the fund raising project is going well. Enough funds for the concrete portion of the playground have been raised, now the playground equipment is the next item. Just under \$10,000 has been raised but more is needed for the equipment. Please take a moment to go on line to look at commercial grade playground equipment, think about shipping cost to Vietnam and this will give you an idea of how much more needs to be raised. NCVVI has a lot to be proud of, and will keep the goal of helping the children of the orphanage and the home for the blind going. The trip back to put in the equipment is planned for February 2012. Do you plan on going? If you are a member of another organization that would allow a presentation of NCVVI's project please contact Bill Dixon-434-7345.

Veterans Day Parade: The North Carolina 2011 Veterans Parade will be on Friday November 11. Please plan on marching or riding with NCVVI. Invite all Vietnam Veterans to join with NCVVI in the parade.

Gun and Knife Show: NCVVI has signed up to man a booth at the November 19-20 Gun and Knife show. Volunteers for set up, manning and break down are needed. Contact the president.

How would you like an ongoing fund raiser with no work? Do you remember the old Vietnam Veterans pick up service and the American Way Thrift Store? They are gone. There is no local store. If you know of a thrift store that would possibly be interested in joining with North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. in using the NCVVI name for a fee, please contact Bill Dixon.

My HealthVet: What is My HealthVet? It is a powerful tool to help veterans better understand and manage their health. It provides access to trusted health information, links to Federal and VA benefits and resources, on line VA prescription refills, tools to assist in creating a personal health record. How do you register? Go to My HealthVet at www.myhealth.va.gov and click on the Register button located in the Member Login box on the right side of the screen. The things you can do now or soon are; order prescriptions, view prescription history, viewing VA Health Records, View Appointments, get Lab results.

New member gets award: Lew Feuerstein has received the “Exceptional Service Award” from the Air Force Association.

Politics: Even though NCVVI is a non political organization, its members should support long time member and past President John Odom in his running again for his Raleigh City Council seat. City Council is supposed to be a non party race. If you live in his district give him your vote, if you don't live in his district tell your friends in his district they should give him their vote. Want to help with the campaign, contact John.

Congressman David Price spoke at the August Wake County Veterans Council meeting. He stated his continued support for Veterans and Veterans issues. He also said that he would like to see more funds for Research for Veterans health issues, such as cancer, brain injury, mental health and chemical agents.

Employment Security Commission will have a job fair Wed, November 9th at the Wake County Commons bldg. The commission also has people to assist in preparing resumes.

Sept. 15-17: Rolling Thunders Ride Home for former POWs in Andersonville, Ga.

Sept. 21: Encore LOV class

Sept. 24: Heather Hills Casino fund raiser

Sept. 27: NCVVI's monthly meeting Mike Lynch Chef.

Sept. 28: Wake County Council of Veterans Organizations

Sept. 28: Encore LOV class

Oct. 1: Monthly calling of the names guest Rolling Thunder Chapter 4

Oct. 5: Encore LOV class

Oct. 12: Encore LOV class

Oct. 13 LOV class at Athens

Oct. 19: Encore LOV class

Oct. 25 Monthly meeting

Oct. 26 LOV class at Athens

Oct. 26 Wake County Council of Veterans Organizations



The Bridge Back and South Vietnamese Military at a Vietnamese shopping center fund raising

Vietnam in the news: The following articles represent the on going interest in Vietnam and the Vietnam War. The articles do not necessarily represent the beliefs or opinions of NCVVI or its members. Comments and opinions are welcomed for inclusion in the next newsletter

Jailed War Veteran's Death in Vietnam Draws Condemnation: Marianne Brown | Hanoi, Vietnam

The prison death of a former soldier who fought for the South during the Vietnam War has sparked concern among international observers in Vietnam. In a prison hospital on the outskirts of Hanoi, war veteran and political prisoner Truong Van Suong died only 25 days after returning from a year-long medical parole.

The former soldier, who fought for the former Republic of Vietnam, suffered from severe heart disease and high blood pressure. He was 68. Human Rights Watch spokesman Phil Robertson condemned Vietnamese authorities for sending Suong back to jail. "It's frankly cruel and inhuman to send a man that sick back to detention. I think it was because the Ministry of Public Security wanted to make an example of him," said Robertson. Suong spent nearly half of his life, more than three decades, behind bars. After the Vietnam War ended in 1975, he was sent to a re-education camp for six years. Robertson said the length of time is significant.

"The fact that he was held from '75 to '81 indicated that he was someone of significant concern for the incoming government. There was systematic discrimination against former army and officials of the government of the former South Vietnam," he said. "There was an assessment of who needed to be in re-education for longer and shorter periods. Following his release in 1981, Suong fled to Thailand where he joined The United Front of Patriotic Force for the Liberation of Vietnam. The group, now disbanded, tried to enter the country 10 times in three years. More than 20 members were arrested. Suong was detained when he tried to land on the South coast in 1983. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. In a statement released to the Associated Press, Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs insisted Suong's health was stable when he was sent back to prison.

Nguyen Minh Thuyet, a former deputy in Vietnam's National Assembly, said generally speaking, prisoners who are seriously ill should be allowed to die at home. He says this is in line with Vietnamese customs and would help both the prisoners and their families. Thuyet agrees that soldiers who fought for the regime in Saigon were unfairly treated after the war ended in 1975. He said those from revolutionary backgrounds, like workers or soldiers, would get better treatment than people from the city or members of the lower middle class. He says bad treatment of soldiers who fought for the South or former government officials was a limitation of the period, adding now there is no discrimination against people or families who took part in the Southern government.

Suong is the second political prisoner to die in jail in recent months. On July 11, Nguyen Van Trai died in Southeast Vietnam after serving nearly 15 years for what the government called 'fleeing abroad in opposition to the people's administration'. He was 74 and suffered from liver cancer. He died just five months before his term was up.

Robertson said political prisoners with serious health problems should be put at the front of the line for immediate and unconditional release. He points to the case of human rights defender Father Nguyen Van Ly, who was sent back to jail after a year-long medical parole in July. The elderly priest suffered two strokes leaving him partially paralyzed. "I don't know why the Ministry of Public Security are so paranoid about people exercising their right to freedom of expression," said Robertson. "It reflects, in my view, a level of insecurity within the Ministry of Public Security, about their hold on Vietnamese society that they view that even aged, severely sick men can somehow be a spark to cause unrest or discontent." International observers are keeping a close eye on the health of Father Ly.

The book, "Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy," includes a series of interviews the former first lady gave to historian and former Kennedy aide Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. shortly after her husband was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963.

Over seven sessions, she recalled conversations on topics ranging from her husband's reading habits to the botched Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba...Jacqueline Kennedy told Schlesinger in the 1964 interviews that her husband often fretted about the prospect of a Johnson presidency...Jacqueline Kennedy also indicated that her husband was highly skeptical about victory in Vietnam, a central battleground of the Cold War and the conflict that brought down Johnson's presidency.

She said JFK, a Democrat, had named Henry Cabot Lodge, a Republican he had defeated for a Massachusetts Senate seat in 1952, as U.S. ambassador to Vietnam because JFK was so doubtful of military success there. "I think he probably did it ... rather thinking it might be such a brilliant thing to do because Vietnam was rather hopeless anyway, and put a Republican there," Jacqueline Kennedy said...

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