



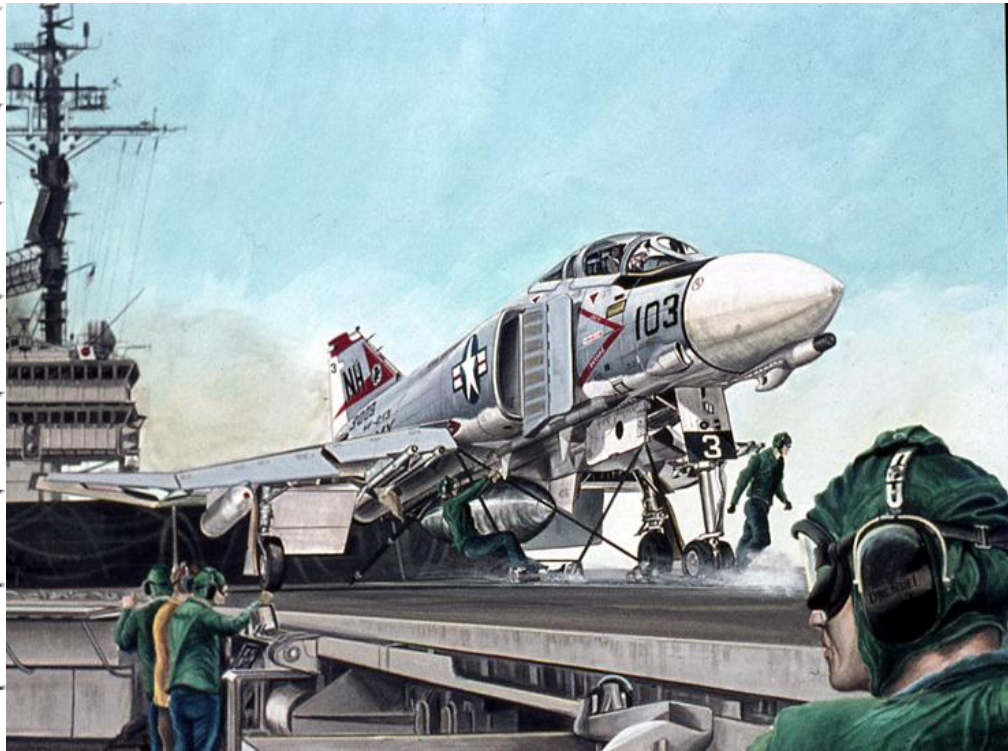
October 2009

Sound Off!



Editor-Dennis Thomas Sr.

Newsletter of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 404, Borger, Texas



Happy Birthday
US Navy
October 13th

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY Update:

A criminal investigation and allegations of misplaced bodies and shoddy care have soiled the famous burial ground according to a Salon Media Group, Inc special investigation on Arlington. An Army investigation this year found that the de facto boss of the cemetery, Deputy Superintendent Thurman Higginbotham, made false statements to Army investigators as they probed what they later classified as wire fraud at Arlington — a female employee's computer had been tapped into without authorization, and she had been impersonated online. An internal Army memo and an interview with a former Army employee also suggest that high-level Army officials knew for months about problems at Arlington but failed to act. Three former public affairs officers have recently testified under oath about a hostile work environment at Arlington. One was fired after speaking out. The other two quit in disgust. Sadly, Arlington's internal problems have materialized on the grounds themselves. Despite nearly 10 years and countless dollars spent on computerizing its operations, the cemetery still relies mostly on paper burial records that in some cases do not match the headstones. "There are numerous examples of discrepancies that exist between burial maps, the physical location of headstones, and the burial records/grave cards," the cemetery admitted in a 2008 report to Congress. And in a relatively remote area of the cemetery, where 600 service members from Iraq and Afghanistan are laid to rest, personal mementos placed on graves are left out to rot in the rain for days, ruined by workers with power washers, or thrown into a trash bin.



The aesthetics of the cemetery are deceptive," says Gina Gray, an Army veteran of eight years who served in Iraq and who was the cemetery's public affairs officer in early 2008, before she was fired over a clash with her boss. "To the naked eye, it is a place of sacred beauty and a tribute to our nation's heroes," says Gray, who has been rehired as an Army contractor at Fort Belvoir, in Virginia. "But if you scratch below the surface, you will find that it's really just window dressing. They've put these pretty curtains up to hide the ugliness on the inside." At the center of the chaos is Higginbotham, Gray's former superior and a focus of the Army investigation. While cemetery Superintendent John Metzler is the titular head at Arlington, Higginbotham runs the show, say current and former employees. A tall and imposing man, Higginbotham has worked at the cemetery since 1965. He started as a security guard and worked his way up to deputy supervisor in 1990. In his current position, he has earned a reputation for running the cemetery with an iron fist. (Higginbotham declined to talk to Salon.)

One of Higginbotham's failures, say employees, has been his inability to rectify disturbing discrepancies between burial records and information on headstones. For years, Arlington has struggled to replace paper-and-pen burial records with a satellite-aided system of tracking grave locations. "My goal is to have all the gravesites available online to the public, so people can look up a grave from home and print out a map that will show exactly where the gravesite is," Higginbotham told Government Computer News in APR 06. Such systems are standard at other cemeteries, like the Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio, nearly identical to Arlington in age and size. Yet an effort begun in 2000 to set up a similar system at Arlington remains unrealized. In 2004 and 2005, Arlington conducted a pilot project to check burial records against headstone information on 300 graves. "The accuracy of interment records and maps that track reserved, obstructed, and occupied graves were proven to have errors," the project found, according to Arlington National Cemetery budget documents. "For example, gravesites that were marked as obstructed were actually available and information listed on grave cards and burial records were not consistent with the information on the actual headstone."

The problems continue today. In 2008, Arlington National Cemetery issued a progress report to Congress on the computerization project. "The current way of doing business is mostly manual, complex, redundant and inefficient," cemetery officials noted, acknowledging continuing discrepancies among burial maps, headstones and burial records. Gray says her conversations with groundskeepers suggest the discrepancies and confusion might not stop at the grave's edge. "They told me they've got people buried there that they don't know who they are, and then they've got the wrong headstones over the graves." She adds: "I told several Army officials — in one instance, a two-star general — but nothing was ever followed up on." Salon heard the same claims from current

and former cemetery employees, who asked to remain anonymous. Arlington officials insist that there are no cases at Arlington where headstones do not match the remains beneath. "We are not aware of any situation like that," says cemetery spokeswoman Kaitlin Horst.

Gray, who was fired, has a gripe against the cemetery, to be sure. But her complaints against Higginbotham triggered an investigation that exposed criminal acts that question the Army's oversight of Arlington. In her sworn testimony in the fall, as part of her equal opportunity complaint, which is still pending, Gray stressed "an elitist mentality among cemetery officials." Kara McCarthy, who held Gray's job at the cemetery from early 2007 until March 2008, also testified. She said Higginbotham and other top officials at Arlington "could do whatever the hell they wanted and they did, because they had been getting away with it for years." McCarthy said she also left the cemetery after a year because of the "hostile work environment." During the Higginbotham investigation, a different kind of crime arose at Arlington. But this one had little to do with the law. In her sworn testimony, Gray criticized the cemetery for disposing of artifacts left in Section 60, where soldiers who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan are buried. "They throw away things that are left at the gravesites — cards, letters," Gray said. "They don't save anything. In a follow-up story, Salon.com notes that the US Department of Veterans Affairs, "which runs 130 cemeteries across the country, asks people not to leave items other than flowers on the graves. But when it does find those items," the VA "collects and holds them for 30 days in case the family wants to claim them." [Source: Salon.com Mark Benjamin article 17 Jul 09



MEDICARE CLAIM REIMBURSEMENT: If you are in the Original Medicare Plan, providers (e.g., hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, and physicians) and suppliers are required by law to file Medicare claims for covered services and supplies that you receive. You should not need to file any Medicare claims. Medicare claims must be filed within one full calendar year following the year in which the services were provided. If you want Medicare or your health plan to cover your visits to the doctor, it's important to understand what each requires in order to be reimbursed.

- If you're enrolled under original Medicare, participating doctors agree to accept the Medicare-approved amount as payment in full. When you see a participating doctor you (or your Medigap plan) are only responsible for the co-insurance amount.
- Under original Medicare you may also see "non-participating" doctors. They can bill their Medicare patients up to 15% more than the Medicare-approved amount for most services, and can request full payment up front for services. To file a Medicare claim for reimbursement, you will need to print out and complete the form called Patient's Request for Medical Payment, Form CMS 1490S. The form is available for download at www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms1490s-english.pdf.
- There are doctors who have opted out of Medicare altogether. They can charge their Medicare patients whatever they want. These providers do not submit any claims to Medicare and are not subject to the Medicare law that limits the amount they may charge patients. When you see a doctor that has opted out of Medicare, you pay the entire cost of your care. These doctors should advise you of this and should ask you to sign a private contract that states you understand that you are responsible for the full cost of the service. Medicare will not pay for any of the cost of services you receive regardless of whether or not you have been advised.
- If you receive your Medicare services through a private Medicare Advantage plan, many of these plans require that you use the plan's network physicians in order to receive reimbursement. If you go to a physician that does not participate in your Medicare Advantage health plan, neither your health plan nor Medicare will cover the cost.

The choice is up to you. If your health is improving under a non-Medicare physician when other doctors under Medicare have been unable to help you, that's strong incentive to keep going back to the same one and pay the entire cost of your care. But you may want to continue to look for another good doctor in your area who accepts Medicare or participates in your health plan. For more information see "Medicare & You 2009," Centers for



VETERAN LEGISLATION 2009: The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 which authorizes funding for VA medical accounts two-years in advance passed the House and Senate. The Senate passed version of the bill carries the same bill number as the House passed bill, HR 1016, but its wording differs somewhat. Both bills direct congressional appropriators to fund two-year plans for VA health programs to avoid financial and management difficulties that have occurred in past years. The differences will be worked out in conference when Congress returns in September. It was interesting to see that the Senate also added \$2 billion to extend the “Cash For Clunkers” program. Hopefully Congress can as easily find money for the SBP/DIC Offset elimination and Concurrent Receipt for Chapter 61 medically retired veterans. Other veteran bills of interest to the veteran community that have cleared the House so far in this session of the 111th Congress include:

- HR 1037 authorizes VA to conduct a five-year pilot project to expand on existing work-study activities and allows student veterans to participate in work-study positions in academic departments.
- HR 1088 The Mandatory Veteran Specialist Training Act of 2009 provides a one-year period for training (instead of the current three) for new DVOPs and LVOPs through the National Veterans Employment and Training Institute.
- HR 1089 enforces employment rights of veterans and members of the armed services employed by the Federal Government Services Institute.
- HR 1170 provides grants up to \$200,000 for development of technologies to improve adaptive housing for disabled veterans.
- HR 1171 reauthorizes the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program through 2014, and also includes special grants to programs and facilities that provide for homeless female veterans and homeless veterans with children.
- HR 1172 directs VA to include on the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans and their survivors.
- HR 1211 - The Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act expands and improves health care services available to women veterans, including studies in barriers to care, mental health services for PTSD, MST and extended health care to newborns of female veterans immediately following birth.
- HR 1293 increases the amount veterans receive for improvements and structural alterations for home health services.
- HR 1377 expands veteran eligibility for VA reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished by non-VA facilities.
- HR 3155 authorizes training, support and medical care to family and non-family caregivers of veterans. It would also create a stipend to cover housing and expenses incurred by primary caregivers to certain veterans.
- HR 3219 combines provisions from eight other bills, to include establishing a Director of Physician Assistant position within VA; eliminating the deduction in accelerated death payments to terminally-ill veterans and service members under SGLI and VGLI; allows certain veterans to increase the amount of life insurance they carry under VGLI; prohibits catastrophically-disabled veterans from having to pay copayments or other fees for critical medical services; and permanently authorizes hospital care, medical services and nursing home care for Vietnam and Persian Gulf War veterans exposed to herbicides
- HR 466- The Wounded Veterans' Job Security Act prohibits discrimination and acts of reprisal against persons who receive treatment for illnesses, injuries, and disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service.

For more on any of the bills type the bill # in the box at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>. [Source: VFW Washington Weekly7 Aug 09



DEMENTIA Update 01: Dementia can be a devastating illness for patients and their caregivers. Current research is focusing on the causes and manifestations of dementia, new medications and treatments, and

education and support for caregivers. News from the various arenas of dementia research and expert advice includes:

- Ongoing studies hope to determine if Alzheimer's dementia can be predicted and diagnosed by scanning the optic nerve. The same laser technology now used in an ophthalmologist's office to monitor glaucoma is being used to visualize distinctive optic nerve shapes that occur in Alzheimer's disease patients.
- Studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and the University of Pittsburgh show the drug memantine (Namenda) might play a valuable role in treating Alzheimer's dementia, especially when given in combination with other drugs such as Aricept and Exelon.
- The Alzheimer's Foundation Medical Advisory Board has published reversible risk factors for preventing dementia. Although these factors cannot overrule the role of age, genetics, and medical disease, they are avoidable risks that you have control over. The list includes:
 - a.) Being a couch potato: Inactivity impedes blood flow to vital organs and the brain, which is necessary to repair and replenish brain cells. So start exercising!
 - b.) Tipping the scale: Being overweight or obese alters insulin production in the body that can lead to brain inflammation. Obesity also increases the risk for diabetes, high cholesterol, and other medical conditions that are risk factors for dementia.
 - c.) Rising blood pressure: High blood pressure can damage blood vessels in the brain and other major organs. However, hypertension can be tricky to diagnose, as there usually are no symptoms until your blood pressure is very high. It is important to have your blood pressure monitored and promptly begin treatment if you're diagnosed with hypertension.
 - d.) Drinking alcohol: Prolonged and heavy consumption of alcohol causes a specific type of dementia known as alcohol-related dementia. Researchers also note that individuals with dementia who drink on a regular basis typically have a higher incidence of confusion, delirium, and behavior problems.
- The American Geriatrics Society has reported that 25 percent of dementia diagnoses are missed due to inadequate screening. The organization recommends memory screening for people age 65 or older and those younger than 65 who are at higher risk for dementia. Memory screening is a simple evaluation tool that assesses memory and other intellectual functions and indicates whether further testing is indicated.
- The Caregivers Coalition has posted a set of tips for dementia caregivers:
 - 1.) Prioritize. Learn to put aside rigid schedules and be flexible. Caregivers need to be able to adapt and go with the flow.
 - 2.) Don't assume your children are too busy to help you. Ask them for assistance, and let them make their own decisions.
 - 3.) Look for community resources. Many caregivers are not aware of the free and low-cost services available in their own communities. Take time to do a little research.
 - 4.) Be aware of your feelings. Your body and your mind will tell you when you need to take a break or get respite. Listen to the subtle signals, and recognize them before it is too late.

For more information on dementia and caregiving research, refer to the following Web sites:

- Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org/index.asp
- The American Geriatrics Society www.americangeriatrics.org
- The Rosalynn Carter Caregiver Institute www.rosalynncarter.org

[Source: MOAA Nanette Lavoie-Vaughan article 17 Jun 09



Everyone,
You can now go to www.vvaft.org to access the next issue of the "Texas Vietnam Veterans News". VVAFT has purchased some new software that allows us to put the newspaper on line. When the VVAFT home page opens scroll



down just a little and you will find the Texas VV News Logo click on it and it will take you to the newspaper. Below the TVVN Banner is a quick tutorial on how to go thru the newspaper.



VA BUDGET 2010 Update3: On 16 JUN 09 Rep. Chet Edwards, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, announced final numbers for the fiscal year (FY) 2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act and the news is very good for veterans. The full Appropriations Committee approved the bill on 23 JUN. In a historic first, the appropriations act for FY 2010 also includes \$48.2 billion in advance appropriations for fiscal year FY 2011 for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care. This is an eight percent increase over the proposed FY 2010 level, and will provide reliable and timely funding to support the delivery of medical care. Advance appropriations have been Disabled American Veterans highest legislative priority this year and its inclusion in this year's funding bill is a major victory for all veterans. Furthermore, to make this victory permanent, both the House and Senate are moving towards passage of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act (H.R.1016/S.423), legislation that would authorize advance appropriations for VA medical care programs in statute and create new budget reporting requirements to aid Congress in setting sufficient funding levels for veterans health care.

On 23 JUN, the House voted 409 to 1 to pass H.R.1016. This measure has now been sent to the Senate for consideration. Veterans should continue to write your elected officials on both of these important bills. The appropriations bill also included \$53 billion in discretionary funding for VA for FY 2010, which is a record level of funding. This total is slightly more than the President's request and \$5.4 billion more than FY 2009 non-emergency appropriations. This discretionary number includes:

- \$45.1 billion for the Veterans Health Administration, \$4.4 billion above FY 2009
- \$580 million for medical and prosthetic research
- \$2.1 billion for general operating expenses, \$287 million above FY 2009, which includes an additional 1,200 additional claims processors.
- \$250 million for the National Cemetery Administration, \$20 million above FY 2009
- \$19.2 million for the Office of Inspector General
- \$3.3 billion for Information Technology; and
- \$1.9 billion for VA construction, \$256 million above FY 2009.

On 6 JUL the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies marked up their bill at similar levels as the House for FY 2010 and FY 2011. On 7 JUL, Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Max Baucus (D-MT) announced that the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the Senate Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which includes nationwide initiatives such as hiring 1,200 new staff to evaluate veterans' claims; maintaining the veterans mileage reimbursement rate of 41.5 cents per mile; \$440 million to continue and expand the VA's Rural Health Care Initiative started last year; and \$500 million to expand the VA's homelessness programs. Tester also included language in the bill directing the National Cemetery Administration to study the possibility of establishing a National Veterans Cemetery in the upper Midwest." On 7 JUL the full Committee approved these levels and sent the bill to the full Senate for approval. Both the House and Senate Committees provide \$48.2 billion in advance appropriations for FY 2011. [Source: Capitol Advantage article 8 Jul 09

On 10 JUL the House passed a \$133.7 billion spending bill that boosts funding for veterans benefits in fiscal 2010, and includes some advance funding for fiscal 2011. The measure, which passed 415-3, also contains funding for military construction projects and other activities of the Veterans Affairs Department. "With passage of this fiscal year 2010 bill, the Congress will have increased veterans health care and benefits funding by 58% in the past two and a half years," said Chet Edwards (D-TX), the chairman of the Military Construction-Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. "This is an unprecedented increase in Congress' commitment to veterans, and in my book, our veterans have earned every dime of this funding." Zach Wamp (R-TN), the ranking Republican on the panel, echoed strong support for the legislation, but added that he continues "to be concerned about the ability of the [department] to absorb large funding increases provided in this bill." Wamp also asked Appropriations Committee Chairman David R. Obey (D-WI), and Edwards to insist on holding a conference committee with the Senate to resolve differences between the two bills. The Senate Appropriations Committee finished work on a \$133.9 billion companion bill 7 JUL.

The House bill (H.R.3082) would appropriate about \$77.9 billion in discretionary spending, roughly 7% more than fiscal 2009 (PL 110-329) levels and \$239 million more than the White House requested. Before passing the bill, the House adopted by voice vote six amendments, including provisions that would:

- Redirect \$3.5 million to the Office of National Veterans' Sports Programs and Special Events from the department's medical support and compliance account, offered by Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA);
- Require the department to provide Congress with a report on the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy at veterans' medical facilities, by Pete Sessions (R-TX);
- Shift \$1 million to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for free legal services and reduce the account for the Office of Inspector General by the same amount, by Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV);

The spending measure would provide roughly \$108.9 billion for the department, about 14% above the amount enacted for fiscal 2009, and equal to President Obama's request. Of that, \$53 million would be discretionary spending, roughly 8% more than in fiscal 2009 and \$2.9 billion more than the administration's request. The spending measure would also set aside \$48.2 billion for three veterans' medical accounts in fiscal 2011, about 8% more than it would appropriate for fiscal 2010. The idea is to give decision makers foreknowledge about future funding levels so plans can be made with greater confidence. Under the bill, the Defense Department would get \$24.6 billion for accounts related to military construction projects, family housing, base realignment and closures. That represents about a 12% decrease. Related agencies - such as the American Battle Monuments Commission - would get \$282.5 million, roughly 36% greater than in fiscal 2009. The White House has expressed support for the House-passed version of the bill, but took issue with incremental funding for several military projects, including a new data center for the National Security Agency. [Source: CQ Today



The VA Central Office has received many reports that Veterans are being contacted by "Patient Care Group" representing that they are helping administer VA prescriptions and stating that the pharmacy billing procedures have changed and they are therefore requesting Veteran credit card numbers for prescription payments in advance of filling their prescriptions. This is false. VA does not call Veterans asking to disclose personal financial information over the phone. VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines.



Texas House Bill 3613 has become law. This means that Texas Disabled Veterans, rated at 100%, are exempt from paying property taxes. Qualified veterans will need to contact their respective tax offices as to the steps for filing for this exemption. For example, in El Paso, the qualified veteran will need to obtain a letter from the VA verifying their rating. They can go to the VA office located on the 2nd floor of the El Paso VA Medical Facility or call Waco for the letter. Then take the letter to the Central Appraisal District and submit the application.

Also veterans rated with lesser disabilities ratings qualify for the following exemptions:

10 – 30% = \$5,000
31 – 50% = \$7,500
51 – 70% = \$10,000
71 – 100%* = \$12,000

This should be 99% because of the new law.

Many of us are probably aware of all of this. However, we should get the word out to as many Veterans and their family as possible.

Information on HB 3613 is located at:

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=81R&Bill=HB3613>



The Hutchinson County Veterans Appreciation Committee will be sponsoring their 4th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

Where – Borger Elks Lodge 200 Opal Street, Borger, Texas

When – Saturday, November 7th

Social Hour – 5-6 PM

Opening Ceremonies – 6 PM

Dinner will be served at – 7 PM



Guest Speaker will be Texas State Senator Kel Seliger

Menu will consist of: Brisket, Potato Salad, Coleslaw,

Baked Beans, Bread, Pickle Spears, Jalapenos and Dessert. Coffee and Tea will be provided.

This dinner is being provide free of charge to all veterans and their spouses. The Hutchinson County Veterans Appreciation Committee consists of The Borger Elks Lodge, Vietnam Veterans of America, Associates of the Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.



"The National Resource Directory (www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov) is an online tool for wounded, ill and injured Service Members, Veterans, their families, and those who support them. It provides access to more than 11,000 services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration". Please pass this information on to all veterans that you know.



“NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER”

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veteran’s organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

GOALS

VVA's goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans.

ORGANIZATION

- Over 50,000 individual members
- 46 state councils
- 630 local chapters

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Aggressively advocate on issues important to veterans
- Seek full access to quality health care for veterans
- Identify the full range of disabling injuries and illnesses incurred during military service
- Hold government agencies accountable for following laws mandating veteran’s health care
- Create a positive public perception of Vietnam veterans
- Seek the fullest possible accounting of America's POW/MIAs
- Support the next generation of America's war veterans
- Serve our communities

FUNDING

Vietnam Veterans of America relies totally on private contributions for its revenue. VVA does not receive any funding from federal, state, or local governments.

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Jack Devine – Vice President
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Alan Cook – Treasurer

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Buster Newberry – President
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Dennis Thomas – Vice President 806-898-8762
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Chapter 404 National and State Council Delegates

Dennis Thomas / Myron Peterson, Alternate Delegates - Johnny Garrard / Dick Divis

The Monthly Chapter meeting is the second Tuesday of each month at the Red Cross Building located at 614 Weatherly in Borger, Texas. Pot Luck Dinner is at 5:30 pm and the meeting starts at 6:00 pm.

“Sound Off” Publisher and Editor: Dennis Thomas Box 715 Stinnett, Texas 79083 (806) 898-8762

“Sound Off” is the official publication of the Borger Chapter 404 Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. The newsletter is published once a month as a service to our membership and to any other interested organization.

The views and comments that are expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. or the Vietnam Veterans of America Texas State Council or Borger Chapter 404. The editors reserve the right to print any article of interest to the veteran. The newsletter staff reserves the right to edit any material that is libelous or obscene. The editorial staff invites the Chapter membership to submit articles. The articles are due at the chapter meeting for the next month’s newsletter.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE FLAG OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



- THE GOLDEN YELLOW BACKGROUND IS THE MAJOR COLOR OF THE VIETNAM SERVICE RIBBON.
- THE SEVENTEEN CAMPAIGN STARS REPRESENT THE SEVENTEEN OFFICIAL CAMPAIGNS OF THE VIETNAM WAR.
- IN THE CENTER BETWEEN THE CAMPAIGN STARS IS THE VVA OFFICIAL DESIGN.
- A WREATH SURROUNDING THE INSIGNIA IS IN NATURAL COLOR AND MADE UP OF A LAUREL BRANCH AND A BUNDLE OF RICE STALKS BOTH TIED TOGETHER AT THE BOTTOM WITH A STRAND OF BARBED WIRE.
- THE RICE STALKS REPRESENT SOUTHEAST ASIA.
- THE LAUREL SIGNIFIES HONOR TO ALL WHO SERVED THERE.
- THE BARBED WIRE REMINDS US OF THE POW'S AND MIA'S FOR WHOM THERE STILL MUST BE A PROPER ACCOUNTING

MEMBERSHIP IN THE VVA

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
Email Address _____
Date of Birth _____ Sex _____

Type of Membership:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member -1 year: \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member-Ages 49 and Under : \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member- 3 years: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member-Ages 50-55: \$225 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member-Ages 56-60: \$200 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member-Ages 61-65: \$175 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Optional Time Payment plan- \$50 down, \$25/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member-Ages 66+: \$150 |

Payment Method:

Check Money Order Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover)
Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

**Return your completed application, payment, and a copy of your DD Form-214 to:
Vietnam Veterans of America | P.O. Box 64299 | Baltimore, MD 21264-4299**

Or to

**VVA Texas State Council / Luther Newberry – President / PO Box 1860 / Fritch, Texas 79036-1860
Make Checks or Money order - Payable to VVA**