



# THE OUTPOST

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa Fl.

In Service to America

**NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2001, FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL,  
CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, CHAPTER STATE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE YEAR 2007, FOR INFORMATION CALL BOB SILMSER (813) 220-7246 OR (813) 685-3483.  
WEB SITE: WWW.VVA787.COM**



Photo's by: Tom Hall

## Chapter 787's Independence Day Parade

### **Chapter Officers**

President: Tom Hall

Vice President: Carl Harris

Secretary: Bob Silmsler

Treasurer: Bob Silmsler

### **Board of Directors:**

Jim LaGarde

Kevin Ruhl

Dave Braun

Jon Mueller

### **State Council Delegate:**

Kevin Ruhl

### **Newsletter** Editor: Jon

Mueller, E-mail:

ParaSF68@aol.com

### **Meetings**

Chapter Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month.

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Veterans Memorial Park & Museum  
3602 Hwy. 301 N.  
Tampa Fl. 33619. See Map on last page.

**Mailing address: P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl.**



Pictured above L-R, Chapter 787 VP Carl Harris, former President Jim (Rambo) LaGarde, State A.V.V.A. 2nd VP Beverly Harris, Tony (Playboy) Towers, Glayron Faries, Steve (too tall) Williams, the lovely Nancy Nye and Richard (motor pool) Nye.

Pictured at left, L-R, Tony Towers and Richard Nye discuss the meaning of life. In the background Jim LaGarde, former Hillsborough County Veterans Council President Dave Braun and Carl Harris.



Photo's courtesy of MyPaperNow.com. Submitted by: Glayron Faries



More pictures from the chapter 787 Brandon Independence Day Parade.

Pictured top, L-R, **Glayron Faries** and **Kevin Ruhl** carry the chapter banner.

**Richard Nye** and **Carl Harris** carry the American Flag and POW/MIA flags.

Second row, L-R, chapter float with **Tony Towers**, **Beverly Thomas**, **Steve Williams** and **Tom Hall**. Next is what we believe is one of **Jim Basta** helo's with some young people in it. We do not have there names.

Last picture is **Jim LaGarde**, **Tom Hall** and **Carl Harris** when they were at Jim's house setting up the trailer.



## Medal of Honor recipients of the War in Vietnam



### **FLEMING, JAMES P.**

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Air Force, 20th Special Operations Squadron. Place and date: Near Duc Co, Republic of Vietnam, 26 November 1968. Entered service at: Pullman, Wash. Born: 12 March 1943, Sedalia, Mo. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Fleming (then 1st Lt.) distinguished himself as the Aircraft Commander of a UH-1F transport Helicopter. Capt. Fleming went to the aid of a 6-man special forces long range reconnaissance patrol that was in danger of being overrun by a large, heavily armed hostile force. Despite the knowledge that 1 helicopter had been downed by intense hostile fire, Capt. Fleming descended, and balanced his helicopter on a river bank with the tail boom hanging over open water. The patrol could not penetrate to the landing site and he was forced to withdraw. Dangerously low on fuel, Capt. Fleming repeated his original landing maneuver. Disregarding his own safety, he remained in this exposed position. Hostile fire crashed through his wind-screen as the patrol boarded his helicopter. Capt. Fleming made a successful takeoff through a barrage of hostile fire and recovered safely at a forward base. Capt. Fleming's profound concern for his fellowmen, and at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Air Force and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

Submitted by: Jon Mueller



## Missing SF Soldier awarded DSC



### **Ft. Bragg N.C. U.S. Army Special Operation Command**

After 42 years, Army Special Forces leaders were able to award the Army's second highest medal, The Distinguished Service Cross, to Major Jak T. Stewart, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), who went missing during a ferocious engagement in Vietnam.

Maj. Stewart displayed exceptional gallantry on March 24 1967 while leading a Mobile Strike Force company comprised of two American Green Beret's leading a South Vietnamese Company. They air assaulted into an area on the Cambodian boarder but ran into two NVA battalions. Then Captain Stewart and Staff Sgt. Roger Hallbert stayed behind to hold off the attacking NVA while most of the ARVN troops were evacuated.

SSG Hallbert received the Silver Star. Both Green Berets are still missing.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

## Quote

**"On the plains and mountains of the American West, the United States Army had once learned everything there was to learn about hit-and-run tactics and guerrilla warfare."**

T.R. Fehrenbach *This Kind of War*

**Calendar of Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b><u>August 2009</u></b>		
13th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
27th Thursday	Chapter 787 Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	6:30 PM
<b><u>September 2009</u></b>		
10th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
18th Friday	<b>National POW/MIA Day</b>	
19th Saturday	Chapter 787 will host the POW/MIA Ceremony at Veterans Park	10:00 AM
24th Thursday	Chapter 787 Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	6:30 PM

**Check out our EVENTS page on the chapter web site: [www.vva787.com](http://www.vva787.com), click EVENTS then click **Calendar of EVENTS****



Submitted by: Jon Mueller

**Veterans Voices**  
**Herd**

On Wednesday July 15th Hillsborough County Veterans attended the County Board of Commissioners meeting in downtown Tampa.

Veterans were concerned that the county cutback in funding various projects would negatively affect the Veterans Affairs department and the number of veteran Service Officers available.

Commissioner **Jim Norman** and others, calmed those in attendance by saying Veterans do not have to worry about any losses this year.

Pictured L-R, **Pat Bean, Mary Ellen Harlan, Leonard Black & Dave Braun.**

**Financial Status of Chapter 787 as of July 2009**

Total \$13,072.11 (Moving Wall Fund..\$7,227.22, AVVA \$220.36, General checking \$3,757.33, Holiday Meals Fund...\$1,867.20).

Total \$2,720.65 ( Household Goods.....\$693.18 Convention Fund.....\$2,027.47)

**All Accounts Total: \$15,792.76**

**Thanks to our Treasurer Bob Silmsr**

Where else would Rambo want to be but on a tractor, the bigger the better.



## Navy, Marine and Army Combat Divers

Navy SEALs, RECON /SOC Marines, & Army Ranger/SF Soldiers



Men who are active duty, reserve or National Guard, military trained combat divers from either the Navy/Marine course at Panama City or the Army course at Key West, are encouraged to contact **Jon Mueller**, at e-mail address: [ParaSF68@aol.com](mailto:ParaSF68@aol.com).



There are two dives to be hosted by one or more defense contractors using the new model open and closed circuit systems. We will be diving in Ginnie (Jenny) Springs Florida and the Dry Tortugas Florida areas.

Civilian divers are welcome as long as they hold a current Open Water, Cave diver and Wreck diver certifications.

Civilians must have at least six years experience and will be evaluated by military diver personnel.



## Stolen Valor

### Former Army Vietnam vet says he lied about medals

The Associated Press Posted : Monday Jul 13, 2009 15:24:56 EDT

HOUSTON — A Vietnam veteran from Houston has admitted that he lied about his rank and numerous honors after questions arose when he told his story to a TV station on the Fourth of July.

Charles Bass told the same story he'd been recounting for years, pointing to scars while spinning a tale of surviving a deadly snakebite in Vietnam.

His claim that he was a sergeant major with several service medals unraveled when a local Vietnam veteran who saw the TV report couldn't find Bass' name on a Web site that lists honorees.

Five days after the report, Bass apologized. He said he bought the medals in military surplus stores.

The Houston Chronicle reported that discharge papers say Bass was an Army private with no distinguished service medals.




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### Former Marine Vietnam vet claims to have been a POW

The Associated Press Posted : Friday Jul 24, 2009 17:44:49 EDT



ORDWAY, Colo. — A veterans affairs officer for a Colorado county has falsely claimed he served three years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, a national advocacy organization for former POWs says.

Ronald Crumley's military records show he served 10 years in the Marine Corps as an aircraft safety equipment mechanic and never was captured in Vietnam, according to the Missouri-based POW Network, which seeks to expose fraudulent POW claims.

The POW Network obtained Crumley's records through the Freedom of Information Act, network officer Mary Schantag told The Pueblo Chieftain newspaper.

Crumley, an appointed veterans official for rural Crowley County, insists he was captured in Vietnam. He said he is organizing a meeting with his critics at which a former Marine general and a former assistant U.S. attorney general will verify his POW status.

Crumley didn't identify the two ex-officials.

"Everything being said is hearsay," Crumley told The Associated Press by telephone Friday. He declined further comment.

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## Chapter 787 fund raiser volunteers needed!

If you can spare a few hours of your valuable time, please consider volunteering for one or more of our on-going fund raiser projects. You will be amazed as how rewarding it can be to meet with fellow veterans and the general public who really appreciate your service. Please contact **Jim (Rambo) LaGarde** on his cell phone (813) 758-4547 for details.

## Happy Birthday to the Airborne Infantry

On August 16 1940, flying over Ft. Benning Georgia at 1500 feet in a C-33 aircraft were 47 U.S. Army infantrymen who would make the first U.S. military parachute jump. Those men were what was left of the initial 238 soldiers who volunteered two months earlier and who suffered the thousands of push-ups, chin-ups and five mile runs to finally make it to this day.

Most of the men volunteered out a spirit of adventure and danger but some wanted the extra \$21 a month in jump pay.

World War II was the big showcase for paratroop operations with multi-division sized drops behind enemy lines by the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. Small drops in the Pacific theater by the Para-Marines, the Marine Raider battalions and the Army's 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment were of great success.

In the Vietnam War, all the U.S. Army's conventional Airborne units were used as "Leg Infantry" with the exception of Operation Junction City in February 1967 when a battalion from the 173d Airborne Brigade was dropped as a blocking force near the Cambodian border.

Many small units which today would be called Special Operation Forces, like Army Special Forces, Army Rangers, Navy SEALs, & Marine RECON (and now MarSOC) made limited use of parachute insertion during the Vietnam War. The helicopter became the primary method of insertion for infantry units, large and small.

Even the famed 101st Airborne Division started to convert to an Air Assault Division while still in Vietnam in 1970, making more use of large twin engine helicopters. This meant that for the first time the 101st would no longer be an all volunteer unit, since draftees could now be sent there (Airborne units on jump status were and still are, all volunteer).

After Vietnam, operations in Granada, and Panama saw the Airborne Infantry being used by both the 82nd Airborne and the Army Rangers. In March 2003, in Iraq, the 173d Airborne dropped 980 paratroopers at night to seize an airport and open the northern front.

But as Army Major Stan Fox said after his men jumped in to take the Philippine Island of Corregidor in February 1945, military parachuting is very dangerous but it's the preferred method we use to go to work. If we survive the jump, we become "leg" infantry, and were surrounded by the enemy, that's when the fun begins.



**Membership Application**

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 28th 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.



**Vietnam Veterans of America**

Send to: VVA Chapter 787, P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work or Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter #787 Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:**

Individual: 1 year \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 3 years \_\_\_\_\_ \$50. Associate: 1 year \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 3 years \_\_\_\_\_ \$50

Life Member Options: \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Ages 49 and Under: \$250, \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Ages 50-55: \$225, \_\_\_\_\_ Life

Member Ages 56-60: \$200, \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Ages 61-65: \$175, \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Ages 66 +: \$150

\_\_\_\_\_ I am already a V.V.A. member and want to become a life member. My V.V.A. Member number is

\_\_\_\_\_.

Optional Time Payment plan: \$50 down, and \$25 per month until paid in full.

Payment Method: Check \_\_\_\_\_

Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ If using a credit card: Card

**Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

This newsletter is not the official publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Chapter 787, Tampa Florida. All articles, and opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of Chapter 787, the VVA State Council, the VVA National or the Chapter members.

You can receive a copy of the OUTPOST each month at no cost. Contact Jon Mueller via e-mail at ParaSF68@aol.com and provide your e-mail address. You will need to have an Adobe Acrobat Reader on your PC to open the newsletter. You can also receive it by US mail. The cost is \$12 per year. Make your check payable to V.V.A. Chapter 787 and mail it to P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404. Make sure you identify the payment for the OUTPOST.

## THE OUTPOST

**Help Your Chapter Grow**  
**Bring a New Member to the Next Chapter Meeting.**  
**Come and Join Us. Give us your Ideas.**

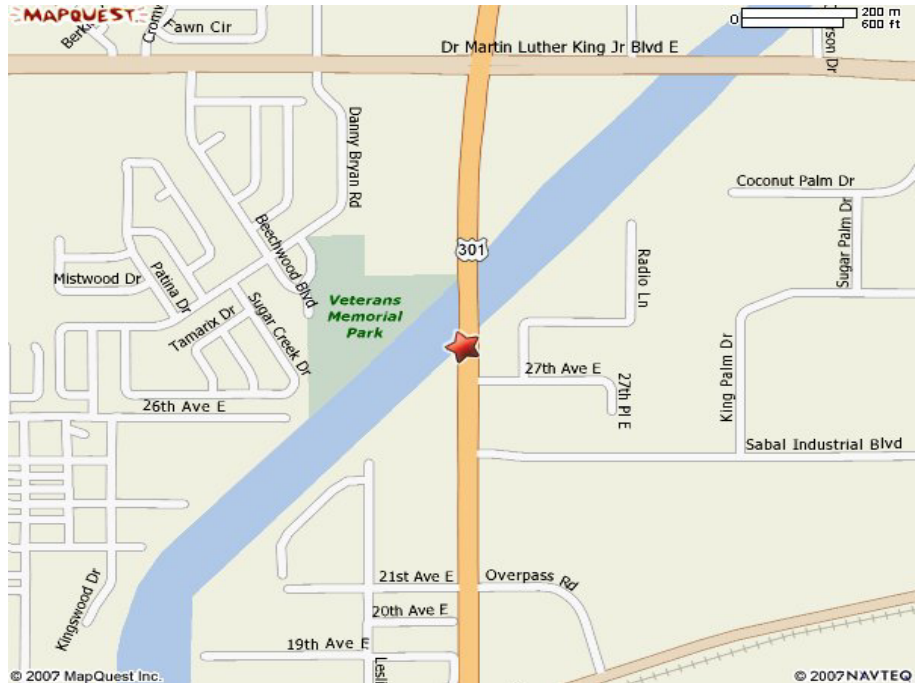
Chapter meetings are held at the Veterans Memorial Park & Museum, 3602 Hwy. 301 N. Tampa Fl. 33619.

### Contact E-mail Addresses:

**President Tom Hall:** MarineDI@aol.com  
**VP Carl Harris:** c-e-harris@tampabay.rr.com  
**Secretary & Treasurer Bob Silmser:**  
Rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com  
**State Council Delegate Kevin Ruhl:**  
MSgtMCRet@aol.com

### Board of Directors

**Kevin Ruhl:** MSgtMCRet@aol.com  
**Jim LaGarde:** clagarde@tampabay.rr.com  
**Dave Braun:** Prowler143@aol.com  
**Jon Mueller:** ParaSF68@aol.com



## Important Web Sites

Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida..... <http://www.vva787.com>  
Hillsborough County Veterans Park Museum & War Memorials (NEW).....[www.hcmemorials.com](http://www.hcmemorials.com)  
Vietnam, Yesterday & Today.....<http://servercc.oakton.edu/~wittman/chronol.htm>  
Vietnam Veterans Legacy Foundation.....[www.vvlf.org](http://www.vvlf.org)  
National League of Families of American POW's/MIA's.....[www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org)  
V.V.A. National Office on the World Wide Web.....[www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)  
U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.....[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)  
OPM Veterans Hiring Preference.....[www.opm.gov/veterans](http://www.opm.gov/veterans)  
Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP).....[www.usfhp.com](http://www.usfhp.com)  
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.....[www.vetapp.uscourts.gov](http://www.vetapp.uscourts.gov)  
Children of Vietnam Vets.....[www.geocities.com/pentagon/9125](http://www.geocities.com/pentagon/9125)  
The Center for Women Veterans.....[www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet)  
Vietnam Women Memorial Foundation, Inc (formerly "Project").....[www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org](http://www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org)  
The Moving Wall—Vietnam Combat Veterans LTD.....[www.themovingwall.org](http://www.themovingwall.org)  
The Virtual Wall.....[www.virtualwall.org](http://www.virtualwall.org)  
Get a Copy of your DD-214 on-line.....<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>  
Florida State Council web site.....[www.vvafsc.org](http://www.vvafsc.org)