



In Service to America

THE OUTPOST

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa Fl.



**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**



Message from the President of Chapter 787

Wow! I can't believe we are already starting the New Year of serving veterans and their families and our community. We have a challenging year ahead with the economy which will have an effect on our fundraising abilities. Instead of looking at the challenges, I think these are opportunities that seem to always motivate us to complete the mission at hand. One of the successes of our Chapter is that we always seem to make find a solution to the opportunity.

You may ask "what does this mean to me as a member?" I think it becomes an opportunity to get involved in serving veterans and our community. Volunteerism is one of the highest rewards any one can give to his fellow human being who needs assistance. No matter how big or small the gift we bestow on those in need becomes a point in the lives of those we serve that they will always remember.

With these challenges ahead I want to invite each and every member to help your Chapter continue to be successful. It always takes manpower, volunteers, to make it happen. During your consideration process of whether to help or not, please consider this things. Why did I join the Chapter? What did I want to get from the Chapter? How can I help the Chapter?

The common thread of belonging to the Chapter is we are all veterans of the Vietnam era. It makes no difference whether you served in Vietnam or in the mountains of Alaska. We served our country when the call came.

Well, I'm putting out the call once again for those of you that are physically able to come out and be an active member in the Chapter and help all our veterans. The opportunity is at hand more than ever.

If you wish to discuss a possible active role you can undertake, please let me know. Have a great day and I look forward to seeing you at the January Chapter meeting.

Semper Fi,
Tom Hall

Chapter Officers

President: Tom Hall

Vice President: Carl
Harris

Secretary: Bob Silmsers

Treasurer: Bob Silmsers

Board of Directors:

Kevin Ruhl

Steve Williams

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: 7:00 PM

Location: Veterans Me-
morial Park & Museum
3602 Hwy. 301 N.
Tampa Fl. 33619. See
Map on last page. **Mail-
ing address: P.O. Box
89247, Tampa Fl.
33689-0404.**



Medal of Honor Winners of the War in Vietnam



JACOBS, JACK H.

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Army, U.S. Army Element, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Republic of Vietnam. Place and date: Kien Phong Province, Republic of Vietnam, 9 March 1968. Entered service at: Trenton, N.J. Born: 2 August 1945, Brooklyn, N.Y. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Jacobs (then 1st Lt.), Infantry, distinguished himself while serving as assistant battalion advisor, 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam. The 2d Battalion was advancing to contact when it came under intense heavy machine gun and mortar fire from a Viet Cong battalion positioned in well fortified bunkers. As the 2d Battalion deployed into attack formation its advance was halted by devastating fire. Capt. Jacobs, with the command element of the lead company, called for and directed air strikes on the enemy positions to facilitate a renewed attack. Due to the intensity of the enemy fire and heavy casualties to the command group, including the company commander, the attack stopped and the friendly troops became disorganized. Al-

though wounded by mortar fragments, Capt. Jacobs assumed command of the allied company, ordered a withdrawal from the exposed position and established a defensive perimeter. Despite profuse bleeding from head wounds which impaired his vision, Capt. Jacobs, with complete disregard for his safety, returned under intense fire to evacuate a seriously wounded advisor to the safety of a wooded area where he administered lifesaving first aid. He then returned through heavy automatic weapons fire to evacuate the wounded company commander. Capt. Jacobs made repeated trips across the fire-swept open rice paddies evacuating wounded and their weapons. On 3 separate occasions, Capt. Jacobs contacted and drove off Viet Cong squads who were searching for allied wounded and weapons, single-handedly killing 3 and wounding several others. His gallant actions and extraordinary heroism saved the lives of 1 U.S. advisor and 13 allied soldiers. Through his effort the allied company was restored to an effective fighting unit and prevented defeat of the friendly forces by a strong and determined enemy. Capt. Jacobs, by his gallantry and bravery in action in the highest traditions of the military service, has reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.



Submitted By: Jon Mueller

One of the few to ever escape as a POW

James N. Rowe was assigned as Executive Officer of Detachment A-23, 5th Special Forces, a 12-man "A-team" in Vietnam in 1963. Located at Tan Phu, A-23 organized and advised a Civilian Irregular Defense Group camp in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam. On October 1963, after only three short months in the Republic of Vietnam, then-Lieutenant Rowe was captured by Viet Cong elements along with Captain Humberto "Rocky" Versace, and Sgt. Daniel L. Pitzer.. Separated from his comrades, Lt. Rowe spent 62 months in captivity with only brief encounters with fellow American POWs. He escaped from his Vietnamese captors on December 31 1968. Rowe had been promoted to Major during his captivity. He authored the book, *Five Years to Freedom*, an account of his years as a prisoner of war.



Colonel Rowe retired from the U.S. Army in 1974. In 1981, he was recalled to active duty to design and build a course based upon his experience as a POW. *Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape* (SERE) is now a requirement for graduation from the U.S. Army Special Forces Qualification Course. SERE is taught at the Colonel James "Nick" Rowe Training compound at Camp Mackall, NC. It is considered by many to be the most important advanced training in the special operations field. Navy, Air Force and Marine Special Operations personnel all attend variations of this course taught by their respective services.

Rambo talks with the students!



On December 16th, **Jim (Rambo) LaGarde**, spoke to the Brandon High class of **Mr. Massey**, teacher of the History of The Vietnam War class. Pictured above L-R, Jim with Mr. Massey, and in front of the class.

Submitted By: **Ron Murray**

Our Honored Military Recruiters



Chapter member **Ron Murray**, (red T-shirt at right), visits our hard working military recruiters often just to show his thanks for all they do. Well done **Ron**! The young girl in the picture (L) is named Kaliah.

Attention!

It appears the Florida State Council Web site has some virus issues. Please use with care.

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<u>January 2009</u>		
8th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon’s House	6:30 PM
10th Saturday	Field of Honor Ceremony, Veterans Park & Museum	10:00 AM
22nd Thursday	Chapter 787 Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	7:00 PM
<u>February 2009</u>		
12th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon’s House	6:30 PM
26th Thursday	Chapter 787 Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	7:00 PM
Check out our EVENTS page on the chapter web site: www.vva787.com, click EVENTS then click Calendar of EVENTS		

Damages Awarded In USS Pueblo Case

(Washington Post, December 31, 2008, Pg. 5)

A federal judge awarded more than \$65 million to several men who were captured and tortured by North Korea after the communist country seized the U.S. spy ship USS Pueblo in 1968. In entering the judgment against North Korea, which never responded to the lawsuit, U.S. District Judge Henry H. Kennedy Jr. called the abuse of William Thomas Massie, Dinnie Richard Tuck, Donald Raymond McClarren and Lloyd Bucher “extensive and shocking.” Bucher, the ship’s captain, died in 2004. The ship is still in North Korean hands.

No more “Donut Dolly’s” but the USO is still there.

When American troops are on the move, there is a group 44,000-strong ready to help them in their travels. For 65 years, members of the USO have gone the extra mile to bring a touch of home to men and women in uniform, particularly in the busy holiday season.

Financial Status of Chapter 787 as of December 2008

Total \$10,529.17 (Moving Wall Fund..\$6,663.82, AVVA \$138.56, General checking \$2,527.85, Holiday Meals Fund \$1,198.94).

Total.....\$2,190.59 (Household Goods.....\$605.93 Convention Fund.....\$1,829.22)

All Accounts Total: \$12,719.76

Thanks to our Treasurer Bob Silmsner

TAPSLt. General Victor H. Krulak**Vietnam War**

Krulak was responsible for all Fleet Marine Force units in the Pacific, including some 54 trips to the Vietnam theater. At the beginning of the War, Krulak put forward the "Spreading Inkblot Theory." This promoted a spreading inkblot of small units actions to pacify South Vietnam village by village. When large enemy units were encountered then General Westmoreland's overwhelming firepower should be employed. He also called for intensive bombing of North Vietnam and mining of Haiphong Harbor. Krulak's plans were eventually rejected as Westmoreland favored hammering the enemy into submission through superior firepower and the Johnson administration feared relentless bombing of the North would provoke Soviet and Chinese intervention..



Krulak's medals and decorations include: the Navy Cross, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and two Gold Stars in lieu of second and third awards, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation with three bronze stars indicative of second through fourth awards, the China Service Medal with one bronze star, the American Defense Service Medal with Base clasp, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal with Asia clasp, the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, the Korean Service Medal with four bronze stars, the Vietnam Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Order of Service Merit second class, the Republic of Vietnam National Order Medal third class, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, two Korean Presidential Unit Citations, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Why al-Qaida Isn't Gaining A Foothold In Cambodia

(Christian Science Monitor, December 30, 2008, Pg. 4)

A unique confluence of modern history, geography, and government initiative have combined to foster religious tolerance in Cambodia, where Muslims and non-Muslims live side by side in harmony, their existences unmarred by the toxic cocktail of government repression, separatist ambitions, and growing radicalism characteristic of many neighboring countries. Cambodia's unique and dark modern history helps explain why the dominant form of Islam remains both peaceful and accommodating, Muslim leaders say. When the ultra-Communist Khmer Rouge seized power in 1975, they outlawed religion and set about decimating the Muslim population. As a result, the violence of al-Qaida today reminds Muslim leaders of the Khmer Rouge of yesterday.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Quote

**Men are apt to mistake the strength of their feelings for the strength of their argument.
The heated mind resents the chill touch and relentless scrutiny of logic.**

William E. Gladstone

Army alerts feds of possible Stolen Valor case

By [Brendan McGarry](#) - Staff writer Posted : Tuesday Dec 16, 2008 21:41:35 EST

Discrepancies in the service record of a Vietnam veteran seeking a Medal of Honor have prompted the Army to alert the FBI of a potential violation of the Stolen Valor Act, sources close to the investigation said. The case involves Terry Richard Calandra, 59, of Forks Township, Pa., who is commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 700 in Glen Gardner, N.J.

“After review of Mr. Calandra’s records, a number of potential discrepancies were noted and the matter was referred to civilian law enforcement for investigation of the potential violation of the Stolen Valor Act,” said Lt. Col. Richard McNorton, a spokesman for Human Resources Command. The legislation, signed into law in 2006, makes falsely claiming a military decoration or medal a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and/or a fine.



An investigator for the FBI declined to comment on the case. Calandra said he was “baffled” by the Army’s action. “All I know is I had eyewitness accounts on this,” he said. “I’m going to stand on my military record. . . . If the Army wants to change their mind, that’s their business. I’ll send my medals back. I don’t need them.” Calandra’s discharge paperwork states he received the Distinguished Service Cross, the military’s second-highest award given for “extraordinary heroism in action against an enemy,” as well as the Silver Star, Bronze Star with “V” device for valor (second oak leaf cluster), Purple Heart (fourth oak leaf cluster), the Army Commendation Medal with “V” Device for valor (first oak leaf cluster) and other decorations from a six-month tour in Vietnam in 1969, according to portions of his service record provided by the National Personnel Records Center in response to a Freedom of Information request from Army Times. The general orders and citations in Calandra’s official service record for the two highest awards — the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star — conflict with records at the National Archives and Records Administration, according to copies of the documents obtained by Army Times.

General orders are issued by various commands to announce awards, among other news, and are published in chronological order in a given year.

In Calandra’s file, the U.S. Army Vietnam general order announcing his Distinguished Service Cross is numbered 9,580. According to the National Archives, U.S. Army Vietnam only issued 4,519 general orders in 1969. The most general orders USARV ever issued in any year during the conflict was 7,149 in 1966. In Calandra’s file, the 9th Infantry Division general order announcing his Silver Star is numbered 5,293. That general order number corresponds to one at the National Archives announcing a posthumous award of the Army Commendation Medal for a different soldier, Spc. Larry Brown. The documents contain other inconsistencies. The Army most recently began reviewing Calandra’s file in August after U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., forwarded an inquiry from Calandra about his Medal of Honor nomination.

“Mr. Terry Calandra has contacted my Allentown office inquiring on the status of his nomination for the Congressional Medal of Honor,” Specter wrote in a July 18 letter to the Military Awards Branch. “Since the request falls under your jurisdiction, I have forwarded you a copy of his request.”

Specter later told a local newspaper editorial board that Calandra should be considered for the military’s top award. In an e-mail to Army Times, spokesperson Kate Kelly said, “Sen. Specter’s office has been briefed by the Army concerning the questions surrounding Mr. Calandra’s service.” She declined further comment.

In October, Pennsylvania state Rep. Richard T. Grucela introduced a resolution “memorializing the Congress of the United States to award Terry Calandra the Medal of Honor for valorous service during the Vietnam Conflict.” The bill, which was co-signed by dozens of representatives, died in committee. Grucela’s office didn’t return a call seeking comment.

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, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions 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.

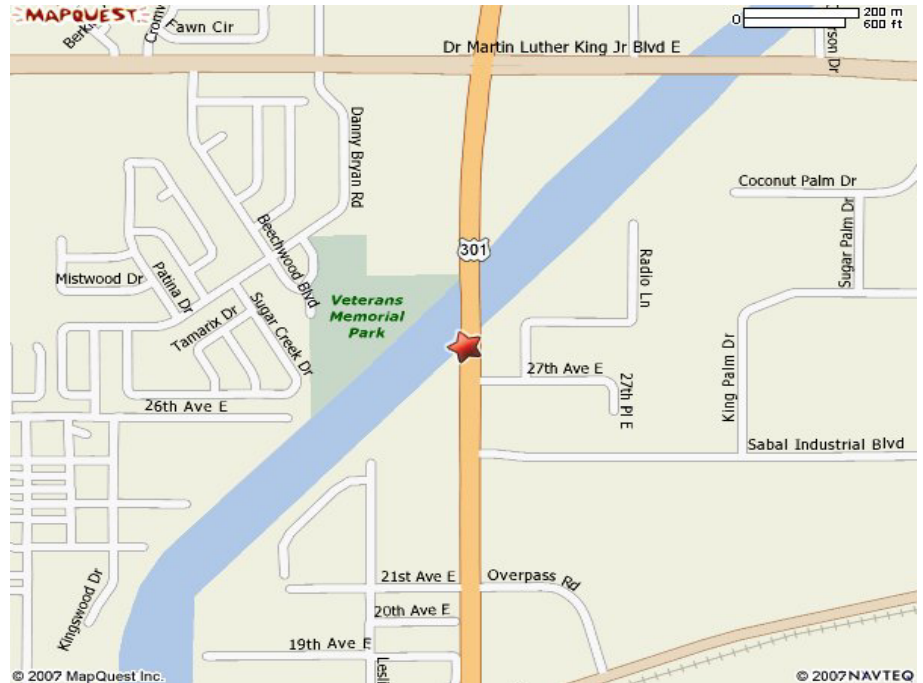
Chapter meetings are held at the Veterans Memorial Park & Museum, 3602 Hwy. 301 N. Tampa Fl. 33619.

Contact E-mail Addresses:

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

Board of Directors

Steve Williams: WilliamsPStv@aol.com
Kevin Ruhl: MSgtMCRet@aol.com
Jim LaGarde: clagarde@tampabay.rr.com
Jon Mueller: ParaSF68@aol.com



Important Web Sites

Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida..... <http://www.vva787.com>
Vietnam War Statistics.....<http://users.dishmail.net/cmart/vietwarstats.html>
Vietnam, Yesterday & Today.....<http://servercc.oakton.edu/~wittman/chronol.htm>
Vietnam Veterans Legacy Foundation.....www.vvlf.org
National League of Families of American POW's/MIA's.....www.pow-miafamilies.org
V.V.A. National Office on the World Wide Web.....www.vva.org
U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.....www.va.gov
OPM Veterans Hiring Preference.....www.opm.gov/veterans
Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP).....www.usfhp.com
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.....www.vetapp.uscourts.gov
Children of Vietnam Vets.....www.geocities.com/pentagon/9125
The Center for Women Veterans.....www.va.gov/womenvet
Vietnam Women Memorial Foundation, Inc (formerly "Project").....www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org
The Moving Wall—Vietnam Combat Veterans LTD.....www.themovingwall.org
The Virtual Wall.....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