



# THE OUTPOST



In Service to America

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  
FOR INFORMATION CALL (813) 597-1326, FAX: (813) 737-4929.  
WEB SITE: MEMBERS.AOL.COM/VVA787/INDEX.HTML**



Submitted By: Bob Silmsler

## June Fund Raiser at Publix



Pictured at left, chapter member Richard Nye, and at right, chapter member of the year Carl Harris.

This will be the last Poppy Drive Fund raiser until the weather cools down.



Once again the following chapter members stepped up to help fund our on going operations: Chapter President Jim LaGarde, Chapter VP, Tom Hall, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Bob Silmsler, Chapter Board Members Herman Rainey, Carl Harris, Kevin Ruhl, and Ron Schott, chapter members, Don Wallick, Mickey Taylor, Tony Towers, Richard Nye, and AVVA member Eddy Ortelt. Thanks to one and all for your time and effort.

Submitted By: Bob Silmsler

## Chapter Breakfast Meeting



At Left: 0821 breakfast at the Flying "J" on Saturday June 24 was a great success and was attended by the following:

Chapter President Jim LaGarde and his brother in-law Connie, Chapter VP Tom Hall, Chapter Secretary and Treasurer, Bob Silmsler, chapter members Tony Towers, John Keiffer and girl friend Diana Webster, Board Member and State Council Delegate, Kevin Ruhl, wife Keturah and her sister Pat.

At right: Bob Silmsler (L) and chapter member of the year Carl Harris are shown with their delivery to the Veterans Outreach Program in Tampa that was approved by Chapter 787 members who were present at the Chapter meeting held on Thursday June 22nd. The approved amount was \$300. With this delivery, the Outreach Program can function for another week or two according to Bob. This program supports many homeless Veterans.

Members voting on such issues is just one reason to try and attend the chapter meetings held on the 4th Thursday of each month.



## Chapter Officers

President: Jim LaGarde  
Vice President: Tom Hall  
Secretary: Bob Silmsler  
Treasurer: Bob Silmsler

### Board of Directors:

Ron Schott  
Carl Harris  
Tom Hall  
Herman Rainey  
Jon Mueller

### State Council Delegate:

Kevin Ruhl

OUTPOST Publisher & Editor: Jon Mueller, E-mail: JonMue@aol.com

## Meetings

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

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Brandon Veterans Hall, 115 W. Clay Brandon Fl. 33510. See Map on last page. **Mail-ing address: P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404 . Food will be served prior to the meeting.**

## Help Support Our Troops in Iraq



Sgt. Zack Mueller, (my son) who is with the US Army's 4th Infantry, on a 10 man MiTT unit (Military Training Team) needs old cell phones. The MiTT unit will issue the phones to selected Iraqi soldiers who will use them to help coordinate training and combat operations within their AO.



Anyone who can donate old cell phones with their power supplies, do not need to worry about the data stored in them. Zack will replace the sim card and/or remove any data currently stored on the device.

New Cell phones in Iraq currently cost over \$300, Much more then the monthly pay of the average Iraqi Soldier.



You can send the cell phones directly to Zack at the address listed below or contact me for pick-up and I will take care of the shipping costs. My home phone number is (813) 684-3951, work is (813) 261-5119 and cell is (813) 417-4818. E-mail: JonMue@aol.com.

Thank You.

### Mailing Address:

Sgt. Mueller, Zachary  
HHC 1-68 CAB Unit #51505 MiTT  
APO AE 09336-1505



## **V.V.A. Chapter 787 T-shirts for sale, very cool!**



### Chapter T-Shirts

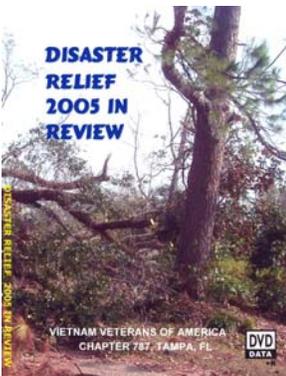
\$15.00 for size Large & X-Large, 4 in stock now. \$17.00 for size XX-Large

**We can mail the shirts to your home for an additional \$4.00,**

**Or pick them up at the next chapter meeting, and save the \$4.00.**

**Contact Bob Silmsler by e-mail: rafkirk64@verizon.net or phone: 813-685-3483, to order, or if you have questions.**

**3-1/2" Iron on Patches and window decals \$3.00 (shown at right).**



**At Left: Disaster Relief DVD.** Created by chapter Secretary, Bob Silmsler, this DVD shows how chapter 787 assisted victims in the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana during the disastrous hurricane season of 2005. The DVD shows how chapter members made multiple trips with supplies and other assistance to the affected regions.

The DVD is well worth the small \$10 cost. Contact Bob Silmsler at (813) 685-3483 for copies.

Submitted By: Tom Hall

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## Taps



**J. Harding**, died this month. He was a member of the Florida State Council. He was the President and Delegate for Chapter 680. He has been around since the state council was formed. No other information, i.e. cause of death, branch of service, rank, dates of Vietnam service etc were available at time of this publication, (OUTPOST editor).

Submitted By: Tom Hall

## Chapter 787 members provide their experiences to the local High Schools!

The number of hours in the classroom in support of teaching the History of the Vietnam War course and other courses. Chapter 787's Speakers Bureau had 594 hours in the classroom during the 2005-2006 school year. All hours documented in file.

Submitted By: Kevin Ruhl

## Veterans Nursing Home Needs your Old VHS tapes & DVD's



Please look under your bed and sofa for any old movies on VHS or DVD which you may not care to watch for the 25th time. Our Nursing Home Vet's need more entertainment. Please bring them to the next chapter meeting or contact Kevin Ruhl 863-956-8207, or e-mail him at [MSgtMCRet@aol.com](mailto:MSgtMCRet@aol.com).

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

## Jobs for Vet's

Tampa Tribune, June 26 2006: We admire our veterans. Now let's hire them. The New York Times' Salute Our Heroes Veterans Job Fair & Career Expo heads to the University of South Florida Sun Dome in Tampa on July 11 with lots of employers looking for new workers—and lots of seminars to help veterans improve their job search techniques and interview skills. If you want to register—or your company wants to participate—go to [jobmarket.nytimes.com](http://jobmarket.nytimes.com) and look for the expo in the "Career Calendar" section

**Do you have a family member currently serving in the US Military. We want to hear about them. Please send their name, rank, branch of service, duty station, etc., to Jon Mueller. E-mail: [JonMue@aol.com](mailto:JonMue@aol.com). Please include pictures.**

## Chapter Breakfast, Everyone's Invited

Each month, Chapter 787 members and family, should plan to attend a morning breakfast at the FLYING "J" restaurant which is located at the intersection of Hwy 579 North and I-4. The intersection is near the Lazy Days RV dealership.



Show time is 8:00 AM the 4th Saturday of each month (first Saturday after the chapter meetings). Wear your colors. The chapter wants to continue to support events that can bring together members and their families who may not be able to attend other functions.

## This Month during the War in Vietnam

**July 28 1965-** President Johnson announced plans to deploy additional combat units and to increase American military strength in South Vietnam to 175,000 by year's end. The Army already was preparing hundreds of units for duty in Southeast Asia, among them the newly activated 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Other combat units—Paratroops of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and all three brigades of the 1st Infantry Division were either ready to go or already on their way to Vietnam. Together with hundreds of support and logistical units, these combat units constituted the first phase of the build-up during the summer and fall of 1965.



Spearheaded by at least three NVA regiments, Communist forces mounted a strong offensive in South Vietnam's Central Highlands during the summer of 1965, overrunning border camps and besieging some district towns. Here the enemy threatened to cut the nation in two. To meet the danger, Westmoreland introduced the newly organized Army airmobile division, the 1st Cavalry Division, with its large contingent of helicopters, directly into the highlands.



Less than a month later the newly arrived airmobile division received its baptism of fire. The North Vietnamese Army attacked a Special Forces camp at Plei Me; when it was repulsed, Westmoreland directed the division to launch an offensive to locate and destroy enemy regiments that had been identified in the vicinity of the camp. The result was the battle of the Ia Drang valley, named for a small river that flowed through the area of operations. For thirty-five days the division pursued and fought the 32d, 33d, and 66th North Vietnamese Regiments, until the enemy, suffering heavy casualties, returned to his bases in Cambodia.

**July 1966:** Co. H, 2/26 Marines deployed on the USS Bexar (APA-237). The Embarked period 2/26 sailed as part of an Amphibious Squadron from San Diego. Co. H was the primary embarked force aboard. Though Marine radio and maintenance detachments were onboard, they would be off-loaded at Okinawa. The Battalion was headed for an assault landing south of Da Nang. The initial landing was cancelled when it was determined that the 3rd Marine Division needed help in their AO and would use Hotel Co. as a blocking force.



**July 1967:** Close to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in I Corps, the enemy seemed intent on drawing the American Marines toward the border regions. In Quang Tri Province, the Marines fought a hard twelve-day battle to prevent NVA forces from dominating the hills surrounding Khe Sanh. The enemy's heightened military activity along the demilitarized zone included frontal attacks across it.



Throughout the summer of 1967, Marine forces endured some of the most intense enemy artillery barrages of the war and fought several battles with NVA units that infiltrated across the 17th parallel. Their stubborn defense, supported by massive counter battery fire, naval gunfire, and air attacks, ended the enemy's offensive in northern I Corp for that year.

The border battles of 1967 also led to a reassessment of strategy in Hanoi. Undeviating in their long-term aim of unification, the leaders of North Vietnam recognized that their strategy of military confrontation had failed to stop the American military buildup in the South or to reduce U.S. military pressure on the North.

The Communists had matched the build-up of American combat forces. The number of enemy divisions in the South increasing from one in early 1965 to nine at the start of 1968.

### Quote

“They smelled like goats, lived like dogs and worked like horses, but the US Navy Seabees have carried the war in the Pacific on their backs.” **Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, 1945**

“I wasn't born, I was quarried” **US Navy Seabee**



# 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 28m 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Medal of Honor Winners of the Vietnam War.

COOK, DONALD GILBERT



Rank and organization: Colonel, United States Marine Corps, Prisoner of War by the Viet Cong in the Republic of Vietnam. Place and date: Vietnam, 31 December 1964 to 8 December, 1967. Entered Service at: Brooklyn, New York. Date and place of birth: 9 August 1934, Brooklyn New York. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while interned as a Prisoner of War by the Viet Cong in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 31 December 1964 to 8 December 1967. Despite the fact that by so doing he would bring about harsher treatment for himself, Colonel (then Captain) Cook established himself as the senior prisoner, even though in actuality he was not. Repeatedly assuming more than his share of their health, Colonel Cook willingly and unselfishly put the interests of his comrades before that of his own well-being and, eventually, his life. Giving more needy men his medicine and drug allowance while constantly nursing them, he risked infection from contagious diseases while in a rapidly deteriorating state of health. This unselfish and exemplary conduct, coupled with his refusal to stray even the slightest from the Code of Conduct, earned him the deepest respect from not only his fellow prisoners, but his captors as well. Rather than negotiate for his own release or better treatment, he steadfastly frustrated attempts by the Viet Cong to break his indomitable spirit. and passed this same resolve on to the men whose well-being he so closely associated himself. Knowing his refusals would prevent his release prior to the end of the war, and also knowing his chances for prolonged survival would be small in the event of continued refusal, he chose nevertheless to adhere to a Code of Conduct far above that which could be expected. His personal valor and exceptional spirit of loyalty in the face of almost certain death reflected the highest credit upon Colonel Cook, the Marine Corps, and the United States Naval Service.



Submitted By: Jon Mueller

## Iraq Has Psychological Toll on Vets of Earlier Wars

**By: Donna St. George, The Washington Post, June 30 2006.**

More than 30 years after their war ended, thousands of Vietnam veterans are seeking help for post-traumatic stress disorder, and experts say one reason appears to be the harrowing images of combat in Iraq.

Figures from the Department of Veterans Affairs show that PTSD disability-compensation cases have nearly doubled since 2000 to a high of more than 260,000. The biggest bulge has come since 2003, when war started in Iraq.

Experts say that although several factors may be at work in the burgeoning caseload, many veterans of past wars revisit their trauma as they watch TV images of U.S. troops in combat and read each new account of casualties.

“It so directly parallels what happened to Vietnam veterans,” said Raymond Scurfield, of the University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Coast campus, who worked with the disorder at VA for more than 20 years and has written two books on the subject. “The war has to be triggering their issues. They’re almost the same issues.”

PTSD researcher John Silson who oversaw a small recent survey of 70 veterans, nearly all from Vietnam, at Cleveland State University, said 57% reported flashbacks after watching reports about the war on television and 46% said their sleep was disrupted. 43% said they had fallen into depression since the war began, and nearly 30% said they had sought counseling since the war started in Iraq and Afghanistan.

VA officials said other reason for the surge in cases might include a lessening of the stigma associated with PTSD and the aging of the Vietnam generation.

In addition, as Vietnam veterans near retirement age “they have more time to think, instead of focusing on making a living all the time and for some this is not necessarily a good thing.” said Rick Weidman executive director for policy and government affairs at Vietnam Veterans of America.

Max Cleland, a former U.S. senator from Georgia and one-time head of the VA who was left a triple amputee by the Vietnam War, said the convergence of age, and the Iraq war has created problems for many of his fellow veterans, as well as for himself.

Many veterans no longer watch the news nor listen to the radio, to avoid the pain.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

## Stolen Valor Act of 2005

Normally, the OUTPOST makes every effort to avoid the three danger areas, i.e. Politics, Religion and Sex, but the Stolen Valor Act of 2005, introduced to the US Congress by Congressman John Salazar from Colorado deserves our special attention.



Over the years, there have been too many individuals who have worn medals, uniforms, insignias and patches of the various armed forces of the United States when they did not earn the right. Adults who wear these items pretending to have legitimately qualified to do so, is a slap in the face to every veteran. Many men and women of the U.S. Military have died or have been seriously wounded fighting not just for the U.S. Flag but their branch or unit's pride which is represented by their uniform or insignias. We have all been through the rigors of difficult training, in one degree or another, and as many of you know, courage in the face of actual combat sometimes comes from the fact that you do not want to let your buddies, slugging away next to you, down. The medals we have received, the insignia's and patches we wear, represent that pride, and history. No one that "has not been there or done that", should have the right to wear them.

Bragging or showing off by the pretenders or wannabee's in private is one thing, but when they do so in public that has to be stopped.

While the purposed legislation would penalize distributors of phony medals and those who fraudulently claim to be decorated veterans, it is a start in the right direction for a more comprehensive package that would include all U.S. Military insignia.

The Vietnam Veterans of America supports this Act and we should all contact our government representatives to make sure they also support this.

You can get more information by going to the following web site: <http://www.homeofheroes.com/>. There you can see which government representatives have sponsored this bill and how to contact yours.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

## Local Boy Scout asked V.V.A. Chapter 787 for help on his Eagle Scout Project



Chapter 787 was honored to have local Boy Scout Jeremy Hegdecoth, his Mom and friend speak at our chapter meeting held on Thursday June 22nd. Jeremy, who wants to support veterans, and has risen to the position in the Boy Scouts where he can apply for his Eagle Scout rank, would like to have the required Eagle Scout Project relate to Vietnam Vet's.

He asked the chapter members for some ideas. While some good proposals were discussed, none have been finalized and we are asking all members to try and come up with additional ideas for this very important project for Jeremy.

Please contact any of the chapter officers shown on the last page of the OUTPOST to submit your thoughts on this. You can also e-mail the OUTPOST at [JonMue@aol.com](mailto:JonMue@aol.com) with your suggestions.

## Financial Status of Chapter 787 as of June 8 2006

Checking Account.....\$3,237.90	Moving Wall Fund.....\$4,043.00	Holiday Meals Fund.....\$657.74
Total \$7,938.64		
Household Goods.....\$ 51.87	Convention Fund.....\$2,082.24	Petty Cash.....\$ 76.70
<b><u>Grand Total: \$10,149.45</u></b>		

Thanks to our Financial Wizard, Bob Silmsner



Your alarm goes off; you hit the snooze and sleep for another 10 minutes.

He stays up for days on end.

You take a warm shower to help you wake up.

He goes days or weeks without running water.

You complain of a "headache", and call in sick.

He gets shot at, as others are hit, and keeps moving forward.

You put on your anti war/don't support the troop's shirt, and go meet up with your friends.

He still fights for your right to wear that shirt.

You make sure you're cell phone is in your pocket.

He clutches the cross hanging on his chain next to his dog tags.

You talk trash on your "buddies" that aren't with you. He knows he may not see some of his buddies again.

You walk down the beach, staring at all the pretty girls.

He walks the streets, searching for insurgents and terrorists.

You complain about how hot it is.

He wears his heavy gear, not daring to take off his helmet to wipe his brow.

You go out to lunch, and complain because the restaurant got your order wrong.

He does not get to eat today.

Your maid makes your bed and washes your clothes.

He wears the same things for months, but makes sure his weapons are clean.

You go to the mall and get your hair redone.

He doesn't have time to brush his teeth today.

You are angry because your class ran 5 minutes over.

He is told he will be held an extra 2 months.

You call your girlfriend and set a date for that night.

He waits for the mail to see if there is a letter from home.

You hug and kiss your girlfriend, like you do everyday.

He holds his letter close and smells his love's perfume.

You roll your eyes as a baby cries.

He gets a letter with pictures of his new child, and wonders if they'll ever meet.

You criticize your government, and say that war never solves anything.

He sees the innocent tortured and killed by their own government and remembers why he is fighting.

You hear the jokes about the war, and make fun of the men like him.

He hears the gun fire and bombs.

You see only what the media wants you to see. He sees the bodies lying around him.

You are asked to go to the store by your parents. You don't.

He does what he is told.

You stay at home and watch TV.

He takes whatever time he is given to call and write home, sleep, and eat.

You crawl into your bed, with down pillows, and try to get comfortable.

He crawls under a tank for shade and a 5 minute nap, only to be woken by gun fire.

You sit there and judge him, saying the world is a worse place because of men like him.

If only there were more men like him



# Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<b><u>July 2006</u></b>		
4th Tuesday	July 4th, Brandon, Contact Bob Silmsers for Float Resv.	10:00 AM
13th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
27th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Brandon Veterans Hall	7:00 PM
29th Saturday	Chapter Breakfast get together, at the Flying "J" Restaurant Plant City	8:00 AM
<b><u>August 2006</u></b>		
10th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
24th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Brandon Veterans Hall	7:00 PM
26th Saturday	Chapter Breakfast get together, at the Flying "J" Restaurant Plant City	8:00 AM

Submitted By: Bob Silmsers

## FLORIDA'S LARGEST HOME SHOW IS COMING TO THE TAMPA

CONVENTION CENTER AND WE WILL BE THERE BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP, We need a minimum of 3 people per day to man our booth at the Home Show. You get free admission to the show on the days that your there.

- Friday September 1st 11:00am to 8:00 pm
- Saturday September 2nd 11:00am to 8:00pm
- Sunday September 3rd 11:00am to 6:00pm
- Monday September 4th 11:00am to 6:00pm

**Please contact Bob Silmsers to schedule**

813-220-7246 or [Rafkirk64@Tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Rafkirk64@Tampabay.rr.com)



## FLORIDA'S LARGEST HOME SHOW IS COMING TO THE FAIR- GROUNDS

**AND WE WILL BE THERE BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP** We need a minimum of 3 people per day to man our booth at the fall Home Show. You get free admission to the show on the days that your there.

- Friday November 3rd 11:00am to 8:00 pm
- Saturday November 4th 11:00am to 8:00pm
- Sunday November 5th 11:00am to 6:00pm

**Please contact Bob Silmsers to schedule**

813-220-7246 or [Rafkirk64@Tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Rafkirk64@Tampabay.rr.com)



**The following message is self explanatory, please advise veterans to ask for some form of identification before providing personal information such as SSN to anyone attempting to help them process a claim.**

WARNING TO VETERANS!!!!

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.

<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services. In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

[Michael.Daugherty2@va.gov](mailto:Michael.Daugherty2@va.gov)

Michael G. Daugherty Staff Attorney Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel (022G2) 810 Vermont Ave., Room 1106 Washington, D.C. 20420

**VIETNAM POW EXHIBIT:** Visitors can get a rare glimpse into the lives of prisoners of war through a dramatic new exhibit at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The exhibit, titled "Return with Honor: American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia," located in the museum's Modern Flight Gallery, is now open to the public. Visitors enter the exhibit next to a reproduced doorway to the "Hanoi Hilton," the name given by Americans to Hoa Lo Prison. Photographs, videos, dioramas and artifacts tell the story of prisoner torture, political exploitation, filthy living conditions and endless attempts at communist indoctrination. Visitors can look inside re-created, life-size prison cells for an up-close picture of POW living conditions. Several artifacts, including hand-made games, rings, cigarette cases and clothing that were created by the prisoners during their confinement, also are on display.

The exhibit also features a Son Tay prison camp rescue raid display. Although the raiders in NOV 70 found that the prison camp did not hold any POWs, the raid proved a success in other ways. A daring raid so close to Hanoi showed that the United States had the will to carry out exceptional operations to ensure POW well-being. POW morale soared on account of the raid. **The exhibit also highlights the story of U.S. forces' final combat in Southeast Asia, which occurred in May 75 when the American cargo ship SS Mayaguez was seized by the Cambodian Khmer Rouge navy while it was in international waters. Featured in this display are a life ring from the Mayaguez and a beret worn by one of the pararescuemen who participated in the operation.**

The National Museum of the United States Air Force is located on Springfield Pike, six miles northeast of downtown Dayton. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day). Admission to the museum and parking are free. For more information about this and other exhibits at the museum, call (937) 255-3286, Ext. 302 or visit the web site at <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/>. [Source: Air Force Retiree News Service 17 May 06]

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 [JonMue@aol.com](mailto:JonMue@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.

**Classified Ad's:** This service is available to all chapter members subject to time and space requirements of the OUTPOST. Please submit ad's with all text and pictures in a complete format. The OUTPOST reserves the right to reject ad's deemed unsuitable for this publication.

**Tom Hall is selling the following items. He can be reached at (813) 655-7129**

Maroon Swivel/Rocker Chair  
Asking \$200.00



Light Oak Entertainment Center w/Lighted Glass Shelves  
Swivel shelf for 27-30" TV  
Asking \$500.00 \$50.00 VVA member discount

Light Blue w/cream dots Sofa & Love Seat  
Good condition  
Asking \$500.00 \$50.00 VVA member discount



Craftsman 2400 psi Pressure Washer  
comes w/wand, robo wand, & 2-8' extensions  
Just back from the shop for tune-up.  
Asking \$250.00

**V.V.A. Chapter 787 Hurricane Quick Response Team**



In the past few years with the heightened Hurricane activity in the Gulf and south Atlantic areas, your chapter has donated a great deal of time, effort, supplies and money to help victims of these storms from South Florida to the Northern Gulf of Mexico region.

Your chapter officers and Board of Directors want to make all members aware that should a hurricane strike the Tampa Bay area, we are here to help local members who may be in need.

While no one can predict what damage may occur to any of our property or persons, should any of you in the Tampa Bay area need help with food, water, clothing or just removing downed trees or debris (that may be of some hazard to you or your family) , please contact one or more of the following individuals. Please remember that we cannot guarantee our services since everyone listed could also be in a damaged state of affairs, but we are all committed to do our best to help our fellow veterans and chapter members if we have the ability to do so.

Help Contact Phone List: Jim LaGarde: 758-4547, Tom Hall: 655-7129, Bob Silmser: 685-3483, c-220-7246, Kevin Ruhl: (863) 956-8207, c-695-6203, Carl Harris: 752-6634, Jon Mueller: 684-3951, c-417-4818.

All phone numbers are in area code 813 unless otherwise noted. "c" stands for cell phone.

## 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 Brandon Veterans Hall. 115 W. Clay Ave, Brandon Fl. See map below.

#### Contact E-mail Addresses:

President Jim LaGarde:

cLaGarde@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary & Treasurer Bob Silmsr:

Rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com

State Council Delegate Kevin Ruhl:

MSgtMCRet@aol.com

#### Board of Directors

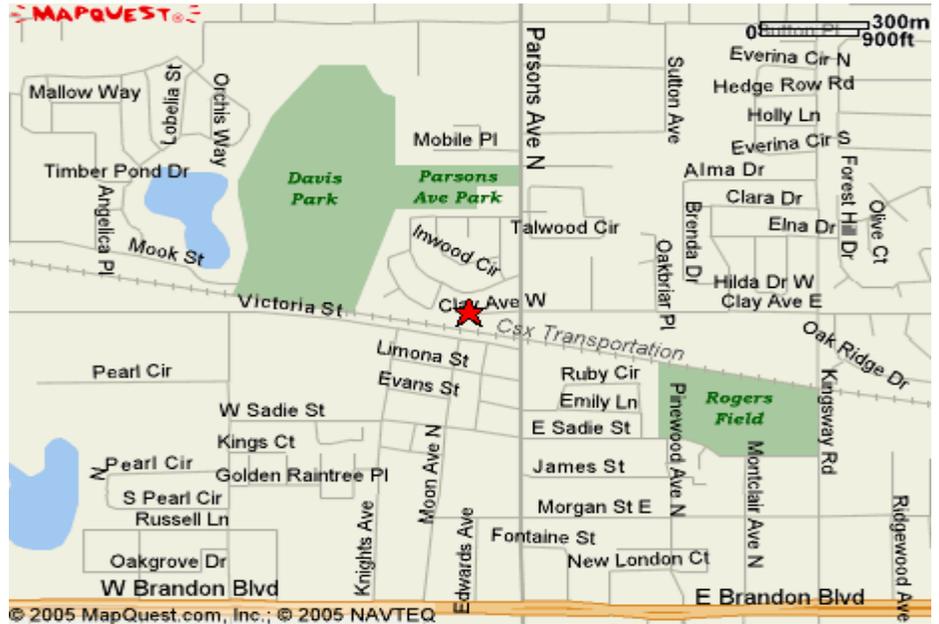
Ron Schott: RonD1120@aol.com

Tom Hall: MarineDI@aol.com

Carl Harris: c\_e\_harris@ij.net

Herman Rainey: (No E-mail)

Jon Mueller: JonMue@aol.com



## Important Web Sites

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