



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](http://WWW.VVA787.COM)**



Submitted By: Jon Mueller

## Sweetheart Diner Dance & Buffet, Sun City Center Fl.

### **Chapter Officers**

President: Jim LaGarde  
Vice President: Carl Harris  
Secretary: Bob Silmsers  
Treasurer: Bob Silmsers

### **Board of Directors:**

Tom Hall  
Kevin Ruhl  
Steve Williams  
Jon Mueller

### **State Council Delegate:**

Kevin Ruhl

**Newsletter** Editor: Jon Mueller, E-mail: [ParaSF68@aol.com](mailto:ParaSF68@aol.com)

### **Meetings**

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

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Veterans Memorial 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.**



Pictured above L-R: **Joyce Braun** and husband, chapter 787 member, Hillsborough County Veterans Affairs President **Dave Braun**, and **David Rogoff**, Hillsborough County Director of Health & Social Services.

The Sweetheart Diner Dance & Buffet was held on February 20th as a kick off fund raiser for the Veterans Park, Museum & Memorial Committee. It was held at the Community Center in Sun City Center and was attended by many military veterans. Dave Braun & Chapter 787 Scy, **Bob Silmsers** were instrumental in coordinating this event from beginning to end.

## More Pictures from the Sweetheart Diner Dance



Pictured above L-R: Chapter 787 President **Jim LaGarde**, **Margaret Silmsers**, Chapter 787 Scy/Tres. **Bob Silmsers**, chapter member **Richard Nye**, **Nancy Nye** and finally “old baldy” chapter 787 VP, **Carl Harris**.



Pictured above L-R: **Elaine Harris**, chapter 787 VP **Carl Harris**, chapter 787 President **Jim LaGarde**.



Pictured above L-R: **Jim (Rambo) LaGarde**, **Cathy LaGarde**, **Margaret Silmsers**, **Bob Silmsers**, and **Nancy Nye**. The lady in the foreground is unidentified.



Pictured above L-R: **Mary Ellen Harlan**, and **Jim Basta**, VP of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assoc. **Mary Ellen** helped set up the dining area along with handling all the incoming guests.

## Chapter 787 Fund Raisers

It's that time of year again, and Chapter 787 needs volunteers to man or women, the fund raiser tables we set up at the local Publix stores. Please contact **Jim (Rambo) LaGarde** at H-(813) 689-6921 or C-(813) 758-4547 to help out.

## Vietnam Veterans of America & Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America

Work has begun on your 2008 Vietnam Veterans of America & Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Membership Directory, an invaluable tool in this world where building and maintaining a strong personal network has become essential.

Right now, a friend could be trying to reach you with the job offer of a lifetime, or a former member might wish to drop you an e-mail. The friend you've been thinking about, but never quite had the time to locate, could be within reach if your contact information were up to date in our records. So please take one minute to complete your one page profile now by going on-line to: <https://www.alumniconnections.com/olq>.

You can also access your profile by going to URL [www.memberconnections.com/mylisting](http://www.memberconnections.com/mylisting). Once the questionnaire page is displayed, use your ID number and password to access your profile.

This important directory will contain complete listings of all members from Vietnam Veterans of America & Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, including e-mail addresses, professional and personal information, to help meet your networking needs. My goal is to make this all-new membership publication the most comprehensive membership reference available. As a result, biographical information will be included for all members.

Thank you for taking this moment to ensure that we have your most current information. By taking this opportunity to confirm the accuracy of the information for this directory, you will be able to stay close to other members who continue to make a difference in your life.

*The above information was received via e-mail from John Rowan President of V.V.A. National and Mary Miller, President of A.V.V. A. National on February 19 2008. They are asking all of us to go on-line to the above mentioned web site and complete our personal questionnaire.*

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Submitted By: Jon Mueller

### Quotes

**Never tell the Gunnery Sergeant you have nothing to do.**  
US Marine Recruit

**The difficult we do immediately. The impossible takes a little while longer.**  
- U.S. Navy Seabees

**Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the ground.**  
US Air Force

**The easy way is always mined.**  
US Army Infantry Journal

## **SDIT e-Update** **February 2008**

Greetings! The following information is provided to members and supporters of Sons and Daughters In Touch, in order to keep everyone informed on the developments concerning the organization. Look for the next edition of this update in early March, and the next edition of 'Legacies' in April.

1. **On February 18, 2008**, the National Geographic Channel will premiere its 3-hour program, '**Inside the Vietnam War.**' The program provides a behind-the-scenes view of the war's planning, its impact on those who fought and testimonials from 50 Vietnam Veterans.

For more information on the program, visit:

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/ET/popup/200802182300.html>

To preview the show, visit:

[http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/videos/player.html?title=05075\\_00](http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/videos/player.html?title=05075_00)

2. Throughout 2008, several **traveling replicas of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial** will make appearances in communities across the United States. While each traveling memorial is sponsored by a different organization, each provides an opportunity to reflect and remember. To learn more about each traveling memorial, visit the following sites:

**American Veterans Traveling Tribute:** <http://www.avtt.org/2008%20Schedule.htm>

**The Moving Wall:** <http://www.themovingwall.org/>

**The Wall That Heals:** <http://www.vvmf.org/index.cfm?SectionID=612>

**Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall:** [http://www.travelingwall.us/schedule\\_of\\_appearances.htm](http://www.travelingwall.us/schedule_of_appearances.htm)

3. **\$58,256 Campaign** – the SDIT campaign to benefit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center by raising \$1.00 for every name on the Wall is well underway. To date, nearly \$5000 has been received or pledged for the effort. Plans are also underway for a Memorial Day weekend call-a-thon to be held on the Rusty Humphries radio show. Rusty is a 'son' – his father, Army Captain Gary D. Humphries, was lost in January 1969 – and hosts a nationally syndicated conservative talk show. For more information about Rusty and his show, visit [www.talk2rusty.com](http://www.talk2rusty.com). To make a donation to this effort, visit: <http://www.sdit.org/nameonthewall/>

4. **VietNow Scholarships** – The annual VietNow scholarship program for SDIT members is now inviting applications from the children, grandchildren and spouses of those lost during the Vietnam War. To be considered for one of the scholarships, the SDIT member must also be attending a post-secondary educational program (e.g. college, grad school, career development or vocational training). Contact Jim Sampers ([jim@sdit.org](mailto:jim@sdit.org)) to receive an application. The deadline for mailing applications directly to VietNow is April 1, 2008.

5. **SDIT board elections** for the 2008-2010 term will be held later in the year. During the next term, SDIT board members will oversee the organization's involvement in the development of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center and a possible Father's Day reunion. All 'sons and daughters' with an interest in serving on the SDIT board should send an email message to [board@sdit.org](mailto:board@sdit.org). SDIT is looking for an editor of its newsletter, a qualified bookkeeper to help manage its finances and more.

6. **Some interesting information:** With the Super Bowl over and the last football season in the books, it's interesting to note a connection between the Vietnam War, pro football and SDIT. At least two 'sons' of US servicemen lost in Vietnam played in the National Football League, and at least five 'sons and daughters' lost their soldier/football player fathers in the war.

**Continued on next page.....**

Submitted By: **Dave Braun**

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Page 5

Derrick Thomas was an All-America linebacker for the University of Alabama in 1988. He played 11 All Pro seasons for the Kansas City Chiefs before passing away in February 2000. He was the son of USAF Captain Robert J. Thomas, who was lost on a December 1972 bombing mission over North Vietnam. In 2008, Derrick was a finalist for election to the NFL Hall of Fame.

Dan Salaeumua played 12 seasons for three NFL teams, making the Pro Bowl in 1990 and 1995. He is the son of Marine Corp Sergeant Uinifareti Saleaumua who was killed in February 1967 near Quang Nam, South Vietnam. Fittingly, Dan and Derrick played together for eight seasons in Kansas City.

Two US Servicemen who played pro football were lost in the Vietnam War.

Don Steinbrunner played offensive tackle for the Cleveland Browns in 1953 after attending Washington State University as an ROTC student. He was called to duty after the 1953 season and ultimately gave up his football career to focus on a career in the Air Force. In 1967, Major Steinbrunner's plane was shot down near Kontum, South Vietnam, and leaving behind a wife and three children.

Bob Kalsu, was an ROTC student and All-America offensive lineman for the Oklahoma Sooners in 1967. He was an 8th round draft choice of the Buffalo Bills voted the team's 1968 rookie of the year. After his first pro season, Bob was called to active duty by the Army's 101st Airborne Division. Lt. Kalsu was killed in July 1970 near the Ashau Valley and is survived by his wife and their son and daughter.

If you know of any similar connections from professional baseball, basketball or hockey, let SDIT know.

[www.sdit.org](http://www.sdit.org) • 800-984-9994 • PO Box 100366 Arlington, VA 22210

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

## Will this be the Fate of V.V.A.?

### WWI Vets group down to 1 member

By William R. Levesque, St. Petersburg Times, February 22 2007

Its 350,000 members once held noisy conventions, tended 2,500 posts around the nation and kept a Capital Hill office. Now it operates out of a spare bedroom in a suburban Virginia home. Its membership: One. And he is 107 years old.

The death of Sun City Centers Harry Landis, age 108, on Feb. 4th left one living U.S. veteran of World War I. When the last veteran dies, the once-influential Veterans of WWI of the USA Inc. will die with him. Its executive director, Muriel Sue Parkhurst Kerr, 61, a civilian employee who is not a member of the group, still goes through the motions, returning calls, answering mail. But the Mt. Vernon, Va., resident notes, "You can't have a group without any members."

With the passing of that last veteran—West Virginia resident Frank Buckles—Kerr will return the nonprofit group's congressional charter.

"Muriel should be proud of the work she's done," says Robert Sawallesh, 70, of Valrico, a Vietnam veteran who follows the group's history. "She kept the spirit of that generation alive."

The organization started with friends who didn't want to lose their identity as men who served in World War I. In the years after World War II, however, new veterans were overwhelming the ranks of organizations once dominated by WWI veterans. In 1948, a separate WWI group was formed, with membership requiring honorable service in that war. In 1958, Congress granted the group a charter, lending it prestige.

Buckles now holds the post of group commander. He will be the last. He was unanimously elected a few years ago. The vote: 2-to 0.

Buckles daughter, Susannah, says he remarked "They finally made me commander. But I've got nobody left to command."

# Medal of Honor Winners of the War in Vietnam

## The Bravest of the Brave

Submitted By: Jon Mueller



Major Bernard Francis Fisher, USAF.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. On that date, the US Army special forces camp at A Shau was under attack by 2,000 North Vietnamese Army regulars. Hostile troops had positioned themselves between the airstrip and the camp. Other hostile troops had surrounded the camp and were continuously raking it with automatic weapons fire from the surrounding hills. The tops of the 1,500-foot hills were obscured by an 800 foot ceiling, limiting aircraft maneuverability and forcing pilots to operate within range of hostile gun positions, which often were able to fire down on the attacking aircraft. During the battle, Maj. Fisher observed a fellow airman crash land on the battle-torn airstrip. In the belief that the downed pilot was seriously injured and in imminent danger of capture, Maj. Fisher announced his intention to land on the airstrip to effect a rescue.

Although aware of the extreme danger and likely failure of such an attempt, he elected to continue. Directing his own air cover, he landed his aircraft and taxied almost the full length of the runway, which was littered with battle debris and parts of an exploded aircraft. While effecting a successful rescue of the downed pilot, heavy ground fire was observed, with 19 bullets striking his aircraft. In the face of the withering ground fire, he applied power and gained enough speed to lift-off at the overrun of the airstrip. Maj. Fisher's profound concern for his fellow airman, and at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Air Force and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

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### Vet jailed over lie to get POW license plate

NAPLES, Fla. — A 72-year-old veteran wanted a Florida Prisoner of War license plate so badly that he lied about being a former POW.

A Collier County judge sentenced Raymond Gauthier to 90 days in jail Tuesday for possessing a phony form used to apply for a POW license plate and discount as a war veteran.

Gauthier had pleaded guilty in April of submitting a form listing bogus military awards and honors to get the plate from the state of Florida.

He was sentenced to probation then, but was charged with violating probation when probation officers found another form during a routine search of his Brevard County home in May. That brought Tuesday's jail sentence.

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Submitted By: Bob Silmsner

### Chapter President Chased by BIG BIRD!

Apparently, **Jim (Rambo) LaGarde**, was chased into his garage at home by one or more Ostrich or Emu. His wife **Cathy** contacted chapter Scy/Tres, **Bob Silmsner** who passed on these details. We always seem to miss these great Kodak moments. The word is Rambo is doing just fine after his avian encounter.

## What is a Vietnam Veteran? By Dan Mauer

*A college student posted a request on an internet newsgroup asking for personal narratives from the likes of us addressing the question: "What is a Vietnam Veteran?" This was the reply from Vietnam veteran **Dan Mauer***

Vietnam veterans are men and women. We are dead or alive, whole or maimed, sane or haunted. We grew from our experiences or we were destroyed by them or we struggle to find some place in between. We lived through hell or we had a pleasant, if scary, adventure. We were Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Red Cross, and civilians of all sorts. Some of us enlisted to fight for God and Country, and some were drafted. Some were gung-ho, and some went kicking and screaming.

Like veterans of all wars, we lived a tad bit--or a great bit--closer to death than most people like to think about. If Vietnam vets differ from others, perhaps it is primarily in the fact that many of us never saw the enemy or recognized him or her. We heard gunfire and mortar fire but rarely looked into enemy eyes. Those who did, like folks who encounter close combat anywhere and anytime, are often haunted for life by those eyes, those sounds, those electric fears that ran between ourselves, our enemies, and the likelihood of death for one of us. Or we get hard, callused, tough. All in a day's work. Life's a bitch then you die. But most of us remember and get twitchy, worried, sad.

We are crazies dressed in cammies, wide-eyed, wary, homeless, and drunk. We are Brooks Brothers suit wearers, doing deals downtown. We are housewives, grandmothers, and church deacons. We are college professors engaged in the rational pursuit of the truth about the history or politics or culture of the Vietnam experience. And we are sleepless. Often sleepless.

We pushed paper; we pushed shovels. We drove jeeps, operated bulldozers, built bridges; we toted machine guns through dense brush, deep paddy, and thorn scrub. We lived on buffalo milk, fish heads and rice. Or C-rations. Or steaks and Budweiser. We did our time in high mountains drenched by endless monsoon rains or on the dry plains or on muddy rivers or at the most beautiful beaches in the world.

We wore berets, bandanas, flop hats, and steel pots. Flak jackets, canvas, rash and rot. We ate cloroquine and got malaria anyway. We got shots constantly but have diseases nobody can diagnose. We spent our nights on cots or shivering in foxholes filled with waist-high water or lying still on cold wet ground, our eyes imagining Charlie behind every bamboo blade. Or we slept in hotel beds in Saigon or barracks in Thailand or in cramped ships' berths at sea.

We feared we would die or we feared we would kill. We simply feared, and often we still do. We hate the war or believe it was the best thing that ever happened to us. We blame Uncle Sam or Uncle Ho and their minions and secretaries and apologists for every wart or cough or tic of an eye. We wonder if Agent Orange got us.

Mostly--and this I believe with all my heart--mostly, we wish we had not been so alone. Some of us went with units; but many, probably most of us, were civilians one day, jerked up out of "the world," shaved, barked at, insulted, humiliated, de-egoized and taught to kill, to fix radios, to drive trucks. We went, put in our time, and were equally ungraciously plucked out of the morass and placed back in the real world. But now we smoked dope, shot skag, or drank heavily. Our wives or husbands seemed distant and strange. Our friends wanted to know if we shot anybody.

And life went on, had been going on, as if we hadn't been there, as if Vietnam was a topic of political conversation or college protest or news copy, not a matter of life and death for tens of thousands.

Vietnam vets are people just like you. We served our country, proudly or reluctantly or ambivalently. What makes us different--what makes us Vietnam vets--is something we understand, but we are afraid nobody else will. But we appreciate your asking.

Vietnam veterans are white, black, beige and shades of gray; but in comparison with our numbers in the "real world," we were more likely black. Our ancestors came from Africa, from Europe, and China. Or they crossed the Bering Sea Land Bridge in the last Ice Age and formed the nations of American Indians, built pyramids in Mexico, or farmed acres of corn on the banks of Chesapeake Bay. We had names like Rodriguez and Stein and Smith and Kowalski. We were Americans, Australians, Canadians, and Koreans; most Vietnam veterans are Vietnamese.

**Continued on page 9.....**

## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<b><u>March 2008</u></b>		
13th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
21st & 22nd Friday & Saturday	Chapter Fund Raiser, Publix, Bloomingdale & Lithia	
24th Monday	Hillsborough County Veterans Council Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	6:00 PM
27th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Hillsborough County Veterans Park & Museum	7:00 PM
<b><u>April 2008</u></b>		
4th & 5th Friday & Saturday	Chapter Fund Raiser, Publix, Bell Shoals & Bloomingdale	
10th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
24th Thursday	Chapter Meeting Hillsborough County Veterans Park & Museum	7:00 PM
28th Monday	Hillsborough County Veterans Council Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	6:00 PM

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

Submitted By: Kevin Ruhl

## Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

On your computer, go to <http://www.operationmom.org/ToOurParents.html>, to view this video. Make sure you not only save it but pass it around to your family and friends. It is one of the best tributes to our sacrifices that I have yet seen. OUTPOST Editor.

## Chapter to Elect Officers

Chapter 787 will hold it's annual election for officers at the April meeting (24th). Anyone who wants to run for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or the Board of Directors, please contact any of the current officers or board members ASAP. Their e-mail addresses are shown on page 12 of this newsletter. You can also call chapter President Jim LaGarde at H-(813) 689-6921 or C-(813) 758-4547 .



## Financial Status of Chapter 787 as of February 21 2008

Total.....\$7,099.40 (Moving Wall Fund..\$4,692.80, General checking \$1,185.79.... Holiday Meals Fund \$1,220.81)

Total.....\$1,886.93 ( Household Goods.....\$131.70 Convention Fund.....\$1,754.86)

**All Accounts Total: \$8,986.33**

**Thanks to our Treasurer Bob Silmser**

**Continued from page 7.....What is a Vietnam Veteran**

We were farmers, students, mechanics, steelworkers, nurses, and priests when the call came that changed us all forever. We had dreams and plans, and they all had to change...or wait. We were daughters and sons, lovers and poets, beatniks and philosophers, convicts and lawyers. We were rich and poor but mostly poor. We were educated or not, mostly not. We grew up in slums, in shacks, in duplexes, and bungalows and houseboats and hooches and ranchers. We were cowards and heroes. Sometimes we were cowards one moment and heroes the next.

Many of us have never seen Vietnam. We waited at home for those we loved. And for some of us, our worst fears were realized. For others, our loved ones came back but never would be the same.

We came home and marched in protest marches, sucked in tear gas, and shrieked our anger and horror for all to hear. Or we sat alone in small rooms, in VA hospital wards, in places where only the crazy ever go. We are Republicans, Democrats, Socialists, and Confucians and Buddhists and Atheists--though as usually is the case, even the atheists among us sometimes prayed to get out of there alive.

We are hungry, and we are sated, full of life or clinging to death. We are injured, and we are curers, despairing and hopeful, loved or lost. We got too old too quickly, but some of us have never grown up. We want, desperately, to go back, to heal wounds, revisit the sites of our horror. Or we want never to see that place again, to bury it, its memories, its meaning. We want to forget, and we wish we could remember.

Despite our differences, we have so much in common. There are few of us who don't know how to cry, though we often do it alone when nobody will ask "what's wrong?" We're afraid we might have to answer.

Adam, if you want to know what a Vietnam veteran is, get in your car next weekend or cage a friend with a car to drive you. Go to Washington. Go to the Wall. It's going to be Veterans Day weekend. There will be hundreds there...no, thousands. Watch them. Listen to them. I'll be there. Come touch the Wall with us. Rejoice a bit. Cry a bit. No, cry a lot. I will. I'm a Vietnam Veteran; and, after 30 years, I think I am beginning to understand what that means.

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## **Buffalo Soldiers Color Guard**

**February 20th, Sun City Center, Sweetheart Diner Dance**



Photo taken by:  
Veterans Post  
News and sub-  
mitted by Dave  
Braun.

## Vietnam Veterans Still Needed in Iraq & Afghanistan

### **Vietnam Veteran Back In War Zone**

#### **Pentagon Orders Hundreds Of Retired Soldiers To Serve In Iraq and Afghanistan**

*(Washington Times, February 25, 2008, Pg. 1)*

Shot down over Vietnam on his first tour of duty in 1972, 1st Sgt. James Spears is back in the Army — one of hundreds of retired soldiers whom the Pentagon has ordered to suit up and serve the nation once more. As the "human resources manager" for NATO and the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan's Kunar province, Sgt. Spears keeps the soldiers in line with stentorian growls across the mess hall and quiet, reassuring chats in his quarters. Just knowing there is a veteran of the Vietnam War, a far bloodier conflict than those being fought in Afghani-

## Last SEAL gets medal

### **Bronze Star Is Honor Delayed, Not Denied**

#### **Navy Recognizes A Fallen Officer Whose Valor Had Long Been A Secret**

*(Baltimore Sun, February 26, 2008, Pg. 1)*



The last Navy SEAL to die during the Vietnam War was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star in a ceremony at the Naval Academy attended by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, an Annapolis classmate. In June 1972, Lt. Melvin Spence Dry dropped out of a helicopter into choppy seas off the coast of North Vietnam on a secret mission to rescue two escaped American POWs. He died the moment he hit the water. Because the mission was top-secret, Dry's valor went officially unrecognized. Even his parents were told that he died in a training exercise, although his father never believed the explanation. It was not until July 2005, when the publication Proceedings printed an article by two of Dry's former Naval Academy classmates, that the full circumstances of his death were revealed and an application for the honor was submitted.

## Medical

### **A Helping Hand For Vets**

#### **Sally Satel**

*(Wall Street Journal, February 26, 2008, Pg. 19)*

A resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and co-author of "One Nation Under Therapy," commenting on the disability claims process for veterans suffering mental health problems, writes that legislation pending in Congress would provide a financial incentive of up to \$11,000 for veterans who first undergo treatment for their disorders rather than seeking immediate disability payments. If a veteran fails to improve under this "wellness stipend," he would still be eligible for 100 percent disability.

## Author Dies

Robin Moore who in 1965 wrote the best selling book "The Green Berets" died February 21st at the age of 82. Mr. Moore who served in the US Army Air Corps during WWII as a nose gunner, flew many missions over Europe. In 1949 he graduated from Harvard University. In 1962 he received permission from President Kennedy to interview the Army's Special Forces Training at Camp McCall N.C. General William Yarborough, commander of SF at the time said Mr. Moore must go through the Airborne and SF "Q" courses if he wanted to really know the men. It took Mr. Moore more than two years but he finally made it. Mr. Moore went to Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group to write his book.

Mr. Moore also wrote the book "The French Connection" which was later turned into a movie by the same name.

# 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 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.

## 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** Jim LaGarde:

cLaGarde@tampabay.rr.com

**VP** Carl Harris: c-e-harris@tampabay.rr.com

**Secretary & Treasurer** Bob Silmser:

Rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com

**State Council Delegate** Kevin Ruhl:

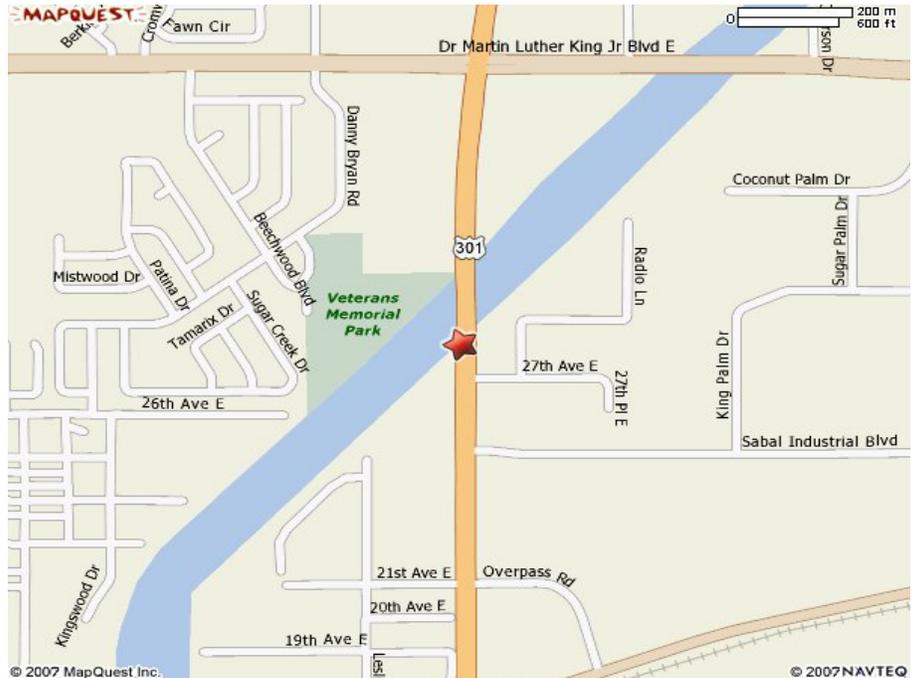
MSgtMCRet@aol.com

### **Board of Directors**

**Ron Schott:** RonD1120@aol.com

**Kevin Ruhl:** MSgtMCRet@aol.com

**Jon Mueller:** ParaSF68@aol.com



## Important Web Sites

Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida.....	<a href="http://www.vva787.com">http://www.vva787.com</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>
Florida State Council web site.....	<a href="http://www.vvafsc.org">www.vvafsc.org</a>