



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



Submitted By: Jon Mueller

## Memorial Day, May 29th 2006

If you are able, save for them a place inside of you and one backward glance when you are leaving, for the places they can no longer go.

Be not ashamed to say you loved them, though you may or may not always have. Take what they have left and what they have taught you with their dying and keep it with your own.

And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call the war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind.



Written by Major Michael Davis, US Army, January 1 1970, Dak To Vietnam.  
Major Davis was KIA 3 months later.

### "I've Got Your Back!"

--Copyright 2003 by Autumn Parker. Used with permission. Title was originally called "**Proud**"



"Tight 360" By: James Dietz

I am a small and precious child, my dad's been sent to fight...  
The only place I'll see his face, is in my dreams at night.  
He will be gone too many days for my young mind to keep track.  
I may be sad, but I am proud.  
My daddy's got your back.

I am a caring mother. My son has gone to war...  
My mind is filled with worries that I have never known before.  
Every day I try to keep my thoughts from turning black.  
I may be scared, but I am proud.  
My son has got your back.

I am a strong and loving wife, with a husband who had to go.  
There are times I'm terrified in a way most never know.  
I bite my lip, and force a smile as I watch my husband pack...  
My heart may break, but I am proud.  
My husband's got your back...

I am a soldier... Serving Proudly, standing tall.  
I fight for freedom, yours and mine by answering this call.  
I do my job while knowing, the thanks it sometimes lacks.  
Say a prayer that I'll come home.  
It's me who's got your back.

### Chapter Officers

President: Jim LaGarde  
Vice President: Dale Wagner  
Secretary: Bob Silmser  
Treasurer: Kevin Ruhl

### Board of Directors:

Ron Schott  
Carl Harris  
Tom Hall  
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**

## April Fund Raisers

Pictured below are Tony Towers and Eddy Ortelt man the booth at the Publix in Valrico on April 1st. \$864.00 Donated. The other members that volunteered their time were: Carl Harris, Don Wallick, Bob Silmsmer, Tom Hall, and Jim LaGarde. Many thanks to all that showed up to help.

It would be nice to see some new faces at some of our fund raiser's. All those that attend understand why we have these events is to educate our children about the real side of the Vietnam War and to help feed our Homeless brothers and sisters at the Holidays and thru-out the year. In time of Disaster we need to be financially ready to assist all those in need, and this is how we make ourselves available to help others by having these Fundraiser's. We have over 100 members but we only see the same 12-15 people each meeting and Fund raiser that we have. It would be nice to have a better representation of the membership at all our functions.

Total collected by month:

Feb---\$947.00

Mar---\$411.00

Apr---\$864.00

TOTAL TO DATE IS: \$2,222.00



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.

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



### Chapter T-Shirts

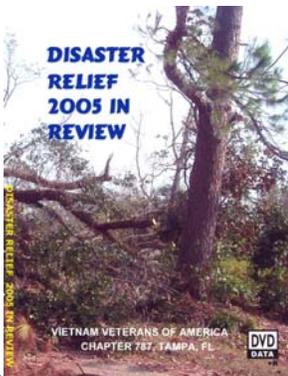
\$15.00 for size Large & X-Large, 4 in stock now. \$17.00 for size XX-Large

**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 Silmsmer by e-mail: [rafkirk64@verizon.net](mailto: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 Silmsmer, 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 Silmsmer at (813) 685-3483 for copies.

# Chapter 2006 Fund Raisers

## SCHEDULED FUND RAISERS

**MARK your calendar.**

**Your help is needed this year.**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>** Publix--Bloomingdale & Providence Road, Riverview 8am-4pm

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>** Publix---Bloomingdale & Bell Shoals, Brandon 8am-4pm

More Fund Raisers are trying to be scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year.

We hope to be able to do the Home Show in Tampa again and possibly the one at the Fair Grounds. Nothing has been finalized as of yet but we will keep you informed on our progress. If your name is on our Call List for Fund Raisers you will be called if you wish to be placed on that list to help us raise money for our projects contact **Bob Silmser at 813-685-3483.**

**Disaster Relief Program for 2006: Amount unknown at this time**

**80 Holiday Meals at Thanksgiving \$19.00 ea \$1520.00**

**70 Holiday Meals at Christmas \$19.00 ea \$1330.00**

**Plus other projects that happen thru-out the year without prior notice**

We are also trying to bring the Wall back to this area in 2007 and need to raise money to fund that project.

### 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 7:00 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**

**May 5 1965:** The first US Army conventional ground combat unit arrives in Vietnam. Paratroops from the 173d Airborne Brigade, offload at the Bien Hoa airbase. They were the Pentagons quick reaction force based in Okinawa. Within hours of landing, they had set up guard duty around the huge Bien Hoa and Vung Tau air base just east of Saigon. The men of the all volunteer Airborne Infantry would eventually be moved northwest to the Laos and Cambodian border areas of northern II Corp. The “3d Herd” as they were known in the Airborne community, would not leave Vietnam for six years costing the small unit over 1533 KIA’s.



**May 10 1969:** American commanders planned to clear out the A Shau Valley using ten battalions of infantry, including the 9th Marine Regiment, the 3d ARVN Regiment, the 3/5th Cavalry, and three US Paratroop battalions: 1/506th, 2/501st, and 3/187th from the 101st Airborne Division. The over-all plan of attack called for the Marines and the 3/5th Cavalry to combat-assault into the valley and RIF [reconnaissance in force] toward the Laotian border while the ARVN units cut the highway through the base of the valley. The 501st and the 506th missions were to destroy the enemy in their own operating areas and block escape routes into Laos. This was the battle made famous by the movie, **Hamburger Hill**.



**May 10, 1972:** The [F-4](#) carrying Roger C. Locher of the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, was shot down by a heat-seeking missile launched from a [MiG-21](#); Capt. Locher was on his 407th combat mission. He parachuted to safety near Yen Bai Airfield (northwest of Hanoi) but could not contact friendly aircraft with his survival radio. For the next 22 days he hid, living on fruits, nuts, and berries, until he was finally able to make radio contact with friendly aircraft.



A rescue attempt was launched on June 1st by HH-53 helicopters, A-1 attack airplanes, and an HC-130 command and control airplane, with F-4 and [F-105](#) fighters providing air protection, but they were driven off by enemy MiGs. They were back the next day, deep inside North Vietnam, and an HH-53, using a newly-developed electronic location finder (ELF), pinpointed the downed airman through a canopy of jungle growth, lowered a jungle penetrator and lifted Capt. Locher to safety.



**May 1 1975:** Operation Frequent Wind ends. The evacuation of Vietnam in April 1975, moved over 50,000 people. The initial decision to depart Saigon was made to evacuate the Defense Attaché’s office by fixed-wing aircraft. This fixed-wing evacuation was determined impossible when hostile artillery and rocket fire closed the air base at Tan Son Nhut. The decision to evacuate the entire US presence by helicopter under Operation Frequent Wind was made late morning, 29 April 1975, Saigon time. Due to the delayed timing of the order, the capability for rapid response to such an order was imperative. The deteriorating situation at the Defense Attaché location required the Embassy to become a major site.

**Quote**

“We must remember that one man is much the same as another and that he is best who is trained in the severest school”.

“The Nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and it’s warriors will have it’s thinking done by cowards and it’s fighting done by fools”.

**Thucydides, “History of the Peloponnesian War” 431– 404 B.C.**

Submitted By: Bob Silmsr

## Chapter 787 Honors local Plant City JROTC Cadet at Ceremony



Picture at left: Chapter 787 President, Jim (Rambo) LaGarde, presents Army JROTC cadet, Brandon Hall with the Vietnam Veterans of America medal, at a ceremony on April 13 2006 at American Legion Post #26, Plant City Fl.

Photo taken by chapter Secretary, Bob Silmsr.



Chapter 787 is seeking help with our JROTC program. If you can devote some time with the presentation of our awards at local (Tampa/Brandon) High Schools, please contact chapter President Jim (Rambo) LaGarde at 813-758-4547. Thank you.

## Membership

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ ID \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type:

Individual 1 year \_\_\_\_\_ \$20      3 years \_\_\_\_\_ \$50

Individual membership is open to all Vietnam Veterans who served on active duty for other than training purposes from 1/1/1959 to 5/7/1975. Individual members must submit a copy of their DD-214 with their application and payment.

Associate 1 year \_\_\_\_\_ \$20      3 years \_\_\_\_\_ \$50

Life Member \$250, payment plan, \$50 down, and 8 monthly installments of \$25.

Payment Method: Check \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_

If using a credit card: Card # \_\_\_\_\_



## Chapter 787, 3d Annual Car Show



Saturday April 29th, your chapter along with the "High Rollers" car club, sponsored a car show at the corner of Kingsway and Winhorst roads in Brandon. Pictured above from L-R, are: Bill (?), Tony Towers, Chapter President, Jim LaGarde, chapter member of the year, Carl Harris, Don Wallick, and Herman Rainey. Next, Tony and Rambo are shown supporting our V.V.A. signs due to the strong winds that day. Kevin Ruhl coordinated the event for chapter 787 but could not attend.

## We need your VOTE! Please Attend the chapter meeting on May 25th!



Chapter 787 needed to elect new officers at the April meeting but there were not enough members present to equal the minimum needed under our by-laws. Therefore the election was postponed until the May 25th chapter meeting. All chapter members need to attend this very important meeting held only once per year!



## Taps

Retired Master Sergeant, USAF, Robert N. Cooper, Life Member of Chapter 787 has passed away on April 20. A wake will be held at 3:00 PM at O'Brien's Irish Pub on June 3, 2006.

Bob was survived by his wife, Melody: two siblings and three sons.



Submitted By: Bob Silmsner

## V.V.A. 2003, Membership Information Survey.....Submitted By: Tom Hall

A total of 8,793 members (of an approximate total of 40,000) were mailed a survey containing 28 questions. The survey achieved an extraordinary response rate of 36.6% resulting in 3,218 completed surveys. Five specific segments of the VVA membership were surveyed. The response rates from each segment are offered below.

**VVA leadership - 51.3%, Life members - 42.5%, Members for two or more years - 40.6%, One year members - 37.9%, Lapsed members - 17.2%,**

The last question on the VVA 2003 Membership Survey was “Do you have any comments about VVA or this survey?” The VVA membership staff compiled the written responses to this question in this addendum to the survey. The responses were grouped into eight categories, listed below. A total of 473 responses were compiled, which is 14.7% of the 3,218 returned surveys. A small number of the written responses were not included in this compilation because they were illegible or did not make a clearly understandable point.

These comments are not intended for making statistical inferences to the general VVA membership. They do offer useful insights into what concerns our members have, and they may suggest areas for action or further exploration.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Comments</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Advocacy	79	17%
Veterans Issues	77	16%
Service Representatives	17	3%
Future Direction for VVA	79	17%
Perceptions of VVA	70	15%
VVA Chapters	66	14%
VVA State Councils	18	4%
VVA National Organization	67	14%
Total Number of Comments	473	100%

**Advocacy (79 comments)**

Advocate for better VA health care: 28, Maintain a strong advocacy role: 26, Advocate for concurrent receipt: 18, Get more involved in state and local advocacy: 1, Need to become more activist/confrontational: 2, Publish the legislative agenda and report on its progress: 2, More frequent or better newsletters/info on our interactions with Congress: 1, Get members involved in writing to Congress: 1

**Veterans Issues (77 comments)**

Keep fighting for core health / benefits issues (PTSD, AO, etc.): 33, Make it easier to get VA benefits: 7, Publish more info (web and Veteran) on what VA benefits are available: 4, Need more VA health care, facilities in my area: 1, Focus on helping fellow veterans; forget about POW/MIAs: 1, More info on MIA live sightings: 1, Push harder for MIA, accountability: 1, Do more to recover MIAs from ALL wars: 1, Do more for African-American vets: 1, Do more for benefits for in-theater (but not in-country) vets: 1, Do more on housing for homeless VN vets: **Continued on next page.....**

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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.

2, Too much effort on homeless vets: 1, Need help with getting benefits: 3  
 Want more info on Agent Orange: 2, Do more on Hep-C: 2, Do more on PTSD: 1, Too much effort on PTSD—it doesn't really affect that many people: 1, Do more for spouse/dependent health issues or , benefits: 4, More benefits for non-in-country vets: 1, Concerned about veterans preference: 2, Important to make Vietnam veterans proud of their service: 1, Do more for research on women's issues and publish in The VVA Veteran. 1, Jobs for VN vets: 1, Do more for incarcerated vets: 1, Push for Purple Heart for Agent Orange deaths after Vietnam: 1, Many vets are buried in prisons. Identify them and give them VA marble headstones: 1, Need to settle the 600,000+ pending claims: 1

### **Service Reps (17 comments)**

Need more service reps in my area: 2, Service rep was not helpful: 1, Service reps are doing a good job: 3, VVA didn't help me with my problem: 1, Need more timely info on VA policy changes: 1, Service reps need more organizational support: 1, Service reps should visit chapters to talk about benefits: 1, More emphasis on helping vets with claims: 1, Do more to represent vets at CAVC level: 1, I don't know how to find a service rep: 1, Need more info on benefits available to vets: 1, Speed up the appeal / BVA process: 1, Need more help on claims: 1, Need better supervision of service reps: 1

### **Future Direction for VVA (79 comments)**

De-emphasize the past (war stories, good old days); more focus on the future: 15, Need to work more closely with other veterans organizations: 13, Need to plan for our inevitable sunset: 8, Strive for a more mainstream image, and less of a victim / hippie image: 6, Do more for Gulf War/younger vets: 3, Do more to inform/educate the general public: 3, Put more effort in school education programs: 2, Seek TV & radio publicity: 3, There are no living POWs. Time to move on to real issues of the present and future: 1, VVA should seek "people of influence" to help realize its objectives: 1, Need stronger / clearer focus on issues: 1  
 More emphasis on helping vets; less on growing the membership numbers: 1, Glad to see the survey and a sense of direction for the future: 2, Advertise to get more members: 2, Need more info / newsletters on local issues: 1, VVA and its members should come out for or against the war in Iraq: 1, Create a forum for foreign policy discussion: 1, Create a veteran-to-veteran business service and employment directory: 1, Need to grow the membership. 2, Do a better job of promoting success stories: 1, Create traveling teams to reach out to Vietnam vets: 1, Sponsor state or regional LZs: 1, De-emphasize Veterans Initiative; more focus on helping vets: 1, Recognize all Cold War vets: 1, Support all vets, not just Vietnam vets: 1, Encourage more vets to seek political office: 1, Create scholarships for vets' children and homes for homeless vets: 1, Need financial aid for medical care for members: 1, Should have a bar in every chapter: 1, The bar in my chapter creates a bad atmosphere and image: 1, Stay conservative, pro-US: 1

### **Perceptions of the organization (70 comments)**

The in-country vs. era issue is creating tension and member dissatisfaction: 23, Era vets are not welcome in my chapter: 1, Reach out more to era vets: 1, It is important to distinguish between in-country and era vets: 1, Wasn't sure I "belonged" in VVA – my service wasn't "good enough" 2 **Continued on next page.....**

# Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event and Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b><u>May 2006</u></b>			
18th	Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
25th	Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Veterans Hall, Brandon	7:00 PM
27th	Saturday	Chapter Breakfast get together, at the "Flying J" Restaurant	7:00 AM
29th	Monday	Memorial Day	
<b><u>June 2006</u></b>			
2nd & 3rd	Friday & Saturday	Fund Raiser, Publix at Bloomingdale & Bell Shoals	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
8th	Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
22nd	Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Brandon Veterans Hall	7:00 PM
24th	Saturday	Chapter Breakfast get together, at the "Flying J" Restaurant	7:00 AM

**Continued from page 8.....**

Leadership is not in tune with the members: 12, Mainstreamers don't want to join a long-haired, pig-tailed organization: 2.

Get away from fatigues and 60's image; emphasize mainstream: 1, Camaraderie of fellow members is important; I don't feel alone any more: 2, I prefer VVA over other veterans organizations: 4, There are too many "whiners" in VVA: 1, Too much smoking and drinking: 1, Out of touch with employment needs: 1, I feel at home in my chapter: 1

**VVA asks for money too often:** 1, VVA has lost interest in incarcerated and needy vets: 1, Too much emphasis on incarcerated vets: 1, More emphasis on The VVA Veteran: 2, VVA's watchdog role is important: 1, VVA is too liberal: 3, Major officers should be combat vets: 1, Chapters / state councils misuse money: 2, Too much time drinking and telling war stories: 1, Would like to see more west coast members in leadership positions: 1, There is bias against retirees in VVA and other veterans organizations: 1

**VVA Chapters (66 comments)**

Chapter leadership is ineffective: too much infighting: 7, Chapter is not active in community service; just drinking and telling war stories: 1, Chapter didn't make me feel welcome: 4, Too many cliques or good old boys; I feel excluded: 1, Chapter leadership is secretive; pushing personal agendas: 3, Don't have enough time, or otherwise not able to be active in a chapter: 4, Chapters need help to learn how to reach out to new members: 4, Help chapters with member recruitment: 4, Chapters need more creative outreach to potential members: 1, Give chapters more control of membership; need faster service: 1, Need more organizational support for chapters: 2, Concerned about level of participation in chapters (lots of members on the rolls, few show up at meetings/events): 1 **Continued on next page.....**

Continued from page 9.....

Need a chapter in my area; the closest chapter is too far away: 7, Unable to contact my chapter: 1, Information not being passed down to chapters: 1, Publish a list of chapters and their phone numbers: 1, Publish chapter meeting notices in local paper for free: 1, National should set term limits for chapter officers: 2, Need more participation in chapters: 1, Unable to attend meetings due to poor health; no one has ever called on me at home: 1, Opposed to allowing members with dishonorable discharges to hold office: 1, Need to rotate chapter officers: 3, Chapters should be smoke-free: 1, I don't go to chapter meetings because I don't need the memories: 1, My chapter was taken over by bikers; I no longer attend meetings: 1, My chapter would not help me when I had financial problems: 1, I don't attend meetings because I don't know when they are. No one from the chapter has ever contacted me: 1, Need stronger state/national oversight of chapters: 1, Need more chapters: 2, My chapter is ineffective: 2, Chapter didn't meet my expectations: 3, Do more to help vets; less effort on parades: 1

#### **VVA State Councils (18 comments)**

My state council is ineffective: 3, My state council is corrupt: 1, My state council is exercising poor leadership: 4  
 Can't get anyone at National to answer the phone or email: 3, Too much infighting between chapters, states, and national: 3, State councils not monitoring chapters: 2, The state council needs to put out more information, e.g., a newsletter: 1, My state council rep was helpful in getting a chapter started in my area: 1

#### **VVA National Organization (67 comments)**

VVA is doing a good job; "Keep up the good work": 23, This is a good survey: 9, Need more diligent checking for wannabees: 1, The membership is dying off in my area: 1, VVA spends too much time on relations with the government of Vietnam 1, VVA should do more to help ARVN, NVA, and VC veterans: 1, Why doesn't VVA release its financial statements to members? 1, Mail The VVA Veteran "on time": 1, Publish more info on current events in The VVA Veteran: 1, Reduce the size of The VVA Veteran: 2, Publish The VVA Veteran more often: 1, The VVA Veteran is too heavy on in-country issues; not enough on era vets: 1, I enjoy reading The VVA Veteran: 5, Veterans Collectibles prices too high: 1, DAV and Vet Center were more helpful than VVA: 1, National officers and staff should spend more time with chapters and state councils: 1, Return to all renewals in February: 1, Attempted to contact my local chapter; contact info was incorrect, calls not returned: 1, AVVA should rebate dues to chapters: 2, National loses paperwork: 1, National is out of touch with the local level: 1, National didn't help me: 1, Poor response to phone calls to national: 3, Have problems getting member cards: 1, Can't afford the dues: 1, Never got a renewal notice: 2, VVA should provide affordable life insurance: 1, It is too hard to correct an address and get a response from national: 1

**Bill Meeks, Jr. Chair, VVA Membership Affairs**

**Bob Thomson Director, VVA Membership Department**

## TAPS for a Medal of Honor Winner

It is with great sadness that the Army Aviation War fighting Center announces the loss of a great Army Aviation hero, Medal of Honor recipient CW4 (Ret.) Michael J. Novosel. Mr. Novosel died on 2 April 2006 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center after an extended illness.



He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism on October 2, 1969. Novosel received word of wounded South Vietnamese soldiers pinned down by a large enemy force. Flying without air cover, he encountered ground fire so intense it forced him away six times. Courageously, he completed 15 hazardous extractions. On the last, just as a wounded soldier was pulled into the aircraft, the enemy unleashed a hail of fire directly at Novosel. Wounded, he momentarily lost control of the aircraft, but recovered and flew to safety. In all, he saved 29 men. He was nominated for and later received the Congressional Medal of Honor for these actions.

In March 1970, a UH-1 helicopter piloted by Novosel's son was shot down. The senior Novosel heard the "Mayday" call from 15 minutes away. With assurance from the aircraft commander that his son's crew had survived the crash and found shelter, Novosel completed his own mission before flying to their aid. The younger Novosel returned the favor seven days later when his father was shot down. Just 19 at the time, Mike Jr. flew to his father's rescue.



While Novosel's heroism as a combat pilot is well documented in the Army Aviation community, he will be remembered to many as a soft spoken gentleman who, even in retirement, made himself available to lecture at the Warrant Officer Career College and he also became a Senior Tactical Adviser in the Warrant Officer Candidate Program at Fort Rucker.

## Mottos of the US Military Branches

**U.S. Coast Guard: "Semper Paratus"** (Always Ready)      **U.S. Marines: "Semper Fidelis"** (Always Faithful)

**U.S. Air Forces: "Uno Ab Alto"** (One Over All) not official      **U.S. Navy: "Honor, Courage, Commitment."**

**U.S. Army: "This We'll Defend"**

Submitted By: Dan Cullen: **Attention Marine and Army Veterans of the Battle for Hue**

*V.V.A. Chapter 787 does not have any knowledge regarding the authenticity of this company.*

My company, Flight 33 Productions, is currently producing the second season of "Shootout" for the History Channel. "Shootout" is an hour-long, 13-episode documentary series that depicts the bravery and heroism of US Marines, Navy, and Army from World War II to the present. This season, one episode will be dedicated to Tet Offensive '68, and we are concentrating on the battle for Hue.

I was wondering if you might know of Vietnam veterans who would be willing to participate in our program. We are looking to interview men (and women) who were involved in firefights, shootouts & close combat in Hue. I want to assure you that this documentary series will show the veterans in a positive light, focusing on their honor & dedication that they demonstrated during their time of duty. If you are interested in speaking to me more about this, please feel free to contact me. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely, Brittany Graham Associate Producer Flight 33 Productions [bg@flight33.tv](mailto:bg@flight33.tv) <<mailto:bg@flight33.tv>>  
818.505.6640 x138

## 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

VP Dale Wagner: g.gator2@verizon.net

Secretary Bob Silmser: rafkirk64@verizon.net

Treasurer Kevin Ruhl: MSgtMCRet@aol.com

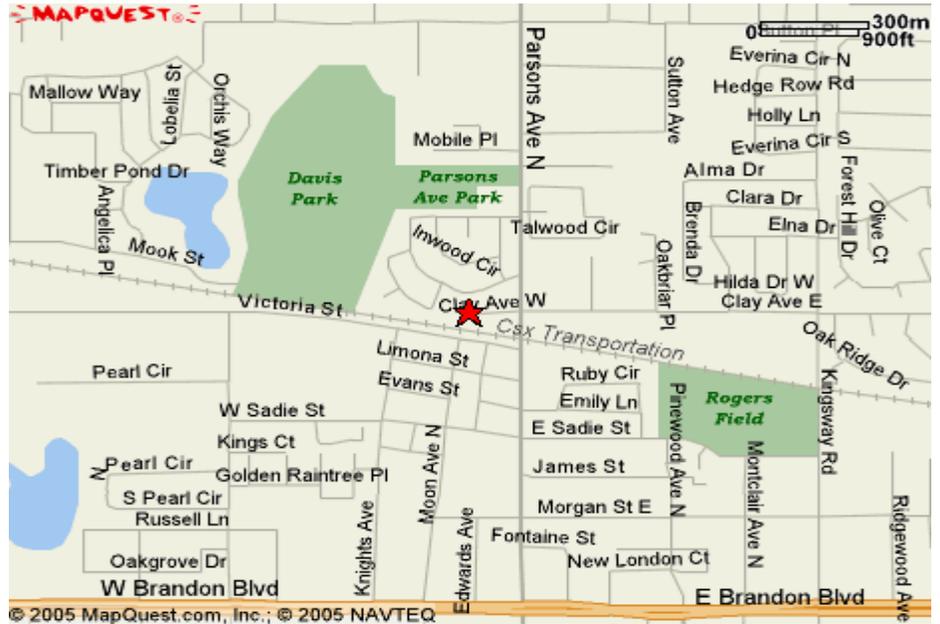
#### Board of Directors

Ron Schott: RonD1120@aol.com

Tom Hall: MarineDI@aol.com

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

Jon Mueller: JonMue@aol.com



## Important Web Sites

- Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida..... <http://members.aol.com/vva787/>
- Vietnam War Statistics.....<http://my.eiis.net/cmart/vietwarstats.html>
- 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)
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- 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>