



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**



Picture Submitted By: Beverly Thomas

Jim (Rambo) LaGarde, Honors Vet

Chapter Officers

President: Tom Hall

Vice President: Carl
Harris

Secretary: Bob Silmsler

Treasurer: Bob Silmsler

Board of Directors:

Kevin Ruhl

Steve Williams

Jon Mueller

State Council Delegate:

Kevin Ruhl

Newsletter Editor: Jon
Mueller, E-mail:
ParaSF68@aol.com

Meetings

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

Time: 7:00 PM

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



At our August Chapter Meeting, out-going President, **Jim LaGarde** (R), presented an award of appreciation to US Navy Veteran **Steve Shepherd** (L). Rambo advised that it was **Steve** who first welcomed him home and insisted that he join a Vietnam Veterans Group. Now the question is why **Steve** is not a member of V.V.A. chapter 787?

Thank You to our Fund Raiser Volunteers!



Chapter 787 Fund Raiser held at Publix (Causeway Blvd. in Brandon) on September 5th & 6th. Pictured above, (top L-R), A.V.V.A. member **Beverly Thomas**, chapter member **Linda Pugsley**, and our newest A.V.V.A. member **Megan Sissor** who's father is a Vietnam Veteran. Pictured (second row, L-R) chapter 787 VP **Carl Harris**, member **Gerard Abbett**, next Gerard, Carl, and chapter Scy/Tres, **Bob Silmsr**.

“9/11” Memorial Ceremony at Veterans Park 2008



Pictured above, L-R, chapter 787 Board member, **Jim (Rambo) LaGarde**, and Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assoc. VP **Jim Basta**. Next is the active duty USAF color guard from MacDill AFB.



Pictured above at left is chapter member and Veterans Council President **Dave Braun** with **Mary Ellen Harlan** sitting. Pictured above is **Dave** again with **Jim LaGarde** giving some advise to a group of attendees.

Quote

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

“Comfort is the Enemy of Courage”

SFC Mat Zourn, US Army Ranger, northern Cambodia, 1966

Congratulations are in order

Chapter 787 President, **Tom Hall** and wife **Peggy** welcome their granddaughter (in-law for Peggy), **Averie Jean Hall**, into this world. The future Marine and US President, came in at a healthy 7.1 lbs on September 4th. **Averie** is the beautiful daughter of **Jeremy and Tracey, Hall**.



Our Chapters Connection to OIF and OEF

Linda Pugsley's three nephews. L-R **Joe Pugsley, Ryan Pugsley, Kenny Downey**. **Joe** is the one who is back to Iraq. He said there is more work to do to help the Iraqis so they can help themselves and our troops can then come home. The other two will be going back next fall sometime should it be needed. Love these guys so much. They carry on the courage and dedication our generation did in Vietnam. God bless them.



The second picture is one of **Joe** someplace in Fallujah at some ceremony for a visiting big wig...he said the food was great...much better than the MRE's he has to eat so frequently! Submitted By: **Linda Pugsley**



Submitted By: Steve Williams

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The Brotherhood



"I know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite.
Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep.
Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who
once acted at their best;



Men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of
their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate
and the military.

But I know them in a way I know no other men, I
have never given anyone such trust.

They were willing to guard something more precious
than my life.

They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me.

It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason
we were so willing to die for an another.

As long as I have my memory, I will think of
them all, every day.

I am sure that when I leave this world, my last
thought will be of my family and my comrades....

Such good men."

-Author Unknown-



Submitted By: Kevin Ruhl

Marine awarded Silver Star, 40 years late.



By Jaime Dailey -PARRIS ISLAND, SC (WTOC) - After 40 years, a Vietnam Veteran finally received the recognition he deserves.



Today, Lance Cpl. Frank Ambrose received the Silver Star Medal during morning colors on Parris Island for his bravery in the Vietnam War. It happened four decades ago while Ambrose and part of his unit were attacked with heavy enemy fire while on patrol.

Ambrose was seriously injured but managed to return fire and protect his fellow Marines. He helped administer life-saving first aid to a wounded comrade and refused to be medevaced until he helped load other wounded Marines on the helicopter. He did all of that while still continuing to fire until they were in the clear.

"It's awesome this has finally caught up with me," said Ambrose. "I always knew there was something because a General and a GySgt came and interviewed me in the hospital. They told me I'd been put in for a medal but to be honest, we didn't care about medals. We cared about our brother marines. It was about each other. That's what it's all about."



Medal of Honor Winners of the War in Vietnam

The Bravest of the Brave

Submitted By: Jon Mueller



VARGAS, M. SANDO, JR.

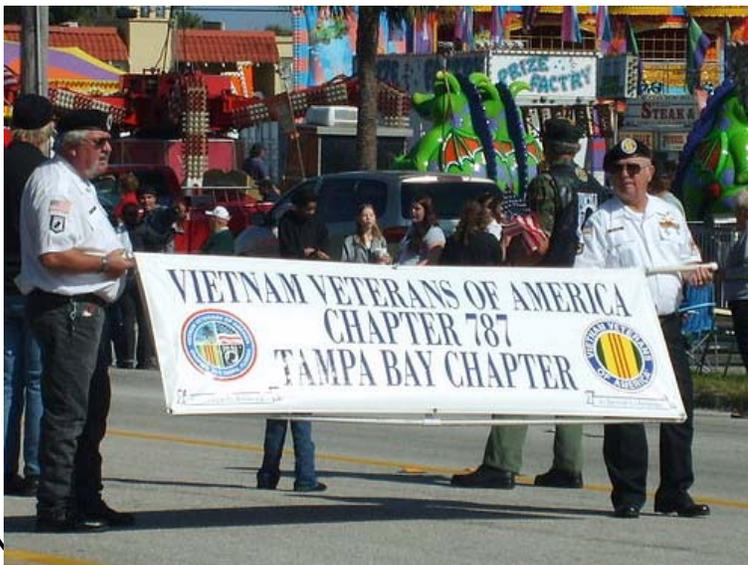


Rank and organization: Major (then Capt.), U.S. Marine Corps, Company G, 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. Place and date: Dai Do, Republic of Vietnam, 30 April to 2 May 1968. Entered service at: Winslow, Ariz. Born: 29 July 1940, Winslow, Ariz. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as commanding officer, Company G, in action against enemy forces from 30 April to 2 May 1968. On 1 May 1968, though suffering from wounds he had incurred while relocating his unit under heavy enemy fire the preceding day, Maj. Vargas combined Company G with two other companies and led his men in an attack on the fortified village of Dai Do. Exercising expert leadership, he maneuvered his marines across 700 meters of open rice paddy while under intense enemy mortar, rocket and artillery fire and obtained a foothold in 2 hedgerows on the enemy perimeter, only to have elements of his company become pinned down by the intense enemy fire. Leading his reserve platoon to the aid of his beleaguered men, Maj. Vargas inspired his

men to renew their relentless advance, while destroying a number of enemy bunkers. Again wounded by grenade fragments, he refused aid as he moved about the hazardous area reorganizing his unit into a strong defense perimeter at the edge of the village. Shortly after the objective was secured the enemy commenced a series of counterattacks and probes which lasted throughout the night but were unsuccessful as the gallant defenders of Company G stood firm in their hard-won enclave. Reinforced the following morning, the marines launched a renewed assault through Dai Do on the village of Dinh To, to which the enemy retaliated with a massive counterattack resulting in hand-to-hand combat. Maj. Vargas remained in the open, encouraging and rendering assistance to his marines when he was hit for the third time in the 3-day battle. Observing his battalion commander sustain a serious wound, he disregarded his excruciating pain, crossed the fire-swept area and carried his commander to a covered position, then resumed supervising and encouraging his men while simultaneously assisting in organizing the battalion's perimeter defense. His gallant actions uphold the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service.

Veterans Day Parade, November 2006 or 2007?

Submitted By: Bob Silmsner



The Little Rascals

The Complete Collection



It has been mentioned that some of the original “Little Rascals” show amazing similarity to three of our chapter members!

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<u>October 2008</u>		
3rd & 4th, Friday & Saturday	Fund Raiser Publix, Providence & Bloomingdale	
9th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
11th Saturday	Field of Honor Flag Ceremony, Veterans Park, hosted by the American Legion Post #278	9:00 AM
22nd Wednesday	Chapter will host the POW/MIA Flag ceremony at Veterans Park	5:00 PM
23rd Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Hillsborough Veterans Park & Museum	7:00 PM
<u>November 2008</u>		
7th Friday	Veterans Day Ceremony at Chillura Park, Downtown Tampa	12:00 PM
8th Saturday	Chapter will participate in the Brandon Veterans Day Parade. (Meet at Clayton Plaza 7:30 AM)	10:00 AM
10th Monday	Chapter members will attend the "Mulrennan (School) Salutes"	9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
11th Tuesday	Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park & Museum with JROTC	10:00 AM
13th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
20th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Hillsborough Veterans Park & Museum	7:00 PM
21st Friday	MacDill AFB OIF & OEF Coalition Partners Flag Waving Ceremony Bayshore Blvd. Tampa	
Check out our EVENTS page on the chapter web site: www.vva787.com, click EVENTS then click		

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Helping To Bring The War Home



Veterans Portray Realities of Combat in Marine Museum Tours

Marines acting as docents at the Marine Museum outside Quantico depict war as they lived, mostly as on-the-ground grunts. Their personal details about combat come alive in ways no artifact or display ever could.

VA Plans To Raise Disability Benefits Recognizes impact of mild brain injuries

The government plans to substantially increase disability benefits for veterans with mild traumatic brain injuries.

Financial Status of Chapter 787 as of September 2008

Total.....\$12,457.12 (Moving Wall Fund..\$6,663.82, General checking \$2,981.98.... Holiday Meals Fund \$2,811.32)

Total.....\$2,421.64 (Household Goods.....\$626.05 Convention Fund.....\$1,362.40)

All Accounts Total: \$14,445.57 **Thanks to our Treasurer Bob Silmser**

Navy begins awarding death benefits electronically

SAN DIEGO ---- The U.S. Navy has begun awarding death benefits electronically after a grieving father of a dead sailor was mistakenly jailed on fraudulent check charges, military officials said.

The Navy will now use electronic fund transfers to pay the \$100,000 death benefit to eligible beneficiaries of sailors killed while in serving their country, said Lt. Cmdr. William Marks, a spokesman for the Navy's Bureau of Personnel.

The move, which was announced in a service wide message this month, follows two incidents earlier this year in which banks raised questions about the validity of paper checks issued by the Navy, Marks said.

Prior to electronically transferring money, the Navy issued paper checks to beneficiaries. Under that format, banks then called the U.S. Treasury to verify validity.

In one case, though, a San Diego bank refused to accept the death benefit check for deposit. In another, a grieving father in Harlingen, Texas, was arrested on suspicion of check fraud.

It was that case, first reported by CBS affiliate KGBT-TV in Harlingen, that prompted Navy officials to take action.

"Up until those two cases, we never heard of a problem," Marks said. "When those came to our attention, we immediately reviewed it."

In the Texas case, according to KGBT and The Virginian-Pilot newspaper, John Mayberry tried to deposit his son's check at the Texas State Bank in Harlingen on May 30.

When bank officials called the Treasury Department, a representative reported that the check was invalid.

The bank called the police, who arrested Mayberry on suspicion of check fraud, the newspaper reported. Mayberry was held six hours in jail before the Navy and Secret Service cleared him of the allegation.

Mayberry's son, Seaman Daniel Mayberry, died May 27 from injuries suffered in a car crash in Virginia Beach, Va.

The Navy began testing electronic fund transfers of the death benefit, also referred to as a death gratuity, in early August. The Navy is the last of the services to begin electronic fund transfers for death benefits.

The Army, Air Force and Marine Corps have already adopted similar programs, according to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Marks said electronic fund transfers will be monitored by casualty assistance officers assigned to grieving families to make sure there is no repeat of the Mayberry case.

He also said beneficiaries may still request paper checks.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Congressman to Honor Vietnam Vets.

Courtesy of Congressman Ander Crenshaw JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Congressman Ander Crenshaw will recognize the contributions of Vietnam War veterans living in Florida's 4th Congressional District by presenting them with certificates of Special Congressional Recognition in honor of their service.

A recognition ceremony will be held on Nov. 7, 2008, at Naval Station Mayport. To determine eligibility, veterans must complete an application and submit a copy of their service discharge document by Oct. 3.

To apply, visit <http://crenshaw.house.gov/> or call (904) 598-0481.

Valorous Vietnam Vet, turns in his Air National Guard wings.

by Sgt Amy Willson



BISMARCK, N.D. - The last serving North Dakota Army National Guard Soldier who flew combat missions in the Vietnam War has retired. Today, the Guard honored Col. Gerald Heinle, of Bismarck, for his 35 years of military service. Gov. John Hoeven attended the event to show his appreciation, as well.



"I've really, truly enjoyed my time in the Guard," Heinle said. "I am the last Vietnam pilot to serve in the North Dakota Army Guard, and when I retire it will be an end of an era."

Heinle began his military career in August 1969, when he enlisted into the Army as a warrant officer candidate. He spent a year in Vietnam piloting almost daily missions from Dong Tam in a Charlie-model gunship with the 135th Assault Helicopter Company. During that time, he logged more than 1,000 hours of military flight time.



Heinle's actions on missions earned him a number of accolades, including the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with "V" device for valor. Others in history who have received the Flying Cross, the fifth highest Army decoration, include Orville and Wilbur Wright, Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindberg. Heinle is the only serving member of the North Dakota Guard to hold such honors.

"Col. Heinle's record speaks for itself," said Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota National Guard adjutant general. "He has been a top-notch Soldier since the day he enlisted in the military, piloting helicopters during intense combat missions, rising through the ranks of the N.D. National Guard, serving in many key assignments. His experience in aviation has benefited all of us."

After serving two-and-a-half years in the Army, Heinle got out, but needed to go on a waiting list to get into the National Guard. It finally happened in April 1976, and he began working full time for the Guard less than two years later. In the decades of service that followed, he would choose to leave the warrant officer corps (as a chief warrant officer 3) to become a second lieutenant, pursuing the alternate officer route in order to have more levels for advancement. He moved on to command the 142nd Medical Detachment Air Ambulance and the 1-112th Aviation Battalion, and he became the state aviation officer in 2001.

"One of the highlights was becoming commander as a major over the old 142nd Medical Detachment Air Ambulance," Heinle said, reflecting on his career. "Taking that over was really one of my goals when I got my commission."

Only a handful of Vietnam veterans remain in the North Dakota Army National Guard.

Finally, we can use the BIG GUNS!

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Soldiers and Marines deploying to Afghanistan and who have an MOS in heavy weapons are thrilled. They can finally use those skills which they were trained for. Many who have served multiple deployments to Iraq were used as leg infantry, truck drivers and security guards since their 105mm, 155mm and 175mm howitzers were not needed in that A.O. But they are desperately needed in the vast mountainous areas of rugged Afghanistan.

Membership Application

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28th 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Vietnam Veterans of America

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



Name: _____ Male: _____ Female: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Apt. # _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work or Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Chapter #787 Sponsor _____

Membership Type:

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

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

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

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

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

Payment Method: Check _____

Money Order _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ If using a credit card: Card

Exp. Date: _____ Signature _____

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

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

THE OUTPOST

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

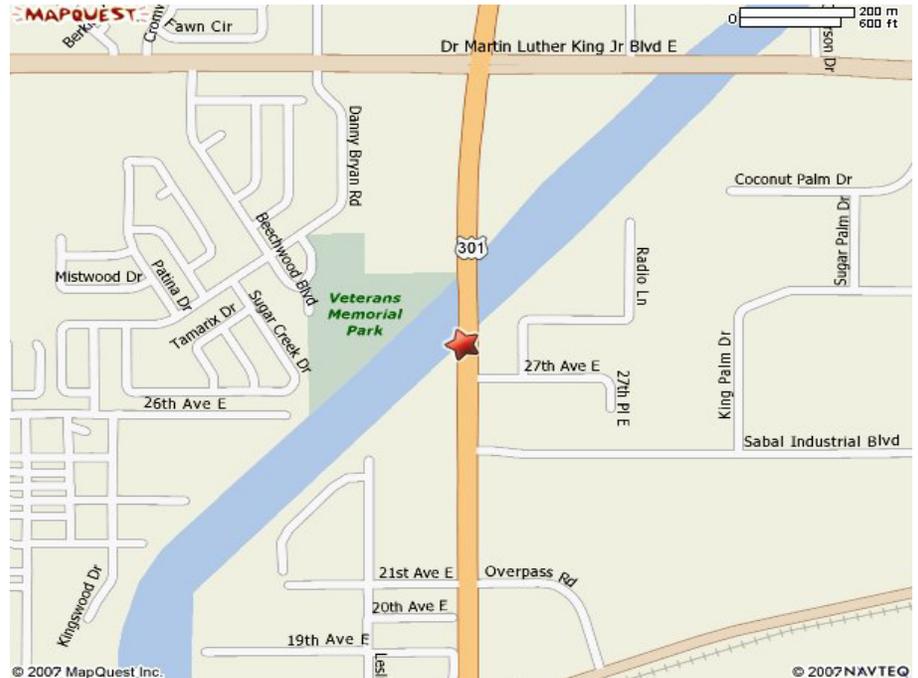
Chapter meetings are held at the Veterans Memorial Park & Museum, 3602 Hwy. 301 N. Tampa Fl. 33619.

Contact E-mail Addresses:

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VP Carl Harris: c-e-harris@tampabay.rr.com
Secretary & Treasurer Bob Silmser:
Rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com
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Jim LaGarde: clagarde@tampabay.rr.com
Jon Mueller: ParaSF68@aol.com



Important Web Sites

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