



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
FOR INFORMATION CALL (813) 597-1326, FAX: (813) 737-4929.
WEB SITE: WWW.VVA787.COM**

Submitted By:
Bob
Silmser



Chapter Booth Setup, Home Show, Tampa Convention Center



At Left: L-R, Carl Harris and Mickey Taylor. Picture at right: L-R, Bob Silmsr, Jim (Rambo) LaGarde, and Mickey Taylor. Mickey is so good looking we wanted to show him twice.



Chapter Officers

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

Board of Directors:

Ron Schott
Carl Harris
Herman Rainey
Jon Mueller

State Council Delegate:

Kevin Ruhl

Newsletter 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.

Submitted By: Carl Harris Mr. & Mrs. Carl Harris at the USMC Reunion

The reunion is held every two years in a different place. Two years before was at Reno, NV, 2004. at that time we changed the name of our Association. We were known as "USMC / VIETNAM HELICOPTER ASSO- CIATION"code name "POP-A-SMOKE" and we talked about who would be there to turn out the light. A question that has come up in VVA a few times. So we voted in our new name to take care of that question. The new name is "USMC / COMBAT HELICOPTER ASSOCIATION". Now we will live on forever, and that is what we all wanted.

The reunion was held in the Forth Worth Convention Center. Just before the main room in the hall was where the different squadron's had there own check-in booths with their names over them, like my squadron's name was HML-367 "Scarface" HU1E - Huey's. In the main room they had all the Vendors who were selling all kinds of things from USMC items from patches, clothing, pins to books. In fact it was not long ago that we read about the book "A Corpsman Legacy" This is where his daughter he never knew looked for answers about her father a Navy Corpsman. Her name is Stephanie Hanson. She was there as a vender selling her book and to see some of the men who knew her father. It was a very moving feeling for all. Yes I bought one of her books and she was kind enough to sign it for me.



Senator's Son Joins the Corp's

TIME Magazine ^ | July 29, 2006 | MASSIMO CALABRESI

This September, Senator John McCain's youngest son, Jimmy, 18, will report to a U.S. Marine Corps depot near Camp Pendleton in San Diego. After three months of boot camp and a month of specialized training, he will be ready to deploy. Depending on the unit he joins, he could be in Iraq as early as this time next year, and his chances of seeing combat at some point are high. Of the 178,000 active-duty Marines in the world, some 80,000 have seen a tour in Iraq or Afghanistan.



New bumper sticker created by Bob Silmsers!

Shown below, it is now available for only \$4.00. To get yours, contact Bob by phone at 813-220-7246 or by e-mail at Rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com.



**PROUD TO BE A
VIETNAM
VETERAN**

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



Chapter T-Shirts

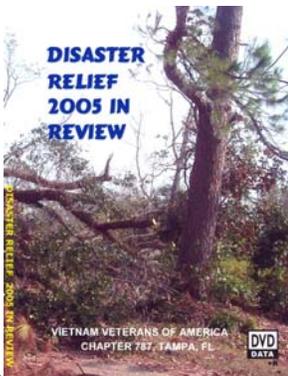
\$15.00 for size Large & X-Large, 4 in stock now. \$17.00 for size XX-Large

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 Silmsers by e-mail: rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com or phone: 813-220-7246, 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 Silmsers, 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 Silmsers at (813) 685-3483 for copies.

REPLICA OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL TRAVELS TO WESTFIELD BRANDON!

Brandon, FL (August 18, 2006) –The Dignity Memorial ® Vietnam Wall, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. comes to Brandon on October 20-22, 2006 to be displayed at Westfield Brandon for everyone to see the names of more than 58,000 Americans who died or are missing in Vietnam.

Dignity Memorial, in conjunction with Westfield Brandon, will benefit The Greater Brandon Community Foundation to support The Haley House Fund, Inc. and other charities in the Greater Brandon Community.

“We need volunteers, motorcycle riders and sponsors who want to support this community event,” said Hillsborough County Veterans Council President Dave Braun. “It’s a great opportunity for all of us to help bring history to life and be a part of it.”

The officials say the ¾ scale, 240 feet long, eight feet high Dignity Memorial ® Vietnam Wall replica will be escorted to Westfield Brandon with the help of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Department and registered motorcyclists on October 17, 2006. “It will be a grand entrance and a grand opening followed by ceremonies throughout each day including special guests, speakers, dignitaries and reading of the names of our heroes continuously,” said program coordinator Mary Boor. “Daily programs at Westfield Brandon are being planned throughout the days the Vietnam Wall is here. Additional events to celebrate the display will be hosted around the community including *United We Stand Festival* at Winthrop Village on Sunday afternoon with children’s choir, food and entertainment for everyone to celebrate this great occasion.”

Schools can visit the Dignity Memorial ® Vietnam Wall and bring lessons about the Vietnam War to life. Special papers for students and visitors will be provided to rub names off the wall and take with them.

Motorcyclists who are interested riding in the parade must register and reserve their positions with a \$20 payment by calling (813) 752-1111. There is limited space and reservations will be made on a first-call-first-serve basis. Volunteers can call (813) 653-3383 to sign up to help in different areas. For sponsorship opportunities, school visitations and for more information please call (813) 417-0481. Media can contact Bill Hartgrove at (813) 689-8121.

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

September 1965: After the NVA attacks a Special Forces camp at Plei Mei, the U.S. 1st Air Cav is deployed against enemy regiments that identified in the vicinity of the camp. The result is the battle of the Ia Drang. For 35 days, the division pursues and fights the 32d, 33d, and 66th North Vietnamese Regiments until the enemy, suffering heavy casualties, returns to bases in Cambodia.



September 1966: In a new mission code-named Operation Attleboro, the U.S. 196th Light Infantry Brigade and 22,000 South Vietnamese troops begin aggressive search and destroy sweeps through Tay Ninh Province. Almost immediately, huge caches of supplies belonging to the NVA 9th Division are discovered, but again there is no head to head conflict. The mission ends after six weeks, with more than 1000 Vietcong and 150 Americans killed.



September 1966: As the Vietnam War escalated in September 1966, a high-ranking Pentagon official with access to President Lyndon Johnson was heard by scientist Freeman Dyson to say, "It might be a good idea to toss in a nuke from time to time, just to keep the other side guessing." [1]

Dyson was a member of the "JASONS"--a group of some 40 scientists who had met each summer since 1959 to consider defense-related problems for the Pentagon. [2] Four of their number--Dyson of Princeton, Robert Gomer and S. Courtenay Wright of the University of Chicago, and Steven Weinberg, then on leave from Berkeley at Harvard--were so appalled by the remark that they decided to respond with a study that would systematically explore the utility of tactical nuclear weapons in the Vietnam War.

The study looked at the effects of using tactical nuclear weapons against a variety of targets, as well as the likely political effects of a nuclear campaign. Many of the study's conclusions seem relevant today, given the ongoing conflict in Iraq and other possible conflicts the United States could face and the Bush administration's newly stated policies of preemption and willingness to use nuclear weapons against "rogue states."

September 1967: After three-and-a-half years, Operation Rolling Thunder comes to an end. In total, the campaign had cost more than 900 American aircraft. Eight hundred and eighteen pilots are dead or missing, and hundreds are in captivity. Nearly 120 Vietnamese planes have been destroyed in air combat or accidents, or by friendly fire. According to U.S. estimates, 182,000 North Vietnamese civilians have been killed. Twenty thousand Chinese support personnel also have been casualties of the bombing.



September 1967. The 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines (3/26), would fight two major engagements with elements of the NVA 324B Division early that month, suffering almost 350 casualties -- four out of 10 Marines killed or wounded. The actions took place just south of the Demilitarized Zone in an area that became known as the "Leatherneck Square," a quadrangle just below the Ben Hai River, which marked the boundary between North and South Vietnam. The "Square," bounded in the south by Cam Lo and Dong Ha and in the north by Gio Linh and Con Thien, was one of the most hotly contested areas in South Vietnam.



September 1968: A U.S. MP from the 716th MP Bn has a hand chopped off by a machete wielding major of the ARVN Rangers, during a bar fight in Saigon.



Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Quote

"When soldiers find they must inevitably perish, they will more willingly resolve to die with their comrades and with their sword in their hands."

"Opportunity in war is usually of greater value than bravery.....Terrain is more valuable than bravery.....but bravery is more valuable than numbers".

Flavius Vegetius Renatus, Roman Military Strategist 390 AD

At 59 years old he Wanted To Get Back Into The Fight

Excerpts from the Tampa Tribune article Voices from the Front



U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. John “Stan” Parker of Valrico recently returned from Afghanistan as a war hero. His reception was much different from 38 years ago, when he came back from Vietnam with two silver stars for valor.

In an interview with Tribune editorial writers Jim Beamguard, the Special Forces soldier contrasted the two homecomings.

“In late ‘68’ people were very hostile. I felt more at home in Vietnam than I did back home in Gary Indiana. Neighbors would wave at you but didn’t come over to talk, because they didn’t want anyone to think that they were pro-military.”

Now, he says, “everybody wants to know, ‘Are we winning?’” I say, yes, we are. They say “Why is there nothing in the paper or on the news? Why is it so negative?”

Coming back from Afghanistan, I was flying from Baltimore to Atlanta. A passenger insisted I take his seat in first class. He told the stewardess to tell the pilot not to take off until I changed seats. What was really astounding, when I stood up to take his seat, the entire aircraft started clapping. It was a very emotional experience.

Regarding the difference between fighting the Taliban vs. the North Vietnamese: There was times in Vietnam when we got overrun in hand-to-hand fixed-bayonets fights. Five or six times. There was more of them than there was of us. The North Vietnamese were well-trained. If you had a company, they would engage you with a battalion. They outnumbered you most of the time.

In Afghanistan, the training we had is so superior to theirs. Their engagement with you is 15 to 30 people at a time. They’re going to be on the losing side every time.

Regarding the combat load you carry now: “On patrol, I carried the M-4 carbine, the advanced version of the M-16. It’s shorter, more robust. Flashlights on it for looking in caves. Laser systems, invisible to the naked eye. I carry eight 30 round magazines and seven 40 round magazines. I also carried four hand grenades and a couple of knives. In Vietnam, that’s how I got wounded—hand-to-hand knife fight with a guy. We only had one knife, but he took it away from me a couple of times. He stabbed me in the arm and side. I got him different places but eventually in the throat. He had a death grip around my neck. I could see the lights going out when he finally succumbed to the wounds. I don’t go anywhere now without more than one knife. You always need a backup.



On being an old soldier: I’m 59 years old but I stay in good shape. In 1996, while I was with a reserve Special Forces unit, they asked me to come back on active duty, so I did. I just wanted to get back in the fight!

Stan has two son’s who are also SF soldiers, currently serving in harm’s way around the world.

Veteran Working on his PhD needs your help

Dear Vietnam Veteran:

My name is Paul J. Harrigan and I am a US Marine, Gulf Era, Veteran who desperately needs your help. I am currently a doctoral (PhD) student in psychology and am working on a dissertation research project. I am writing to request your assistance with my dissertation research project on Vietnam Veterans.

I respectfully request your assistance with my project. I recognize the honorable service of all veterans, however, for the purposes of this study I require at least 200 Vietnam theatre/combat veterans to participate in my study. At this time, I have 60 completed packets so I need 140 more. To help, all I require is that you and other Vietnam Veterans fill out a questionnaire packet that takes approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Participation is completely voluntary and no identifying information will be attached to any of the questionnaires you fill out.

If you would like to participate please send your mailing address to me at: paulpsyche@aol.com. I will send the packet to you along with a postage paid return envelope in the mail to return the materials. E-mail me or call at (716) 946-7451 if you have any questions or require more information. I thank you for your service to our country.

Semper Fi. Respectfully, Paul J. Harrigan, MA, University of Miami.

Medal of Honor Winners of the Vietnam War.



Sgt. Larry S. Pierce, Paratrooper, 1st Bn, Airborne, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. 20-September-1965, Ben Cat RVN

The Second MOH awarded during the War in Vietnam



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Pierce was serving as squad leader in a reconnaissance platoon when his patrol was ambushed by hostile forces. Through his inspiring leadership and personal courage, the squad succeeded in eliminating an enemy machine gun and routing the opposing force. While pursuing the fleeing enemy, the squad came upon a dirt road and, as the main body of his men entered the road, Sgt. Pierce discovered an anti-personnel mine emplaced in the road bed. Realizing that the mine could destroy the majority of his squad, Sgt. Pierce saved the lives of his men at the sacrifice of his life by throwing himself directly onto the mine as it exploded. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his safety, and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, he averted loss of life and injury to the members of his squad. Sgt. Pierce's extraordinary heroism, at the cost of his life, are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces of his country.



Submitted By: Jon Mueller

PTSD Affects Fewer Vietnam Vets

Associated Press | August 18, 2006

WASHINGTON - A widely quoted estimate that almost one in three Vietnam veterans developed post-traumatic stress disorder was too high, says a re-analysis that puts the toll closer to one in five.

Post-traumatic stress disorder now is understood to be triggered by a variety of traumatic experiences, not just combat, but medical authorities first accepted it as a psychiatric condition in 1980 at the urging of Vietnam veterans.

Then came the controversy over its prevalence. In the late 1980s, two government-funded studies issued vastly different estimates.

A study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggested that 14.7 percent of veterans developed the disorder after serving in Vietnam and that 2.2 percent still had it at that time.

A second, the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study, estimated that 30.9 percent of the veterans had developed the disorder and 15.2 percent of them were suffering it over a decade after the war.

Columbia University scientists took another look at that second study, using more precise symptom definitions, among other things. Their work, reported in Friday's edition of the journal Science, showed that 18.7 percent of Vietnam veterans had developed the disorder and 9.1 percent were suffering it by the end of the 1980s.

Whatever the actual numbers, the researchers said it is clear that the more combat exposure for a veteran, the greater the likelihood of the disorder.

Today, veterans from the Iraq war are supposed to be screened for the disorder and other mental health problems. Studies published this year suggest that between 11 percent and 17 percent of those Soldiers have had symptoms of post-traumatic stress upon their return.



Chapter Member of the Year, Carl Harris is now a "Published Marine" based on his letter to the Editor of the Marine Times which was shown in the magazine last week. The Times has a world wide audience. Contact Carl for details.

Australian Vietnam Vet's Produce Nude Calendar

THEY may have been privates, but not any more.

It's taken four decades, but Vietnam veterans are set to fire a shockwave through the ranks of old comrades.

Greg Carter, once No. 1 on a mortar tube, thought this month's 40th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan was the right time to shoot the first Vietnam veterans calendar -- in the nude.

Men at War and Peace sees veterans shed all their worries, fatigues, medals and RSL badges to flaunt the freedom they served for.

"We may not be as taut and trim as we were in Army days, but if older ladies can get their gear off, why can't we?" said Greg.

"We want to show the world how much we Vietnam veterans can still enjoy life."

The calendar, for next year, will raise funds for Vietnam veterans' groups and the Vietnam War Museum at San Remo.

Yesterday Greg, 57, was spinning a line along with fishing partners Vic Smythe, Rory Davenport and Peter "Shorty" Cornish by a dam near Bairnsdale.

"Everyone in the Army knew me as Shorty . . . to do with my height," said Peter.

Shorty, 57, was a forward scout with 5RAR in 1969, Rory, 57 was a tunnel rat with 7RAR in 1971 and Vic, 60, was a signaller in 1968.

The aim of the fishing shoot was to attract veterans with unusual hobbies or pastimes to be in the calendar.

"If they're veterans and they want to show their hobbies off, we want to hear from them," said Greg.



Vietnam veterans strip: Greg Carter, Rory Davenport, Vic Smythe and Peter Cornish will raise funds for veterans' groups and the Vietnam War Museum at San Remo with the calendar *Men at War and Peace*.

P.S. Rumor has it that V.V.A. Chapter 787 officers Rambo, Tom and Bob will star in our own Nude Calendar, and that they are currently seeking other volunteers. Luther will take the photo's.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Florida Purple Heart Scholarships—HB 373 2006



Section I. Subsection (9) is added to section 1009.26, **Florida Statutes**, to read: 1009.26 Fee waivers- (9) A state university or community college shall **waive undergraduate tuition** for each recipient of a Purple Heart who: (a) Is enrolled as a full-time, part-time, or summer-school student in an undergraduate program that terminates in a degree or certificate; (b) Is currently, and was **at the time of the military action** that resulted in the awarding of the Purple Heart, a **resident of this state**; and (c) Submits to the state university or the community college the DD-214 form issued at the time of separation from service as documentation that the student has received a Purple Heart. Such a **waiver for a Purple Heart recipient** shall be applicable for **110% of the number of required credit hours** of the degree or certificate program for which the student is enroll. Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

Vietnam Memorial getting underground visitor center

From the Washington Post

The federal commission with final say over the monuments and memorials in the nation's capitol has given the green light for the newest addition to America's front yard: a sprawling underground Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center that will be construction between the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall.



The center will be the first new memorial project on the coveted Mall since the National World War II Memorial was built. Preservationists, who wanted to conserve the Lincoln Memorial's grounds, fought the center. But the project was championed by some veterans groups that have long been troubled by the understated nature of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall and want to provide more history and context for its list of more than 58,000 Americans killed or missing in the war.

With memorial space at a premium in Washington—where some groups have quietly fought for years to get patches of land inside traffic circles for memorial status or slivers of pocket parks for monuments—the Vietnam Veterans have won one of the biggest prizes of all.

The project has drawn criticism because of its potential to convey conclusions about a conflict that tore the country apart. But Jan Scruggs, president and founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, said the 25,000 square foot center will be a neutral, fact-based presentation that will pay tribute to U.S. soldiers (Coast Guard, Marine, Air Force, Navy and Army).

It may include a movie theater, a three-dimensional battle scene, mementos left at the memorial, and a wall where pictures of slain soldiers will be projected on their birthdays, creating a dynamic tribute that changes daily.

The center will cost \$100 million, of which the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has raised \$25 million. The sponsors expect to have a design selected by year's end and plan to get final approval early next year.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Court Lengthens Roster For Agent Orange Coverage

By: Matt Apuzzo, The Associated Press, August 2006

Washington—Veterans who patrolled the water off Vietnam may claim disability benefits for exposure to Agent Orange under an appeals court ruling that opens the door for thousands of service personnel to seek medical coverage.

The ruling was handed down by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in the case of a former sailor who served on an ammunition ship during the Vietnam War but never set foot on land.

The court's order, issued Wednesday, reverses the Department of Veterans Affairs denial of benefits for Jonatan L. Hasas, who blamed his diabetes, nerve damage and loss of eyesight on exposure to Agent Orange.

Haas argued that clouds of the toxic defoliant, which the U.S. sprayed on Vietnamese jungles, drifted out to sea, engulfing his ship and landing on his skin.

Veterans officials said that to qualify for coverage, Haas was required to have docked in Vietnam and come ashore.

The three-judge panel said it made no sense for veterans who patrolled Vietnam's inland waterways and those passing through the country to receive medical coverage while those serving at sea do not.

"Veterans serving on vessels in close proximity to land would have the same risk of exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange as veterans serving on adjacent land, or an even greater risk than that borne by those veterans who may have visited and set foot on the land of the RVN only briefly." Judge William A. Moorman wrote.

Veterans Affairs said Friday it was reviewing the opinion and was not sure how many veterans would be affected or how much the added coverage would cost.

Most Vietnam combat veterans receive some medical benefits, but if their illnesses are related to their service they can receive full coverage and their families might be eligible for benefits.

V.V.A's director of veterans benefits David Houppert, said the ruling could benefit thousands of veterans.

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<u>September 2006</u>		
1st & 2nd—Friday & Saturday	Tampa Convention Home Show Fund Raiser	11:00 AM to 8:00 PM
3rd & 4th—Sunday & Monday	Tampa Convention Home Show Fund Raiser	11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
8th to 11th	Florida State Council Meeting, Miami	
14th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon’s House	6:30 PM
17th Sunday	The Veterans Council of Hillsborough County Inc. POW/MIA Remembrance Veterans Park starts at	9:30 AM
28th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Brandon Veterans Hall	7:00 PM
30th Saturday	Chapter Breakfast get together, at the Flying “J” Restaurant Plant City	8:00 AM
<u>October 2006</u>		
12th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon’s House	6:30 PM
17th to 22nd	Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall, Brandon (Westfield) Mall	
26th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Brandon Veterans Hall	7:00 PM
28th Saturday	Chapter Breakfast get together, at the Flying “J” Restaurant Plant City	8:00 AM

Submitted By: Bob Silmsner

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 Silmsner to schedule

813-220-7246 or Rafkirk64@Tampabay.rr.com



Financial Status of Chapter 787 as of August 10 2006

<u>Checking Account.....\$6,685.63</u>	Moving Wall Fund.....\$4,043.00	Holiday Meals Fund.....\$1657.74
<u>Household Goods.....\$ 211.59</u>	Convention Fund.....\$2,244.36	<u>Petty Cash.....\$ 76.70</u>

Grand Total: \$9218.29

Thanks to our Treasurer Bob Silmsner

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 Silmsen: 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.

Military Humor



To fire this weapon just kick with the heal of your foot and hold on tight!



As an incentive for men to join the infantry, the Marines and Army have allowed certain women to also sign up as grunts.



When base plates fail.



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** _____

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

Contact E-mail Addresses:

President Jim LaGarde:

cLaGarde@tampabay.rr.com

VP Tom Hall: MarineDI@aol.com

Secretary & Treasurer Bob Silmsen:

Rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com

State Council Delegate Kevin Ruhl:

MSgtMCRet@aol.com

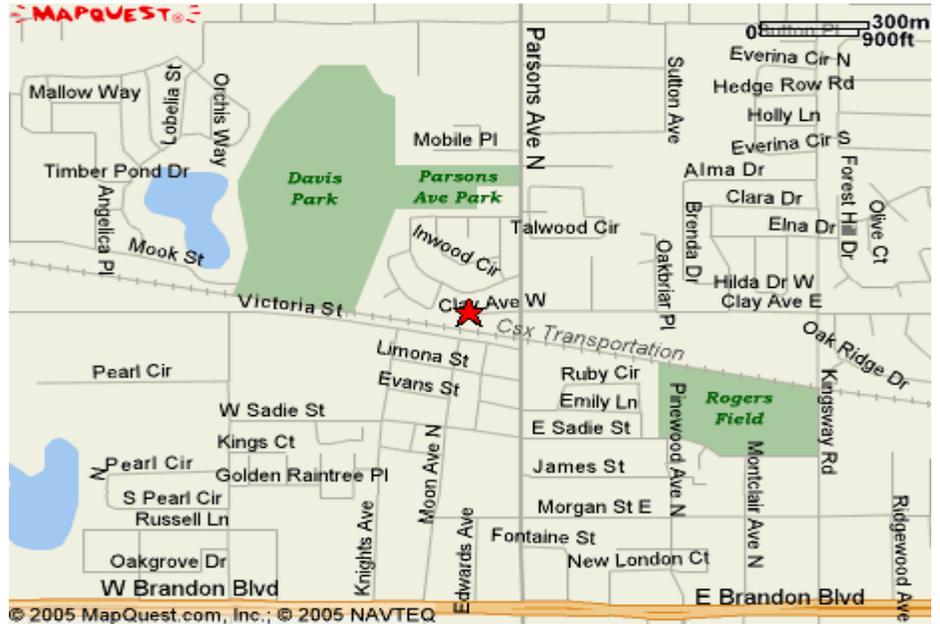
Board of Directors

Ron Schott: RonD1120@aol.com

Carl Harris: c_e_harris@ij.net

Herman Rainey: hjr173@hughes.net)

Jon Mueller: JonMue@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
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