



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**



V.V.A. National Convention

Chapter Officers

President: Tom Hall
Vice President: Carl Harris
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Open

Board of Directors:

Kevin Ruhl
Dave Braun
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: 6:30 PM

Location: Veterans Memorial Park & Museum
3602 Hwy. 301 N.
Tampa Fl. 33619. See Map on last page.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404.



Some guys have all the fun. Pictured above, chapter member and all around Veterans supporter, **Dave Braun** at the 14th annual Vietnam Veterans of America Convention in Louisville Ky. To Dave's right and left are two ladies who had 5 tours in Vietnam with the Bob Hope show. They are, **Michelle Dellafave** and **Lindsay Bloom** (Blue eyed soul). Both starred in Movies and T.V. shows.

Dave along with chapter 787 State Council delegate, **Kevin Ruhl** represented our chapter at the convention.

More pictures on the next page.....



Pictures submitted by **Dave Braun**. Above at left, former U.S. Congressman **Mike Bilrakis** and his wife with Dave in the middle. Next former Miss America and Miss Kentucky. Behind her is Vietnam Veterans of America National President **John Rowan**.

News Flash

Submitted by: **Dave Braun**



John Rowan, VVA National President speaks out on Death Book

PRESS RELEASE
Vietnam Veterans of America
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release
August 25, 2009
No. 09-27

Contact: Mokie Porter
301-585-4000, Ext. 146

Health Care Reform Hysteria: 'Death Book' Scare Tactics Inexcusable

(Washington, D.C.) - "Health care reform is a legitimate topic for discussion and debate," said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), "but it is outrageous for some partisans to politicize the debate by targeting veterans with blatant scare tactics.

"The issue du jour is the so-called Death Book for veterans," Rowan said. In an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, the person who headed the office of faith-based initiatives for the Bush White House attacked 'Your Life, Your Choices,' a 52-page booklet of end-of-life options to be considered by veterans and their families that has been given out by the VA as per federal law. This booklet, developed in 1997 when Bill Clinton was President, was given to veterans and their families, if requested, under a directive in 2007 from President Bush. It was updated last month, under President Obama.

"This booklet was developed with guidance from clerics," Rowan said, "and it addresses options most of us and our loved ones will have to sort through as we live our final years. To play politics with veterans' end-of-life choices is not only irresponsible politically, but it is cruel. We agree with Congressman Joe Sestak, a retired Navy Admiral, who is outraged at the 'Death Book' charges and has called them 'inexcusable.'

"It is our hope that sane minds reject fear-mongering, and that veterans recognize these scare tactics for what they are," Rowan said.



Medal of Honor recipients of the War in Vietnam



ANDERSON, WEBSTER, Sergeant First Class



Rank and organization: Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army, Battery A, 2d Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Infantry Division (Airmobile). Place and date: Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam, 15 October 1967. Entered service at: Winnsboro, S.C. Born: 15 July 1933, Winnsboro, S.C. Citation: SFC. Anderson (then S/Sgt.), distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as chief of section in Battery A, against a hostile force. During the early morning hours Battery A's defensive position was attacked by a determined North Vietnamese Army infantry unit supported by heavy mortar, recoilless rifle, rocket propelled grenade and automatic weapon fire. The initial enemy onslaught breached the battery defensive perimeter. SFC. Anderson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, mounted the exposed parapet of his howitzer position and became the mainstay of the defense of the battery position. SFC. Anderson directed devastating direct howitzer fire on the assaulting enemy while providing rifle and grenade defensive fire against enemy soldiers attempting to overrun his gun section position. While protecting his crew and directing their fire against the enemy from his exposed position, 2 enemy grenades exploded at his feet knocking him down and severely wounding him in the legs. Despite the excruciating pain and though not able to stand, SFC. Anderson valorously propped himself on the parapet and continued to direct howitzer fire upon the closing enemy and to encourage his men to fight on. Seeing an enemy grenade land within the gun pit near a wounded member of his gun crew, SFC. Anderson heedless of his own safety, seized the grenade and attempted to throw it over the parapet to save his men. As the grenade was thrown from the position it exploded and SFC. Anderson was again grievously wounded. Although only partially conscious and severely wounded, SFC. Anderson refused medical evacuation and continued to encourage his men in the defense of the position. SFC. Anderson by his inspirational leadership, professionalism, devotion to duty and complete disregard for his welfare was able to maintain the defense of his section position and to defeat a determined attack. SFC. Anderson's gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

V.V.A. Chapter 787 to host POW-MIA event



Join us on Saturday September 19th at Hillsborough County Veterans Park & Museum , when we will hold a short ceremony in honor of our military men and women. The National POW-MIA Day is the preceding Friday, September 18th. There sill be a fly-over by the Ye Mystek AirKrewe who will do a “missing-man” formation.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Quote

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. “

Abraham Lincoln

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<u>September 2009</u>		
10th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon’s House	6:30 PM
18th Friday	National POW/MIA Day	
19th Saturday	Chapter 787 will host the POW/MIA Ceremony at Veterans Park	10:00 AM
24th Thursday	Chapter 787 Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	6:30 PM
<u>October 2009</u>		
8th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon’s House	6:30 PM
22nd Thursday	Chapter 787 Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	6:30 PM

Check out our EVENTS page on the chapter web site: www.vva787.com, click EVENTS then click Calendar of EVENTS

Submitted by: Jon Mueller

Vietnam vet re-enlists, deploys with wife

The Associated Press Posted : Thursday Aug 27, 2009 9:51:16 EDT

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Vietnam veteran Jim Jones didn’t feel comfortable sitting at home while his wife deployed to Afghanistan.

So Jones decided to come out of retirement from the Illinois Army National Guard and join her. He made the decision to join his wife, Julie, as she was training in Indiana last year.

Both are assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters’ Company, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Urbana. He’s an operations sergeant major and she’s the company’s first sergeant.

Julie Jones says it’s great to serve together in Afghanistan. But it was hard to leave behind their one child, a student at Monmouth College in Monmouth.

The couple met in the National Guard and married in 1994. They’re due back in Illinois by late summer.

Financial Status of Chapter 787 as of August 2009

Total \$13,138.43 (Moving Wall Fund..\$7,227.22, AVVA \$220.36, General checking \$3,823.65, Holiday Meals Fund...\$1,867.20).

Total \$1,749.09 (Household Goods.....\$693.18 Convention Fund.....\$1,055.91)

All Accounts Total: \$14,887.52 Thanks to our Treasurer Bob Silmser

Operation Stand-Down & Chapter 787

By *Tom Hall*

On Friday, August 14, 2009, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787 members **Carl Harris**, **Beverly Thomas**, **Glayron** and **Julie Faries** and **Tom Hall** gathered at the Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa for the “Tampa Stand Down 2009.” The annual stand down was organized by the Tampa VA Healthcare for the Homeless Program.

For those who may not be familiar with the term “stand down” it comes from the military term when a unit stands down to come out of the field for rest and refit for a period of time. A unit would get the troops hot food, clean clothing, showers, rest, time to replace broken or worn equipment, get medical care where needed and much more.

As I walked the auditorium to see what was offered to the homeless I observed local, state and federal government agencies who deal with homeless issues, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, housing agencies, organizations providing free clothing, health care products, free haircuts, hearing testing, a mobile health care van providing free screening for HIV and other medical needs, mobile ID van to get Florida ID cards, VA providing access to the VA medical system, and a organization giving away brand new tennis shoes.

Chapter 787 was asked to provide coffee and donuts for this event from 9 a.m. until noon. The Chapter provided 9 gallons of coffee and 15 dozens of donuts which was a hit with the homeless participants.

The Jewish War Veterans were providing a sack lunch for the participants to take with them after they received a hot buffet lunch.

The doors opened at 9:00 a.m. and participants quickly filled the auditorium. As the day progress it was estimated that 250-300 homeless individuals were assisted.

I want to thank the above members for coming out and supporting this event. I personally felt that we made a difference in people’s life that day even though it was only for a short period of time. Our members should be proud that we are in step with VVA’s motto of “Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Forget Another Generation of Veterans.”



Pictured above, chapter member **Glayron Faries** and President **Tom Hall** (behind the counter), next chapter VP **Carl Harris** handles the refills.

Submitted by: Jon Mueller

TAPS

Admiral Commanded NATO Forces, Led Naval Air Operation In Vietnam

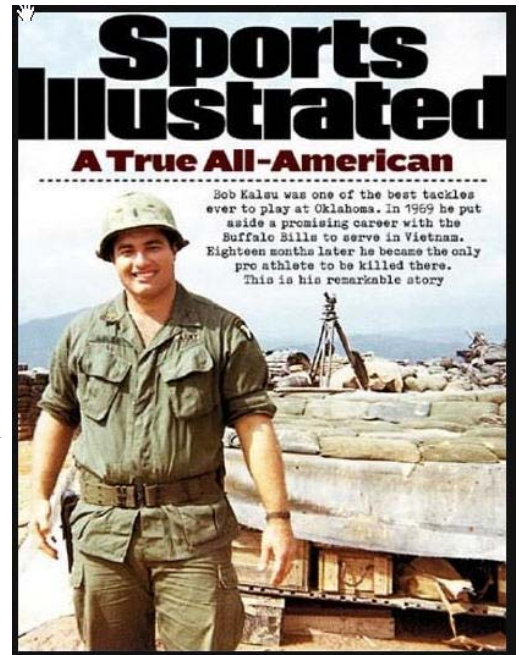
(Washington Post)...Matt Schudel

Ralph W. Cousins, 94, a retired Navy admiral who directed naval air operations during the Vietnam War and who later became the Navy’s second-highest-ranking officer and the top commander of NATO forces, died Aug. 5 at a hospital in Newport News, Va., of complications from a fall.

The only Pro Football player killed in Vietnam

James Robert "Bob" Kalsu (April 13, 1945–July 21, 1970) was an All-American tackle at the University of Oklahoma and an eighth-round draft pick by the Buffalo Bills of the American Football League in 1968. Buffalo Bills Rookie of the Year Kalsu was a starting guard in 1968. He played the entire season and was the Bills' team rookie-of-the-year. Following the 1968 season, to satisfy his Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) obligation, he entered the Army as a Second Lieutenant and arrived in Vietnam in November 1969. He was killed in action on July 21, 1970 at FSB Ripcord near the A Shau Valley. Lieutenant Kalsu had one child, a daughter named Jill. At home in Oklahoma City, his wife, Jan Kalsu, gave birth to his son, James Robert Kalsu Jr., on July 23. Mrs. Kalsu was informed of her husband's death only hours later. Kalsu was the only recently active professional American football player to lose his life in the Vietnam War.

Retired Cleveland Browns player Don Steinbrunner also died in combat in Vietnam.



Alabama Vietnam War Memorial



Pictures taken by **Jim LaGarde** and submitted by **Bob Silmsner**.

While traveling, chapter 787 member **Jim LaGarde** stopped to take pictures of this Vietnam Memorial located in southeastern Alabama.

Note the Helicopter raised on the pedestal. This is similar to what will be constructed at the entrance-way to our Hillsborough County Veterans Park and



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 (VVA), Chapter 787, Tampa Florida. All articles, and opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views 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:

President Tom Hall: MarineDI@aol.com

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

Secretary & Treasurer : Open

State Council Delegate Kevin Ruhl:

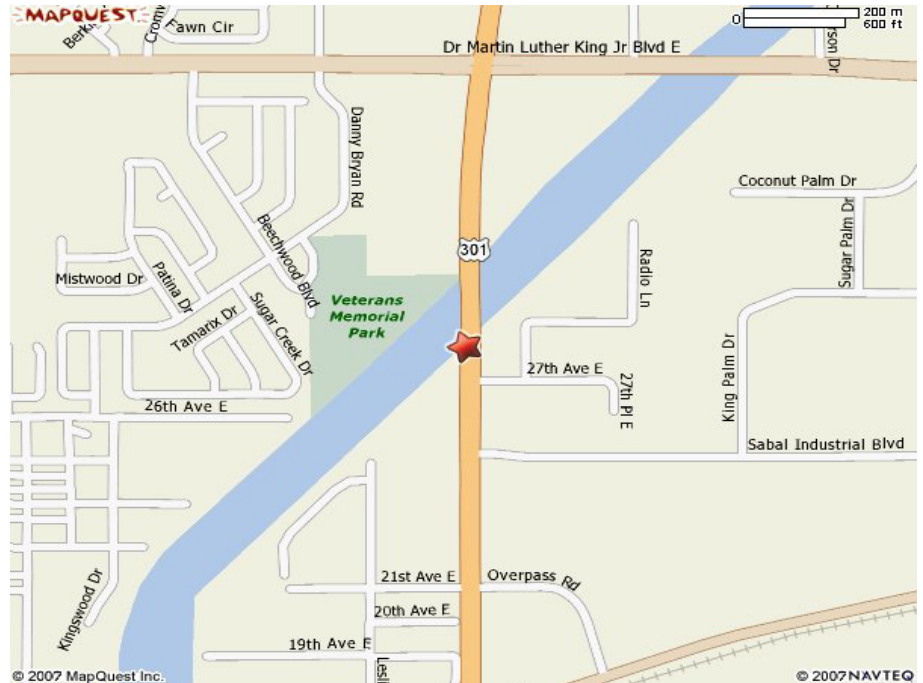
MSgtMCRet@aol.com

Board of Directors

Kevin Ruhl: MSgtMCRet@aol.com

Dave Braun: Prowler143@aol.com

Jon Mueller: ParaSF68@aol.com



Important Web Sites

Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida.....	http://www.vva787.com
Hillsborough County Veterans Park Museum & War Memorials (NEW).....	www.hcmemorials.com
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