



# THE OUTPOST

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa Fl.

In Service to America

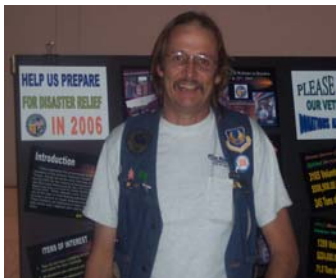
**NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2001, FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL,  
CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005  
FOR INFORMATION CALL (813) 597-1326, FAX: (813) 737-4929.  
WEB SITE: MEMBERS.AOL.COM/VVA787/INDEX.HTML**



## Chapter Members brave the rain for our Fund Raiser held on February 3rd & 4th.

**\$947 was donated at the Publix on Causeway Blvd. Brandon Fl.**

**Chapter Secretary Bob Silmser coordinated the event including the required insurance certificate, contacting the volunteers, getting the tables, signs and depositing the money. Bob says "thanks to all the volunteers who came even thou the weather was nasty."**



**Top row left:** Chapter Member of the Year, Carl Harris and Herman Rainey, Chapter VP Dale Wagner, (calling in an air strike), Joyce Koprowski and former Chapter President, Tom Hall.

**Bottom row left:** AVVA member Eddy Ortelt, John Robinson with Board of Directors member Ron Schott.

Members who are not shown but gave their valuable time and efforts are: Chapter Secretary Bob Silmser (who supplied this information and pictures), and Don Wallick.

### 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**

## Chapter, Annual Election of Officers



*By Tom Hall, Nomination Chair*



On **April 27, 2006**, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787 will conduct its Annual Membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Brandon Veterans Hall located at 115 W. Clay in Brandon, FL. The purpose of this meeting is the election of Chapter Officers and Board of Directors and any changes to the Chapter By-laws.

Any Chapter member in good standing may run for any elected position in the Chapter. Those members wishing to running for any elected office should send a "Letter of Intent" by mail to the Chapter post office box address or by e-mail to [marinedi@aol.com](mailto:marinedi@aol.com) stating which position they wish to run. All candidates **MUST** provide a copy of their DD-214 prior to the election to the Nominating Chair. Candidates, who are nominated from the floor prior to the election, must provide a copy of their DD-214 at that time. **Submit your request to run for any position to Tom Hall by March 17, 2006**

The election process and campaign restrictions for office will be in strict accordance with the VVA Constitution.

This article is published to provide the required notice to the membership in accordance with the VVA Constitution. If you have any questions, please contact **Tom Hall, Nominating Chair, at 655-7129.**

### **New Web Site . . . submitted by: Tom Hall**

If you ever want to find out anything about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and POW/MIA issues go to this lady's web site. I've known Sharon for many years and she knows her stuff. I've looked at the web site and it is a wealth of information that I didn't know. If you ever have a student who is going to do research on The Wall or POW/MIA issues it would be a good site to have them look at. [TouchtheWall@aol.com](mailto:TouchtheWall@aol.com), [www.TouchTheWall.org](http://www.TouchTheWall.org)

## **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 5 in stock now.

**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 Silmser 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 are \$5.00**



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.

# Chapter 2006 Fund Raisers

## SCHEDULED FUND RAISERS

**MARK your calendar.**

**Your help is needed this year.**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>** Wal-Mart--- Bloomingdale & Bell Shoals, Brandon 9am-3pm

**Mar 31<sup>st</sup>-Apr 1<sup>st</sup>** Publix--Lithia Pinecrest & Bloomingdale, Valrico 9am-3pm

**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 will sponsor a morning breakfast for all chapter members, and family, 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**



**March 8, 1965** - The first U.S. conventional combat troops arrive in Vietnam as 3500 Marines from the 9th Marine Regiment, land at China Beach to defend the American air base at Da Nang. They join 23,000 American military advisors already in Vietnam



**March 1 1966**, The final phase of operation "White Wing" commenced, moving into the jungle covered Cay Giep Mountains. B-52's blasted openings in the thick jungle canopy, permitting engineer teams to descend from helo's to clear LZ's for the 2nd Brigade. Sweeping down the mountain slopes, the 1st Cav troops encountered little resistance as the main body of the 6th & 18th NVA battalions had fled. The 1st Cavalry Division had proven the effectiveness of the Air Mobil concept airlifting entire infantry battalions a total of 78 times and moved artillery batteries 55 times. In 41 days of enemy contact, the 1st Cav clashed with all three regiments of the Sao Vang Division and rendered five of the nine battalions ineffective for combat.



**March 25, 1968**, The US Army alerted the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) for deployment to Vietnam. At peak strength the brigade had over 6,000 personnel assigned and was one of the most potent fighting forces in the Republic of Vietnam. The 5th I.D. had an AO (area of operation) near the DMZ. In June, the Red Devils received stand-down orders with Stateside redeployment to commence on 1 July 1971. On 22 August 1971, the Brigade colors were inactivated at Fort Carson until the next Division call-up.



**March 2 1968** CHU LAI--The offensive phase of Operation Russell Beach, which began on Jan. 13 when thousands of Americal, Division, 2nd ARVN Div., and Marine troops swept into an 11 1/2-mile cordon around the Batangan Peninsula ended on Feb. 10. Activity has now entered Phase IV, which is of unlimited duration and is mainly controlled by Quang Ngai Province officials. The operation accounted for 206 Viet Cong killed and 201 VC infrastructure members, 140 VC suspects, and 104 prisoners of war detained. Sixty-five weapons, including six crew-served, were captured, while more than 14,000 meters of tunnels and 241 structures were destroyed.



**March 23, 1973**, The last US conventional combat troops leave Vietnam. The withdrawal of U.S. personnel resulted in a collapsing economy throughout South Vietnam. Millions of people had depended on the money spent by Americans in Vietnam. Thieu's government was ill-equipped to treat the mass unemployment and deepening poverty that resulted from the U.S. withdrawal. The ARVN still received \$700 million from the U.S. Congress and was twice the size of the Communist forces, but morale was collapsing. More than 200,000 ARVN soldiers deserted in 1974 in order to be with their families.

Submitted By: Kevin Ruhl

**Quote**



On December 9, 2005, CNN covered an interview of a US Special Forces soldier, a member of an elite sniper team. A Reuters reporter trying to milk the interview for all it was worth asked the young soldier, in a less than respectful tone, and in an effort to make him feel guilty, "What do you feel, if anything, when you shoot an Al Qaeda freedom fighter from such a long distance?" The young soldier shrugged his shoulders and replied. "RECOIL" & turned and walked away.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

## Humor

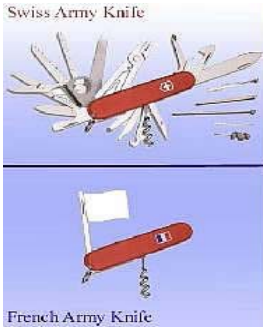


Things Go Better with Coke



**Picture at Right:** Fast Attack Carrier making a hair pin turn! **Picture at Left:** Iraqi children, with sign saying "We are safer in Iraq than in America with Michael Jackson."

**Picture at Left:** A recent commercial for HK pistols, which emphasized reliability. Note, however, that the rounds have been put into the magazine backwards. .



## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_





Submitted By: Carl Harris

### The Man in the Doorway

They came in low and hot, close to the trees and dropped their tail in a flare, rocked forward and we raced for the open doorways. This was always the worst for us, we couldn't hear anything and our backs were turned to the tree line. The best you could hope for was a sign on the face of the man in the doorway, leaning out waiting to help with a tug or to lay down some lead. Sometimes you could glance quickly at his face and pick up a clue as to what was about to happen. We would pitch ourselves in headfirst and tumble against the scuffed riveted aluminum, grab for a handhold and will that son-of-a-bitch into the air.



Sometimes the deck was slick with blood or worse, sometimes something had been left in the shadows under the web seats, and sometimes they landed in a shallow river to wash them out. Sometimes they were late, sometimes they were parked in some other LZ with their rotors turning a lazy arc, a ghost crew strapped in once too often, motionless, waiting for their own lift, their own bags, once too often into the margins,



The getting on and the getting off were the worst for us but this was all he knew, the man in the doorway, he was always standing there in the noise, watching, urging...swinging out with his gun, grabbing the black plastic and heaving, leaning out and spitting, spitting the taste away, as though it would go away...



They came in low and hot, close to the trees and dropped their tail in a flare, rocked forward and began to kick the boxes out, bouncing against the skids, piling up on each other, food and water, and bullets...a thousand pounds of Cs, warm water and rounds, 7.62mm...half a ton of life and death.



And when the deck was clear, we would pile the bags, swing them against their weight and throw them through the doorway, his doorway, onto his deck and nod and he'd speak into that little mic and they'd go nose down and lift into their last flight, their last extraction. Sometimes he'd raise a thumb or perhaps a fist or sometimes just a sly, knowing smile, knowing we were staying and he was going but also knowing he'd be back in a blink, standing in the swirling noise and rotor wash, back to let us rush through his door and skid across his deck and will that son-of-a-bitch into the air.

They came in low and hot, close to the trees and dropped their tail in a flare, rocked forward, kicked out the boxes and slipped the litter across the deck and sometimes he'd lean down and hold the IV and brush the dirt off of a bloodless face, or hold back the flailing arms and tears, a thumbs-up to the right seat and you're only minutes away from the white sheets and the saws and the plasma,



They came in low and hot, close to the trees and dropped their tail in a flare, rocked forward and we'd never hear that sound again without feeling our stomachs go just a bit weightless, listen just a bit closer for the gunfire and look up for the man in the doorway.



Written by: Mike Ryerson

Mike Ryerson was in 0844/0846 with 11th Marines at ChuLai (hill 69) and then an FO with 5th Marines for a while before being transferred to 3rd MarDiv, 12th Marines (hill 55) and then to the DMZ (Dong Ha, Charlie 2, Con Their) with 4th and 9th Marines. Feb 66' to Mar 68'

(yes 25 months!). [michaelryerson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michaelryerson@sbcglobal.net)

### Medical

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Veterans Report.....Military. COM Publications. February 2006.....**Women Only!**

The Specialized Outpatient/Post Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment program of the VA Black Hills Health Care System is hosting its semi-annual **Women's Retreat** April 28-30, 2006 at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center, two miles east of Sturgis. The program is intended for **women veterans** (all eras) and collaterals (wives, significant others, mothers, etc.) of male veterans traumatized by experiences during military service. The weekend retreat begins at 12 Noon on Friday and ends at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Those wishing to participate must pre-register by phoning 605.720.7449 or 1-800-743-1070, extension 7449. Prior to registration, a brief telephone screening is required.

## Haley House

February 14 2006, Chapter 787 was represented during the Press conference and Ribbon Cutting ceremonies for the Haley House Fund. This organization provides support for family members of severely injured military personnel who are in the VA Hospital in Tampa. The support includes by is not limited to, financial, housing, transportation and personal care. This is an all volunteer group where 99% of the funds go to the support effort. Many of our wounded and severely disabled veterans undergoing treatment at the VA hospital, do not have the resources to bring family members to the Tampa area and provide living accommodations for them. That's where the Haley House comes to the rescue. Whether it's a shoulder to cry on or a plan ticket home, the Haley House is there 24/7.

Criteria for acceptance: Veteran or Service member who is undergoing extended episodic outpatient therapy, treatment or evaluation.

The family member or caregiver whose hospitalized loved one is seriously ill undergoing surgery, receiving rehabilitation, hospice or any other significant medical condition and who lives over 50 miles or 1 hour from the hospital.



**Picture** at left shows a number of the patients family members along with local dignitaries and veterans. Chapter member and Florida Veterans Council President, Dave Braun is shown at front center.

For more information, contact:

Haley House Chairman (813) 926-1100, or write Haley House Fund P.O. Box 701 Brandon Fl. 33509.

## A Thank You, from a brother Vet

**We will be getting the Chapter's electric wheelchair back shortly. Here is the Thank You letter from Mike Weber to Chapter 787 and I will be publishing it in the next edition of the Recon. Help Brother Veterans is what it is all about. Tom Hall**

This past Monday, February 7, 2006 I finally received the news I had been waiting for since last May. The VA has approved my request for an electric wheelchair and lift gate! How can I ever thank VVA Chapter 787 for changing my life over the past 9 months. As you all may know I was admitted into Hospice at home due to end stage liver disease (Hepatitis C) in March 2005. Although I have survived the battle till now, the VA has made my life more difficult by denying me this form of independence.

VVA Chapter 787 contacted my wife last year and, with the help of my VVA Chapter 916, delivered an electric wheelchair for me to use until I was approved for one by the VA. The day it arrived I took it out for a "test drive" around the neighborhood. It was the first time I had been out of the house, unassisted, in what seems like a lifetime. I became the "dog walker" and made so many friends in the neighborhood - I felt reborn!

Now that I will be receiving my own chair AND lift gate **watch out world** - here I come! My sincere thanks to the chapter that helped me explore the world around me and give me the courage to look beyond my own backyard. And a special thanks to my Hospice Angels - what would I do without you?

Welcome Home

Michael A. Weber  
45 Westfalls Lane  
Palm Coast, FL 32164



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.

**POW-MIA**



The remains of four soldiers missing in action during the Vietnam War were identified on February 15th.

All from the US Army's 101st Airborne Division, they are Maj. Jack L. Barker of Waycross, Ga.; Capt. John F. Dungan of Roselle, N.J.; Sgt. William E. Dillender of Naples FL.; and Pfc. John J. Chubb of Gardena, Calif.

Their helicopter was shot down March 20, 1971. Barker and Dugan were piloting a HU-1H Huey with Dillender and Chubb on board while on a troop extraction mission in the Savannakhet province of Laos.

Crash site surveys in 2002 and 2004 found some remains, wreckage and insignia.

**Letter to Chapter 787 (not 727 sic), draws some fire!**



**Brandon Veterans Post & Parks Assoc., Inc.**

115 W. Clay Ave.

Brandon, FL. 33510

**A Non-Profit Organization**

January 3, 2006

VVA Chapter 727  
115 W. Clay Ave.  
Brandon, FL. 33510

Att: Unit Commander

Gentlemen;

At the Board of Directors meeting held on Wed. afternoon, December 28<sup>th</sup>, there was some discussion about the need to clarify the position of the use of the hall by the VVA and other non-member units as allowed by the rental agreements.

As with all units, each unit is allocated one day per month for the use of the hall for meeting purposes. If available, after clearance from the Board of Directors, other special events may be scheduled. It is a recognized fact that the renting units have access, and use of the hall at the sole discretion of the Board. Any changes, or additions to the facilities must first be cleared with the Board.

As it is relative to all organizations, including the registered member units of the Association; that items belonging to, or part of the Association inventory may not be removed from the premises without prior explicit approval from the Board of Directors.

As a reminder, the VVA is not a registered member of the Association, as are several other organizations; they are required to follow the regulations as set by the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

  
William A. Hayes  
Association Board President

By: John R. Meredith  
Board Director

Cc: File  
Board of Director Members.

## Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event and Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b><u>March 2006</u></b>			
3rd & 4th	Friday & Saturday	Fund Raiser, Publix, Bloomingdale & Bell Shoals, Brandon	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
9th	Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30PM
23rd	Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Veterans Hall, Brandon	7:00PM
25th	Saturday	Chapter Breakfast get together	7:00AM
31st & 1st	Friday & Saturday	Fund Raiser, Publix, Lithia Pinecrest & Bloomingdale, Valrico	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
<b><u>April 2006</u></b>			
13th	Thursday	Board Meeting, Jon's House	6:30PM
27th	Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Veterans Hall, Brandon	7:00PM
29th	Saturday	Chapter Breakfast get together	7:00AM

### Bill Introduced In Congress To Award the Medal of Honor to a Vietnam Marine

109th Congress  
1st Session

**Submitted By: Kevin Ruhl**



H. R. 4310

To authorize and request the President to award the Medal Of Honor to Richard Gresko, of Newtown, Pennsylvania, for acts of valor in the Republic of Vietnam on March 11-12, 1970, while serving as a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
November 10th, 2005

Mr. Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.  
A BILL

To authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to Richard Gresko, of Newtown, Pennsylvania, for acts of valor in the Republic of Vietnam in March 11-12, 1970, while serving as a Lance Corporal in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, Section 1.

Authorization and request for award of Medal Of Honor to Richard Gresko for acts of valor during the Vietnam War.

Authorization: The President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under Section 6241 of Title 10 United States Code.

Action Described: the acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Richard Gresko in the Republic of Vietnam on the night of March 11-12, 1970, while a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps serving in the Third Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. On that night, Lance Corporal Gresko was in one element of an ambush set up to protect a village from enemy attack. Around midnight, his element ambushed a Viet Cong unit which was attempting to enter the village. During the ensuing fight, Lance Corporal Gresko observed an enemy hand grenade land near his position. With complete disregard for his own personal safety and fully aware of the dangers involved, he unhesitatingly threw himself on top of the grenade, absorbing most of the blast fragments with his own body in order to protect his men from certain injury and possible death. Although painfully wounded, he continued to direct his men's actions until the squad made their sweep.

Waiver of time Limitations: The award under subsection (a) may be made without regard to the time limitations specified in section 6248 of Title 10, United States Code.

## Edges of the Wall, By Tim Trask



The date "1959" is engraved on the upper left hand corner of the first panel on the east side of The Wall. At the lower right corner of the first panel of the west side, we find the date "1975." When the memorial was finished, in 1982, some people expressed surprise at those dates. The Vietnam War, they thought, started in either 1964 or 1965 and ended in 1973 with the withdrawal of troops following the Paris Peace agreement that resulted in Nobel prizes for Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho. Thanks to the efforts of our own historians, nearly everyone on VWAR-L knows that the origins of the conflict go back much earlier in the century. The truth is, however, that 1959 and 1975 do not even begin to encompass the years of grief brought to American families by deaths in the Vietnam War.

On line 1 of the first panel on the east side of The Wall, two of the names are indeed those of soldiers killed in 1959. They are Chester N. Ovnard (MSGT, Army, from El Reno, Oklahoma) and Dale R. Buis (Major, Army, from Pender, Nebraska). Both of them were killed on July 8, 1959. But they weren't the first Americans killed in Viet Nam.

Harry G. Cramer was killed nearly two years before Ovnard and Buis, on October 21, 1957. His name doesn't appear on line 1 of the first panel, however; it appears on line 78. Cramer was a Captain in the Army from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Johnstown's losses began in 1957 and didn't end until 1973, with the death of Kenneth Doyle Scaife on January 3rd. Scaife was an E2 in the Navy. Between 1957 and 1973, Johnstown lost 24 of its sons to the war. In 1970, the population of Johnstown was a bit over 42,000. The experiences of a couple of other cities will serve as a point of comparison. Haverhill, Massachusetts, the city I lived in during my junior-high and high-school years, is about the same size as Johnstown. Haverhill lost 8 sons. Brockton, Massachusetts, the city I live in now, had a population of 89,000 in 1970 and lost 15 soldiers, sailors, and Marines. Johnstown, in other words, lost people at about three times the normal rate.



The last death from the Vietnam War is more difficult to determine. Eleven hours before the cease-fire deadline, on January 27, 1973, Lieutenant Colonel William B. Nolde was listed as the last U.S. "combat death," but American military personnel continued to be killed in Viet Nam. More than two years after the peace agreement of 1973 went into effect, on April 30, 1975, the temporary president of South Viet Nam, General Duong Van "Big" Minh, turned the government over to the Communists. The remaining Americans had fled the day before, but American losses continued. On May 13, 1975, 25 Air Force lives were lost, and on May 15, 1975, another 18 Americans (14 Marines, 2 Navy, and 2 Air Force) were killed. At least one more soldier died in 1975: Jon O. Nancy, an Army PFC from Detroit who died on November 8, and he wasn't the last. On November 15, 1981, Major Eddie B. Story (Army) of Jonesboro, Tennessee was added to the list. And the names continue to be added to The Wall. There are those who will continue to die as a direct or indirect result of their war experience whose names are not yet listed and may never be. And there is the continuing pain of the families for whom the war has meant irrevocable grief and suffering that will continue.

When Harry Cramer was killed in 1957, Danny Marshall of Waverly, West Virginia had already been born, but he was just 7 months old--a baby who probably couldn't walk or talk. Danny may have been the last-born American killed in the Viet Nam War. When he died, along with the other 13 Marines on May 15, 1975, Captain Cramer had been dead for nearly 18 years. No American who was killed in Viet Nam was born after Harry Cramer was killed, but Danny came close.

How long does a war last? It lasts a lot longer than the dates that are usually assigned to it by the historians. When Harry Cramer was born, in 1926, Washington Carver Mable of Brenham, Texas was 22 years old. Yet Mable lived another ten years after Cramer was killed. Mable was killed in Viet Nam, also--in 1967. He was 63 years old. He'd lived through WWI, WWII, and Korea. His rank was PFC E-3. But even Mable wasn't the oldest soldier to die in Viet Nam, though he was very likely the oldest PFC. As far as I can tell, the honor of being the oldest soldier to die in Viet Nam goes to Master Sergeant Jimmie Ray Harrison, of DeKalb, IL, who was born on November 13, 1903 and died in

Edges of the Wall continued.....



Viet Nam on March 14, 1968. He was approaching 65 years of age--an old soldier who didn't seem content just to fade away. He was nearly 14 when my father was born, and my father was a college graduate before he was drafted in 1940--about a year before the U.S. had joined WWII. When Pearl Harbor was bombed, Jimmie Ray Harrison was 38 years old. He died in a war zone 27 years after the "date that will live in infamy." It's conceivable that Jimmie Ray could have been Danny Marshall's great grandfather (he was 54 when Danny was born), and while they couldn't have served at the same time, Danny and Jimmie Ray were killed in the same war.

Then there's the soldier whose age is not recorded. He's listed in at least one database as having been born on January 1, 1900. No one seems to know where he came from, either. His hometown is listed as "not known," and the closest information on him available is that he came from California. We know his service number, his branch, and his rank, but not much else. He's almost an unknown soldier. Oh yeah. We know one more thing about him--his name: Robert M. Bennet. And we know that he was killed in Viet Nam.

These names and numbers suggest some of the edges of the Vietnam conflict, but those edges are not nearly as distinct as the edges of other wars. Was it a real war? Who was responsible? When did it begin? The answer to that last question seems to depend on what you mean by "begin." When did it end? Again, the answer is not easy, but the addition of names since 1982 suggests that The Wall is still a work in progress. The better question seems to be "When *will* it end?"

Tim Trask

Shoot Out in Pasco

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

February 18 2006, Chapter 787 was represented at the 2nd annual Pasco County Shoot Out sponsored by the local Chapter of the 173d Airborne and featuring Chicom, and Russian made weapons like the SKS, AK-47, AK-74, along with M-14's, M-16's, M-1's, M1911 colt .45's, and WWI and WWII German infantry weapons. No Quail Hunters were harmed during this live fire exercise.



## 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

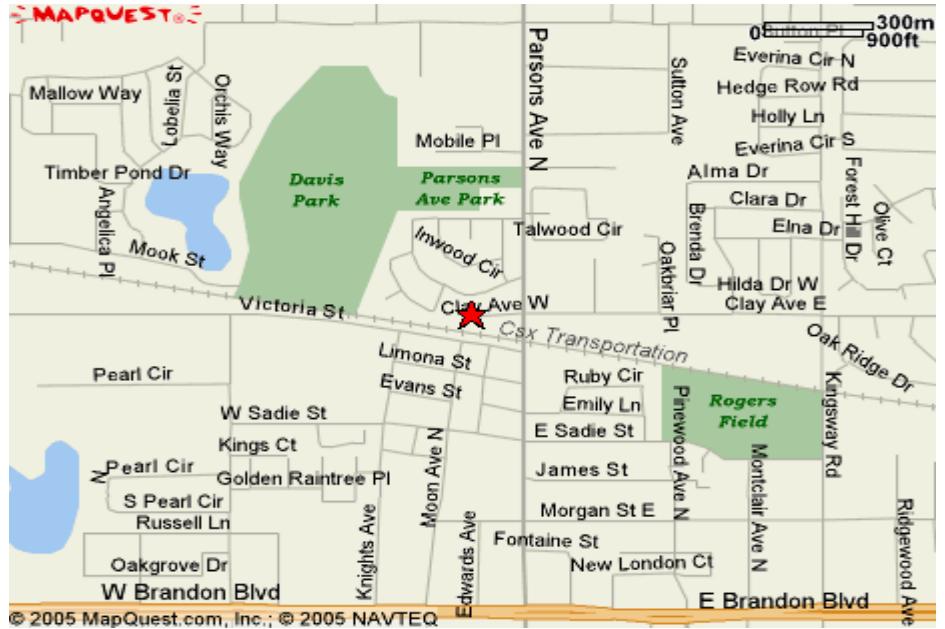
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Jon Mueller: JonMue@aol.com



## Important Web Sites

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