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CSC PRESIDENT MESSAGE

I want to thank our California VVA members who attended the VVA National Convention that took place in Reno, NV in August. The State was well represented with 73 VVA members in attendance. Almost every chapter in the State of California was represented at the convention as well as the at-large members. Arthur McQueen, a CSC at-large member, from Concord, CA, represented the 966 at-large members. It was a pleasure to meet Art and his beautiful wife. Art, thank you for attending the convention, the at-large members were well represented.

The convention was one of the best I have attended. All business was taken care of in a friendly and timely manner. The only glitch was one of the at large candidates, our own Ken Holybee, was left off one of the regions ballots. Ken's name was added to the ballot and the region had to vote again Sat. morning. It all worked out as Ken was voted in as one of the 10 at-large directors.

Congratulations to all the candidates who were elected to their perspective offices.

The discussion on where VVA is going to be in 10+ years was well attended with lots of good ideas and some not so good ideas. We all need to keep a close eye on this as there will be more discussions in the future.

During VVA's convention the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) had their leadership conference. During AVVA's luncheon the AVVA National BOD's awarded one of their members the AVVA Member of the Year award. That person was Elayne Mackey, California AVVA President and Chapter 47 President. Elayne was nominated by California's AVVA BOD. It was a well kept secret as Elayne was quite surprised.

I especially want to thank Elayne for all she does for our Veterans. Everything she does comes from her heart. Without her I would not be where I am today. Thank You Elayne, your award is well deserved.

GO ARMY
God Bless America
Steve

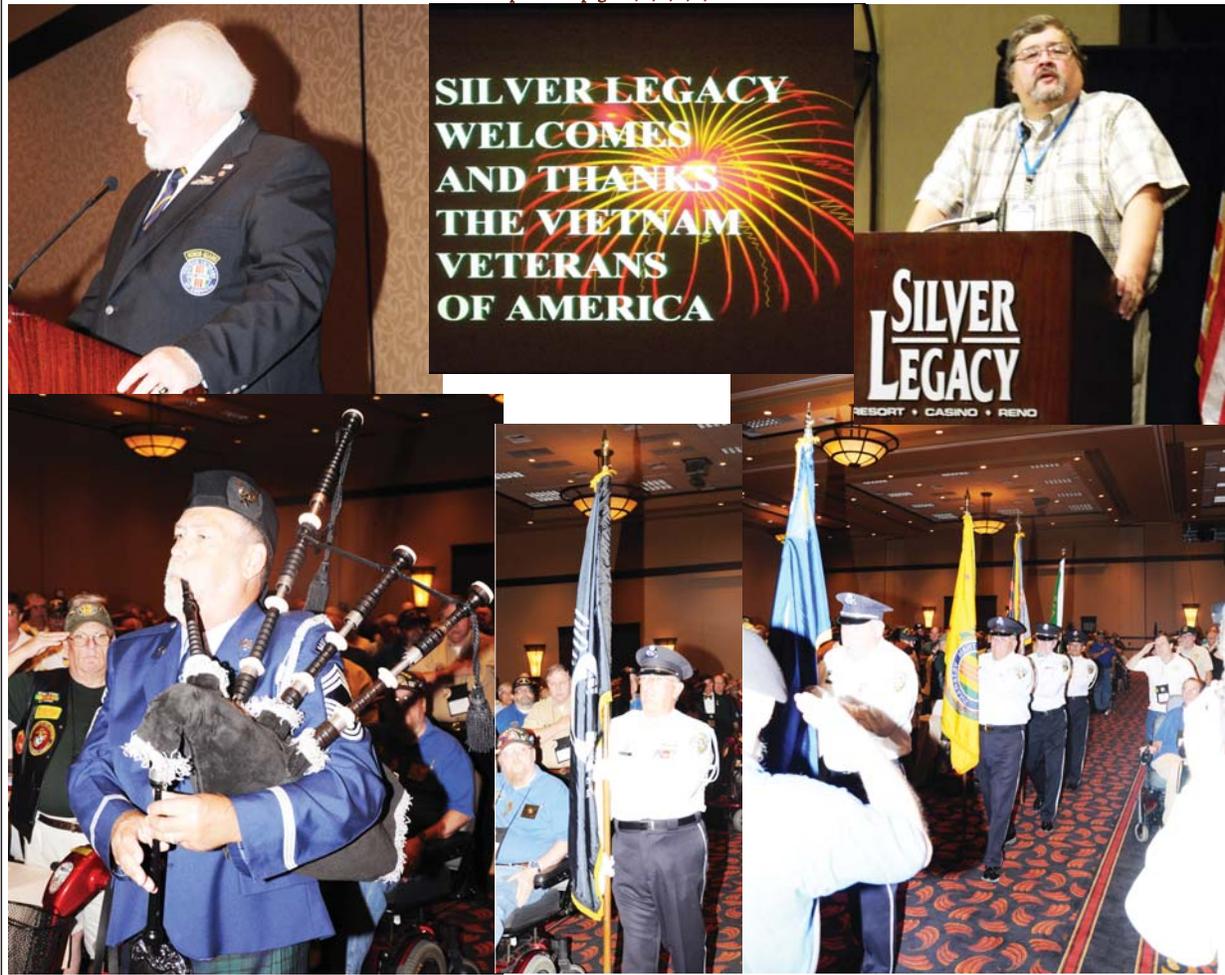
CONVENTION DELEGATE VIEWS

My name is Larry Griffith and I am the Chartered President of Humboldt Memorial Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 781. This was my first convention and I was honored to represent our chapter from Northern California even though I have been living in Arizona for the past 12 years. Our chapter has been on an up and down roller coaster and I don't believe they had funds to send a delegate so I asked if I could represent the chapter and I would pay my way; they accepted my offer and the rest is history. I did follow up with a detailed report to the Chapter President so he could read it at their next meeting.

I thought the committee who set up the event did an excellent job. The Parliamentarian, Michael Swift, did a great job explaining the do's and don'ts and how Robert's Rules of Order work. The keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Pimentel was outstanding, informative, and very entertaining and I would recommend him speaking at the next convention if possible. I had no idea there was such a thing as "The Ugly Law" and it only goes to prove how we as humans can be so discriminating toward one another, law makers at their finest. After listening to Paul Bucha, Ken Fisher, Cecil Roberts, and the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, I came away with new hope for the future of our Veterans who are returning from combat and those waiting to be recognized who are seeking benefits. I thought the voting process went very well and the only negative I can think of would be some secessions conflicted with others so you had to decide which one was the most important to attend. All in all a great job and I hope to attend the next convention in Jacksonville, FL.

VVA 15TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA

Opening Ceremony Photos - Brooke McKusic, Mike Kennedy
More photos on pages 1, 5, 5, 7, 8, 11 & 12



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The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of VVA, the State Council or its members.

Who Are The Vietnam Veterans Of America?
 Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE
 "Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another."

PURPOSE
 The purpose of Vietnam Veterans of America's national organization, the state councils, and chapters is:

To help foster, encourage, and promote the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam veteran.

To promote physical and cultural improvement, growth and development, self-respect, self-confidence, and usefulness of Vietnam-era veterans and others.

To eliminate discrimination suffered by Vietnam veterans and to develop channels of communications which will assist Vietnam veterans to maximize self-realization and enrichment of their lives and enhance life-fulfillment.

To study, on a non-partisan basis, proposed legislation, rules, or regulations introduced in any federal, state, or local legislative or administrative body which may affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others; and to develop public-policy proposals designed to improve the quality of life of the Vietnam-era veteran and others especially in the areas of employment, education, training, and health.

To conduct and publish research, on a non-partisan basis, pertaining to the relationship between Vietnam-era veterans and the American society, the Vietnam War experience, the role of the United States in securing peaceful co-existence for the world community, and other matters which affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others.

To assist disabled and needy war veterans including, but not limited to, Vietnam veterans and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.

FUNDING
 Vietnam Veterans of America relies totally on private contributions for its revenue. VVA does not receive any funding from federal, state, or local governments.



VVA 15TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
 California Delegates - Photo Mike Kennedy

Thanks again for a very educational experience.

Larry Griffith
 Chapter 781

 As chair of VVA CSC Agent Orange Committee, I sat in on as many forums on this subject as I could. What I got out of it, was that this

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP
RECRUITING CONTESTSPONSORED BY A.V.V.A.
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE

Together Always

FOR ALL AVVA CHAPTERS

Start date September 1, 2011 → End date December 31, 2011

EACH CHAPTER THAT BRINGS IN NEW MEMBERS WILL EARN POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 POINT FOR EACH 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP
- 3 POINTS FOR EACH 3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP
- 5 POINTS FOR EACH LIFE MEMBERSHIP

New members will be defined as persons who have never been members of AVVA in the past, and are at least 18 years old.

Each chapter should keep a record of new memberships in order to insure accuracy. Prizes will be awarded based on the information obtained from the AVVA National Membership Department.

All applications must be dated between September 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011, and must be processed by the National Membership Department on or before December 31, 2011.

There will be three categories within which there will be cash prizes awarded to the participating Chapter

1. All AVVA Chapters having 25 or fewer members.
2. All AVVA Chapters having between 26 and 75 members.
3. All AVVA Chapters having 76 or more members.

Please be sure to review all applications before sending them to the national offices to ensure that they contain the correct Chapter number, date of application, and the membership duration/type. Missing or incorrect information may void an application.

Good luck to everyone!

Questions?

Contact: Cathy Keister,
National Membership Chair
at: cpkeister@aol.com

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

There will be a first and second place prize in each of the three categories, as described above, which will be paid to the winning Chapters.

1st place \$200.00
2nd place \$125.00

whole issue has more far reaching ramifications than we thought possible.

We knew that this stuff was not the benign product that we were led to believe, but we learn more of it's "giving" powers everyday.

For instance, we all assumed (I hate that word!) that the guys who were in the jungles were getting the worst of it, because AO (and related dioxins) were used as a defoliant.

WRONG!

Turns out that the personnel on ships hugging the shore were even worse off, as their desalination plants were taking the dioxins and concentrating them, creating a very toxic brew. The crews were bathing, cooking, brushing their teeth and drinking it.

While there is much more to learn, unfortunately, all of us have to reach out to our fellow veterans and explain just what was/is happening to them, and make sure that they get signed up on the AO registry.

Bill Hodges
VVA Chapter 400
Oakland, CA

It was a great honor and privilege to be a Delegate to the 15th Biennial Convention of VVA, a Veteran Service Organization dedicated to helping Vietnam Veterans and their families.

The camaraderie and fellowship amongst all Veterans

and their spouses at the National Convention was very moving and sometimes emotional.

This indeed was a very proud week. To be amongst some of the bravest and most courageous Americans who fought a very tough battle in a foreign country and then came back to fight an even tougher battle on our own American soil against an ungrateful citizenry and an even more ungrateful government that sent them to war, has been a distinct honor and a humbling privilege and experience.

Robert Rosebrock
Chapter 47 member & delegate.

Yet, two words summarize this Convention: Leadership and Friendship.

VETERANS INCARCERATED

This has been a very busy time a lot of good things have happened for the Incarcerated Veterans. First, "The Wall That Heals" has made its first ever appearance at a California State Prison. CTF Soledad allowed the memorial to visit the prison in June. The Staff at the prison were very accommodating; they had to dismantle a fence

to get the memorial in and out of the institution. Then lock down the prison while some of the inmates' who wished to view the memorial a chance to do so. Mr. Hubert the National Chairman of Veterans Incarcerated was able to attend the event. You will be able to read more on this in and upcoming issue of the VVA VETERAN. I apologize for I received the information on the event dates too late to attend.

I have also received an e-mail from William M. Papanian, he is an attorney and Vietnam Veteran, who wishes to help the incarcerated veteran get ready for parole hearings. With his permission I have included the text of that e-mail is below. I have also included is contact information if you need to make contact with him.

Dear Mr. Chaney:

I am a criminal defense attorney who helped recently organize attorney training on Veterans Court and PTSD for the Criminal Courts Bar Association and the LA County Bar Association. I met Sgt. Major Jesse Acosta at the first program and had him as a speaker at the second. He told me about the Veterans Group at Ironwood State Prison in Blythe. That conversation prompted me as a member of the Military/Veterans Committee of the LA County Bar Association to set up a training program for attorneys who want to represent incarcerated veterans at their parole hearings. We will be holding the all-day training program on Saturday, July 30, 2011, with a distinguished panel of presenters.

Could you work with me in identifying military veterans who are incarcerated in the California prison system?

Is this information available? If not, how can we make it available? We need the information in order to provide volunteer attorneys who are experienced litigators, many of whom are themselves military veterans, to provide legal representation to incarcerated veterans at parole hearings.

WILLIAM M. PAPANIAN
Attorney at Law
272 South Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

I have already passed on contact information for some incarcerated veterans about Mr. Papanian's offer to assist those who need help. I have also passed on request for VA and other help. But because of privacy rules it is often hard to know if someone is receiving help once the referral is made. If you are an incarcerated veteran and request any referral assistance please let me know if and when you receive it.

WOMEN VETERANS

VVA National Convention 2011

Marsha Four, Committee Chair.

Marsha began the meeting by reviewing the three legislative bills that involve legislation pertinent to women veterans.

H. R. 930 Latest Title: To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder or mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Pingree, Chellie [ME-1] (introduced 3/3/2011 Cosponsors (17) Related Bills: S. 1391 Latest Major Action: 4/1/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

H. R. 1540 Latest Title: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 Sponsor: Rep McKeon, Howard P. "Buck" [CA-25] (by request) Latest Major Action: 6/6/2011 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. House Reports: 112-78, 112-78 Part 2 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 - Division A: Department of Defense Authorizations - Title I: Procurement - Subtitle A: Authorization of Appropriations - (Sec. 101) Authorizes appropriations for FY2012 for the Department of Defense (DoD) for procurement for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, Air Force, and defense-wide activities, in amounts

specified in the funding table in Division D of this Act.

H. R. 2074 Latest Title: Veterans Sexual Assault Prevention Act Sponsor: Rep Buerkle, Ann Marie [NY-25] (introduced 6/1/2011) Cosponsors (6) To amend title 38, United States Code, to require a comprehensive policy on reporting and tracking sexual assault incidents and other safety incidents that occur at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Latest Major Action: 7/28/2011 House committee/ Subcommittee actions. Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .

Marsha then talked about the upcoming Women Veteran Breakfast and guest speaker, Deborah Frett of Business Womens Foundation. This will be an interesting topic. The GAO report calls for better collaboration and most efficient use of remaining resources within the budget. There will need to be consolidation of programs and resources. The need to give women soldier combat designation because of their involvement in combat areas has been addressed. The Military and Officers Association(MOAA) reported there are 13,000 homeless women veterans. There is a gap for services for women veterans with families with children. The HUD/VASH vouchers for help with housing have increased this year. This homeless issue will need to be further addressed as more women veterans return to their states. A brief comment was made about the National Survey For Health of Vietnam ERA Women Veterans out of Perry Pt, MD. The written part of the survey has been distributed. It was Noted that some women that were in-country were turned down for inclusion in the study due to their MOS. Marsha is looking in to this. There are three parts to the survey: A mail survey, telephone interview, and a third interview (everyone will not be selected for this interview) If you would like to be a part of this study, contact: Westat Survey Support Center @ 1-888-247-0379. It is expected to take about three years to complete the findings.

Women Veteran Resolutions Passed At VVA Convention

WV-2 Amended: Resolves that VVA will continue its advocacy to secure appropriate facilities and resources for the diagnosis, care and treatment of women veterans at all DVA hospitals, clinics, and Vet Centers. We ask the Secretary ensure senior leadership at all facilities and veteran Integrated Service Networks(VISN) be held accountable for ensuring women veterans receive appropriate care in an appropriate environment. Please refer to the VVA National website to read the complete Resolution.

Women Veterans Research

WV-5 Amended: Resolves that VVA asks the Secretary to conduct several studies specific to women veterans and that Congress pass legislation to mandate such studies if the Secretary does not act. This includes issues of disparities of care, assessment of capacity of health programs, C&P, and evaluation of suicide among women veterans. See complete resolution @VVA national website.

Women Veterans And Veterans Benefits

WV-6 Amended: Resolves that all leadership positions in all VA Regional Offices(VARO) are cognizant of and kept current on women veterans' issues; that they provide and conduct aggressive and pro-active outreach activities to women veterans and; that VBA leadership ensures oversight of these activities. Again, the complete resolution is available from your VVA National Delegate or the VVA website. Marsha thanked her committee

members for their work Over the past 2 years, and gave her appreciation for serving, again, as the Women Veteran Committee chair.

Kate O'Hare-Palmer
CSC Women Veteran Chair, Chapter 223

CA AVVA

These past few months have been very busy; sometimes I have to stop and think about just what we did.

August 6, the Summer Celebration – Grand Picnic was held at the West Los Angeles Veterans Home. I was privileged to work alongside a group of dedicated Veterans in planning the day. (see back page for photos)

When planning an event it seems that the day before you wonder if anyone is going to be there. When that Saturday arrived, we had great volunteers helping us with all the last minute details and the day began. What an outstanding day it was. One I will not forget.

I especially enjoyed speaking with and spending time with our invited and honored World War II Veterans. Many of them were able to bring their wives and watching their bond after 60 plus years of marriage was a privilege in itself.

Personal care packets were made and distributed to any homeless vet that may have attended and were sent to the Nursing Home and Behavioral Health unit located on the West LA grounds for each patient.

Every Sunday at the West LA Rally, in support of homeless Veterans and the Land Deed of 1888, we keep these packets on hand for those that may come by and are in need of a helping hand.

The following week we were in Reno NV for the VVA Convention and AVVA Leadership Conference. A very fast paced week was filled with great information, friends and left you with a feeling of "good all over."

It was so good to see so many CA AVVA members there and taking part in the workshops.

As AVVA National Election Chair, I held a seminar on why elections seem so complicated to many. We also presented some needed Policy & Procedure changes that will be introduced at our AVVA National meeting in Silver Springs MD, October 2011. The Election Committee dodged some bullets – thanks to time constraints. For once it was a pleasure to see time go so fast!

An Agent Orange Town Hall meeting was also held during the Leadership Conference. Please remember that October is Agent Orange Awareness month.

At our CSC meeting – August 2011, we kept up the pace and had a good meeting. Our Secondary PTSD Committee is doing a great job and I thank you all. I have heard many favorable comments from our VVA delegates that also attend.

During the October AVVA CSC meeting, we will be offering a *What it Takes to Be an Effective Chapter Representative*. We will forego our usual general meeting and concentrate on what a Chapter Representative can and should do for their VVA Chapter.

CA Associates are still leading the membership for the nation with 673 members and growing. We are quite proud of this accomplishment. Just ask one of us – we'll tell you.

Thank you as always. & *Welcome Home*.
Elayne

VVA CSC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The final day of the first year of the 2011/2012 legislative session was Friday, September 9th. The Assembly and Senate both met well after midnight. Hundreds of bills were passed during the final week and sent to the Governor.

During the final days, many bills were gutted and amended with completely new language, rules were waived and they were passed without the usual public hearing process. The legislators are now on recess and back in their districts for the remainder of the year and will return to the Capitol on January 4, 2012.

The Governor now has until October 9th to sign or veto the legislation.

Below is a list of the bills we have been tracking on your behalf. The bills which were sent to the Governor are in bold. For those not familiar with some legislative terms, here are a few quick explanations:

To Enrollment or Enrolled – Enrollment is a technical step between the Legislature & the Governor's office.

Chaptered – The Governor has signed the bill into law
Inactive File – Holding place for bills on the Floor file that the author is not currently moving.

AB 15 AUTHOR: Perez V (D) TITLE: Workforce Development: Renewable Energy Workforce LOCATION: Assembly Labor and Employment Committee SUMMARY: Requires the California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB), in consultation with the Green Collar Jobs Council (GCJC), to establish the California Renewable Energy Workforce Readiness Initiative to ensure green collar career placement and advancement opportunities within renewable energy generation, manufacturing, construction, installation, maintenance, and operation sectors that is targeted toward specified populations. Commentary includes veterans as a population for outreach, training & placement. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

AB 167 AUTHOR: Cook (R) TITLE: State Stolen Valor Act LAST AMEND: 06/02/2011 LOCATION: Chaptered SUMMARY: Relates to existing law which provides that any person who falsely represents himself or herself to have been awarded any military decoration, with the intent to defraud, is guilty of a misdemeanor. Provides that those provisions shall be known as the State Stolen Valor Act. Requires that certain elected officers forfeit their office upon conviction of any of the crimes specified in the act. Commentary Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America, CA State Council Position: Sponsor

AB 188 AUTHOR: Block (D) TITLE: Property Tax Exemption: Residence: Veterans LAST AMEND: 06/29/2011 LOCATION: Chaptered SUMMARY: Amends property tax law that provides for the exemption from property taxation of the principal residence of a disabled veteran, a veteran's spouse, and the unmarried surviving spouse. Specifies that property is an unmarried surviving spouse's principal residence if the unmarried surviving spouse would principally reside at that property if not for his or her confinement to a hospital or other care facility. Relates to the date when property becomes eligible for the disabled veterans' exemption. Position: Support

AB 199 AUTHOR: Ma (D) TITLE: School Curriculum: Social Sciences: Filipinos in WW II LAST AMEND: 07/12/2011 LOCATION: To Governor SUMMARY: Encourages instruction in social sciences for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include instruction on World War II and the role of Filipinos in that war. Encourages the instruction to include a component drawn from personal testimony. Position: Watch

AB 201 AUTHOR: Butler (D) TITLE: Veterans Courts LOCATION: Vetted SUMMARY: Authorizes superior courts to develop and implement veterans courts for eligible veterans of the U. S. military with the objective of, among other things, creation of a dedicated calendar or a locally developed collaborative court-supervised veterans mental health program or system that leads to the placement of as many mentally ill offenders who are veterans, including those with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, or any mental health problem due to military service. Commentary Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America, CA State Council & Student Veterans of CA Position: Sponsor

AB 297 AUTHOR: Galgiani (D) TITLE: Public Contracts: Veterans Preference LAST AMEND: 03/31/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Business, Professions and Consumer Protection Committee SUMMARY: Allows a bid preference to a bidder of a public works contract if that bidder utilizes the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment, and Veterans Employment's Helmets to Hardhats program. Imposes a civil penalty for knowingly providing false information. Commentary DVBE Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

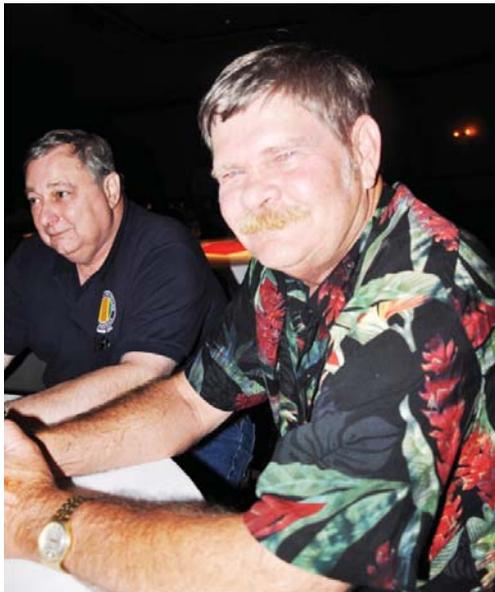
AB 342 AUTHOR: Atkins (D) TITLE: Office of Planning and Research LOCATION: Senate Inactive File SUMMARY: Requires the Office of Planning and Research to serve as the state's liaison to the United States Department of Defense in order to facilitate coordination regarding issues that are of significant interest to the state and department. Position: Support

AB 372 AUTHOR: Hernandez R (D) TITLE: Community Colleges: Matriculation Services LAST AMEND: 06/01/2011 LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Relates to the college student matriculation process. Requires that military personnel and veteran students be given a prior learning assessment to determine college-level learning gain in other than a college credit setting. Requires the assessment to meet the standards of the American Council on Education, the Council for Adult and Experimental Learning, or other equivalent standard for awarding academic credits. Position: Support

Chapter 368 Mariposa President Doc Croucher, AVVA rep Chelli Croucher and Treasurer Glenn Root passing out POW/ MIA clovers to townsfolk in front of Pioneer Market in Mariposa on 9/16/11.



VVA 15TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA



Clockwise from top left - CA Convention delegates; CA delegates with National President John Rowan (red shirt); Bob & Barbara Johnston, CA delegates, Chapter 201; Brooke McKusick, CA delegate, Chapter 223; Kate O'hare - Palmer, CA delegate, Chapter 223, CSC Women Veteran Chair; Frank LaRosa, CA delegate, Chapter 355; Elayne Mackey, CA AVVA President receives AVVA Mmber of the Year; Ken Holybee (r), John Crooker (l), CA delegates; Steve Mackey, CSC President & delegate

Photos - Brooke McKusick



AB 387 AUTHOR: Bonilla (D) TITLE: Pupils: Excused Absences: Military Deployment LAST AMEND: 06/21/2011 LOCATION: Enrolled SUMMARY: Amends existing law requiring a pupil to be excused from school for specified types of absences and prohibits those absences from generating certain state payments by deeming them as absences in computing average daily attendance. Includes spending time with an immediate family member, who is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone, as another type of excused absence. Relates to absence length. Position: Support

AB 398 AUTHOR: Morrell (R) TITLE: State Fire Marshal: Certification LAST AMEND: 07/12/2011 LOCATION: Chapered SUMMARY: Authorizes the State Fire Marshal to accept certification by the U. S. Department of Defense as a firefighter as an alternative for the fire protection personnel training and certification standards for the position of Firefighter I established by the State Fire Marshal. Position: Support

AB 477 AUTHOR: Valadao (R) TITLE: Elections: Vote by Mail Ballots LAST AMEND: 04/05/2011 LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Amends existing law that requires that a vote by mail ballot be received by the issuing elections official no later than the close of polls on election day. Makes an exception for special absentee voters temporarily

living outside of the territorial limits of the U. S. and the District of Columbia, and instead requires that their vote by mail ballots be postmarked on or before election day and received by their elections officials not later than 10 days after election day. Position: Support

AB 487 AUTHOR: Cook (R) TITLE: Veterans' Homes: Fees and Charges LAST AMEND: 04/11/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Requires a veterans' home member's fee and charges for any fiscal year be the lesser of a percentage of the member's annual income or a flat amount. Requires the flat amount to be recalculated to reflect any changes in the VA disability compensation from the previous year. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

AB 488 AUTHOR: Cook (R) TITLE: Veterans' Homes: Fees and Charges LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Amends existing law regarding operation of the Veterans Home of California at various sites for aged and disabled veterans. Requires non veteran spouses to pay the same fees and charges as paid by the veteran members of the home, as determined by the department and subject to the same prohibitions. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

AB 557 AUTHOR: Perez J (D) TITLE: National

Guard: Interagency Council on Veteran Services LAST AMEND: 07/14/2011 LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Creates in state government the Interagency Council on Veteran Services and Programs for the purpose of bringing together key state agencies and departments, federal officials, legislative representatives, local governments, and stakeholder organizations to ensure that the state's programs that serve veterans are efficiently administered and properly integrated with federal and local government and stakeholder organizations. Position: Support

AB 629 AUTHOR: Monning (D) TITLE: Veterans Cemetery LAST AMEND: 04/04/2011 LOCATION: Chapered SUMMARY: Authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Fort Ord Reuse Authority for the veterans cemetery project to be under the sole charge and direct control of the authority. Position: Watch

AB 635 AUTHOR: Knight (R) TITLE: Veterans' Benefits: Postsecondary Education: Fees LAST AMEND: 04/12/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Higher Education Committee SUMMARY: Specifies that, for purposes of veterans' benefits, the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges shall, and the Regents of the University of California are requested to, designate mandatory education fees as tuition. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

AB 636 AUTHOR: Knight (R) TITLE: Military Service: Benefits LAST AMEND: 07/12/2011 LOCATION: To Governor SUMMARY: Amends existing law that provides specified institutions that grant a student military leave of absence make arrangements to reasonably accommodate and assist the student in meeting coursework requirements missed due to military service, credit the student's tuition and fee charges toward a subsequent academic term. Revises the conditions for a tuition and fees refund to remove the requirement of the student's withdrawal by a specified date. Relates to the amount of the required refund. Position: Watch

AB 637 AUTHOR: Knight (R) TITLE: School Choice: G.I. Jr. Grant Program LOCATION: Assembly Education Committee SUMMARY: Establishes the G. I. Jr. Grant program, under which a parent or legal guardian of a qualifying pupil, who completes an application for a grant under this bill, would receive a grant that is redeemable to pay tuition and fees at a qualifying grant school. Defines a grant school as a nonsectarian, nondenominational private school that chooses to participate in the Grant Program, and that files a notice of intent to participate with the State Department of Education. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

AB 649 AUTHOR: Harkey (R) TITLE: Postsecondary Education: Veteran's Enrollment LAST AMEND: 03/31/2011 LOCATION: Senate Education Committee SUMMARY: Grants priority class registration for public postsecondary education to members or former members of the Armed Forces, who are State residents, within 5 years of leaving active duty. Commentary Cosponsored by Student Veterans of CA & AMVETS Position: Support

AB 697 AUTHOR: Perez V (D) TITLE: Veterans: Home Acquisition: Interest of Record LAST AMEND: 05/04/2011 LOCATION: To Governor SUMMARY: Amends the Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1974. Authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to acquire a home for the purpose of refinancing an existing mortgage loan that is not an existing loan acquired under the act. Requires the department to adopt and publish rules and regulations. Position: Support

AB 713 AUTHOR: Block (D) TITLE: Military Service: Legal Benefits LAST AMEND: 04/12/2011 LOCATION: Chapered SUMMARY: Provides that a dependent of a military service member is entitled to the benefit that no obligation or liability bearing interest at a rate in excess 6% per year incurred by the dependent before that service member's entry into service, during any part of the period of service, bear interest at a rate in excess of 6% per year. Clarifies that a member may apply for relief to the court for a specified period. Clarifies the court may grant relief unless the member can comply with the terms of the obligation. Position: Support

AB 754 AUTHOR: Fletcher (R) TITLE: Elective Office: Military Service LAST AMEND: 04/26/2011 LOCATION: Chapered SUMMARY: Permits a person who is deployed on active military service outside of the state to have a declaration of candidacy, nomination paper, or any other paper necessary to run for office, filed by an attorney-in-fact who is commissioned and empowered

VVA 15TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, RENO, NEVADA

Photos - Brooke McKusick

AWARDS BANQUET



Clockwise from top left: California delegates and spouses enjoy the last day of the convention at the Awards Banquet on Saturday. Clockwise from upper left: Henry Iasiello & friend Erin; Mike Kennedy and wife Debbie; Dennis "Doc" Croucher & wife Chelli; (l to r) Mike Kennedy, Steve Mackey, Barry Schloffel, Frank LaRosa; Ken Holybee & wife Sonja; Richard Segovia & wife Penny; Barry Schloffel & wife Nina.



in writing for that purpose through a power of attorney.
Position: Watch

AB 825 AUTHOR: Atkins (D) TITLE: Veterans' Homes: Investigations: Financial Status LOCATION: ASSEMBLY SUMMARY: Makes technical, nonsubstantive changes to authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to investigate a veteran's financial status to ensure that the veteran cannot pay for the necessary care outside of the veterans' home. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

AB 882 AUTHOR: Cook (R) TITLE: Veterans and Military: Public Post-Secondary Education LAST AMEND: 08/30/2011 LOCATION: To enrollment SUMMARY: Amends state law to conform with federal law granting a member of the Armed Forces, or his or her dependent entitlement to resident classification for so long as he or she is continuously enrolled in a public institution of higher education. Requests the Regents of the University of California to establish the same residency requirements as those established by this bill for students enrolled at the University. Position: Watch

AB 905 AUTHOR: Pan (D) TITLE: Disposition of Remains: Authorized Agent LAST AMEND: 08/23/2011 LOCATION: Enrolled SUMMARY: Specifies that the designation of a person authorized to direct disposition on a U. S. Department of Defense Record of Emergency Data, DD Form 93, or its successor form, shall take first priority and be used to establish an agent who has the right and duty of disposition for a descendant who died while on duty in any branch or component of the Armed Forces. Position: Watch

AB 946 AUTHOR: Lowenthal B (D) TITLE: County of Los Angeles: Interoperable Communications LAST AMEND: 08/31/2011 LOCATION: To enrollment SUMMARY: Authorizes the County of Los Angeles or the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communication System Authority to solicit proposals and enter into agreement with private entities for the delivery of a regional interoperable communications system and all related infrastructure to be used by public safety agencies and emergency responders located in the county. Commentary GUT&AMEND - no longer vet bill Position: Watch

AB 1084 AUTHOR: Davis (D) TITLE: Veterans Farm and Home Purchases: Shared Equity LAST AMEND: 09/02/2011 LOCATION: To enrollment SUMMARY: Expands the definition of cooperative housing corporation under the CalVet Home Loan program and the definition of home under the Veterans Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1974 to include a shared equity cooperative. Repeals the National Guard Members' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1978 and the related bond revenue act within 30 days after the effective date. Relates to property appraisement. Authorizes another form of security to secure a loan. Authorizes adding specified costs to a property's selling price. Position: Watch

AB 1093 AUTHOR: Davis (D) TITLE: Student Financial Aid: Military and Veterans Benefits LOCATION: Assembly Higher Education Committee SUMMARY: Requires the Community Colleges and the California State University, and encourage the University of California, to establish on each of its respective campuses a Military and Veterans Benefits Office and appoint a full-time Military and Veterans Benefits Advisor for each office to assist a qualified student in determining that student's eligibility for state or federal educational benefits or grants. Commentary Cosponsored by Student Veterans of CA & AMVETS Commentary: Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Support

AB 1151 AUTHOR: Feuer (D) TITLE: Public Retirement Systems: Investments: Iran LAST AMEND: 07/12/2011 LOCATION: Enrolled SUMMARY: Amends the State Public Divest from Iran Act which prohibits the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from investing in a company with operations in Iran. Prohibits the boards from investing in a company that has a financial investment in parts of the energy sector of Iran. Requires annual reviews and public posting. Eliminates the exception for investments in certain companies providing humanitarian relief and promoting health, education, and religion. Position: Watch

AB 1209 AUTHOR: Cook (R) TITLE: Department of Veterans Affairs: Veterans' Services LAST AMEND: 05/04/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Appropriates a specified amount of funds from the General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans services. Commentary CACVSO-sponsor Commentary: Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position:

Support

AB 1223 AUTHOR: Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Medi-Cal: Public Assistance Reporting System LAST AMEND: 08/24/2011 LOCATION: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee SUMMARY: Amends existing law that requires the Department of Health Care Services to establish a 2-year pilot program to utilize the federal Public Assistance and Reporting Information System to identify veterans and their dependents and survivors and assist them in obtaining federal veterans' health care benefits. Removes the pilot project nature of these provisions, and requires the department to implement this program statewide. Position: Watch

AB 1224 AUTHOR: Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Employment Training Panel: Veterans: National Guard LOCATION: Assembly Labor and Employment Committee SUMMARY: Requires that the employment training programs 3-year plan of the Employment Training Panel include a statement describing the employment training goals, objectives, and strategies that may be implemented to support target populations in need of employment training, including military veterans and members of the National Guard. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

AB 1225 AUTHOR: Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act LOCATION: ASSEMBLY SUMMARY: Makes a technical, nonsubstantive change to the Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1943, administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides veterans with the opportunity to acquire farms and homes, including mobilehomes. That act prohibits the department from acquiring a home in which a veteran has an interest of record except in specified instances. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

AB 1422 AUTHOR: Perea (D) TITLE: Department of Veterans Affairs: Administration LAST AMEND: 07/14/2011 LOCATION: Senate Transportation and Housing Committee SUMMARY: States the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Veterans Affairs identify any savings in the operations of the veterans home system and prioritize the allocation of those identified savings to offset any program reductions. Requires the department to make a report to the Legislature that would include information on the savings and the programs that were augmented with those identified savings. Position: Sponsor

ACR 16 AUTHOR: Eng (D) TITLE: Day of Remembrance LAST AMEND: 02/18/2011 LOCATION: Chaptered SUMMARY: Declares February 19, 2011, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II. Position: Watch

ACR 40 AUTHOR: Solorio (D) TITLE: Vietnamese American History LAST AMEND: 04/04/2011 LOCATION: Chaptered SUMMARY: Recognizes 04/24/2011-04/30/2011, inclusive, as Black April Memorial Week, and April 2011 as Vietnamese American Month. Position: Support

SB 10 AUTHOR: Evans (D) TITLE: Military and Veterans: Veterans' Home Allied Council LAST AMEND: 04/25/2011 LOCATION: Chaptered SUMMARY: Provides for the establishment of a Veterans' Home Allied Council for each veterans' home. Permits each council to represent veterans who reside in the veterans' home in matters before the Legislature if each council, in the course of providing that representation, complies with specified requirements.. Position: Watch

SB 180 AUTHOR: Corbett (D) TITLE: Consumer Transactions: Public Social Services LAST AMEND: 05/03/2011 LOCATION: Chaptered SUMMARY: Amends the existing Consumers Legal Remedies Act prohibiting a person from charging or receiving an unreasonable fee to prepare, aid or advise certain persons in procuring, maintaining, or securing public social services. Includes activities and functions administered or supervised by the United States or State Departments of Veterans Affairs, including pension benefits, as public social services for purposes of that prohibition. Position: Support

SB 198 AUTHOR: Cannella (R) TITLE: State Militia: Adjutant General: Duties LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee SUMMARY: Makes technical, non substantive changes to existing law requiring the Adjutant General to perform various duties with regard to the National Guard as are prescribed in the Military and Veterans Code. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year

bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 251 AUTHOR: Correa (D) TITLE: Vehicles: Driver's License: Selective Service LAST AMEND: 04/26/2011 LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to revise the application for a driver's license, to include a specified statement that would allow a person who is required to register with the federal Selective Service System to consent to registration. Requires the DMV to forward to the federal Selective Service System the necessary personal information for the registration in compliance with the federal act. Prohibits forwarding the information of persons who did not consent to registration. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Support

SB 314 AUTHOR: Vargas (D) TITLE: Taxation: Military Housing LAST AMEND: 05/17/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee SUMMARY: Amends existing property tax law that states that if any one of certain criteria requires any reduction or, if the amount of a reduction is unknown, the private contractor's reasonable estimate of savings, in property taxes on a leased property used for military housing inures solely to the benefit of the residents of the housing through improvements and provides for escape assessments. Authorizes the county assessor to levy an escape assessment under certain conditions. Position: Watch

SB 340 AUTHOR: Wolk (D) TITLE: Remote Caller Bingo LAST AMEND: 08/18/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Permits a city or county to permit the conduct of remote caller bingo games. Allows charitable organizations affiliated with community college districts to conduct such games. Requires eligible organizations to register annually. Provides for an Internet registry. Relates to audits. Authorizes a requirement that persons who manufacture or supply devices, supplies, or other services for use in remote caller bingo to register a copy of any local bingo license. Makes changes relating to card-minding devices. Position: Support

SB 404 AUTHOR: Anderson (R) TITLE: Firearms: Handgun Safety Certificates: Exemptions LOCATION: Senate Public Safety Committee SUMMARY: Amends existing law regarding a reference to charges pertaining to handgun safety certificates. Requires a firearms dealer, at the time of delivery of a handgun to a handgun purchaser who is exempted from possessing a handgun safety certificate, to provide a copy of the instruction manual on handgun safety. Commentary AMVETS sponsored Commentary: 2-year bill Position: Support

SB 443 AUTHOR: Strickland (R) TITLE: Veterans' Memorial LAST AMEND: 05/31/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Transportation Committee SUMMARY: Requires the Department of Transportation to sell excess real property in the state-owned area associated with the park-and-ride lot at the Clark Avenue West exit from State Highway Route 135 in the Town of Orcutt to the County of Santa Barbara for purposes of erecting a veterans' memorial. Position: Watch

SB 537 AUTHOR: Correa (D) TITLE: State Cadet Corps LAST AMEND: 07/13/2011 LOCATION: To Governor SUMMARY: Authorizes the organization of a Cadet Corps at each college, community college, or school where there is not currently a J. R. O. T. C. or R. O. T. C. program under such rules and regulations as the governing body and Adjutant General may prescribe. Authorizes the Adjutant General to appoint needed personnel in support of the Corp. Authorizes academy instructions to be commissioned in the Corps. Authorizes national guard facilities use. Requires inspections of the Corps. Position: Watch

SB 546 AUTHOR: Correa (D) TITLE: Disabled Veterans: Families and Dependents LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee SUMMARY: Declares the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would extend employment opportunities to families and dependents of veterans who are not able to work due to service connected disabilities. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 663 AUTHOR: Correa (D) TITLE: Veterans: Transitional Housing LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee SUMMARY: Authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide transitional housing for veterans, address the housing needs of homeless veterans, or provide other assistance to homeless veterans. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 720 AUTHOR: Runner S (R) TITLE: Vehicles: Drivers' Licenses: Military Personnel LAST AMEND:

03/22/2011 LOCATION: Chaptered SUMMARY: Amends existing law requiring a state driver's license held by a person who enters the United States Armed Forces to continue in full force and effect, so long as the service continues and the person remains absent from this state. Extends that benefit to the spouse of the person who enters or is in the United States Armed Forces. Position: Watch

SB 805 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Sales Use Taxes: Consumers: Veterans: Itinerant Vendor LAST AMEND: 06/20/2011 LOCATION: Chaptered SUMMARY: Amends existing law that provides that a qualified itinerant vendor is a consumer, and not a retailer, of tangible personal property owned and sold by the qualified itinerant vendor, except for alcoholic beverages or items sold for more than \$100, so that the retail sale subject to tax is the sale of tangible personal property to the qualified itinerant vendor. Extends the repeal date of these provisions of existing law. Position: Watch

SB 806 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: State Employees: Military Leave: Salary Overpayment LAST AMEND: 09/01/2011 LOCATION: To enrollment SUMMARY: Provides that when the state determines that an overpayment of compensation has been made to a state employee on a leave of absence for active military duty as a member of the California National Guard, administrative action to recover overpayment be initiated within 6 years from the date of overpayment, notwithstanding existing law, unless specified conditions exist. Makes these provisions applicable to any overpayment made up to 6 years prior to the operative date of this measure. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in

1/12) Position: Watch

SB 809 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Veterans: Educational Assistance: Dependents LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee SUMMARY: Makes technical, non substantive changes to existing law that defines "veterans" for the purposes of the various programs bestowing benefits upon veterans, including, but not limited to, educational assistance for dependents of veterans. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 811 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Veterans: Memorial Districts: Buildings LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee SUMMARY: Makes technical, non substantive changes to existing law that authorizes the establishment of memorial districts with specified powers and duties relating to veterans' buildings and authorizes registered electors residing within a proposed district to propose the formation of a district. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 812 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Flag Protocol: POW-MIA Flag LOCATION: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee SUMMARY: Requires the National Flag to be above the State Flag, and the State Flag to be above the POW-MIA Flag. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 813 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Public Postsecondary Education: Veterans' Enrollment LAST AMEND: 08/22/2011 LOCATION: To Governor SUMMARY: Grants priority enrollment at the California State University and each community college district to members or former members of the Armed Forces of the United States, who are residents of California, within 4 years of leaving active duty. Position: Support

SB 814 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Military Personnel: Political Activity While In Uniform LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee SUMMARY: States the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to prohibit military personnel from engaging in political activity while in uniform. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 815 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Emergency Assistance: Military: Civil Air Patrol LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee SUMMARY: Expresses the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to recognize and clarify the role of Civil Air Patrol as an organization that assists the California Emergency Management Agency or the National Guard with respect to state emergencies. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 816 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: Veterans' Homes of California: Economic Need LOCATION: Senate Rules Committee SUMMARY: Requires the administrator, in the admission of veterans who served in a time of war or peace, to consider the economic needs those of veterans. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 817 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: State Contracts: Participation Goals LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Revises

requirements imposed on disabled veteran business enterprises to, among other things, require a disabled veteran to have at least a 10% service-connected disability and require a disabled veteran business enterprise to submit specified income tax information to the Office of Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Services. Revises the minimum criteria for a business utilization plan to be approved by the Department of General Services. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: Watch

SB 842 AUTHOR: Rubio (D) TITLE: California Residency LAST AMEND: 05/11/2011 LOCATION: Senate Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Requires the establishment of an ID card program for military and veteran dependents. Makes such dependents eligible for social services benefits to the same extent as any other recipient, regardless of immigration status. Commentary Did not pass out of House of Origin by deadline of 6/3/11. Now technically a 2-year bill (may be dead if not moved in 1/12) Position: NoPosition

SB 888 AUTHOR: Lieu (D) TITLE: Crime: Picketing LAST AMEND: 06/30/2011 LOCATION: Vetted SUMMARY: Makes it a crime, punishable by a fine, imprisonment in the county jail, or both, for a person to engage in picketing, except on private property, which is targeted at a funeral during the time period beginning one hour prior to the funeral and ending one hour after the conclusion of the funeral. Commentary Co-sponsored by American Legion, AMVETS & VVA Position: Sponsor

SB 903 AUTHOR: Anderson (R) TITLE: Public Retirement Systems: Investments: Iran LAST AMEND: 07/01/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Appropriations Committee SUMMARY: Amends Public Divest from Iran Act prohibits the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from investing public employee retirement funds in a company with business operations in Iran that is invested in or engaged in business operations with entities in certain sectors. Provides that nothing in those provisions requires either board to take action described in this section if it determines that the action would be a breach of the fiduciary responsibilities described. Position: Watch

SB 908 AUTHOR: Runner S (R) TITLE: Elections: Ballots: Submission by Electronic Mail LAST AMEND: 05/10/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee SUMMARY: Permits a special absentee voter who is temporarily living outside of the territorial limits of the United States or the District of Columbia, or is called from military service within the United States to make application for a vote by absent voter ballot, to return his or her ballot by electronic mail. Requires the ballot to be accompanied by a copy of an identification envelope. Requires signature validation. Position: Support

SCR 26 AUTHOR: Blakeslee (R) TITLE: Vietnam Veterans America Central Coast Chapter LAST AMEND: 09/08/2011 LOCATION: To enrollment SUMMARY: Designates a specified location on State Highway Route 1 in the City of Guadalupe in Santa Barbara County as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway. Position: Support

SJR 8 AUTHOR: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee TITLE: TRICARE Cost Increases LAST AMEND: 07/07/2011 LOCATION: Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee SUMMARY: Urges the U. S. Congress to take the necessary steps to ensure that Congress itself has the sole authority to determine future TRICARE cost increases and base any future TRICARE cost changes on cost-of-living adjustments. Position: Watch

AB 38 A AUTHOR: Halderman (R) TITLE: State Finance LOCATION: ASSEMBLY SUMMARY: Reverts to the General Fund funds previously appropriated for capital outlay relating to prison facilities. Appropriates funds for the development of the Veterans' Home of California at Redding and the Veterans' Home of California at Fresno. Commentary similar to AB 1422 Position: Support

CSC LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

By: Pete Conaty

On September 9 the Legislature completed the 2011 legislative year and went on recess until January 4. Bills that passed out of the Legislature are on the Governor's desk. The Governor has until October 9 to sign or veto the bills.

During the last hectic weeks of the legislative session there was much other legislative business taking place besides bills. On August 17, the Senate Rules Committee conducted a hearing on the Governor's appointment of Peter Gravett as Secretary of the California Department



VVA 15TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Photos - Brooke McKusick
"Back Art" - some of what was seen on the backs of the convention delegates.
(more on page 11)

of Veterans Affairs. On that same day, the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs held an oversight hearing titled "Increasing California's Veterans Participation Rate in Federal Compensation and Pension Benefits". Pete Conaty and Associates had worked closely with the committee consultant and client VSO's to coordinate testimony. Because VVA-CSC was at its National Convention in Reno, I attended the hearing for VVA-CSC.

- At the hearing, the following topics were discussed:
1. What are the VSO's doing to reach veterans?
 2. What are the VSO's doing to assist veterans with Compensation and Pension (C&P) claims filings?
 3. How do the VSO's cooperate with the other stakeholders such as the USDVA, CDVA, other VSO's, and the CVSO's?
 4. What are the biggest successes the VSO's are having in the area of C&P claims?
 5. What are the biggest challenges facing the VSO's in the area of C&P claims representation and assistance?
 6. What do the VSO's see as the way ahead to keep meeting the mission of connecting vets to benefits they have earned?
 7. What programs or legislative proposals do the VSO's have in this arena?

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway

SCR 26-Blakeslee. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway. Designates a specified location on State Highway Route 1 in the City of Guadalupe in Santa Barbara County as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway.

SCR 26 was sponsored by the VVA Central Coast Chapter 982 in Guadalupe. VVA-CSC supported this bill. For a while this bill was hung up because of legislative deadlines, but it got released and moved forward. Status: On the Governor's desk.

VVA-CSC supported this bill.

Fresno and Redding Veterans Homes

On June 30, Governor Brown signed the state budget into law. Unfortunately, this budget cut about \$20 million from the Fresno and Redding Veterans Home budgets leaving only enough money to shutter them as soon as they are completed. The homes will sit unoccupied, unstaffed, and unoccupied for 9-12 months after they are completed in January - April 2012.

AB 1422-Perea, Fresno and Redding Veterans Homes In response to this budget cut, Assemblyman Henry Perea (D-Fresno) introduced AB 1422. AB 1422 seeks to restore the funding for these veterans homes. This bill has been made into a 2 year bill and will be taken up in January 2012.

The VVA-CSC is a co-sponsor of this bill.

AB X1 38 - Halderman, Fresno and Redding Veterans Homes

ABX1-38 sought to reclaim \$8.1 million in unused prison funds to staff and operate Fresno and Redding Veterans homes. It would have allowed the Fresno and Redding Veterans homes to open on schedule so that care to Veterans in need is not delayed. However, this bill was not given an opportunity to be heard and is now dead.

The VVA-CSC supported this bill.

Veterans Courts

AB 201-Butler. Veterans Courts Authorizes superior courts to develop and implement veterans courts for eligible veterans of the U. S. military with the objective of, among other things, creation of a dedicated calendar or a locally developed collaborative court-supervised veterans mental health program or system that leads to the placement of as many mentally ill offenders who are veterans, including those with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse, or any mental health problem due to military service. Status: Vetoeed by Governor.

Governor's Veto Message - To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 201 without my signature.

This measure would authorize superior courts to establish dedicated programs to serve eligible veterans of the United States military. While the provisions of this bill are well-intended, they create a clear expectation that our courts-already struggling with painful budget cuts--will establish a new program.

Given current budgetary constraints, the decision to adopt this kind of program-something already within the courts' authority--is better left to the sound discretion of the judiciary.

Sincerely, Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Protesting at funerals for fallen military members

SB 888-Lieu. Crime: Picketing (protesting at funerals for fallen military members) Makes it a crime, punishable by a fine, imprisonment in the county jail, or both, for a person to engage in picketing, except on private property which is targeted at a funeral during the time period beginning one hour prior to the funeral and ending one hour after the conclusion of the funeral. Status: Vetoeed by

Governor

VVA-CSC was a co-sponsor of this bill.

Governor's Veto Message - To the Members of the California State Senate: I am returning Senate Bill 888 without my signature. This measure seeks to address the offensive conduct of those who protest at private funerals to gain publicity for their causes, and I am very tempted to sign it. When I was the Attorney General, I joined an amicus brief in the Supreme Court arguing that funeral protesters should be held accountable to their victims. But earlier this year, the Supreme Court ruled that funeral protests are protected by the First Amendment and can be circumscribed in only extremely limited ways. I cannot in good faith sign this measure because it plainly fails to comport with the Supreme Court's decision.

Sincerely, Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Governor Brown Creates California Interagency Council on Veterans

SACRAMENTO - Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today issued an Executive Order establishing the California Interagency Council on Veterans to improve how veterans' services are coordinated across local, state and federal government.

"The California Interagency Council on Veterans gives everyone a seat at the table and ensures we're working collaboratively to address the needs of the 30,000 servicemen and women who return to California each year," Brown said. "We owe our veterans the best and when they come home, we must serve them the same way they so bravely served us."

Governor Brown's Executive Order directs the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs to establish the Council, which will be tasked with identifying and prioritizing the needs of California's veterans and coordinating the activities at all levels of government in addressing those needs.

"With so many combat veterans returning to California every year it is imperative that state agencies and departments coordinate our efforts to ensure these young men and women are connected to the services and benefits they need to successfully transition home," said California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Peter J. Gravett.

This order is based on AB 557, authored by Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez with Assemblymembers Paul Cook, Richard Pan, and Henry T. Perea.

"I'm very pleased the Governor has created the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs because one of our most important duties is to keep faith with the men and women who have served the United States in uniform," said Speaker Pérez. "I introduced legislation to create the Council early this session because we need to do more with less, and by creating this Council, we will bring new focus and new efficiency to provide needed services to California's veterans. I'm very pleased the Governor has taken the proactive step of creating this Council by Executive Order so that it can begin its vital work immediately."

Under the order, Speaker Pérez and Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg are each expected to appoint a member to the Council from their respective houses. These appointees will join Secretaries and department heads of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Volunteers, Business Transportation and Housing Agency, Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Military Department, Employment Development Department, Department of

Consumer Affairs, Department of Rehabilitation and Department of Housing and Community Development.

Additionally, the Governor's order requests that the Chief Justice of California, President of the University of California, Chancellor of California State University and Chancellor of California Community Colleges each appoint a member to the Council. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs will also coordinate with Federal partners and external stakeholders to ensure both groups are active participants on the Council.

California's veterans face many challenges as they transition back to civilian life, including:

- The unemployment rate for Gulf War II veterans is 42 percent higher than it is for non-veterans.
- Approximately 25 percent of Gulf War II veterans have a disability that is connected to their military service, compared with approximately 13 percent of all veterans.
- Recent tests of returning troops show that 20 percent of infantry and 10 percent of other troops suffer from at least mild brain injury.
- Over 35 percent of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, who have sought healthcare through the Veterans Administration, have been diagnosed with mental disorders.
- California has the largest number of homeless veterans in the nation and 62 percent of all homeless veterans have been diagnosed with both substance abuse issues and serious mental health problems.

W/LA LAND - COURT URGES

Judge Nudges VA Toward Mediation Over LA Campus
By Jacob Adelman AP

LOS ANGELES—A federal judge nudged the Department of Veterans Affairs Thursday toward settlement talks with lawyers who accuse the agency of neglecting homeless vets on its sprawling west Los Angeles medical campus.

Judge S. James Otero appointed a mediation officer to handle the case and commanded government lawyers to name a VA official with the authority to sign off on a settlement agreement who could participate in talks.

Otero disregarded protests from the VA's lawyer, Justice Department attorney Elisabeth Layton, who argued that the step was premature and that federal government defendants are regularly given leeway as to when they specify such a "decision maker."

"I'm not going to let the federal government hide behind bureaucracy," said Otero, who stressed that the case's potential importance to needy veterans could justify some departure from precedent.

American Civil Liberties Union lawyers and other attorneys filed a complaint against the VA in June that accuses the agency of neglecting homeless veterans who need care after traumatic military experiences.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of disabled, homeless veterans, accuses the VA of breach of fiduciary duty for leasing much of the 387-acre property to businesses although it was donated by private owners in 1888 to provide housing for disabled war veterans.

The suit, which names four veterans as plaintiffs and seeks class-action status, says the land was used to permanently house vets until the 1960s and 1970s, when the VA stopped accepting new residents and allowed buildings that had provided permanent housing to fall into disrepair or be used for other purposes.

The complaint seeks an injunction forcing the VA to use the property for the housing and care of wounded vets,

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual membership is open to Veterans who served on active duty in the US Military (for other than training purposes) from February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 or from August 5, 1964 and May 7 1975 for Vietnam-era Veterans.

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ + _____
 Phone _____ e-mail _____

Individual membership or Associate membership Dues:
 \$20 for Annual ___ / \$20 for Renewal ___ / \$50 for 3 Year Membership ___
 Life Memberships:
 \$250 (age 49 and under) \$225 (50-55) \$200 (56-60) \$175 (61-65) \$150 (66+)
 For individual membership a DD214 is required if not already on file.
 Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is an adjunct organization with VVA, Both Veterans and non-Veterans may join. If joining AVVA you are eligible to be a member of VVA Yes ___ No ___
 Print this page and fill out and mail with DD214 (if needed) to our address above.

If you are a current member, to renew provide your Membership # _____ Chapter _____

among other demands.

Layton said Tuesday that she would file a motion to dismiss the lawsuit based on claims that the plaintiffs have no standing to allege breach of contract by the federal government and that providing housing is not explicitly among the VA's responsibilities.

While the property hosts veterans' medical clinics, the plaintiffs' lawyers said its in-patient services are not sufficient for Los Angeles' massive population of homeless veterans. There were 7,000 homeless vets in the Los Angeles area in 2010, about 10 percent of the country's total population of 71,609 homeless vets, according to the VA's most recent tally.

The VA recently enacted a new master plan for the campus that provides for more veteran housing on the site and at other new facilities, but the ACLU and its co-counsel have criticized those measures as inadequate.

The VA has said the new master plan also promoted it to boot from the property three longtime tenants, a bus company, a car rental firm and a commercial laundry.

At Thursday's hearing, lawyers for the veterans concurred with Otero's orders that would set the groundwork for mediation to take place.

Attorney Ronald Olson said that veteran advocates had long wanted to negotiate an accommodation with the VA over their claims concerning the Los Angeles campus, but government officials have resisted such talks.

"We have tried to move that ball from the get-go," Olson said.

PATIENT "DUMPED" AT SHELTER

By Alexandra Zavis and Richard Winton, Times Staff Writers - Copyright © 2011, Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles says VA 'dumped' patient at shelter
Veterans Affairs says its inquiries found no evidence the man was sent to the shelter against his will or without the ability to care for himself. The city attorney says the VA blocked a probe.

The graying veteran in a wheelchair was found in the parking lot of a Westside cold weather shelter wearing hospital pants, carrying a urine bottle and screaming for help.

Senior officials at the Los Angeles city attorney's office say they believe James Boykin was "dumped" Dec. 1 at the shelter after his toe was removed at the nearby Department of Veterans Affairs medical center because of a bone infection. Moreover, according to city prosecutors, VA officials blocked an investigation that could have shed light on whether there were other similar incidents.

"This was an unprecedented interference with an investigation," said Jeffrey B. Isaacs, who heads the office's criminal and special litigation branch.

VA officials strongly dispute the allegations involving Boykin, adding that the city does not have authority to conduct a criminal investigation on federal property. Three internal inquiries and an investigation by the VA's Office of Inspector General found no evidence that Boykin was sent to the shelter against his will or without the means and ability to care for himself.

"We actually scour the street, the shelters, the jails to find [veterans] that we can get into our programs," said Dr. Dean Norman, chief of staff at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. "So for us to be accused of dumping just doesn't make sense at all."

For Boykin, there is no doubt. "They ... kicked me out," he told The Times. "I'm telling them, 'Hey, man, what's wrong with y'all? What are you going to discharge me for? Where am I going? They just pushed me out.'"

The dispute raises questions about whether the department is fully living up to its commitment to keep veterans off the streets. Vets make up close to one in five of the county's homeless.

The hospital was challenged before about the discharge of a homeless veteran.

Union Rescue Mission officials said they sent a barefoot veteran with a bandaged face back to the same VA hospital after a taxi dropped him off at their downtown facility one night in 2007. He had been treated for injuries from a fall. Hospital officials said at the time that the man chose to go to the mission, but he told shelter staff that he didn't want to be there.

Since 2005, the city attorney's office has aggressively pursued hospitals that dump homeless patients on the streets or at shelters without following proper discharge procedures. The office has reached settlements with five private healthcare providers and collected millions in payments. But in this case, prosecutors said, their hands are tied.

The city attorney doesn't have jurisdiction to prosecute a federal facility. And the prosecutors said VA attorneys denied their request to interview employees to determine

whether there were grounds to charge those involved in Boykin's discharge.

Patricia Geffner, assistant regional counsel for the VA, said the authority to investigate rests with the inspector general's office. The office's report said patients, like Boykin, who refuse to leave have become "a dilemma and cost burden" for many hospitals.

"We found from our interview with the patient and staff documentation that the patient refused discharge when he was medically stable and believed that he had a right to be a system patient indefinitely," Assistant Inspector General Dr. John D. Daigh Jr. wrote in the report.

Neither side in the case disputes that the 73-year-old self-described Navy intelligence officer (records show he spent four years in the Army) can be a handful. He has been homeless for years, but "by choice more than condition," as he puts it. He has a history of drug use and has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, diabetes and other health conditions, according to the inspector general's report.

The report said Boykin was offered placements in transitional housing programs several weeks after his surgery. He declined because they required substance abuse treatment, medication compliance or contributions from his Social Security income. However, according to the report, he agreed to go to a shelter and signed discharge instructions telling him to collect medications from the system pharmacy and return for outpatient services.

"Patients with decision-making capacity ultimately have the right to make their own decisions, even unwise ones," the report said.

A first attempt to send Boykin to a shelter failed because he arrived late and space wasn't available, the report said. Instead, he was given vouchers and sent by taxi to a hotel for the night. The next day he was sent by taxi to a collection point for a winter shelter that had just opened at the National Guard Armory, the report said. But no bus came. After waiting an hour, the taxi driver drove him back to the VA, which summoned another taxi to take Boykin to the shelter.

Before sending Boykin, two VA staff members drove to the shelter to confirm it could take him, according to the report.

Isaacs called the report a "whitewash."

"The bottom line is they took a person who was in bad shape mentally and physically ... a patient who they had care and custody of, and put him in a position where his personal safety was at risk," he said.

When Boykin reached the shelter, he could not find his diabetes medicine or remember how to change his dressings, according to shelter staff. The taxi drivers told a city investigator that Boykin appeared confused about where he was going and asked whether there would be someone to take care of him, records show.

Carrie Gatlin Siqueiros, who was then overseeing the shelter for the Union Rescue Mission, said Boykin was "clearly upset" about being left in the parking lot and could not get himself inside with all his belongings. She had the police notified, then drove to the VA, where she said staff agreed to collect Boykin in the morning.

"This is a shelter that shuts down during the day, so he would have been put on a bus, dropped off on a street corner at 6 o'clock the next morning, had we not intervened," Siqueiros said.

Siqueiros said VA employees didn't come to the shelter before sending Boykin. She said program manager Ziad Kalioundji did log four phone calls from a VA social worker. But the social worker failed to provide the required information for a proper patient transfer, she said.

According to Kalioundji, the social worker asked if the facility was wheelchair accessible. Kalioundji said yes, but added that guests need to be self-reliant. Kalioundji said he asked whether the patient was able to get in and out of a cot on his own. "She answered no ... hung up the phone and ended the conversation before I could conclude that the potential patient was not a candidate for the winter shelter program," Kalioundji wrote in an incident report.

The VA's Norman said Boykin was supposed to spend only one night at the shelter. But Boykin said, "They didn't say nothing about that. They just said I'm going to the shelter."

The hospital has tightened its discharge protocols to ensure better communication between the institutions involved, Norman said. If there is any question about a placement, he said, staff must clear it with a senior social worker and himself. And as of last Dec. 3, the hospital is no longer discharging patients to winter shelters, according to protocols reviewed by The Times.

However, VA officials acknowledged that procedures for discharging patients vary among their medical facilities. Critics worry that other veterans hospitals might be cutting corners with patients like Boykin, who is now in transitional housing at the West L.A. campus while he

waits for a permanent placement.

"Yes, he's a difficult man to work with," Siqueiros said. "And, yes, he is not easy to place, but that doesn't mean you dump him on somebody else and go well, 'It's your problem now!'"

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WALKING POINT FOUNDATION

Vietnam Veteran Artists needed for Mentoring Project
Walking Point Foundation (WPF) is a San Francisco Bay area not for profit (501 (c)(3)) organization whose mission is to mentor disabled Iraq(OIF) and Afghanistan(OEF) veterans in an artistic discipline (writing, painting, music, photography, video, etc.) of their choosing. WPF's goal is to facilitate adjustment to community life through mentoring and developing individual works that WPF will present publicly (readings, gallery exhibits, etc.) We will begin in the fall at the Palo Alto VA's polytrauma unit and other Bay area VA facilities. Vietnam Veterans who are experienced artists are needed. DD214 and artistic resume required. Send info to; pointman@walkingpoint.org or mail to; Walking Point Foundation, 240 Cleveland Avenue, Mill Valley, CA. 94941.

I really appreciate your placing this in The Veteran and will let you know if any VVA members get involved as mentors. I am, by the way, a life time VVA member. I founded and ran an off Broadway theater company-Vietnam Veterans Ensemble and we interacted with VVA a number of times in the late 1970's/ early 80's, using theater to dramatize issues up for consideration in Congress. We also produced "Tracers" considered the definitive theatrical experience about Vietnam as well as the Emmy Award HBO film "Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam," which Bernie Edelman of VVA edited.

Thanks again and let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas Bird

INTERESTING WALL STATISTICS

Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall

"Carved on these walls is the story of America , of a continuing quest to preserve both Democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream."-President George Bush

SOMETHING to think about - Most of the surviving Parents are now Deceased.

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

Beginning at the apex on panel 1E and going out to the end of the East wall, appearing to recede into the earth (numbered 70E - May 25, 1968), then resuming at the end of the West wall, as the wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W - continuing May 25, 1968) and ending with a date in 1975. Thus the war's beginning and end meet. The war is complete, coming full circle, yet broken by the earth that bounds the angle's open side and contained within the earth itself. The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth , Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam .

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers on attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of

her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F.

Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Please pass this on to those who served during this time, and those who DO Care.

VIDEO REVIEW
DVD Review - Our Vietnam Generation



By R. V. Lee

The time-honored tradition of individual states honoring their own to die in a national conflict has been replicated in one form or another since Gettysburg. The Vietnam War is no exception, and of late there has been a growing number of tributes arising from the state and local level.

Filmmaker Keith Farnie focuses on Vietnam veterans hailing from Michigan in *Our Vietnam Generation*, which is



dedicated to the memory of the 2,654 Michiganders who lost their lives in the conflict. Farnie's independent production includes interviews with veterans, along with family members and academics. The full-length documentary runs 110 minutes, and the DVD includes extra interviews and a tour of today's Vietnam.

Our Vietnam Generation is full of stories of valor and selflessness, but perhaps one story stands out, that of John Colone. The infantryman was shot five times in a 45-minute period during an ambush in February 1968. Colone recounts how he remembered being naked and hearing someone say, "Leave Colone alone, he's dead." He dreamt that he kept rolling off a pile of logs in the dark. At a reunion of his unit 30 years later, he said he was introduced to a guy he didn't remember and the guy's eyes got real big and he yelled: "You made it! You made it! I found you in a body bag!" That's when he found out that the logs he had dreamed about were actually a pile of bodies in the morgue and that he had rolled off twice before being discovered he was still alive.

This film is not just for the veterans and people of Michigan, but serves for the entire nation with its poignant remembrances that add further dimension to our understanding of the war.

Visionalist Entertainment Productions, 2009, www.ourvietnamgeneration.com

VVA 15TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Photos - Brooke McKusick

"Back Art" - some of what was seen on the backs of the convention delegates.



Our Vietnam Generation Program Book

Now you can relive the stories of Michigan's Vietnam veterans by purchasing your very own copy of *Our Vietnam Generation* program book.

The 96-page, color program book contains personal stories, photos and historical information. Our Vietnam Generation program book is only \$6.00 each.

Get your copy while supplies last!

To order: Our Vietnam Generation program book, please fill in the form below and mail it to: Visionalist Entertainment Productions, 31000 Rock Dr., Ste. 400, Macomb, MI 48063. Make your check payable to Visionalist Entertainment Productions.

YES! Please send me _____ copy(ies) of *Our Vietnam Generation*.
I have enclosed check for \$_____.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Thank You!



SO CAL SUMMER CELEBRATION

Photos - Steve & Elayne Mackey

Saturday August 6, 2011 VVA Chapters 47, 53, 355, 446 & 756 held a Summer Celebration - Grand Picnic on the historic lawn of the West LA Veterans Home. WW II Veterans were honored and treated to an afternoon of music and friendship. Over 500 attendees were there and many of them asked if this was going to take place next year, also? A special thank you to Ch. 785 member Lou Correa for driving one of the chapter vans to Perris CA to pick up a group of WW II Veterans that had no way into LA. Thank you Ch. 1024 for helping with the cooking and serving duties. Karin Rogers, your volunteers were great. Thank you to our many sponsors, especially the CA Veterans Benefit Fund (CAVBF) for believing in our mission.

Active duty Marine/Navy Color Guard - top left; Ted Hayes Emcee - top center; Wounded Warrior pastor Frank Orzio leads the Invocation, Chapter 1024 VVA member - top right; The American Flag hung proudly from an 100-year old tree above the sacred grounds of the "Grand Lawn" where Veterans from the Civil War once walked - below left; World War II disabled Veteran Stephan Sherman steps out with the music - bottom left; World War II Hospitality tent - center right; Ron Kovic (right) with Steve Mackey (center) Ron is a Vietnam Veteran and author of the memoir "Born on the Fourth July." - bottom center; Steve Mackey, Dick Southern & Jerry Yamamoto - bottom right; Ch. 53 member Paul Verner closes a wonderful day - bottom far right



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Santa Rosa, CA 95402

VVA CA State Council contact info inside - page 2

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To:

IN THIS ISSUE:

- National Convention Photos
- Legislative Information
- Summer Celebration 2011
- Chapter Activities
- And more...

VVA & CSC MEETING DATES & EVENTS

- CSC Meeting - October 21-22, 2011 - Fresno, CA
- CSC Meeting - February 3-4, 2012 - Fresno, CA
- CSC Meeting - April 27-28, 2012 - Fresno, CA
- CSC State Convention - June 29-30, 2012 - Fresno, CA