

INCARCERATED VETERAN LEADER

Inaugural Edition 2-2004

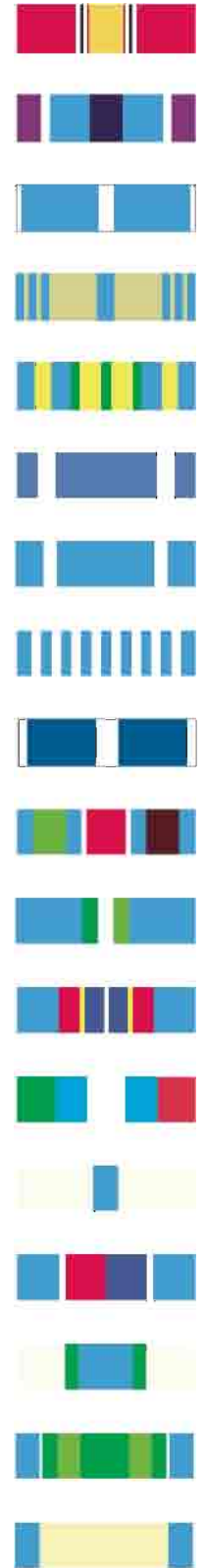


**FOR U.S.
FORCES ONLY:**



Serving All Veterans — All Military

**FOR U.S.
FORCES ONLY:**



Editor and National Commander/Australian Commander:

Peter J. Forbes

International Executive Director:

Nancy Verespy

National Vice Commander:

Michael T. Breighner

National Treasurer:

Frank Amalfitano

National Master Sgt-at-Arms:

NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS:

Vic Felts

SFC Robert Haines

Major Marc Hoffmeister

Loy Smith

WEBMASTER:

Major Marc Hoffmeister

VETERAN LEADER POLICY:

All submissions for inclusion in the
Veteran Leader must be in *Word* format.

VETERAN LEADER AD POLICY:

Full page: \$400.00

Half page: \$220.00

Quarter page: \$125.00

Direct inquiries to: 570-603-9740

All ads must be in "Camera-ready" artwork form.
All ads are published at the discretion of the Editor.

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the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition.

Vision:

The Vision of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. (VVnW) is to maintain, improve, preserve and defend the quality of life of all Veterans and their families.

Mission Statement:

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. (VVnW) is an international, non-profit, accredited veteran service organization devoted to caring for and empowering all American and Allied Veterans and their families through the following programs: Veterans in Need, Support and Gratitude, Esprit de Corps, Case Management and Advocacy and Veteran and Community Outreach and Education.

Overview

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. (VVnW), a benevolent organization founded in 1978, was born out of a need to have the service and special needs of Vietnam War Veterans recognized and acknowledged. Traditional Veterans organizations were unwilling to accept the service of Vietnam Veterans, as well as Veterans of other eras.

Today, VVnW is comprised of posts worldwide sustaining the mission of the organization. VVnW continues to strive, through its many programs, to maintain, improve, preserve and defend the quality of life of all veterans and their families.

VVnW programs include the United Veterans Beacon House, a transitional homeless veterans housing and reintegration program, Military Support Package Project for military serving overseas and Support Packages to veteran families, Veteran Service Officers (VSOs), Veterans in Conflict with the Law (Incarcerated Veterans), Team Veteran Leader (a competitive military adventure racing team), Veteran information services, casework assistance, counseling resources and referral, 24-hour 1-800-VIETNAM phone line, Veteran Leader newsletter, VVnW websites, Education and Scholarship Programs, FIND-A-VET Locator program to help reunite Vietnam era veterans, Flag Awareness and community services.

VVnW is recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (19) non-profit veterans service organization with a federal ID #23-2151579 and manages the Veterans Fund of the United States with an IRS determination of 501 (c) (3) and ID #23-2897794.



Peter Forbes

National Commander

G'Day to all.

As you can see from the retirement letter within, Michael Milne has retired due to ill health. Mike's health has been poor for several years now and I, as National Vice Commander, have been taking up that slack. We thank him for all he has done over the past 24 years and Mike will stay on with the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition as Commander Emeritus so we are sure you will all see him at events and hear from him.

I have taken over as the National Commander by right of line of Command, National Bylaws and previous policies and procedures and will hold that position until 2006 or until the majority of the membership or the National Board of Directors vote me out.

I will make the hard decisions and do the hard yards to spearhead the growing momentum and for the good of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition. I am sure this will not make me all that well liked some of the time, so be it. However, one should look at the performance of the organization before they vote. I have the backing of the National Board of Directors and we are one united. Yes, we have had some concerns and those are remedied.

For those very few who have a problem with an Australian Veteran being in the position, I suggest that you get over it. The Majority of the membership voted me into the position of National Vice Commander and it will only be the Membership or the National Board who will vote me out. This is a membership run organization and will not be dictated by a few

disgruntled suspended members. I was speaking with a few Members the other day and one of them told me that this organization is NOT an exclusive American Veterans organization otherwise it would have in the name "American Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc." It doesn't.

I suspect I have spent too much time on the very few disgruntled ones that have attempted a coup - ones that had personal agendas and could not work for the benefit of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition. These few have had their membership suspended for working against the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition. These same suspended members cannot hold any office or be part of any committee of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition while they are suspended. These few are still out there working against the organization and taking up valuable time from the staff at National time that would be better spent. Don't let these few destroy YOUR organization.

As our Vision states: "To maintain, improve, preserve and defend the quality of life of all Veterans and their Families." We Are The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition.

I, along with the National Board, will expect more from all Posts and all Members as our Motto states, we are "**PEOPLE WHO CARE**". We need to live it, breath it, dream about it and make future plans for it - The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & the Veterans Coalition. If that is not



your focus or not your intent then we thank you for past participation and we will move forward.

As always the National-at-Large members are the backbone and the main supporters who pick up the slack when Posts drop the ball. This has been very evident with the Harley Davidson Raffles in support of the Military Support Package National program - A Very Special program that gives unconditional support to Our Messengers of Peace and Freedom! The National-at-Large Members have filled more than their quota.

We have asked and asked Posts to operate Homeless Veterans Food Drives for the United Veterans Beacon House program and Military Support Package goods drives for the Military Support Package program. We have offered to assist them, supply banners and signs, all to no avail. Very few Posts have completed any supportive projects. Over the last two years we have requested posts to perform such a small amount of support for Homeless Veterans - 4 Homeless Veteran food drives per year and for the current serving military, 2 Military Support Package goods drives per year. So far the response has been pathetic and we need to look at our motto of "People Who

Care". It seems like the membership like to be connected to benevolent and humanitarian programs such as the support for homeless veterans through the United Veterans Beacon House Program and they like to take credit for what is done as long as they don't have to do anything. The Posts that do not support the programs of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition will be listed in the Veteran Leader and The Website. This includes the Harley Davidson Raffle ticket sales that support the Military Support Package program.

By now you have seen the new *Veteran Leader* as you have one in your hand if you are reading this. We hope you like it and it will get better and better as we become used to the new format. If you have constructive input as to how we can do it better, please let us know. **All future articles submitted for publication must be in WORD format and on disc or via email. Artwork must be camera ready. If not, it will not be published**

Due to Mike's ill health the *Veteran Leader* issues have gotten the better of him. Once we get the one you are reading out, we will get back on track and will utilize adverts to defray the cost of color. However, color is well worth the expense as the Orange Berets stand out so well! We will get back on track.

Orange Berets - These have been discussed at great length due to the addition of The Veterans Coalition to our name and upon discussions with a number of current serving military, they have stated they would wear the orange beret as a mark of respect for the Vietnam Veterans. That is a great mark of respect. So at this stage we will keep only one official headdress - The Orange Beret. Golf hats can be worn anytime.

However, at official functions etc. the Orange Beret is the thing.

The National Board, upon great discussions, took the stand to include in our name *The Veterans Coalition*. This was done so that instead of just saying we embrace all Veterans, we actually live it. Younger Veterans and Veterans of other conflicts would not join for not wanting to impersonate a Vietnam Veteran. This is a great degree of respect, however, it had a double edge to it as it kept Veterans from joining and being served by us, yet we did not want to lose our identity and our roots. "The Veterans Coalition evolved out of a desire to embrace, support, encourage and welcome ALL VETERANS no matter when, where or how they served it just matters that they served!"

You all have received a copy of the new *'Who Are We'* with the ballots. These brochures have taken a great deal of time to put together so that we make a professional presentation to all. We hope you have given the one you received to another Veteran and encouraged them to join.

Major Marc Hoffmeister (pictured on the front cover) and SFC Bob Haines joined the Board some time ago and both are current serving military. Bob served in Iraq during Desert Storm with the 101st Airborne and Marc served in Iraq and Kuwait during The Global War on Terrorism. These two will bring a direct connection to the younger Veterans that we embrace. We thank them for their commitment and their foresight.

New Faces on the Board - They were both chosen due to their focus, for their insight and for their dedication to the causes of Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition. Vic Felts is the Commander of VVnW Texas Post 06, is the State

Coordinator for Texas and is the program coordinator for the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition "Vets Helping Vets" program at the Waco VAMC.

Loy Smith is the Post Commander for VVnW Louisiana Post 04 and has worked diligently for all Veterans and with the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition and the Post is involved heavily with the Community. Loy and his Post have assisted in Working Bees for the United Veterans Beacon House program, Color Guards and presentation projects. The Post runs the "Let Freedom Ring Festival" in Thibodaux, LA amongst other festivals. Loy is one man that lives "People Who Care". He has attended every United Veterans Beacon House Working Bee we have operated.

We thank them for their Commitment to Veterans. Your Board of Directors are doing a superb job in taking Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition forward.

I will close with a quote from our brochure: "WE ARE OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER."

We look forward to your support and the support for the Veterans and their families we have promised to embrace and to empower.

To paraphrase John F. Kennedy: Ask not what the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition can do for you, but rather what have you done for the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition today.

Remember to ask yourself today and each day, "What have I done for a veteran and/or a comrade today?"

Yours in Brotherhood
Peter J Forbes

Nancy Verespy

International Executive Director

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. will be celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary of service to veterans and their families in May, 2005. This is truly an event to celebrate considering where the organization started and where it is now.

There will be a National Convention in Washington, D.C. over Veterans Day weekend in November, 2005. I hope you will make your plans to attend.

I would like to tell you that it has been smooth sailing throughout these many years, but the seas have been rough at times even to the hurricane level!

Over this past year, in particular, there have been efforts made to destroy and discredit the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition National Board of Directors. The few have not succeeded. Defending the mistruths that have been distributed worldwide has taken many, many hours of valuable time that could and should be spent on providing services to veterans and their families. We have now taken on those few disgruntled members, suspended those who refuse to work toward the betterment of the organization and continued the process of building the organization to even better strengths and much larger numbers. We could go on and on about who said what, what was alleged and the fact that nothing has been shown to be out of the ordinary, but that would be playing into the hands of a few at the cost to those who need us to do more important things.

We have started many new posts in many areas of the country that had no prior knowledge of the

VVnW & The Veterans Coalition. This took us on many trips both toward the west and the south. We have come to learn of the indignities that Native American Veterans still have to tolerate and we are doing our part to right those wrongs. The Native American Veterans expect nothing, so when they receive nothing, they are not surprised! This cannot be allowed to continue and Peter Forbes and three veteran service officers have traveled to South Dakota and Montana to work directly with veterans as they either continue or begin the process toward getting the benefits they have earned. They will also then follow-up on what is happening with each of the individuals for whom the claims are filed and not leave those veterans behind. The organization will fulfill a commitment to those who served when called, but were then treated no better than hundreds of years ago. This is an example of being "our brother's keepers".

The Military Support Package Program continues because of our commitment to be sure that those who are serving as our messengers of peace and freedom will know that those veterans who have come before them honor their service and support them in their efforts. When the war first began we saw almost every home displaying an American Flag we couldn't keep enough flags in stock. Patriotism was on the top of everyone's list to show their support but now that support is not seen as strongly. Our men and women are returning to the U.S. expecting to see that support and it is sorely lacking. We need to encourage every household to fly their flag and in that same subject we need to get



those who are flying tattered flags to replace them and dispose of the old flag properly. We need to walk the walk, not just talk the talk!

We have received hundreds of letters from soldiers who have received packages from the organization and each one has the same sentiment gratitude that we sent the package and expressing their "hero" worship of Vietnam veterans. They say it is not important really what is in the package, but rather it is just that they got the package at all! We need to continue this program and while it is costly, what better way can we expend our funds than to support these veterans as they do so much for all of us. That's why the efforts of posts and individuals to conduct Military Support Package goods drives is so important just get your church, school or local supermarket to host a Support Day and they can take donations of items or moneys and then also get us the names of individuals to send packages to. We can help with all of these efforts but you need to take the first step.

We travel a great deal now taking the message of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition to areas that

have been unexplored and neglected for us. This may seem like a “fun, vacation” time for those who just see the small picture. Really it is hard work long days - most times from early morning to late at night. The satisfaction comes when you can help a veteran who has never spoken about his experiences of service, who may need a VSO, who want their medals, or who just want to be thanked and welcomed home. It seems especially important to those current serving veterans who come to see us to be welcomed into the veteran brotherhood. We want them to be part of the organization and that was the reason to add to the name of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. by adding & The Veterans Coalition.

Throughout many years we have been told by veterans of other eras that they just did not feel “right” about becoming part of a Vietnam Veterans organization and even though we explained that we represented veterans of all eras it just wasn't enough. That's why the addition has been made and it has increased our membership numbers greatly. We want these veterans. We need them for the future of the organization. We would never want them to know

the feelings that Vietnam Veterans experienced by not being welcomed by the VFW, the American Legion, etc. Of course, we will have some members and posts grumble because they only want to be a “Vietnam Veterans” organization but they have to look at the future and there is none if you limit who you will accept.

We have been doing Working Bees as part of the renovations of the United Veterans Beacon Houses in Shreveport, Louisiana, Norfolk, Virginia and Huntington, West Virginia. We have done everything from plumbing, painting, electrical work, cleaning, scrubbing, and debugging and it provides a great deal of personal satisfaction to know that every single thing we do is done so that a veteran can have a clean, safe, family environment place to live. The exhaustion is forgotten when we know that we are doing the right thing. We need help though if you believe in giving your brother veteran a hand up, not a hand out. We need even a few hours of your time to come to a Working Bee, to do a food drive, to collect items like linens, blankets, beds and dressers to help to provide the things that these veterans may not have had for

many years. They need to know that they are not forgotten and the United Veterans Beacon House is the way that we chose to show that remembrance.

There are so many things that happen each day that bring us a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment and that is what we each must focus on. Destruction will not work - only positive action.

We need to be reminded each day that what we must do is to live up to the motto of the organization by being “People Who Care”. It is hard to care much some days, but thank goodness there are so many other days that are positive that it easier to do.

Why do this job? The answer is simple for me I believe that veterans are the stuff that heroes are made of that our young people only need to look to a veteran for a role model and if we don't correct the mistakes of the past we will only repeat them. We can never allow veterans to feel less than proud. We owe it to each of them.

I too ask myself each day “What have I done for a veteran today?”



***The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and
The Veterans Coalition have so many different projects
that you as a member can be involved in or support.
Call 1-800-843-8626 for more information.***



Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and the Veterans Coalition Veterans in Conflict with the Law Program

Incarcerated Veterans Programs work on the basis of three things:

First, Communication by any means;

Second, a means to exchange ideas with outside legislators and other Veterans groups, working within existing networks to make a National voice;

Third, so the inside and outside Veteran knows someone cares about their plight. The U.S. now is number one in the race of criminalization. It is said that one in five Americans have been in jail, prison, on probation or parole. Of these, 35% are veterans. Many end up homeless and/or on some type of drugs. That is where Conflict with the Law works.

We in no way feel sorry for the man that will not take responsibility for his Veteran Community. We are a group who works for our fellow Veterans' needs and when we can, their dreams. We offer hope and a better feeling of self-worth. Mental

health programs are needed more and more from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our mission is to start Veterans' Groups inside the prisons, (with the permission of each Warden) so the residents can work together to help each other with normal Department of Veteran Affairs paperwork. We depend on outside Veterans Groups, County VSOs, State Veterans offices and the DVA. All of these offices are of great help. The mental health section of VA is growing to include many things.

As an inmate it costs only \$5.00 to join the VVnW and The Veterans Coalition. At no time do you have to belong to our group to get assistance. Upon receipt of your DD-214 and application, we will send you a membership card.

You have to remember that many of these men and women are first-time offenders and even the long-term inmates are being released in large numbers and are moving back to our communities.

If we fall short in helping, the recidivism is guaranteed! Many do not have a place to go and become homeless. They live and die on the streets and riverbanks with no one to offer hope. WE DO!

As an International Veterans Group there are certain things we cannot do. We will not help anyone with a criminal suit, to get out of prison, write letters to officials, find a place for parole or print other inmate's addresses in our newsletters.

Remember, a Veteran is a Veteran, no matter what! We did not ask for a background check in the war when we trusted the guy next to us, the same should apply now.

We work with Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE), Prison Fellowship, Point Man Ministries, the National Coalition for the Homeless and other groups to try to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters in Conflict with the Law.

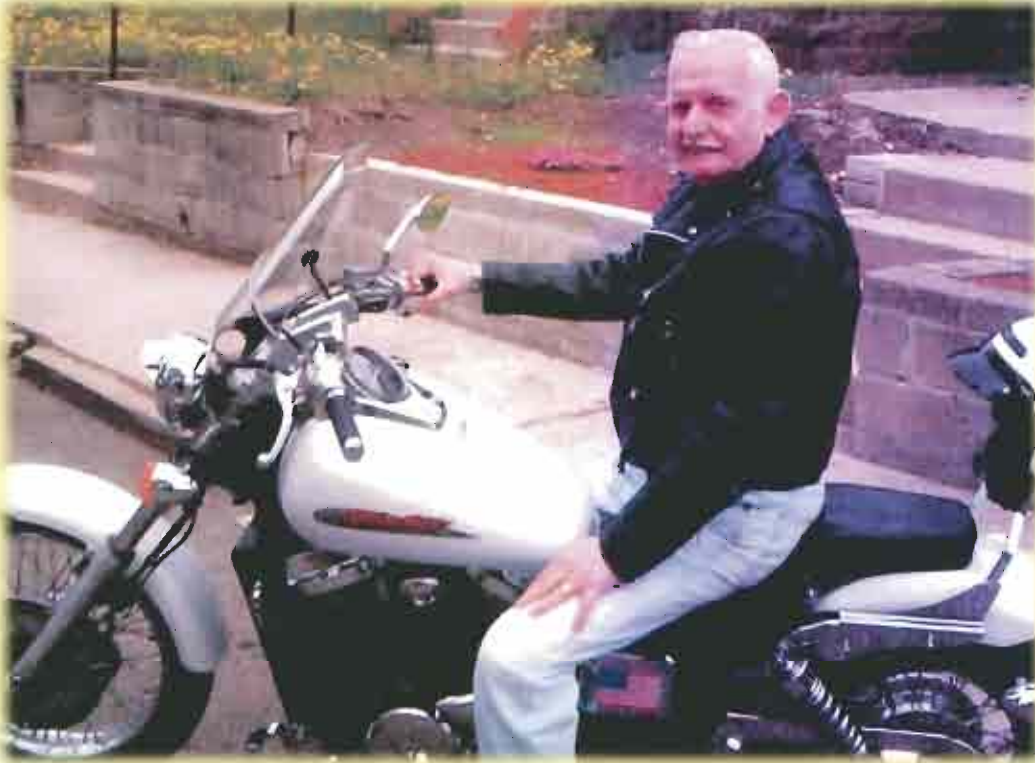
Mission Statement:

*The Incarcerated Veterans Program of the
Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition deals solely
with individuals either in City, County, State or Federal institutions.*

*The objectives of the program are to help to educate veterans with
regard to the benefits available to them while in prison and then upon release
through the Department of Veterans Affairs; encourage and help them
to rebuild their self-esteem; and advise them on ways and means to communicate
with the outside world of services and help them to reintegrate into society.*

Herb Hennen ***1938 – 2004***

Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.
National Facilitator for the Veterans in Conflict with the Law Program



***Transcript of e-mail message
sent out worldwide upon learning
of the death of Herb Hennen
January 15, 2004:***

Today we all lost a great warrior, a great man and a great VVnW Member who has always had in his heart the VVnW and Veterans. Today Herb Hennen died due to surgical complications after a heart attack.

Herb left a great legacy and if a person is famous for those he helped and those he knew then Herb has left great footprints on this earth.

Herb was the ultimate supporter and saw the big picture

for the VVnW and his Incarcerated Veterans Program.

You all know how special Herb is, and he will remain a large part of the VVnW and his program. We will name the first Incarcerated Veterans Beacon House in honor of his service to all. To honor Herb we must keep and grow the Incarcerated Veterans Program he led and lived for all these years.

Herb is and will always be a large part of the VVnW and the Veterans brotherhood. He was a man whose heart was full of positives and love for his fellow Veterans. Herb was always supportive of us as we worked to build the VVnW.

Herb will now be able to eat as many hamburgers as he wants, something he relished whenever we spent time with him. He will surely be missed, however, he is at peace due to his faith and his love of all.

We love him and are privileged to have been in his presence.

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.
National Board of Directors

By: Peter Forbes

*National Vice Commander/
Australian Commander*

Peter Forbes

National Commander

G'Day to all our National Incarcerated Veteran Members.

As you know the National Commander of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition has retired and as I have operated as the National Vice Commander since 2002 I took over the position of National Commander due to Mike Milne's retirement.

As most of you know, Herb Hennen passed away in January this year and all of you will be aware that, Herb was fully committed to the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition as well as its Incarcerated Veterans program.

It will be hard to replace Herb, however we need to continue to service Our Incarcerated Veteran Brothers and Sisters, therefore we need to find a person as committed as Herb was. If you know any such person, please ask them to submit a resume to the National office (see the enclosed article).

Yes, I am an Australian Vietnam Veteran and Yes, I am the National Commander of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition and Yes, this same organization has members and/or Posts in seven different countries throughout the world. We service all Veterans of All Eras and All Military.

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition Incarcerated Veterans

Program is an important program as we seek to service those who are incarcerated and when they begin their reintegration into society after leaving incarceration.

We continue to work on providing information to those incarcerated of their entitlements and benefits prior to their release.

We are working towards providing Incarcerated Transitional United Veterans Beacon House programs so that Incarcerated Veterans have a place to stay while in transition and where life skills can be taught so that reintegration can be far more effective and re-offending can be curbed. If any member knows of anyone who has a building or house that we can use for a Beacon House please ask them to contact us.

We are also seeking further volunteer officers that can be trained to service the Incarcerated Veterans throughout the U.S. Ask them to call us urgently.

The National Board of Directors have also voted to include a small membership fee on the Incarcerated Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition Membership so that we can provide more services and to offset some of the costs associated with the program.

It will also place some value on your membership as anything for nothing has no value.



Please read the attached information about Rev Bob Miller. This man has bought discredit upon the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition by illegal actions and untruths. We have severed all ties with this man and are taking legal action against him.

We are committed to the Incarcerated Veterans program and we need to all work together to ensure the best services to Veterans. I look forward to knowing that this program will build and grow and Herb Hennen's dreams will be fulfilled.

Yours in Brotherhood,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Forbes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Forbes



Wives and Partners

Carla Evans, Chaplain

So, you're the wife of a vet. And for many vet's wives, life has been anything but peaceful. Since the day you both looked into one another's eyes and said the words, "I do" life has had its ups and downs and thrown in an extra curve as well.

Sure you may have known he had a few problems before you married him, you may have had an inkling or premonition that he wasn't quite 100% of all your heart's desires, but you loved him, so what the heck. Besides, after you were married you would be able to help him. Right? You would be there, day in and day out to tend his cares and help mend his shattered emotions; you would be his security blanket, his friend, mentor, lover and wife.

Over the years the pain of just living and trying to exist with all the emotional baggage he carries has slowly eroded that dream of life commitment to him. You are getting tired and your patience is running thin.

Some of your children have suffered physically, mentally and certainly emotionally. You have felt that there was no one on this whole wide earth that knew what you were going through. Who could you tell anyway without feeling you had betrayed your husband. Who could you tell when he had threatened you with 'whatever' if you did tell anyway?

So for such a long time, a life time if you stayed with him, you have gritted your teeth, buried what you could, survived with what you could not bury and tolerated everything else. Even when you went to the Psych with him, you felt like an outsider at times. You cannot cry anymore, there are no tears left. For some of you anyway, he has forbidden you to cry, especially in front of him. So the cries of your heart are revealed when you twist your hands together while talking or screw your handkerchief in knots as you need something in your hands while you do attempt to talk a little. The whimpers that escape your mouth are quieter than a baby kittens mewling and when you speak, the words are guarded in case you let something slip that would give an inkling to anyone about how you really feel.

You cared for your children if they had physical problems because of the Agent Orange factor while he, not being able to cope, hit the bottle or left home for good or for a period of time or times.

You put up with his night-sweats and thrashing around in his little obtained sleep until exhausted yourself, you grabbed a few nights in another bed. His moods were unpredictable unless it was near Anzac Day, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day, the death of a close mate or an anniversary approached when something pretty serious happened back in Vietnam. You learnt to read the signs of his approaching moods

and gave him a wide berth; but you couldn't escape that volatile anger that exploded without rhyme or reason.

He loved you, but in a way you felt he didn't because in his need of you he despised himself for the way he treated you. You see he had no one else he could be his absolute self with except you, and it was you he took out his frustration and anger on.

You begged him to talk to you about what troubles him but he can't. He says you would never understand. He is frightened to tell you in case you despise him for what a man has to do in the theatre of war. But in all of this, who was there for you? Good question.

Who looks to your needs of wanting to be loved in the way that a woman wants to be loved and protected? Who do you lean on when everyone else in your house leans on you? Is it easier to walk away from your marriage or to stay and face into it? Will the pattern of your life ever change? Who do you talk to? Who do you explode and be honest with?

Do you still love him? Is he worth fighting for? You see, deep down, there still resides the man you fell in love with and chose to marry. He is buried beneath all the debris that the word VIETNAM encases.

At times there seems to be a tug of war going on the inside of you between love and hate, which one do you want to win?

Do you passively accept life the way it is, have you given up on him and your marriage? Do you want to take up the fight for your husband again?

Does he know your worth in the way that you have stayed with and cared for him?

Be grateful for the good days, remember too, his condition is not your fault.

Can you talk to him and tell him how you feel, in a way that is not seen to be 'nagging.'? Can you let him know that you care for him and ask him WHY he is in pain? He may not know he is in pain, he might just think he is drinking too much or he is feeling miserable. Then again he may know he is in pain but doesn't know how to begin to express it to you. He may think that you would not continue to be with him if you knew the things he did in Vietnam, things that a war calls for yet the life of a civilian doesn't.

You need a goal to work towards, by yourself and together.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO DO SOMETHING, take some action. Make an appointment to see your husband/partner's psych and have a good chat, look for Veteran support groups, find a trustworthy friend.

REMEMBER, there are people who care for you. Why not find out who they are?

It is your choice to stay or go, please think carefully before making that decision.

VETERANS DESIGN COMPETITION

(for use on t-shirts, patches, etc.)



Cash Prize: \$500

Parameters:

- * Design in full color
- * Design to represent veterans of all eras
- * Design to have a Native American/First Nation warrior theme
- * Design can be modern or ancient

The size should be approximately 12 x 14 inches.

**Original artwork to become the property of
Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition**



***Submit to:
Veterans of the Vietnam War Inc.
& The Veterans Coalition
805 South Township Boulevard
Pittston, PA 18640***



Deadline: June 30, 2005

**Judging to be done by the National Board of Directors,
Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition**

GET INVOLVED!

Facts About The Fire At The National Personnel Records Center

A fire at the NPRC in St. Louis on July 12, 1973, destroyed about 80 percent of the records for Army personnel discharged between November 1, 1912 and January 1, 1960. About 75 percent of the records for Air Force personnel with surnames from "Hubbard" through "Z" discharged between September 24, 1947 and January 1, 1964, were also destroyed.

It is hard to determine exactly what was lost in the fire because:

- There were no indices to the blocks of records involved. The records were merely filed in alphabetical order for the following groups:

- World War I
- Army
- November 1, 1912-September 7, 1939
- World War II
- Army
- September 8, 1939-December 31, 1946
- Post World War II
- Army
- January 1, 1947 December 31, 1963

In general, millions of records, especially medical records had been withdrawn from all three groups and loaned to the Department of Veterans Affairs prior to the fire. The fact that one's records are not in NPRC files at a particular time does not mean the records were destroyed in the file.

If a veteran is advised that his or her records may have been lost in the fire, he or she may send photocopies of any documents they possess to the NPRC, particularly separation documents. This enables the NPRC to reestablish files by adding those documents to the computerized index and filing them permanently.

- In the event a veteran does not have any records in his or her possession, the essential military service data may be available from a number of alternate sources.

- Branch of Service
- Approximate dates of service
- Service number
- Place of entry into service
- Last unit of assignment
- Place of discharge

The key to reconstructing military data is to give the NPRC enough specific information so the staff can properly search the various sources. The following information is normally required:

- Full name used during military service;
- Branch of service
- Approximate dates of service
- Service number
- Place of entry into service
- Last unit of assignment
- Place of discharge.

Ask yourself "What have I done today to make me so proud?"

Important Notice About Your GI Bill Benefits

GI Bill Benefits have increased. Starting 1 October 2004, full-time students with GI Bill benefits can get over \$1000 per month to cover the cost of their education.

This increase could mean you have as much as \$36,000 to pay for your education. The GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits for:

- a. College, Business, Technical or Vocational Courses**
- b. Distance Learning including Correspondence Courses**
- c. Certification Tests**
- d. Apprenticeship/Job Training**
- e. Flight Training**

If you are interested in taking advantage of your GI Bill benefits, you can receive information from military-friendly schools. These schools have trained admissions counselors who understand the GI Bill

Twins awarded Silver Stars

Captains Dan and Dave Hibner, identical twins, have both received Silver Stars for their actions in Iraq.

When the 3rd Infantry Division conducted the final attack on Baghdad April 7, 2003 the brothers' units were lead elements attacking from different directions to breach obstacles on the only feasible avenues of approach that led into the city center and Saddam's Palaces.



Capt. Dave (left) and Dan Hibner, identical twins, take a break following the fall of Baghdad

Dave's company with infantry and scouts attached conducted a covert breach in the south, 5 km into enemy territory, while Dan's company conducted a deliberate breach from the west.

Dave's Delta Company "provided the combat power of a fourth maneuver force..." said Lt. Col. Eric Schwartz, commander, Task Force 1-64 Armor. "Though wounded in the final hours of fighting to seize Baghdad, he never left his unit."

Engineers improve conditions in northern Iraq village

Soldiers from the 133rd Engineer Battalion are working on a series of projects in the rural village of Hamzan in northern Iraq.

The National Guard Soldiers from Belfast, Maine, replaced the village's small mud schoolhouse with a concrete structure. The new school has three classrooms with plumbing and electricity.

As part of an initiative to train former Peshmerga fighters to learn construction skills, the engineers worked with nine former fighters to train them in masonry and carpentry skills during the construction of the school.



2nd Lt. Adam Cote, a Portland native from the 133rd Engineer Battalion, speaks to a group of Soldiers and residents of Hamzan during a ceremony to celebrate the opening of a new school in the village which was built by the engineers.

In addition to rebuilding the village school, the engineers brought in a 20,000-liter water tank and a 75-kilowatt generator which will serve the 17 families in the area who do not have plumbing or electricity. They also improved the local roads which were in disrepair.

"This is why we're here, to make a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people," said 2nd Lt. Adam Cote, a

SOLDIER

Portland, Maine, native from Company B. "This project will not only improve the lives of the people but also improve the way the people see the mission of Multinational Forces here in Iraq."

Beating 10:1 odds, Soldier earns Silver Star

In a fight, two against one is bad odds. Ten against one is a recipe for disaster. Yet those were the odds Sgt. Tommy Rieman and his squad faced and beat when they were ambushed by more than 50 anti-American insurgents near Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq last December.

Rieman, 24, a team leader in Company B, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for his heroic actions last December day during a ceremony at Devil Brigade Field August 6. He was also awarded the Army Commendation Medal with a "V" device for valor for a separate reconnaissance mission that took place in March 2003.



Sgt. Tommy Rieman, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment is awarded the Purple Heart by Col. Michael Ferriter during a ceremony at Devil Field, August 6. Rieman was also awarded the Silver Star and Army Commendation medal with "V" device for heroism during an ambush in Iraq last year.

Rieman was in charge during the patrol that garnered him the Silver Star because he had scouted the area before and knew the terrain. His eight-man patrol was in three light-skinned Humvees with no doors when the first rocket-propelled grenade hit.

They were hit by three RPGs and a barrage of small arms fire coming from 10 dug-in enemy fighting positions. Staying in the kill zone meant certain death, so the vehicles never stopped moving. Rieman knew he had to return fire. Bullets whizzed after them as the vehicles sped away from the ambush and the Soldiers found themselves caught in another ambush.

There were maybe 50 enemy attackers blasting away at him with small arms fire from a grove of palm trees nearby. Injuries to his men were beginning to pile up. Out of his squad, Sgt. Bruce Robinson had lost his right leg in the RPG attack and Spc. Robert Macallister had been shot in the buttocks. Rieman himself had been shot in the right arm and chest, and had shrapnel wounds to his chest, stomach and ear. Worst of all, they were almost out of ammo.

He began firing away with his M203 grenade launcher, raining round after round down on the attackers. After being battered by 15 of Rieman's 40mm grenades, the enemy's guns were silent.

STORIES

Shoe Fly brings hope to Afghani children

Operation Shoe Fly began as a small, simple effort to make a difference in Afghanistan one child and two shoes at a time.

It's is a humanitarian effort by Soldiers and families of Company B, 214th Aviation Regiment

Hillclimbers that deployed to Afghanistan in March. Spearheaded by 1st Sgt. Jim Thomson, Operation Shoe Fly started as a home-grown idea by a small Army unit that mushroomed into a program that now boasts local and national support.

"OPSF is the culmination of an idea born by a group of CH-47 [Chinook] crew members in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," Thomson said.

Noticing that many children were shoeless, Thomson and his "crewdogs" debated how best to help them and Operation Shoe Fly was born.

The company's motto "helping to bring the hearts of America to the soles of Afghanistan," poetically describes the task undertaken by the Hillclimbers.

Thomson reached out to Americans with an Internet letter that has launched the collection of 2,000 pairs of shoes and counting.

"The idea of course, is that there must be many like piles in garages across America and here I am in a country struggling to find itself and stand on its own, barefooted," he said.

Reserve officer helps teach new Iraqi police

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Deploying to train Soldiers is nothing new for 45-year-old Matt Breeding, an Army Reserve major and military police officer from Oldtown, Md. After a nearly 27-year career in the Military Police Corps and 22 years as a Maryland State trooper, Breeding had a reputation as of the Army's top cops in security and keeping Soldiers and their belongings safe when he was called back to active duty in November 2003.

Breeding, a husband and father of three from Oldtown, Md., started his deployment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection, working in planning in the agency's



First Sgt. Jim Thomson, Co. B, 214th Avn. Rgt., is surrounded by shoes received from across the United States. Operation Shoe Fly has received more than 2,000 pairs of shoes for Afghani children since June.

Washington, D.C. Provost Marshal's Office. His work drew the attention of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program and prompted a request for Breeding to deploy to Iraq to work on the frontlines of bolstering security for Corps personnel and other U.S. interests.

Breeding, who has taught at the Maryland State Police Academy, soon found himself in Baghdad serving on the Iraqi Ministry of Interior's Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, an interagency and international group of law enforcement officials charged with teaching the new Iraqi police force how to restore and maintain law and order in the newly freed country.

He now works 14- to 18-hour days building curriculum that teaches squads of new Iraqi police the philosophies and principles of democratic policing and human rights. It's a mission he is strongly committed to. "The Corps is spending and managing an incredible amount of money in country to restore the infrastructure and to keep its people here on the ground safe," Breeding said from his Baghdad office. "By investing in teaching the new Iraqi police forces, we will increase security here and allow everyone to further concentrate efforts on building a solid foundation for the Iraqi people to build upon."

Soldier nominated for Medal of Honor

His unit, the 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, was assigned the task of establishing an enemy prisoner of war holding area and was aggressively counter-attacked by a large Republican Guard unit near the Baghdad International Airport. The unit was overtaken and pinned down within minutes.

Several vehicles were out of action and some Soldiers were down. Smith climbed aboard a damaged armored vehicle, and under intense fire managed to get a .50-caliber machine gun working and provided critical covering fire so the wounded could be evacuated. 1st Sgt. Timothy Campbell said that Smith's actions set the conditions to get control and restore the initiative.

"The .50-cal was the key," Campbell said, explaining that Smith's actions changed the course of the fight. Smith provided cover while wounded Soldiers were evacuated. He lost his life after saving numerous others. Smith was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and he is currently a nominee for the Medal of Honor.

According to his citation, Smith's actions killed 20 to 50 Iraqis, allowing the American wounded to be evacuated, saving an aid station and headquarters, as well as possibly 100 American lives.



Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith cuts the lock of a suspected ammunition storage facility in central Iraq. SGT Craig Zentkovich



Maj. Matt Breeding

From the Program Director

Gentlemen: Due to many technical difficulties and the overwhelming amounts of mail, it has been a while since the *Incarcerated Veteran Leader* has been published. Sometimes your letters are overlooked. We receive about a hundred letters a week. With a mostly voluntary staff, and all of our other commitments, it is impossible to find time to get to do everything. The *Incarcerated Veteran Leader* costs a lot of money which is supported through our outside members. When you refuse any type of mail you have to add on seventy-five cents for each piece. With all our members this ends up being a very large sum. So we ask you please, submit a change of address when you go to another institution or inform us of your out date. If you appreciate what VVnW is doing by providing you with information, when you get out it costs \$25.00

a year to become a National-at-Large member. Part of that money goes to help this newspaper. At no time think that this *Veteran Leader* is something that you must have by a certain date. We can only do this when money is available. Please keep us informed.

***Note:** Before Herb Hennen's untimely death, he had submitted to us the following items which he believed should be included in a *Veteran Leader* Incarcerated Edition because he felt that the items presented would answer many of the questions usually received via correspondence. This would then mean that you would not have to write to us but rather have the information at your fingertips. We know that this will be of help to you.*

Items of Interest and Use While You Are Incarcerated

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SF 180 FORM:

There are two things that we have to have on file in this office in a locked area a membership application and a copy of your DD-214. To be a member and placed on the mailing list, this has to be done. This list goes to no one. It is protected as private. If you have a need for your DD-214 while incarcerated, we will gladly send you a copy wherever you want it sent. However, be aware in some institutions when a copy comes in the mail it is placed in the social worker's file and can be used against you.

When filling out the membership application, be sure to include your social security number and your inmate number. Both of these items are required. The membership fee is \$5.00.

SF180s are sent from this office to St. Louis. It takes approximately six to eight weeks to receive a DD-214. If nothing is received after eight weeks, it is sent to St. Louis on a second request. We wait another eight to ten weeks and if no reply is received from St. Louis, we discard your request and you can no longer be a member. Sometimes due to human error, mistakes can be made, therefore, when we send you a SF180 or membership application to be filled out and sent back, there is a reason. The update on our computer is constant and we are working very hard on our mailing list.

UPGRADE OF DISCHARGE:

The VA no longer upgrades discharges. That is now handled through the Department of Defense. While you are incarcerated you cannot upgrade your discharge. This can only be done when you are on the outside.

VA HOME LOANS:

There are two requirements to receive a VA Home Guarantee. Number one, you must have perfect credit. Number two, you have to have been on a job for a period to time.

All loans are handled through banks, so you must be able to get the loan on your own and the VA will back you up after you have been accepted by the bank.

GETTING A PHYSICAL FROM THE VA IN YOUR INSTITUTION:

If you need a physical for a VA claim, write your closest VA regional office and tell them that you want your physical at your institution by your institutional doctor. Follow what the VA tells you to do.

Ask yourself "What have I done for a Veteran today?"

SENDING ITEMS TO THE INSTITUTION:

There are many items that we have in stock that some institutions allow you. Almost all institutions will not allow any stickers or small flags within the institution. If there are certain things that your group or yourself wants, and can pay for, contact your advisor or your Deputy Warden and have them submit a letter and a money order to us and we will send the items to them. We will send no paraphernalia to anyone without this authorization.

MAILING ADDRESSES:

All mail, if it is from an institution will come to this office. When we receive it, it goes on the bottom of the stack that we already have which in essence means it may take two to three months for it to get answered.

PUBLIC LAW 107-95:

This was made law last year but like many new laws no money was allocated, therefore, this program will wait until after the Iraqi war is over and troops returned home. As we all know, this is going to take awhile. We will let you know when we hear something.

SO YOU ARE GETTING OUT!!

While in prison people build these air castles as to what we are going to do when we get out - going to buy a new home, get a new car, buy the lady friend this and that, then the day comes and you are out and reality hits home. The public does not care that you were locked up and probably wants to keep you locked up, so you have to get it started. There needs to be some order to that. If you really want to stay out, you will:

1. Get a job.
2. Find a church of your choice
3. Try to mend family ties

Sure people are going to watch you to see if you have changed. Even the police are going to watch you, so basically it is all up to you. If you think flipping burgers at Burger King for \$5.00 an hour is not good enough to get started, you can bet you are on your way back, and that is if they are hiring because of the economy. It is even harder if you are a sex offender. The only person who can change you is YOU. Society is not going to change and they could care less about you. We are trying to tell you like it is because we have been through all the things you are going through. And the whole thing boils down to, it is your life, do with it as you want. The choices are yours.

“INCARCERATED PROGRAM” OR “VETERANS IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW PROGRAM”

There seems to be some confusion on which of these is the correct title of this program. The word “incarcerated” became very popular in the 1980s. As to the meaning of it, you full well know what it means and so do all the political people that deal with anything we try to get started. When we walk into a politician's office and tell him that we have an “incarcerated program”, they immediately lose interest. But when we say we have a “Veterans in Conflict with the Law Program”, they are taken back and want to hear what we have to say. We all know it means the same thing so please don't get confused. It is still your program.

GETTING YOU A JOB:

We have been in meetings with a company called Manpower, Inc. on inmate employment after release from prison. This company is in all states and will put you to work the day you get out. The way our economy here in the United States is, on the outside of prison almost all large companies hire through temporary services. It makes good business sense. The company can tell how dependable, how good you work, and your attitude during the time you were there on temporary employment. This is how they hire their employees. It is a place to start and make yourself some money.

Your state employment office has a Veteran Agent by law in each office. Make sure you go see him. And don't forget about the federal bonding program.

STARTING A POST:

Membership with the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition is open to veterans of all eras. Dues per year is \$5.00. To begin it requires the permission of the warden, the involvement of a Prison Advisor and twenty-five members of which at least 75% are veterans.

THE ADVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

Your advisor is responsible for the success or failure of your post. He can do many things that can help the membership - bring guest speakers into the prison for the meetings, such as County Veterans Service Officer, VA Regional Office, State Employment Office, and various veterans groups such as the Medal of Honor, POW, Purple Heart and Airborne Association. There is no limit to what he can do for your post.

RAISING MONEY FOR YOUR POST:

There are a number of ways that a post can raise money - pop cans, greetings cards and a pizza night to name a few. What money your post makes stays in that community. Working with the administration and the advisor, there are ways to enhance the prison for the benefit of the other inmates and the local community.

But remember this is your money and the organization does not want you to send it places where it does not help your immediate area. Talk to your advisor and let him talk to the administration.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS (DAV):

This organization has been a great help to our incarcerated veterans. They have the most worked, verified service officers and dedicated people we know. It is better for you to have someone in your own area to represent you in your claims. This is a person who can see how your claim is going even after you get out. So use the one in your area. You can find the address in the prison library.

Another person to contact is your county verified service office from where you are from. Most are willing to help the incarcerated veteran.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

We keep bringing up the importance of a monthly report because many incarcerated posts do a lot of good things but nobody knows it. Everything a post does should be written down all month long and typed up and sent to your administration and to all others of concern, such as this office. Many a good idea has come out of our prisons. If somebody hadn't written it down, and sent it in, nobody would have known. Make sure all written reports about your post have the advisors' signature. This also pertains to all mail from the post to this office. If your post writes a letter to this office and the advisor's signature is not on it, it will be discarded. This does not mean a personal letter. The advisor does not have to agree with what is in the letter but he has to know what you are sending.

Get involved.

***If you believe in nothing,
you'll accept anything!***

REQUESTS FOR MORNING REPORTS:

In processing a PTSD claim there are basically three things that are helpful:

- a 201 file
- morning reports
- military personnel records

A search request for copies of the morning reports are processed on a reimbursement basis. The searching costs are \$20.00 per hour, copy costs are fifteen cents per page on the first two hours of search time, the first 100 copies furnished without charge. If you need the morning reports you must submit a written request to:

National Personnel Records Center,
Att: Organizational Records
9700 Page Avenue,
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

AGENT ORANGE:

Anyone who served in Vietnam is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange, a herbicide that was used extensively in Vietnam to kill unwanted plant life and to remove leaves from trees, which otherwise provided cover for the enemy.

Who is eligible?

All service members who served in Vietnam.

What am I eligible for?

Free medical care is provided to Vietnam Veterans with any health problems which may have resulted from Agent Orange exposure.

How do I file a compensation claim?

DAV Service Officers can help you file a compensation claim for a current disability related to Agent Orange.

What is the Agent Orange Registry Physical Examination?

In 1978, the VA set up a register for Vietnam Veterans who were worried that they had been exposed to chemical herbicides. Any veteran who had active service between 1961 and 1975 and who expressed a concern relating to exposure to herbicides, may participate in the registry. Eligible veterans should contact the nearest VA Medical facility for an appointment.

Want to know more about Agent Orange?

To find out more about Agent Orange and presumed service connected diseases, contact the closest VA office.

LEGAL SERVICES FOR VA CLAIMS - (NOT CRIMINAL CASES):

National Veterans Legal Services:

* David F. Addlestone

* Barton F. Stichman

* Ronald Abrams

2001 S. Street NW, Suite 610

Washington, DC 20009

THE GOALS OF THE VETERANS IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW PROGRAM:

Short Time Goals:

1. Provide all available information possible to those in prison.
2. Communication by the mail system.
3. Establish vet groups in prison so the veterans can be with their peers.
4. Aid in the development of programs approved by the different administrations.
5. To give the Veteran an opportunity to reconstruct the pride he had once.
6. To work with all Department of Corrections in the United States who want to help their veterans.

Long Time Goals

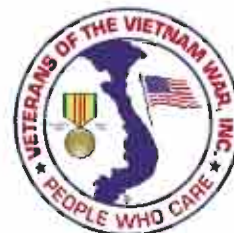
1. To educate the veteran so in turn he can help another veteran in need.
2. A better understanding of the Veteran Community on the outside.
3. Prepare him to take their place in the Veteran Community upon discharge with the understanding that he is a large part of it.

PLEASE NOTE: We are searching for a new Veterans in Conflict with the Law Program National Coordinator. If you have a desire and the commitment to work within this program at no salary but with the reimbursement of reasonable travel and office expenses, please submit your resume to Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition, 805 So. Township Boulevard, Pittston, PA 18640 for review by Peter J. Forbes, the National Commander of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition.

Robert Miller, formerly of Warren, Michigan and now of Las Vegas, Nevada was associated with the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and the Veterans Coalition and the Veterans in Conflict with the Law Program and has ceased to be connected with the above organization and program as of January 29, 2004.

The National Organization and the Veterans in Conflict with the Law Program will not accept any responsibility for any of Mr. Miller's actions, whether in writing or orally, allegedly taken on behalf of the organization or the program as of January 29, 2004 and hereafter.

If anyone has any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the National Organization.



**VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, INC.
& THE VETERANS COALITION**
Veterans in Conflict with the Law Program



805 South Township Boulevard, Pittston, PA 18640
Phone: 570-603-9740 ~ Fax: 570-603-9741 ~ 1-800-843-8626
E-mail: vvwnvatl@epix.net
Websites: vvnw.org or theveteranscoalition.org

All Veterans — All Military Welcome

PLEASE
PRINT

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
GENERAL INFORMATION

*I hereby swear (affirm) to
uphold the Bylaws of the
Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.*

_____	_____	
<i>Social Security Number</i>	<i>Signature</i>	
_____	_____	_____
<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Incar Number</i>
_____	_____	
<i>Facility Name</i>	<i>Facility Street Address</i>	
_____	_____	_____
<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip Code +4</i>
()	_____	_____
<i>Telephone Number</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	

***MILITARY DATA: To Claim Veteran Status You Must Attach A Copy of DD-214
(Discharge Form) – Current Serving Military Must Present Proof of Service***

BRANCH:	DATES:	SERVICE:
<input type="checkbox"/> Army	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> WWII
<input type="checkbox"/> Navy	<i>Entered Service:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Bosnia
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Korea
<input type="checkbox"/> Marines	<i>Discharge Date:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam
<input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Grenada
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<i>Type of Discharge:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Panama
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Desert Storm
	<i>Service Number:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Samalia
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> United Nations
		<input type="checkbox"/> Enduring Freedom
		<input type="checkbox"/> Iraqi Freedom
		<input type="checkbox"/> Peacetime
		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Veteran
		<input type="checkbox"/> All Others

Annual Membership \$5.00

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Post Number: _____

Dues Paid: _____

Member Date: _____

Expiration Date: _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check or Money Order Payable to VVnW, Inc. enclosed

Please charge my membership to:

Visa MasterCard Discover Am Express

Card No: _____ Exp Date _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____





FIND-A-VET LOCATOR SERVICE
VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, INC.
AND THE VETERANS COALITION
 805 So. Township Boulevard
 Pittston, PA 18640-3327



Complete this form to be registered in the computerized locator service for veterans who served in Southeast Asia. Your signature is REQUIRED and authorizes the release of your data to other Vietnam veterans who might request it. Return this completed form to the address shown above. Remember to attach a copy of your DD-214. Donations to cover the cost of postage are gladly accepted.

/ /	_____	_____
Social Security Number	Service Number	<u>DD-214 REQUIRED</u>
_____	_____	_____
Last Name	First Name	M.I.
_____	_____	_____
Street	City	State Zip Code
_____	_____	_____
Area Code - Phone Number		

Branch of Service (circle one) – AR NA AF MC CG RC CIV Home State at the time you served in S.E. Asia: _____

Served from:	First Tour	Second Tour	Third Tour
	To	To	To
	Mo. Yr. Mo. Yr.	Mo. Yr. Mo. Yr.	Mo. Yr. Mo. Yr.

MILITARY INFORMATION – COMPLETELY FILL IN APPROPRIATE UNIT SPACES –

ARMY AND MARINE – Use separate sheet for each unit you served with.

Division	Brigade	Regiment	Battalion	Company
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SHORE BASED NAVY OR COAST GUARD

Name of Shore Station	Division	Department	Battalion	Company
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SHIP BASED NAVY OR COAST GUARD

Name of Ship	Ship number	Division	Department	Squad
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AIR FORCE

Base	Major Command	Wing	Group	Squadron
------	---------------	------	-------	----------

<u>CIVILIAN</u>	<u>RED CROSS</u>	<u>ALLIED FORCES</u>	<u>ARVN</u>	<u>MISC. INFO</u>
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Check this box if you would like a list of those registered from your unit.

I'm looking for: _____

_____	_____	_____	_____
His/Her home state was:	Last Name	First Name	M.I. Nickname
_____	_____	_____	_____

SIGNATURE: _____ Date: _____



VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, INC. AND THE VETERANS COALITION

International Headquarters
805 South Township Boulevard, Pittston, PA 18640
Phone: 570-603-9740 ~~ Fax: 570-603-9741
1-800-843-8626

E-mail: vvnwnatl@epix.net
Websites: vvnw.org and theveteranscoalition.org
All Veterans – All Military Welcome



If you know of somebody who is serving overseas and you think they would like to receive a Military Support Package, please fill in the information below and return to the address shown above.

SUPPORT PACKAGE REQUEST

Requester's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Support Package sent to:

Name: _____

Address: _____



Commemorative Coin
available for currently
Serving Military – with
free membership.

You do not have to pay to have this package sent to someone. However, donations are always welcome to help us continue this project. Thank you in advance for your support.

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check or Money Order Payable to VVnW, Inc. enclosed

Please charge my membership to:

Visa MasterCard Discover Am Express

Card No: _____ Exp Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____



We Accept All Major Credit Cards



IRAQ WAR VETERAN COALITION



VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, INC. AND THE VETERANS COALITION

International Headquarters
805 South Township Boulevard, Pittston, PA 18640
Phone: 570-603-9740 ~ Fax: 570-603-9741
1-800-843-8626

E-mail: vvwnatl@epix.net
Websites: vvnw.org and theveteranscoalition.org
All Veterans – All Military Welcome



PRESS RELEASE —

THE VETERANS COALITION AND VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, INC.

MILITARY SUPPORT PACKAGES

The Veterans Coalition and The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., an international veterans organization with posts throughout the world and with headquarters in Pittston, PA, has been supporting the troops as they are deployed to far away places in support of the Global War on Terrorism with “Military Support Packages”.

The pictures show what the package actually looks like. The boxes contain items to include a 3 x 5 flag, new and used paperback books, non-perishable products like sunscreen, powdered drink mixes like iced tea and lemonade, chap sticks, wet ones towelettes, liquid anti-bacterial soap, small travel packages of tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, disposable razors, band aids, stick deodorant, combs, q-tips, nail clippers, hard candy, Crème Savers, M & Ms, Hershey Miniatures, gum, playing cards, Pringles potato chips, hot chocolate packets, breakfast bars, ramen noodles and tinned cookies. Of course, the organization would also be happy to accept cash donations to help defray the cost of purchasing the products and covering the postage and shipping. The approximate cost of each package is \$35.

If you would like to get involved in this project contact The Veterans Coalition and The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. at 805 So. Township Boulevard, Pittston, PA 18640, phone: 570-603-9740, 1-800-843-8626, e-mail: vvwnatl@epix.net or get more information on their websites at vvnw.org and theveteranscoalition.org The letter that is enclosed in the package will tell the recipient who requested the package or that it was made possible by a donation from _____.



Commemorative Coin
available for currently
Serving Military – with
free membership.





Camp Arifjan, Kuwait So how did you spend your Memorial Day Weekend? 107 hardcore soldiers here at Camp Arifjan willingly braved the blazing heat and darkness of night to complete a 24 hour team relay at the Zone 1 track that resulted in a combined mileage of 645 miles. Why, exactly, would anyone want to run that far on a holiday more often dedicated to rest and relaxation?

The "24 Hour Run for the Troops" was organized to raise awareness and funds for the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and the Veterans Coalition. The Veterans of the Vietnam War Inc. (VVnW) is an international non-profit organization which has been the driving force behind a military support package program that has delivered more than 7500 packages to our deployed troops at a cost in excess of \$300,000. The VVnW ran (literally!) this fund raiser in order to continue the program which has touched so many of our soldiers throughout the world.

Major Marc Hoffmeister spent the last several months organizing this series of 24-hour runs to support troops engaged in fighting terrorism around the world. The "24 Hour Run For The Troops" united over 150 runners in eight different states, Australia, England, and Kuwait on May 29th, by starting simultaneously at 12:00 hours Greenwich Mean Time and running non stop for 24 hours.

Teams and individuals challenged their own personal limits by running the full time period. Each runner's effort was symbolic of the hardships and sacrifices of soldiers combating terrorism and that of the military families who have endured the fears and loneliness that accompany a soldier's deployment to combat.

The Run for the Troops was sponsored by the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and the Veteran's Coalition (www.theveteranscoalition.org).

Participants raised money through pledges to help support the organization's Military Support Package program and similar veteran initiatives. "The global war on terrorism has crossed international borders and touched us all. Many of our soldiers have given the ultimate sacrifice or had their lives altered by injuries sustained in combat," says Hoffmeister. Just as the war on terrorism has defied international borders, the 24 Hour Run for the Troops set the ambitious goal of going global.

The event was designed to encourage and enable runners of all ability levels and backgrounds to be able to participate. "All you had to do was want to contribute. With a little creativity, every runner designed their own experience, be it alone or as a team, in order to show their support for the troops". Teams ran the event as a relay in order to encourage more participants to embrace the challenge. Here at Camp Arifjan, the run started out with two teams, Team Coalition Forces-Kuwait had 44 runners and Team 1st Armor Division with 29 runners. During the event, 35 more soldiers joined in to help rack up the mileage and the pledges. Thirteen runners ran over 10 miles during the 24 hr period, several of which ran the Truckville 10K in addition to their laps at the track. The two heavy hitters for mileage were MAJ Roy Sons, CFLCC C35, who ran 31 miles, and Hoffmeister who covered 44 miles.

An outstanding corps of volunteers, led by Major Bob Sutter, CFLCC C35, kept the runners going through the night and kept them hydrated despite temperatures that soared up to 113 degrees. Not only did soldiers volunteer their time to make this event a success, but representatives from MWR, AAFES, and the Zone 1 gym donated critical time, supplies and resources that kept everyone healthy and happy for the long haul.

To date, the teams here at Camp Arifjan have raised \$5668, but its not over.... It costs the Veterans Coalition an average of \$40 per package mailed. Information on these courageous runners and how to donate to the cause can be found online or by contacting the Veterans Coalition at 1-800-843-8626.

Event Day pictures at Camp Arifjan. The temperature was well over 110 degrees but the guys and girls made a tremendous effort to “Run for the Troops”. We are proud of them all!



Support Ops were essential.



You as incarcerated Veterans can Support Our Troops by operating and participating in a Run for the Troops Program at your facility. The rules and parameters are broad and in fact, if you only have one hour of exercise per day you and your incarcerated Veteran brothers could use that time to show your support. The official Run for the Troops is held over Memorial Day weekend in May. We are sure that the staff of many prisons and penitentiaries will support this program. Get involved.

Incarcerated Veterans must have information that we can put in the Incarcerated Veteran Leader that would help other veterans. Please send your submissions in Word format and any photos to the National Office for incorporation.

**VVnW and
The Veterans Coalition
NATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM**

ELIGIBILITY:

Any member of the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition in good standing for at least one year, their spouse or their linear descendants to include adopted children, stepchildren, foster children and their immediate descendants may submit an application.

Applicant must be in or have been accepted to a program of any post-secondary education.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

Payment can be used for anything applicable to getting educated.

Payment will be made directly to the recipient.

APPLICATION:

Application must be received by October 31 of each year with the award(s) to be announced in November of each year.

**METHOD OF DETERMINING THE
INDIVIDUAL(S) FOR EDUCATIONAL
ASSISTANCE:**

There will be random drawing once a year as long as funding is available.

OTHER:

This is NOT a need, merit, course of study, or any other type-based assistance.

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT(S):

A minimum of \$1,000 per recipient(s) will be awarded. Assistance amount and number of recipients to be determined annually by the Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and The Veterans Coalition National Board of Directors based on available funding and number of applicants.

Mail completed application to:

Assistance in Education Program
Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. and
the Veterans Coalition National Headquarters
805 So. Township Boulevard
Pittston, PA 18640

Must be received by October 31 of each year.

**APPLICATION FOR
Veterans of the
Vietnam War, Inc.
The Veterans Coalitions
ASSISTANCE IN
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION:

VVnW Member's Name:

Address:

Phone: _____

Applicant's Name:

Address:

Phone: _____

Relationship to VVnW Member:

(Proof to be submitted with this application.)

Educational Institution Attending:

Applicant's Remarks:

Note: It is the responsibility of the applicant for this assistance to determine the effect of this award, if received, on any scholarship, grant or financial aid of any kind that they may otherwise receive. VVnW and The Veterans Coalition will NOT be responsible for any negative impact that this award may have on any scholarship, grant or financial aid of any kind that the applicant may otherwise receive.

Six New Names Added To The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Washington, D.C.

The names of six American service members were inscribed recently on the black granite wall of names.

The newest Wall additions are:

- Air Force S.SGT. Donald Scott Carson (San Francisco, California) Date of Birth: November 3, 1931; Incident Date: April 12, 1963; Date of Death: April 15, 1963; Wall Location: 8 East, Line 38

- Army M.SGT. Frank Luther Huddleston (Clarksville, Tennessee) Date of Birth: February 19, 1934; Incident Date: May 17, 1966; Date of Death: August 15, 2002; Wall Location: 16 East, Line 109

- Army SPC Kevin John Joyce (Framingham, Massachusetts) Date of Birth: January 21, 1947; Incident Date: July 15, 1968; Date of Death: February 9, 1996; Wall Location: 52 West, Line 34

- Army SFC. Dwaine Usry McGriff (Cullman, Alabama) Date of Birth: December 19, 1935; Incident Date: September 7, 1970; Date of Death: January 7, 1999; Wall Location: 7 West, Line 51

- Army SP4 James Mark Rogers (Waynesville, North Carolina) Date of Birth: January 25, 1948; Incident Date: December 14, 1968; Date of Death: November 14, 1990; Wall Location: 36 West, Line 43

- Army PFC William Joseph Scannell (Forest Park, Illinois) Date of Birth: February 13, 1948; Incident Date: August 28, 1968; Date of Death: September 12, 1970; Wall Location: 44 West, Line 20

Each year, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund brings stone experts from Great Panes Glassworks, Inc. in Colorado to Washington, DC to perform the process of adding names to the black granite panels and changing the status designations of existing names from missing in action to killed in action. The highly technical procedure requires meticulous work matching the stroke and depth of the surrounding names to within one thousandth of an inch.

This year, the status symbols of 32 service members listed on the Memorial will be changed from missing in action to killed in action. Preceding each name on the Memorial is a symbol designating status. The diamond symbol denotes the person remains missing in action. When a service member's remains are returned or accounted for, the diamond symbol is superimposed over the cross.

The Department of Defense makes all decisions about persons who fit the established criteria to be inscribed on the Memorial. The Memorial Fund, which pays for the name additions and status changes, works with the National Park Service to ensure the long-term preservation and maintenance of The Wall.

The new name inscriptions and status changes become "official" at the Annual Memorial Day Observance at The Wall.

ADDRESS CORRECTION PLEASE NOTE:

Check your address label to ensure that it is correct. If it is not, please contact the VVnW and The Veterans Coalition at 1-800-843-8626 with the appropriate corrections. VVnW and The Veterans Coalition e-mail address: vvwnatl@epix.net. Send us your e-mail address to be included in an e-mail address book.

Think About This...

Article from Romanian newspaper read to cadets at West Point 2002

"Why are Americans so united? They don't resemble one another. They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations. Some are nearly extinct, others are incompatible with one another. Still the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into one hand put on the heart. Nobody rushed to empty their bank account. Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the Army or the secret services. They placed flags on buildings and cars in every place as if a minister or the President was passing. What on Earth can unite the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their galloping history? Their economic power? I've tried for hours to find an answer. I thought things over but I reached for only one conclusion. Only freedom works such miracles."

THE INCARCERATED VETERAN LEADER



**A quarterly publication of the
Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.
& The Veterans Coalition**

**805 So. Township Blvd.
Pittston, PA 18640-3327**

**Phone: 570-603-9740
Fax: 570-603-9741
E-mail: vvwnatl@epix.net
Website: vvnw.org or
theveteranscoalition.org**

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Make checks payable to: VVnW, Inc.**

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***The Veterans of the Vietnam War,
Inc. and The Veterans Coalition
have so many different projects that
you as a member can be involved in
or support. Call 1-800-843-8626
for more information.***



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