



The North Carolina Vietnam Veterans “Veteran’s Voice”



March 2011

Attendance

NCVVI held its February meeting with the following members present: Al Ely, Monica Cash, Mike Lynch, Mike Cook, Ron Wagoner, Bob Matthews, Bill Dixon, Ron Harris, Lee Booher, David Samuels, Bob Allen, Dennis Abels, Joe Harsch, & Bo Williams. Dinner was by Chef Harsch. The 22, March meeting will have Chef Bo Williams.

Special topics

It is with sadness to announce that Ron Harris’s father-in-law passed March 5th. All of our thoughts and prayers go out to Ron and Shey and to the entire Bo Liang Yao family.

Monica, submitted her NCVVI shirt design. It was approved by the membership and asked that shirts be ordered. Stay posted on delivery and how to get yours.

Education

NCVVI’s Education Czar Bob Matthews reported that the second semester LOV courses have begun.

Bob Allen has NCVVI presenting the LOV course at NCSU’s “Encore Program.” This is a six night 90 minute course starting September 15th.

Bob Matthews is working with Eric Cantu to put the LOV course in Kinston.

Bob Matthews, David Samuels, Bill Dixon and Ron Wagoner met with the new Wake County Schools Superintendent, Tony Tata. Tata is a former Army general and before coming to Wake County worked with the DC school system. It was a good meeting and Tata mentioned he had visit Cary and Athens High Schools and heard good things about the course.

Have you sent your 10 Bridge Back Letters as requested? NCVVI and our Bridge Back Foundation need your support. If you don’t feel comfortable sending them yourself, give the secretary your list of names and they will be mailed with NCVVI’s name for you.

Bob Matthews, Joe Harsch and Bill Dixon met with Global Spectrum Foundation in DC to go over the planned “Monte Carlo Night” on June 11th in the Fairfax, Va. area. Plans are coming together but the cost of a location is extremely expensive. Have an idea; share it with the secretary.

Finances

Special topic

Education

Upcoming Events

Old / New Business

Information

Dues Due List

Membership renewal form

www.ncvvi.com

President:

Ron Wagoner

Vice President:

Joe Harsch

Treasurer:

Bud Gross

Secretary:

Bill Dixon

Directors:

Bill Dixon

“ Bronze Star Medal for working with Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap to Henry Prunier”
For more information on this American being awarded on Feb. 23, 2011 for his work with Ho Chi Minh and Giap continue reading the “Veterans Report.”

Elections

At the February meeting elections were held. If you missed the meeting, what committee are you going to be on? The results of the 2011 election are: Ron Wagoner-President; Joe Harsch-Vice President; Bud Gross-Treasurer; Bill Dixon-Secretary and for Board of Directors-Bob Allen, Bo Williams, Lee Booher and Dennis Abels with Bill Dixon serving as past president.

Websites of Interest

www.ncvvi.com The official website for North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.
www.bridgebackfoundation.org The official website of NCVVI's Bridge Back Foundation
www.25thida.org The 25th Infantry Division
www.anairmansstory.com An epic anthology of Military Air power
www.ausn.org Association of the United States Navy
www.coastguardcombatvets.com The Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association
www.counterparts An Association of US Military & Civilian Advisors in South East Asia
www.dtic.mil/dpmo The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office
www.dustoff.org The DUSTOFF Association is for Army Medical Department members.
www.MCLeague.org Marine Corps League
www.pow-miafamilies.org National League of POW/MIA Families
www.ravens.org Organization for former Raven FACs that flew in Laos during Vietnam
www.ruralaffairsvn.com Rural Affairs Vietnam
www.sdit.org Sons and Daughters in Touch to locate, unite and support the children of servicemen lost or missing as a result of the Vietnam War
www.mrfa.org The Mobile Riverine Force Association
www.tsna.org The Tan Son Nhut Association
www.vietnam.ttu.edu The Vietnam Center & Archive at Texas Tech University. Created in 1989
www.VirtualWall.org The Virtual Wall, many tribute pages have personal remembrances.
www.vetswithamission Implementing various humanitarian programs and projects in Vietnam
www.Vietnambabylift.org Vietnam Baby lift
www.vhpa.org Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association
www.manchu.org/sounds/ Sounds of Vietnam 9th Infantry Regiment
www.swampfox.info/MyStories/SoundsofVietnam.html 1st of the 8th, 4th Infantry
www.vietnamexp.com/Links/veteran_links.html Vietnam Veteran Personal Website
www.ichiban1.org/html/music.htm Top 10 Music of the Vietnam War

Top 25 Vietnam War Movies

Listed by Badlands1, do you agree how many have you seen?

1-Platoon; 2-A Rumor of War; 3-Hamburger Hill; 4-Casualties of War; 5- 84C MoPic; 6-The Siege of Firebase Gloria; 7-The Deer Hunter; 8-Go Tell the Spartans; 9-Born on the Fourth of July; 10-Heaven and Earth; 11-The Boys in Company C; 12-The Veteran; 13-The Odd Angry Shot;14-Rescue Dawn; 15-Apocalypse Now; 16-Full Metal Jacket; 17-We Were Soldiers; 18-The Iron Triangle; 19-Xich lo; 20-Bat*21; 21 Jacob's Ladder; 22-In Country; 23-Good Morning Vietnam; 24-Platoon Leader; 25-The Hanoi Hilton

Rolling Thunder & Precision Tune

Precision Tune will be a sponsor of Rolling Thunder Charities through Face Book. Precision Tune will donate \$1 to RT Charities for each Face Book user that "Likes" the Precision Tune page.

By: Leo Voss, USMC, Fulda, Worthington Daily Globe

Let us not forget our local "POW/MIAs" Prisoners of War Missing in Action from WWII, Korea and Vietnam. It is estimated that there are about 30-60 million men, women, children and military personnel as POW/MIA from WWII alone. Germany has about 3.5 million, Japan has about 1.3 million, China about 1.3 million. Figures from Russia vary from 8 to 15 million civilians. The number of military personnel varies from 5 to 7 million. The United States of America has 78,751 POW/MIAs.

Prisoners of war were taken for three main reasons; information and integration, cheap slave labor and, at the end of the war, to force both sides to return all of the prisoners. Stalin of Russia had his own reasons not to return all the prisoners of war. He and his Communist allies used the following words or opinions — "bargaining chips," "collective bargaining," "ransom," "peons" and more. In other words, if you want them back, you pay us cash. At the near end of WWII, Germany had most of the Allied POWs on the eastern side of Germany. Russia, with its high loss of people and military personnel, had the golden opportunity to take most of the POWs. It was estimated that there were nearly 1 million in Soviet hands. On May 19, 1945, a secret cable — secret priority from General Eisenhower, reference #588613 — says this, "Number of U.S. prisoners estimated in Russian control is 25,000." A top secret document #1009, May 31, 1945, says this: "I have had a cable from General Marshal in which he states he has received information which indicates that 15,597 United States liberated Prisoners of War are now under the control of Marshal Tolbukhin." Marshal Tolbukhin was the Russian General. None of the American POWs ever came home or were released. They were taken to Odessa near the Black Sea, and the rest of them were taken to the Russian Gulag prison camp. This was known by General Eisenhower, President Roosevelt and Major General John Dean.

We are missing 8,177 POW/MIAs from the Korean War; some say that there is another 7,000 to 9,000 totally buried in paperwork that are untraceable. The Office of the Secretary of Defense on Dec. 31 said that the POW/MIA list from the Korean War was 13,325. Over 100 American POWs were sent to Moscow and the Government of the United States knew it... Most of the POWs after the Korean War were sent to Manchuria by train. Those with "special talent" had a white M/B on the back of their jacket, which meant Moscow bound. The white "M" went to Manchuria to be distributed to wherever. None of these even known POWs ever came home. On Oct. 4, 1994, a South Korean POW escaped from North Korea. Since then, 36 South Korean POWs escaped.

There are 165 military personnel listed as POW/MIA from the Cold War. There are four civilians; one U.S. Marine and all the rest are Navy and Air Force personnel. All are high-ranking enlisted men. The rest of the missing is of Major, Captains 1st and 2nd Lts. How many more missing is another question. Francis Gary Powers is the only POW to come home out of the Cold War. Where are the rest?

From the Vietnam War, there are 2,303 POW/MIAs as of 2003. The author is a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He writes that many of his facts were taken from "An Examination of U.S. Policy toward POW/MIA's," a report issued by the U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs United States. The report can be viewed at <http://www.nationalalliance.org/vietnam/overview.htm>.

ACLU vs. US Marines: Marines in a picture are bowing their heads. That's because they're praying. This incident took place at a recent ceremony honoring the birthday of the corps, and it has the ACLU up in arms. "These are federal employees," says Lucius Traveler, a spokesman for the ACLU, "on federal property and on federal time..." "For them to pray is clearly an establishment of religion, and we must nip this in the bud immediately." When asked about the ACLU's charges, Colonel Jack Fessenger, speaking for the Commandant of the Corps said (cleaned up a bit), "Screw the ACLU." GOD Bless Our Warriors. Send the ACLU to France!

Draft status, Vietnam War: A man born just after midnight circumvented the Vietnam War draft by using a daylight-saving time loophole. When drafted, he argued that standard time, not DST, was the official time for recording births in his home state of Delaware during the year of his birth. Thus, under official standard time, he actually was born the previous day — and that day had a much higher draft lottery number, allowing him to avoid the draft.

A MAJOR new memorial in Washington will recognize Australia's contribution to the Vietnam War. Australia will contribute \$3.3 million to the Vietnam War interpretive centre, which will cost hundreds of millions of dollars. The centre in Washington's historic National Mall will honor the fallen and explain a conflict that bitterly divided both the US and Australia.

A condition of the funding was that Australia would have a representative on the exhibit's board. Millions of foreign tourists are expected to visit the underground centre, near Washington's most beloved and famous site, the Lincoln Memorial. Sixty thousand Australians fought in Vietnam between 1962 and 1972 and 521 died. The Australian contribution will allow the memorial to display images of our war casualties on their respective birthdays. There will also be permanent exhibits detailing the key moments including the heroic battle of Long Tan, when Australians overcame enormous odds.

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They Marched into Sunlight - upcoming war movie

Documentary film, CBS News- YouTube - Vietnam War - Battle of Ong Thanh

They Marched into Sunlight is a book written by Pulitzer Prize winner and bestselling author David Maraniss, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2004 and won the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize. It is also being made into a feature film by Universal Pictures, set for release in 2013.

The book centers around the Battle of Ong Thanh and a protest at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Date October 17, 1967

Location Ong Thanh Stream, Binh Duong Province, South Vietnam

Result Viet Cong victory.

Casualties and losses

Total casualties:

64 killed,

2 missing,

75 wounded. Total casualties: Unknown (U.S. claim: 103 dead)

Film adaptation

Both Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman have the rights for making a feature film version of Maraniss's book. Their production company Playtone is very interested in having Paul Greengrass (United 93, The Bourne Ultimatum) as director of the project, besides of re-writing J. Michael Straczynski's first draft. Universal Pictures is expecting to release the film in 2013.

Missouri Governor Orders Flags Lowered For Last Surviving Doughboy Of World War I. AP Flags are “being lowered in Missouri after” the recent death of state native Frank Buckles, the “last surviving American to serve in World War I.” Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon “ordered flags lowered through March 8 at state buildings in Harrison and Vernon counties, and at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City. Nixon also ordered flags lowered on state buildings in all 114 counties and the city of St. Louis on the day of Buckle’s funeral at Arlington National Cemetery,” a date that “will be announced later. Note: The familie’s request for his remains to be on display in the Rotunda has been denied.

British WWI Vet Celebrates 110th Birthday. AP “One of the last two known veterans of World War I celebrated his 110th birthday Thursday (Feb 24) with at least three generations of family and a contingent of navy officers in dress uniform.”

Have You Thanked a Veteran Today?

A good speech that makes a LOT of sense. A ton of interesting facts here. This video from CONGRESS is an eye opener. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlfmvwxgHM>

This was sent by a Vietnam Veteran

For first time in decades, Arlington National Cemetery must bury multiple 'unknowns'

By Christian Davenport: Washington Post Staff Writer

When the remains of a Vietnam War soldier buried in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery were identified in 1998 using DNA, Pentagon officials proudly said that the days of interring service members as "unknown" could well be over.

But now, for the first time in decades, the cemetery has multiple "unknowns" to bury - and it has itself to blame. Criminal investigators looking into how eight sets of cremated remains ended up crowding a single grave have concluded that three of them are unidentifiable - not because of the brutality of combat, but because of actions at the cemetery.

The discovery of the mass grave in October came on the heels of a report by the Army Inspector General last summer that revealed widespread problems at the nation's premier military burial ground: unmarked and mismarked graves, millions of dollars wasted in botched contracts to computerize its paper records, and at least four urns found in a pile of excess dirt.

The scandal led to the ouster of the cemetery's top two leaders and prompted legislation from Congress requiring the cemetery to account for every single one of the more than 320,000 remains entombed at the nearly 150-year-old cemetery. But in her first extended interview since the scandal at Arlington broke, Kathryn Condon, the recently appointed director of the Army Cemeteries Program, said that it will take years to fully survey the cemetery and that officials probably will never be able to account for every grave. "It's really not possible," she said, noting the age of some of the graves and records. "All we can do is account for the record-keeping and the logs that were given in the Civil War."

But Condon said the cemetery has launched an ambitious effort to repair its problems. It is boosting its staff from 102 employees to 159, hiring additional funeral representatives, technology experts and ground crew members. It is buying more burial and landscaping equipment, such as hand-held tampers to level graves, which previously had been done with backhoes, she said. "They didn't have the proper equipment to do the job really to the standard they needed to do," Condon said. To prevent burial mix-ups, there is a new chain-of-custody procedure that guides the handling of remains. The cemetery has also trained 16 employees as contracting representatives. It previously did not have anyone sufficiently trained, and millions of dollars were spent on a botched attempt to digitize the cemetery's records.

Officials have begun creating a master database that eventually would replace the flawed maps that have been used to chart Arlington's 70 sections for decades. The cemetery has detailed aerial photographs of the sections, and plans to gather pictures of the front and back of every headstone. Officials would then match the photos with the cemetery's burial records to find, and then fix, the discrepancies that Condon said would inevitably emerge.

In its report released in June, the Inspector General found that 117 graves that were marked on cemetery maps as occupied had no headstone and that 94 others that had headstones were marked as vacant. Since then, the cemetery has determined that all of the plots with no headstones were vacant or obstructed by trees, she said, and burial records have shown that those with headstones wrongly marked vacant were in fact occupied by the right people. A review of the records was definitive, she said, so there was no need to open the graves and take DNA samples, a step that Army Secretary John McHugh has said would be considered.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Division continues to probe how the eight urns came to occupy a single grave. The grave, plot 5253 in Section 69, was supposed to hold only one set of remains, an urn that had been found by a cemetery worker in a dirt pile in 2002. It was buried as "unknown" because cemetery officials could not determine to whom it belonged. The discovery of the urn and its subsequent burial were first reported by Salon.com in 2009. The grave in Section 69 where the urn found in 2002 had been buried as "unknown."

As investigators starting digging through the grave by hand, they came across one set of cremated remains. They found another. When they found a third, Condon said, she "looked at my attorney and said, 'Get CID'" - the Army's Criminal Investigative Division. After eight hours of digging, they had found a total of eight sets of cremated remains. The original "unknown" urn was recertified as unidentifiable and reburied in the Section 69 grave. Shortly after the mass grave was found, investigators were able to identify three of the other sets of remains. On Friday, Christopher Grey, a CID spokesman, said the agency had determined that three others were unidentifiable. The remains were being held at the cemetery while the criminal probe continues, so it is unclear when they will be reburied. "The bottom line is, we will do everything we can to identify the final set of cremated remains," Grey said. "But we may never know who those remains belonged to."

Navy Sailor charged with espionage, attempting to sell classified information

By Erik Slavin /Stars and Stripes YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A sailor based at Fort Bragg, N.C., has been charged with four counts of the capital crime of attempted espionage, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic officials announced late Thursday. Petty Officer 2nd Class Bryan Minkyu Martin also faces 11 counts of mishandling classified information, according to a Navy news release. Martin is in custody at the naval brig in Norfolk, Va., where he has remained since shortly after being arrested Dec. 1 by federal agents in Fayetteville, N.C., according to the Navy.

Although espionage is a capital offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Navy officials made no comment on whether they would pursue the death penalty, which is exceedingly rare. The penalty can be imposed if the crime affects the defense or retaliation against a large-scale attack, war plans, communications intelligence or major defense systems and strategy, according to the UCMJ. The only service member to receive the death sentence in nearly 50 years is Pvt. Ronald Gray, whose execution was approved by President George W. Bush in 2008 after Gray was convicted of rape and murder in 1988. That case is currently under appeal, according to The Associated Press.

Martin never successfully delivered classified information to anyone unauthorized to see it, Naval Criminal Investigative Service officials said in December, according to media reports. Martin accepted \$3,500 from an undercover FBI agent in exchange for dozens of pages of documents that were classified either secret or top secret, according to a 2010 warrant filed in Eastern District Court in North Carolina and obtained by the AP. During the initial Nov. 15 meeting with the undercover agent at a Hampton Inn near Fort Bragg, N.C., Martin told the agent his current assignment focused on Afghanistan, and that he would one day work for the Defense Intelligence Agency, according to the warrant. Martin was paid \$500 on Nov. 15 and promised more money for future deliveries, according to the warrant. At two later meetings, Martin handed over documents in exchange for two payments of \$1,500 in cash before being arrested by NCIS and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents.

NAVY AT FT. BRAGG??

'Fragging,' the Vietnam War's characteristic crime: Posted by Thomas E. Ricks

Fragging: Why U.S. Soldiers Assaulted Their Officers in Vietnam, by George Lepre: This illuminating book has the basic profile of soldiers who fragged NCOs and officers (that is, tried to kill them with hand grenades). In this carefully researched study, Lepre reports that:

--Most fragging occurred in the noncombat support units in the rear, not in front-line combat units. (p. 31)

--The attacks often killed the wrong person: "of all the army officers who are known to have died in fragging incidents during the Vietnam War, only one was the intended target of the assault." (p. 44)

--Four would-be fraggers were killed in their own attempts to assault others. (p. 47)

--The last Vietnam fragger to get out of jail was William Sutton, who was released in 1999, his time extended by a parole violation. (p. 200)

--Not all fraggers left the military. Staff Sgt. Alan G. Cornett Jr., who was in Special Forces, fragged his unit's executive officer, Lt. Col. Donald F. Bongers, who was wounded but not killed by the grenade blast. Cornett was convicted, did a year's confinement, some of it at Fort Leavenworth's disciplinary barracks -- and then served another 17 years in the Army, retiring in 1989 as a master sergeant. (p. 82)

Scamming Veterans: I got this notice just now, and have seen another like it about this "service". There have been more than a couple of phony vet service organizations that ask you to provide your information, supposedly to help you with the VA. That's nonsense, if you're registered with the VA you already have the ID card you need. Anytime you're asked for your private information by some group that you don't know for sure is on the up&up, pull back fast. Mining personal information is an industry on the Net, that makes the miners money, but doesn't do much for you, except maybe some negative consequences. You may want to pass this on.

Del:

Beware. I think this is a scam yet it's going around the net like wildfire. For a so-called Veterans ID card, you send \$7 and your DD214 (which has your DOB and SSAN) to a PO box in Houston owned by a company that is not registered with the IRS as a charity or with the SEC.

Bronze Star for Henry A. Prunier awarded Feb. 23, 2011. He is considered a hero in Vietnam where his uniform hangs in a prominent place in the Military History Museum in Hanoi. Prunier enlisted in to the army during World War II. As a member of a seven-man OSS team, codename 'Deer Team.' In 1945 they parachuted out of a C-47 into a jungle clearing near Kim Lung village. The Deer Team's job was to locate downed American pilots and to help Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap form a guerrilla troop to harass the Japanese. Prunier's first job was to teach the Viet Minh how to use a 60 mm mortar and a hand grenade.

Upcoming events: If you know of an upcoming event that may be of interest to the members of NCVVI please call or email the event or events to the secretary; Bill Dixon (919) 434-7345 or bill.dixon@ZipRealty.com. If possible give a 30 day lead time.

March 22-General Membership Meeting. Dinner at 6:30

March 29-Wake County Council of Veterans Organizations

March 30-Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day. NCVVI cook out at President Ron Wagoner's home

April 2-Monthly POW/MIA "calling of the names" 12:00 noon at the state capitol

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

NCVVI NEEDS YOU TO ATTEND AND BE ACTIVE

DON'T FORGET YOUR 10 LETTERS!!





Membership Renewal and Application

NCVVI is proud to have **you** as a member.

(Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

(Spouse's name)

(Street Address)

(City) (State) (Zip code)

(____) _____ (____) _____
(Home Phone) (Work Phone) (Occupation)

_____ Full Membership (\$20 per Year) _____ (check amount)

_____ Associate Membership (\$10 per year)

(E-MAIL ADDRESS :) {Need this to send the unit's monthly newsletter}

(Signature)

(Date)

Reminder: NCVVI holds a remembrance service on the Capital grounds, Raleigh, NC, the first Saturday of each month (12:00 noon) and the monthly business meeting on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month in Cary, NC. (6:00 PM)

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.
601 Compton Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Member of: N.C. Vietnam Veterans Council, Wake County Veterans Council, National Vietnam Veterans Coalition