

Subject: HISTORY/LOGIC Paper; addressing
the " win/lose " issue of U.S.
military participation during the
Vietnamese [civil] War and why it
is historically illogical to assert
" America was defeated and/or lost
the war in South Vietnam. "



UNITED VIETNAM VETERANS ORGANIZATION

Life Member of:

Veterans Of The Vietnam War, Inc.
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Toll Free: 1-800-VIETNAM

The following statement, as is, " America lost the war in Vietnam " without more is an historical fallacy and may be disproven by logic. That statement is false [according to usage in logic of " truth "] and will be briefly demonstrated to be false by way of modern fallacies in logic, i.e. truth and falsity.

1. The Historical Summary. An overview and accurate chronology of the major events of the Vietnam Era.
2. Fallacies in Logic. These fallacies represent 3 of the more commonly employed arguments asserting " The United States lost the War in Vietnam " and the method with which such fallacies are absolutely defeated via logic.
3. The Korean Hypothetical. A hypothetical argument by partial analogy. Please be advised this hypothetical is not offered as " analogy " per se since pure analogies are highly inefficient in logic. This is evident in the practice of the law today where " the hypothetical question " has been diminished in most jurisdictions' requirement in offering evidence by expert opinion. In logic, analogies may be said to be specifically vulnerable to attack by the " Fallacy of the False Analogy." Accordingly, The Korean Hypothetical here provided is merely for purposes of illustration only, i.e. via a less formal statement or presentation, and neither formally claims to be 100% logically sound nor conclusive proof of refutation of the major premise above sought to be disproved.

All of the above and following may be implemented by any historian or Vietnam veteran for the purpose of instruction or education, in whole or in part, comporting with honorable reflection upon the Armed Forces of the United States of America, past and present, as approved by Gen. Westmoreland Mike Milne, Executive Director or L. J. Seavy-Cioffi.

L. J. Seavy-Cioffi
1988

Third Marine Division's

Two Score And Ten

U. S. MARINE CORPS

History

We Didn't Lose In Vietnam

An unknown 3rd Marine Division combat veteran as a private first class, sick and tired of hearing that America was defeated in Vietnam, submitted this historical summary (which has been edited slightly) for this book:

1. The Vietnam veteran's duty was police action—arrest the Communist takeover of South Vietnam. The veteran serving in Vietnam accomplished his duty. Moreover, the Vietnam veteran won every battle he fought, including Khe Sanh. After the United States military withdrew in 1972, a cease-fire was agreed to in Paris. When it was signed, more population and land were under Saigon control than at any previous time. We left winning and with military victory in 1973.

2. Six months after our troops left, the International Control Commission reported daily North Vietnamese violations inside South Vietnam. In 1973, a commission helicopter was shot down by the NVA. The commission withdrew in July 1973. Full scale war returned. The ceasefire failure was North Vietnam's fault. Then, the United States Congress ended military hardware aid for South Vietnam.

3. In early 1975, the world press reported a massive multi-division tank and troop invasion from North Vietnam into the South. Without continued United States aid, South Vietnam surrendered, April 30, 1975.

4. Unsuccessful foreign policy is different than battlefield defeat. The United States was not invaded, occupied, or signatory to a surrender. Surrender is defeat for a nation in war, such as Germany and Japan in World War II. The dilemma fallacy that either the United States won or lost the war was illogical in this case because it didn't allow for the existing alternative—successful participation until the 1973 ceasefire and the United States withdrawal before the third war in Vietnam in 1974-1975.

5. The Vietnam veteran was the United States in Vietnam. How may a nation be defeated in war if its military is not participating when the defeat occurs? South Vietnam lost the war, along with unsuccessful foreign politics—not the United States military.



BOUGAINVILLE—GUAM—IWO JIMA—VIETNAM

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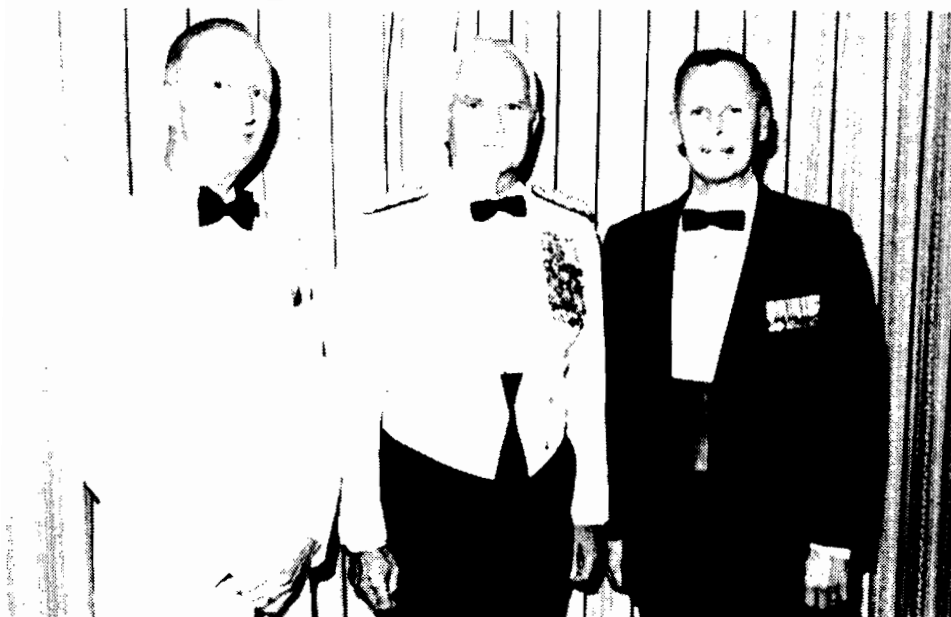
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF 3D MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.



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Tampa Reunion Exceeds All Expectations



GUEST OF HONOR — Retired Army Gen William C. Westmoreland joined Association President Bill Krueger and President-elect Jerry Brown at a pre-banquet reception in Tampa.

Vietnam Attitudes, Khe Sanh Westmoreland Subjects

TAMPA, FL -- Retired Army Gen William C. Westmoreland was the guest of honor and featured speaker at the Association's Annual Reunion Banquet 23 July.

Introduced by Conrad Fowler, Gen Westmoreland did not speak from a prepared text. He said, "I'll speak off the cuff. I want to speak from the heart, turning to things that are on my mind and thoughts that come to me as I reflect."

He continued, "I see in this audience Ray Davis, Barney Barnum and June Walt (wife of Gen Lew Walt) and I realize what a wonderful organization the Marine Corps is. I saw it firsthand for four and a half years with the job you did in Vietnam. The 3d Marine Division were the first troops to land over the beach. They were put in a most difficult area, and you came through with flying colors.

"I have nothing but admiration for you, and I am privileged to talk to you this evening."

Gen Westmoreland went on to say that he has been disturbed for many years by the treatment given the Vietnam veterans by the public. In commenting on the frustrations of the Vietnam War, he compared it to World War II and to Korea.

He stated emphatically, "...the American forces in Vietnam did not lose a battle of consequence. We did not lose the war. The military did not lose the war." When Vietnam fell to the North Vietnamese, "The war was over; American troops had departed Vietnam two years earlier. This is a simple statement of fact. It is amazing how few people around the country understand this."

He reiterated his feelings about the treatment received by Vietnam veterans, then pointed out that, "...things began to turn around. Not because of the efforts of the American people, but the Vietnam veterans themselves. . . in 1983, they converged on Washington, and they held a

(See WESTMORELAND:
cont'd on rt. hand column)

TAMPA, FL -- Retired Col Jerome W. "Jerry" Brown was elected President of the 3d Marine Division Association, and Harry K. Noble named Chairman.

WESTMORELAND

ceremony for themselves. Nobody else would do it. They marched in a parade in honor of themselves. Nobody else would do it. I was there and I led that parade. It was one of the most emotional and proudest moments of my life.

"Then the Vietnam veterans dedicated a memorial to their dead, now known as 'The Wall' without asking the government for a dime.

"Those efforts by the Vietnam veterans made the difference in the attitude of the American people towards the Vietnam veterans. There has been a better understanding between the American public and the Vietnam veterans, and it was improved progressively as time has gone on."

Gen Westmoreland termed as "baloney" the idea that most Vietnam veterans are psychiatric patients, and that the beliefs that Vietnam veterans have a greater record of crime and drug use are equally false.

He then went on to address the 3d Marine Division's specific involvement in Vietnam. "You were put in the northern provinces because the war plans of the Dept. of Defense specified that, if there was a war in that area, Marines would be put near the DMZ. It was a most difficult area for two reasons.

"First, it was (the one) most infested by communist cadres and guerillas because of its proximity to the base of enemy headquarters in North Vietnam.

"Secondly, because you were just south of the DMZ, regular units of the North Vietnamese Army could cross the border at any time to make limited attacks or, as they did later, general attacks.

He continued, "When the history books are written about the battles, Khe Sanh is going to be very prominent. . . and I thank you for the job you did. Your accomplishment will be remembered as an excellent tactical stroke."

William Childs Westmoreland
General, United States Army, Retired
Box 1059
Charleston, South Carolina 29402

August 10, 1986

Dear Larry:

I apologize for the delay in acknowledging your letter of February which enclosed a letter to me from Edward H. O'Connor. Incidentally, I am also writing to him this date.

The data you have accumulated is most impressive and the hours of work you have obviously devoted to the details of recording a significant battlefield action is commendable. As you point out, your account and that of O'Connor assists in putting the Battle of Khe Sanh in it proper perspective. Indeed it was an important victory to U. S. Forces and the U. S. Marines.

I congratulate you.

Regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,



W. C. WESTMORELAND

P.S. I like your - Historical Summary - dated March 1986.
That is the way it was and is!

L. J. Seavy-Cioffi
166 East 96th St.
New York, New York 10128



March 1986

UNITED VIETNAM VETERANS ORGANIZATION

From: L. J. Seavy-Cioffi

Subj: HISTORICAL SUMMARY

1. The Vietnam veteran's duty was "police action": to halt the Communist takeover of South Vietnam. The Vietnam veteran, when serving in Vietnam, accomplished his duty. Moreover the Vietnam veteran won every battle he fought, including the Battle for Khe Sanh. Thereafter the U.S. military withdrew its combat troops from South Vietnam, August 11, 1972. On January 27, 1973, a four party Peace Accord and Ceasefire was signed in Paris by all sides: U.S.A., S. Vietnam, Viet Cong, N. Vietnam. Our last [non-combat] troops left S. Vietnam March 29, 1973. When the Ceasefire was signed more population and land were under Saigon control than any time previously. So in this regard we left winning.
2. Six months after our last troops left, the International Peace Commission reported N. Vietnamese troops committing daily violations inside S. Vietnam. While on monitoring patrol over S. Vietnam in 1973, a Commission helicopter was shot down by the North Vietnamese Army. The Commission withdrew, July, 1973. Full scale war returned. The Ceasefire's failure was N. Vietnam's fault. December, 1974 the U.S. Congress ended U.S. military hardware aid to the S. Vietnamese military with the Case-Church Amendment.
3. In early 1975 the world press reported a massive, multi-division, tank and troop invasion launched from N. Vietnam down into S. Vietnam. Without continuing U.S. military aid and replacement parts, S. Vietnam alone surrendered to N. Vietnam, April 30, 1975. By then U.S. troops had been gone from South Vietnam's soil for over two years. The invasion ultimately reached Cambodia.
4. Unsuccessful foreign policy is different from battlefield defeat. Because the U.S.A. as a nation was not invaded, occupied or signatory to a surrender. Surrender is defeat in war for a nation, ie; Germany and Japan in WW II. Not only is it a hasty generalization to state: "The U.S.A. lost the war in S. Vietnam," but also logically, the False Dilemma Fallacy: the "either/or situation"....either the U.S.A. won the war, or, the U.S.A. lost the war. But this is illogical because it does not logically allow for the existing alternative....such as the U.S.A. participating successfully until the 1973 Ceasefire; all sides signing that Ceasefire; the U.S.A. withdrawing; and then the last phase, or 3rd war counting the French, being fought between S. Vietnam and N. Vietnam from 1974 to 1975 resulting in S. Vietnam's defeat and surrender on April 30, 1975.
5. The Vietnam veteran was The U.S.A. per se in Vietnam. Therefore how may a nation be defeated in the war when its military troops are not actively participating at the time the defeat occurs? Militarily speaking then the S. Vietnamese lost the war. Politically speaking some politicians lost the war. Unsuccessful foreign politics is different from 'defeat' in war.

Fallacies in Logic
by L.J. Seavy-Cioffi

LOGIC

-1-

The three most common forms of argument used to advocate U.S. defeat in South Vietnam are characterized by these three fallacies in Logic:

1. The False Dilemma Fallacy
2. The Fallacy Of Division
3. The Fallacy Of Irrelevant Proof

These three fallacies in Logic are explained on the following pages:

1. THE FALSE DILEMMA FALLACY

This is the same as saying that a situation must be black and white when in reality it is grey. The following points briefly review the historical events leading to the conclusion of the Vietnam War:

- A. The U.S. signed the Paris Peace Agreement negotiated by Dr. Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho with all sides involved on January 27, 1973. Accordingly the last U.S. troops departed South Vietnam March 29, 1973.
- B. In violation of the 1973 Paris Peace however, North Vietnam launched a massive tank and troop invasion into South Vietnam in early 1975 after repeated violations for over one year. But the Ceasefire failed on South Vietnamese soil because North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam and not the reverse. The aggressor was North Vietnam and the failed Ceasefire was the fault of North Vietnam.
- C. Without continuing U.S. troop reinforcement and military aid, S. Vietnam alone surrendered to N. Vietnam on April 30, 1975. Remember that U.S. troops had departed S. Vietnam (1973) two years prior to the S. Vietnamese 1975 surrender. The heavily publicized Americans fleeing Saigon in April, 1975 were embassy and civilian personnel as people tend to forget.

But what has been so often disguised as History in place of these facts is actually fallacy in Logic; The False Dilemma Fallacy: " an either/or situation." This is because The False

Dilemma offers only two extreme choices from which to choose. (The figurative horns of a false dilemma) In the Vietnam War case, veterans were offered only two choices which were: EITHER the U.S. won the war; or; the U.S. lost the war....but this is illogical. It is illogical because it does not allow for the third alternative, that is, the signing of the 1973 Paris Peace and the U.S. military withdrawing from S. Vietnam undefeated. True, the 1973 Ceasefire proved later in 1975 to be a failure. But this is not the fault of the troops who are today our Vietnam veterans. More accurately it was perhaps a government oversight in naively trusting N. Vietnam to adhere to the Ceasefire, or perhaps with no other choice because of Vietnam's unpopularity. But it is neither proof of U.S. military fault or military defeat in 1975 nor is it the fault of veterans.

2. THE FALLACY OF DIVISION

The Fallacy of Division seems somewhat related to the Fallacy of False Dilemma but it is not. The Fallacy of False Dilemma is a Fallacy of Semantical Distortion, more closely akin to equivocation. Because the Fallacy of Division is a Fallacy of Category, or Grouping. History is men with other men in groups. But a group is not born like an infant nor is it laid to rest in a grave. A group does not have a physiological anatomy or a will or a personality in the same way as an individual person. Human groups exist per se and must be defined accordingly. Groups we recognize are some of the following: Art societies, Country clubs, Political parties, Income levels, Theological belief, Street mobs, Charities, Military branches, Neighborhood groups, Relatives, People of the same age, Veterans groups, etc. Groups are useful to study past events and define or explain causes. However in describing one particular group, the scholar may cross group lines; and ascribe to another group those elements which belong only to ONE particular group. So the Fallacy Of Division consists in assigning to individual parts of a whole, or to a constituent member, or sub-group, that which can be safely said only of the whole, the class, or the collective. In such an argument we take seperately what we ought to take jointly: when somebody reasons falsely from a quality of the group to a quality

of a member of the group the Fallacy Of Division occurs.
For example:

1. The people fighting for South Vietnam were defeated by North Vietnam in 1975. (Major Premise)
2. The U.S.A. was a people fighting for South Vietnam. (Minor Premise)
3. Therefore the people of the U.S.A. were defeated by North Vietnam in 1975. (Conclusion: Fallacy)

If this conclusion were valid and true it would be logical. It is valid, which is to say it follows the rules of inference, but it is not true because it does not correspond to the state of affairs, or, "how it is". It is not true because the U.S.A. was not the group that was ... invaded, occupied by foreign troops or signatory to a surrender...and that's how it is when another nation defeats an opponent. For an argument to be logical, or "sound", both validity and truth must be present at the same time. Validity: correctly passing from one piece of information (Statement or premise) to another piece of information; it is validity that often makes false arguments seem true. But since this argument is not true,* as truth is defined in Logic (how it really is) it cannot be logical. If it were logical then Vietnam veterans would deserve blame for losing the first war in American history, but since it is illogical, Vietnam veterans are guiltless; and it is therefore false and wrong...illogical...to say that the U.S. was defeated in South Vietnam, or, that Vietnam veterans lost the war. We see that in this particular case, it is a fallacy because The Fallacy Of Division assigns to the U.S. (in our case Vietnam veterans) that which can be safely said only of that group of people fighting for South Vietnam who were ACTUALLY included in the 1975 defeat and its subsequent surrender. So in this particular case defeat cannot be logically applied to the U.S.A. or, as a logical consequence to the group representing the U.S.A. in the war; so it cannot be applied to Vietnam veterans. It applies only to South Vietnam and their military because they were the group which was truly, logically, defeated.

* This usage follows the Correspondence Theory Of Truth.

3. THE FALLACY OF IRRELEVANT PROOF

This Fallacy is a member of the Fallacies of Factual Verification which also include the other insidiously false arguments of The Pseudo Proof, The Circular Proof ("petitio principii" or begging the question) and the ever popular, Prevalent Proof or Mass Consensus Fallacy. The Fallacy Of Irrelevant Proof consists in asking one question and irrelevantly answering another. As an example of Irrelevant Proof, let us say that a person poses this question: " Was the U.S. defeated in S. Vietnam? " Moreover, for the sake of our argument, let us say that the U.S. was in reality undefeated in S. Vietnam. But that this individual asking his question about U.S. defeat in S. Vietnam had been philosophically opposed to the Vietnam War; and; that he is able to prove the following statements to be unequivocally true and valid:

1. The U.S. fought along side S. Vietnam until the 1973 Ceasefire. And that the U.S. continued to supply military aid to S. Vietnam for two years after the 1973 Ceasefire...even during violation...this aid ending, less coincidentally than perhaps conveniently, two or three months before S. Vietnam surrendered to N. Vietnam in 1975.
2. The U.S. had helped in negotiating the 1973 Ceasefire which was a failure because full scale fighting resumed in six months; and; also failed because N. Vietnam eventually invaded S. Vietnam decisively in '75 just two yrs. after the signing of the ineffective Ceasefire.
3. The Vietnam War was logically and politically the most unpopular war to date in U.S. history.

Our individual offers these statements as his proof of the answer: Yes, the U.S. was defeated in S. Vietnam. But all of his three statements maybe both valid and true, while at the same time, the U.S. also remains undefeated in S. Vietnam. Because all three of his statements are irrelevant regarding U.S. defeat in S. Vietnam. Whether true or false, they have no bearing in the case concerning U.S. defeat in S. Vietnam. His facts have nothing to do with the question that was asked.



UNITED VIETNAM VETERANS ORGANIZATION

From: L. J. Seavy-Cioffi

Subj: The Korean Hypothetical

AUG. 30 1983

Consider that the Korean War ended by armistice agreement in 1953. Yet the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea has been the site of countless skirmishes. The May 1982 issue of *SOLDIERS* (publication of U.S. Army) noted regarding Korea, "To date, 89 U.S. servicemen have died and 131 have been wounded since the armistice was signed." Revealingly the July 27, 1953 armistice agreement between the U.S. and N. Korea was not even signed by South Korea. But today forty thousand U.S. troops still remain in S. Korea. Because even despite the 1953 peace armistice, violence still occurs against South Korea. For the sake of our argument let us say that, right now, all remaining U.S. troops would be withdrawn from S. Korea. Moreover, that tomorrow N. Korea would invade S. Korea, and that subsequently S. Korea would surrender to N. Korea. Would we, in this hypothetical case, analogously assert that the U.S. was defeated in the Korean War? . . . It would seem unlikely. But why? Perhaps because of the 30 years elapsed since the 1953 armistice. Perhaps also because of the waning of public attention over the submersion of S. Korea into Communism over that same thirty year intermission. But Vietnam is of course different precisely because there was no 30 year time lapse following the Ceasefire of the Paris Peace. After the 1973 Ceasefire in S. Vietnam, it was just two years and one month later, following the 1975 Tet Offensive when Saigon surrendered S. Vietnam. But Vietnam had still lingered with us after the 1973 Ceasefire. It remained in American homes on the six o'clock news through television, it remained in

political discussion and debate, and remained highly visible also in radio, newspaper and related media; analogously if not exactly as it had while we were still militarily in Vietnam. But in psychological and emotional terms, our people had not left . . . the ending for the mass American public came only in 1975 with the surrender of S. Vietnam to N. Vietnam; and in this most highly televised and news covered American war in history, the impact of S. Vietnam's fall was so vicariously immediate, it was as if it were the end of a television series for many . . . for others memories evoked of lost ones; the entire nation had felt the loss of a friend; we had been too close to tell the forest from the trees perhaps and with this too, the false conclusion of U.S. defeat in S. Vietnam in 1975. Even though we had militarily withdrawn all our troops by March 29, 1973 shortly after the Ceasefire; S. Vietnam had become an ally as much through familiarity as through politics and media debate. Its loss was incorrectly attributed as our loss. It had pained the American ego to see its friend go down while we helplessly look on, rather than intervene and violate the Ceasefire. The country had wanted no more of S. Vietnam and to the U.S. fighting man this was like betraying a friend, in a way the protected could never comprehend. It was a sense of guilt which lingered and was played upon inadvertently or intentionally by the media and politicians alike. And so many came to confuse the sense of loss of an ally at war with the sense of defeat for us in warfare. In terms of object and subject however the thinking is diametrically opposite.



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United Vietnam Veterans Organization (UVVO) originally formed in December 1981 from among nation-wide veterans groups after dissatisfaction with the leadership of the Vietnam Veterans Movement. Accordingly our organization was formally established on February 4, 1982 by David A. Christian, one of the higher decorated, U.S. Army, Vietnam veterans. Subsequently our members included Jan C. Scruggs who founded our Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C.; and Dan Jordan our first UVVO National Commander and leading litigant in our Agent Orange Class Action suit. Since 1982 our organization's philosophy committee has lectured and/or circulated, to over 3,700,000 Vietnam Era Veterans, our own historical viewpoint logically asserting that: Vietnam Veterans left South Vietnam with commanding battlefield victory up until the 1973 Ceasefire and withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam; concluding U.S. military participation by March 29, 1973.

Another outstanding member, former Colonel James J. "Bo" Gritz, attempted a daring rescue expedition for Prisoners of War, endorsed by former Mayor Clint Eastwood. Bo Gritz' expedition (1982) captured public attention. For the first time our Vietnam POW/MIA issue gained national visibility in America. Bo Gritz' expedition also formed the basis of the plot of the movie: UNCOMMON VALOR; an enterprise for which Bo Gritz received neither remuneration nor credit. Bo Gritz is and remains the original mover responsible for America's awareness of the Vietnam POW/MIA issue today.

In 1985, after three (3) years and because of political and financial considerations, our organization's founder suddenly, and without consulting any of our nation-wide membership beforehand, simply called upon UVVO to disband their organized chapters and to individually rejoin the decreasing chapters of the mis-managed Vietnam Veterans organization from which UVVO originally seceded in 1981; due to dissatisfaction politically as well as glaring financial incompetence. However for the deciding majority of UVVO membership such idea of reunification was absolutely unacceptable! Thus the leading and majority faction of over 80% of UVVO membership permanently severed all ties from UVVO National Headquarters in 1985 under the joint command of two UVVO National Vice Commanders. As such UVVO continued functioning independently for the next three (3) years with its reorganized National Headquarters steadily expanding from its base in New York City.

Vietnam Era Veterans number approximately 9.3 million. Vietnam Service Veterans comprise 2.6 million, of whom 1.6 million were involved in some degree of combat duty. In 1987 UVVO's 21,000 Vietnam Combat Veteran members also retained 80% co-membership in the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition (NVVC), J. Thomas Burch, Jr., Chairman; 10% of our membership independently chartered; and 10% retaining their co-membership in other, older and established nation-wide veterans organizations. For over 6½ years, United Vietnam Veterans Organization (UVVO) was leading and directing the Vietnam Veterans Movement throughout the United States of America.

By 1988 UVVO unanimously endorsed and officially merged with the nation-wide organization, VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, Inc., Mike Milne, Executive Director.

Veterans of the Vietnam War (1980), 2090 Bald Mountain Rd., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-9600; 30,000.

[WORLD ALMANAC, Associations and Societies]