

★ GUADALCANAL

★ NORTHERN SOLOMONS

★ LEYTE

★ SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

★ VIETNAM



FOUNDED 1945

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1991

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

DEDICATED AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO ALL VETERANS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION

Editor-in-Chief; Jim Buckle
Vietnam Editor; Ron ward

Published Bi-Monthly

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION - P.O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104



1991

NATIONAL OFFICERS

1992

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

First of all I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. I would also like to wish a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a healthy and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Americal Division Veterans Association members and to their families and loved ones.

I am now half way through my term as your National Commander and I have enjoyed it immensely. We have recruited many new members and our membership now stands at an all time high. We will break the record made last year, for signing up new members, and I feel we should be able to double our membership to the 5000 mark over the next two years. There are thousands of men out there that eligible to join our organization and we are going to try to reach them.

I recently returned from a trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where a parade was held and a Vietnam Memorial was dedicated. I was assisted by Ron Ward, Gary Noller, David Heindl and Joe Croteau, all Americal members, in carrying the Americal Banner in the parade on Saturday. On Sunday, a beautiful park, on the shore of Lake Michigan, was dedicated to the Vietnam veterans. It was a very moving ceremony. Gary Wetzel, a Medal of Honor recipient from Wisconsin, was one of the speakers.

Also present from the Americal were Terry Babler and George Jakubowski and his son. We would like to thank Terry Babler, who is associated with the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans, for his hospitality. He and his group of friends invited us back to their pub for free beer and music. Here we were introduced to many Vietnam vets. We felt right at home--fantastic people in Wisconsin!

Thanks again Terry for all the hospitality. Hope to see you all again, maybe in San Antonio in 1992.

A SPECIAL PLEA--I would like to ask all of my fellow Vietnam veterans to make a contribution to the Guadalcanal Memorial Fund. The fund is now about \$40,000 short and the memorial is due to be dedicated, on Guadalcanal, next August 7th. A five or ten dollar bill from everyone will put it over the top!

REMEMBER--our Division was born in the Pacific, Americans in New Caledonia, and was the first Army unit to take offensive action, on Guadalcanal, against the Axis powers in World War II. Our World War II comrades of the ADVA have supported us, the Vietnam veterans, in our endeavors, now let us support them. I am counting on YOU!

Send your contribution to our National Finance Officer:

Joseph Chin

Lincoln, MA 01773-0006

God Bless,
Roland T. Castranova
National Commander

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER

PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER
GIVE IT TO A V.A. HOSPITAL

PUT IT IN THE READING ROOM OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

MONTHLY A.D.V.A. MEETINGS

January, 11, 1992
Americal Museum, Fort Devens, MA
Executive Council 12:00 Noon
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

February 8, 1992
Americal Museum, Fort Devens, MA
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

March 14, 1992
Americal Museum, Fort Devens, MA
General Meeting 1:00 P.M.

NEW MEMBERS

Edward L. Allen Jerome R. Baffa
Co. B 1/46 Inf. 196 Bde. 23rd M.P. Co.
Tipton, KS Chicago, IL
#David L. Recob #John Dutch DeGroot

Alfonso T. Barbieri Fred Basile
Task Force 6814 101st Medical
Woodbury, NJ Haverhill, MA
#Ernest Taylor #William L. Dunphy

Robert J. Behm Don Blanco
Co. C 1/5 Inf. 198 Bde. 23rd M.P. Co.
Pine Grove, PA Springfield, MO
#Roland T. Castranova #David L. Recob

Carl F. Ahland Leo F. Buck
H Trp. 17 Cav. 198 Bde. Co. L 3 Bn. 132 Inf.
Monroe City, MO Kankakee, IL
#Ron Davis #Bernie Chase

Larry E. Brandon Joseph F. Cavanagh
23rd M.P. Co. HQ HQ 140 Chemical Plt.
Kansas City, KS Natick, MA
#B. Mulcrone D. Recob #Self

Paul B. Clark William R. Clark
Co. A 3/1 Inf. 11Bde. 23rd M.P. Co
Ravenna, Ohio Tooele, VT
#Robert N. Thornton #Larry Gelnett

Herbert S. Danner Paul R. DeCosta
Btry. E 2 Bn. 70 CA AA Hq 90 Chemical Det.
Cincinnati, Ohio Turnersville, NJ
#Self #Larry Gelnett

Barry R. Eidell Col. David B. Emmons
Co. D 4/3 Inf. 11Bde. 182 Inf.
Pottstown, PA Sierra Vista, AZ
#Robert N. Thornton #Harold G. Holcpmbe

Col. James A. Franklin Richard A. Haas
3/1 Inf 11 Bde. Co. D 4/21 Inf.
Plainfield, GA Beaville, TX
#Roland T. Castranova #William K. Maddox

Luis Hernandez Robert W. James
71 Avn. Co 16 Avn. Grp. Ser. Co. 164 Inf.
San Antonio, TX Williams Port, PA
#Self #Perry M. Johnson

Billy M. Jent Cordell D. Johnson
23rd M.P. Co. Co E-HHC 1/46 Inf. 196
Landisburg, PA Lewiston, PA
#Larry Gelnett #Ron Davis

Francis P. Kerr Greg Linscott
Co. C 3/1 Inf. 11 Bde. Co. B 1/52 Inf. 198 Bde.
Forestville, CT Seattle, WA
#Roland T. Castranova #Self

NEW MEMBERS

Glen A. Lippincott
Co. A 3/21 Inf.
Sciota, PA
#Robert Lippincott

Robert G. Lovejoy
Co. E 164 Inf.
Lehigh Acres, FL
#Millard E. Tanner

Terry L. McGuire
Co. L 3/1 Inf. 11 Bde.
Portage, MI
#Joseph F. Kruczak

James H. Monaghan
723rd Maint.
Huntingdon Valley, PA
#Steve Dennison

James C. McFarlan
Co. B 4/3 Inf. 196 Bde.
Harvest, AL
#Robert N. Thornton

Thomas A. Ondo
Hq. Trp. 1/17 Cav. 198
Ford City, PA
#Anthony Lupporelli

Alan O. Parker
Co. D 4/3 Inf. 11 Bde.
Barnesville, GA
#James A. O'Brien

Antonio G. Pulcini
Co. F 132 Inf.
Cranston, RI
#Gordon L. Silseth

Jose A. Santiago
HHC 196 Bde.
Longbeach, CA
#Larry Gelnett

Paul C. Stiff
23rd M.P. Co.
Troy, MI
#Larry Gelnett

Michael Szalkowski
Co. A 26 Cmbt. Engrs.
Nashua, PA
#Victor Lopez

Robert P. Whitney 11
23rd M.P. Co.
Chicago, IL
#John Dutch DeGroot

Jerry R. Wiese
Co. C 4/3 Inf. 11 Bde.
Randolph, NE
#Bernard A. Sobjak

James W. Winkler
23rd M.P. Co.
Bedford, NY
#Larry Gelnett

Thomas J. Worrell
Hq. Btry. Div. Arty.
Vienna, VA
#Jim Lyons

#Sponsor

NEW MEMBERS

Michele G. Lombardo
Co. H 182 Inf.
Cape Coral, FL
#Michael J. Lombardo

Gary W. Lundgren
23rd M.P. Co.
Tampa, FL
#David L. Recob

John J. Molloy
164 Inf.
Lexington, MA
#F.C. Newton-S.A. Vinciull

James N. Mortimer
Btry. C 1/82 Arty. 196
Killeen, TX
#William K. Maddox

Floyd C. Nichols
23rd M.P. Co.
Kearney, MO
#Larry Gelnett

Edward W. Ostrosky
Co D-1/46-Co B 3/21 196
Kwa Ngwanase Rep. S.Africa
#Robert N. Thornton

Kenneth E. Powelson
Ranger Co.
Charlotte, MI
#James A. O'Brien

Mitchell W. Samples
Co. B 5/46 Inf. 198 Bde.
Charlesron, WV
#Robert N. Thornton

Richard K. Smith
23rd M.P. Co.
Friend, NE
#Larry Gelnett

Charles E. Struder
23rd M.P. Co.
Jackson, TN
#Larry Gelnett

Jay Vaughn
Co. E 1/52 Inf. 198 Bde.
Ocean, NJ
#Roland T. Castranova

William J. Whitney 11
3/2-1 Inf. 196 Bde.
Chester, VT
#Viet Vet Cebter

Alvin J. Wilson
23rd M.P. Co.
St Louis, MO
#Larry Gelnett

Walter A. Witt
Co. A 3461 Ord.
Placentia, CA
#David L. Recob

John E. Wright Jr.
Co. G 16 Avn.-14 Avn.
335 Trans.
Lake Jackson, TX
#Cpt. Emmitt H. Clark Jr.

ADJUTANT NOTES

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Don Blanco
23rd M.P. Co.
Springfield, MO

Billy M. Jent
23rd M.P. Co.
Landisburg, PA

Walter A. Mitt
Co. A 3461 Ord
Placentia, CA

TAPS

Frank McDougall
164th Infantry
Indian River, NC
September 22, 1991

Norman E. Weston
182 Infantry
Medford, MA
October 17, 1991

Stanley Hulaska
101 Medical Bn
Peabody, MA
September 30, 1991

George Monk
182 Infantry
Princeton, ME
1990

Mildred E. Chase
Woburn, MA
September 17, 1991

Mildred Chase, wife of Frederick Chase, a former member of the 101 Quartermaster, passed away on September 17, 1991. Although she was in ill health for the past seven years, her death came unexpectedly.

Mildred was a licensed practical nurse and was employed by the Choate Hospital in Woburn, MA. She is survived by her husband Fred, a daughter Patricia, and two sons, Fred Jr. and John.

She was involved in foster care for the Catholic Charities, having cared for over a dozen children from birth until they were adopted. Among her many friends she was known for her warmth and great sense of humor.

Fred and Mildred were married for 47 years. Mildred had many friends in the A.D.V.A. as she attended many of the organizations social gatherings.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

GUADALCANAL MEMORIAL FUND

WILLIAM K. MADDOX
ARTHUR CHAPMAN
ALFRED A. GARCEAU

IN MEMORY OF
ROBERT D. APPEL

IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM D. MURRAY

Please accept the enclosed check as a donation for the Guadalcanal Memorial Fund, in memory of my late husband William D. Murray. He served with Co. A 182 Infantry.

Sincerely,
Ethel Murray

CHAPTERS

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CHAPTER
AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN

Regional Commander
Edwin A. Heartquist
[REDACTED]

Tarpon Springs, FL 33589
Telephone [REDACTED]

SOUTH MID WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER CHAPTER
AK, LA, MS, OK, TX

Regional Commander
William K. Maddox
[REDACTED]

Portland, TX 78374
Telephone [REDACTED]

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER
IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

Regional Commander
Rush G. Propper
[REDACTED]

Swartz Creek, MI 48473

FAR WEST REGIONAL CHAPTER
AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, UT, NM

NOW FORMING CONTACT

JOE D. FEELER
[REDACTED]

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
TELEPHONE 1-505-888-4605

WILLIAM F. McGOLDRICK-CAPE COD CHAPTER
Plymouth & Wareham & South of the Canal

Cape Cod Chapter Commander
Allen D. Cappella
[REDACTED]

Plymouth, MA 02360

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER
DC, DE, KY, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV, MD, NJ

Eastern Regional Commander
Stephen N. Dennison
[REDACTED]

Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Telephone [REDACTED]

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER
IA KS MO NE ND SD

David L. Recob
[REDACTED]

Topeka, KS 66611
Tel: [REDACTED]

CHAPTERS

NORTH WEST CHAPTER
ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO,
MONTANA, WYOMING

NOW FORMING -- CONTACT

Lloyd J. Morrell
[REDACTED]

Redmond, OR 97756-9612

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

NOW FORMING -- CONTACT

ROLAND T. CASTRONOVA
[REDACTED]

PEABODY, MA 01960

CHAPTER NEWS

CENTRAL MID WEST CHAPTER NEWS

CMWC received its new Charter of June 1991 this month with 43 names of all who joined from 1990 up to June 1991. We now have a total of 59 members. The first 43 are Charter Members. (Stan Coleman - your on it!)

A letter mailed Aug 9th recommending a get together met with failure as only 1 member, Gary Noller, responded. It dealt with a River Boat Cruise & Dinner in Kansas City. So - any reunion this year is "dead". We will try for 1992. Also - San Antonio is June 1992.

Ron Ward, Bob Crews, and I, all join in wishing all of You and your Families a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year"! We wish you all the very best in 1992.

Bob Crews, Sgt At Arms
Dave Recob, Secretary
Ron Ward, Commander

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

COMMANDER
Stephen Dennison
[REDACTED]

Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Phone [REDACTED]

SEC/TREAS
Peter J. Messina Sec
[REDACTED]

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone [REDACTED]

George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

Dear Chapter Members:

We had a very enjoyable Chapter Reunion which was held on September 19-22 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The officers elected for 1992 are as follows:

Stephen Dennison - Chapter Commander
Peter Messina - Secretary/Treasurer
George Yates - Sergeant-at-Arms

As always, the Chapter Reunion was a huge success. This year it was especially true because we had 59 attendees at the dinner business meeting which is by far the best attendance since the Chapter was formed. Last year we had 50 people attending and this year we had 59 attending. Next year let's go for the big number 100.

AMERICAL NEWSLETTER

CHAPTER NEWS

Valley Forge itself is a great historical place to visit. Our tour of the Valley Forge Park on Saturday was highlighted by a surprise visit to Phoenixville and stopping off at the Vietnam veterans monument that is under construction. It will be dedicated this November 10, 1991.

The reunion dinner business meeting was held Saturday, September 21st. Our guest speaker was Captain Donato Dinello who gave a very knowledgeable and inspiring speech. Also, we had a surprise speaker who was Lt. Col. Fuller, one of our own chapter members who served in Vietnam with the 198th Light Infantry Brigade. He gave a very moving and stimulating overall picture of how the 198th was formed and some of their engagements in Vietnam. If you did not attend you really did miss out on a great time. Hopefully you will come and join us for our next reunion. Now I know you are waiting to find out the site for the 1992 Reunion. The site will be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The dates will be September 10-13. The hotel will be the Sheraton South which is located minutes away from downtown Pittsburgh on Route 19 South. More details will follow in the AMERICAL NEWSLETTER. Let's give Harold Stein and George Yates, the reunion committee members, our full support and hope we have an even bigger and better reunion in 1992.

I would also like to issue a challenge. Try to sign up one new member this year. Your National Adjutant, at our business meeting said we would break a membership record this year. So let's go out and show him what we can do in this Chapter.

Sincerely yours,
Stephen Dennison

19 NATIONAL CONVENTION '92

The details for the 1992 National convention are now being finalized. The dates have been set and the Hotel has been booked. Here is the plan:

June 18-21 1992
Holiday Inn
Riverwalk North
San Antonio, Texas

Mark your calendar NOW! We promise you a great time in this great state.

Full details will be put in the January-February 1992 issue of the Americal Newsletter.

William K. Maddox
Chairman

CONVALESCING

101 MEDICAL BN.

John J. Shea
[REDACTED]

Rockland, MA 02370

CO. C 182 INFANTRY

Roy Fettlers
[REDACTED]

Covington, OH 45318

If you know of any member that is under the weather or confined please notify Adjutant Bernie Chase - [REDACTED] - So Yarmouth, MA 02664

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GUYS COME FROM?
 (True story of Richard Drapczuk and Ken Hummel
 No B.S., understated if anything)

In March 1968, Co. "B", 1st/46th Inf., 198 LIB, was located at the Hill #54 firebase on Highway #1 about ten miles south of the provincial capital of Tam Ky. That morning the senior company medic told us the hospital ship USS Sanctuary was lying off the coast near Chu Lai. He said that if anyone had any medical conditions which couldn't be taken care of by the normal facilities afforded us, they could possibly be taken care of on the hospital ship. He already knew that I could use better eyeglasses, and we had had some trouble getting this done through the normal medical facilities. He told me he would issue a pass to get me out to the hospital ship, but I would need to get there on my own and would have to buddy-up with someone for safety. He also told us that Lt. Bob Ryan who recently transferred from "B" Co. to "E" Co. recon, had been wounded by a booby trap and was also out on the ship. This made the trip more appealing as Lt. Ryan was an okay officer and we thought he would like to see some old faces.

At the time I was the RTO for the company commander, and I was told that no one else from the command group could be spared to go with me. I went to the line platoons and told some of my friends what was happening, and Bill Derry, Max Milliman, and Ken Hummel all volunteered to go. We were told to arm ourselves as heavily as possible, take food and supplies for a few days in case we were stuck overnight somewhere, and to wait on Highway #1 for a southbound truck convoy. With our own and the weapons we borrowed, we figured we could slug it out at long range, short range, and eyeball to eyeball.

After getting the radio frequencies in case we couldn't make it back and had to call in, and adjusting our extra weapons, we all walked down to Highway #1, right outside the main gate, and also the location of a local village. Unfortunately, Derry and Milliman were attracted to the amenities afforded by the inhabitants, and decided to change their minds and spend the afternoon in the village. (ask them about that decision some day) Hummel and I still thought we could make it all right and decided to continue.

A Chu Lai bound truck convoy finally came along, and with a few additional hitches we made it down to the Navy sand ramps where the Hospital ship launch was based. We had no trouble getting out to the ship, and at the head of the boarding ladder we were assigned lockers for our weapons and equipment. After getting a receipt for the locker we went to see Lt. Ryan, and after a visit I went to get my eyes checked. I was very impressed with the facilities, especially the female staff who were in white uniforms, had round eyes, and smelled and looked great. After my eye exam, I was told to come back in an hour for the glasses.

We spent a little more time with Lt. Ryan, then Hummel and I toured the ship and found it to be like paradise. There were popcorn machines, soft ice cream dispensers, good food, music, and all the things we thought we wouldn't see again until we were back in the world. About the time I was picking up my new glasses, we heard an announcement over the PA that all visitors must report immediately to the debarkation point as the sea was picking up and there would only be one more boat back to shore. Hummel and I had previously discussed the idea of stowing away overnight, getting hot showers, seeing a movie, and doing all the things which were normal for the personnel on the ship but seemed like dreamland to us. It wasn't a hard decision to make. What would they do if they caught us,

send us to Vietnam? We found a lounge with lots of furniture, book shelves, entertainment equipment etc., and thought we could hide out there till the last boat was away.

About this time the PA system was still announcing the last boat, and then they started calling Hummel and I by name. They wanted to know if anyone checked us onto an earlier launch and forgot to take our names off the list. Then they started to announce us as stowaways and ordered everyone on the ship to begin searching for us. It wasn't till later that we found out how they knew we were definitely still aboard, though it wouldn't have been hard to figure out if we were thinking straight instead of being in awe at our surroundings. We managed to evade the search parties for about an hour, and even managed to slip back into Lt. Ryan's room for a few minutes. Even in his drug induced stupor to dull his pain, he still came wide awake and asked if we had heard the announcements looking for us. He knew it was a stupid question and we all laughed. Not wanting to get him in any trouble we left after a few minutes and went back to the lounge to hide behind the furniture again.

By now the Navy was really flipping out and we could hear them running all around looking for us. A search party eventually found us and started taking us to the authorities. On the way they kept asking us where the rest of the men were hiding and kept telling us it would go easier if we told them the names of everybody and where they were. We kept replying that there were only the two of us that we knew of. We didn't understand the reference to the other guys and thought other people must have coincidentally had the same idea as us. We eventually got back to the area where we boarded, and there were a number of really pissed off Navy officers waiting. They kept asking the same questions about the rest of the men, their names, where they were hiding, etc. This went on for awhile until they decided we were telling the truth or didn't know the others. We finally asked why they kept insisting there were others, and we volunteered to stay overnight to help them search. They said they didn't need any help, and that we would be spending the night in the brig or stockade. They said the M.P.'s would be waiting for us on land, but it could still go a lot easier if we told them about the other men. We finally realized how the confusion started when they told us they opened our weapons storage lockers and decided that there were far too many weapons for only the two of us.

When we heard that, Hummel and I cracked up and practically fell over laughing. After we recovered, neither of us said another word as we took the equipment from the locker and started to harness up. We both had side arms and M-16's, and I also had a pump shotgun and Hummel had an M-79. From the way we handled the weapons and equipment, a place for everything, and harnessed up in about fifteen seconds, it finally dawned on them that all the weapons belonged to just the two of us and there was no one else.

They all started to look at us real funny when they realized their mistake, and they also started to look a little apprehensive about being around us. Finally one old Navy chief came over and said, "Where in the hell did you two guys come from?", and when we told them we were Infantrymen straight from the bush they all started backing up against the wall. It was quickly apparent they had never seen grunts in full pack right out of the boonies. They said the only grunts they ever saw were on stretchers, and had no idea how we operated. Fortunately they began to get more friendly, and after we answered what we thought were a million stupid questions, they said they would call ashore and try to get another boat to come and get us.

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GUYS COME FROM? (Concludes)

They also notified the M.P.'s who were waiting for us ashore and told them it was a mistake. We eventually got ashore and even made it back to Hill #54 that night. We never forgot the scare we gave the Navy however, and every once in awhile Hummel and I would pass on a paddy dike or jungle trail and say, "Where's the rest of you?" and we'd both crack up.

Dear Members:

Have you ever had trouble breathing or catching your breath? If so, you will know how 44 year old Rod Kane feels.....24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!

When Rod was a mere 19 year old, as a combat medic in the central highlands of Vietnam, he risked his life every day to save the lives of countless others. Now he is fighting to save his own life. Diagnosed at the age of 31 with Alpha-1 Anti-trypsin Deficiency, which is an inherited form of emphysema that strikes at a very young age, he is now in the final stages of the lung disease. Sadly, the final chapter will be written unless he gets a lung transplant.

As a resident of the Washington DC area, Rod has been accepted as a candidate for the lung transplant program at Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, VA, but money must be raised to pay for the surgery and aftercare.

That's where we need your help. We have set up a tax deductible fund to help present Rod with the gift of life. Please help us today by becoming a "Friend of Rod Kane."

If you have any questions, please call Lene' Warden at (904)629-6160. Your financial gifts, as well as your prayers, will be greatly appreciated.

PLEASE HELP ROD AND HIS DOCTORS BEAT THE CLOCK! Rod is the author of "Veteran's Day" which is published by Pocket Books.



DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN

Members:

PFC Randy L Taylor was KIA on 8-17-67. He served with 2/1 196th LIB. He was the only man from the Brigade to be killed on that date. If anyone can recall the circumstances of his death, we have a relative who is seeking information. Contact:

Allan C Buck

West Sommerville, MA 02144 phone [REDACTED]

AMERICAL SCHOLARSHIP PLAN UNDER STUDY

Several members have raised the possibility of starting a scholarship program for children and grandchildren of our members. Your Vietnam Editor has come up with the following ideas which I would like to offer and then hope that with input from other members we might make this idea a reality. It is important to note that this is just an idea I want the help of all our interested members.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicant must be the son, daughter, grandchild, or legally adopted child of an ADVA member. Stepchild would be eligible if he/she lives with the member in a regular parent-child relationship. Applicant must be a high school senior when making application on an official form to be prepared by the ADVA. A deadline for application will be set for the last day of December.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must take the SAT in either their junior or senior year and a copy of the score from the Admissions Testing Program of the College Board must be received by a date to be set by the ADVA. Applicant will submit a biographical questionnaire prepared by the ADVA.

REGULATIONS

Scholarship is to be used toward pursuing undergraduate degree at an accredited college of the applicant's choice.

Winner may accept other scholarship assistance in addition to the ADVA award.

Grade transcript must be forwarded to the ADVA at the end of each school year.

Change of school or course of study done only with the permission of the ADVA.

If unusual conditions require an interruption in schooling, reasons must be stated in writing to the ADVA. Scholarship then could be held in abeyance if agreed upon by ADVA.

TERMS OF AWARD

Scholarship will be \$500 annually, renewable for four consecutive years upon approval of ADVA. Award money will be deposited with the college. Money to be used for college fees, including room and board.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Selection of winners will be made by volunteer members of the National Education Association.

The aforementioned are basic guide lines and we welcome some constructive criticism. I suppose the most important thing to discuss first is how we might fund this program. I don't think that the money should come from our general funds. This should be a separate fund raising effort and I hope that our Vietnam vet members will jump in with both feet as it is their children who will reap the most benefits. Should we raffle tickets? Sell souvenir items? Ask for donations? I urge you to contact our Commander, Rolly Castranova, or the Vietnam Editor with your ideas. If you would like to serve on the committee that will eventually be making firm rules for the program, drop us a line. I'd like to see about five good men step forward to volunteer. We're not getting any younger, so let's begin work immediately.

Yours in comradery,
 Ron Ward, Vietnam Editor

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Dear Brother Ron:

Thanks for mentioning about the book. We run into a few snags but hope to get it out in about a month. Also, if you want to use this for the newsletter:

I have (with the help of another Nam Vet) started the virst Point Man Ministries outpost here in the state of Georgia. We help the Bro's everybody gave up on. We are winning. We are a Christian by Vet for Vet outreach. (No help from the "churches").

I received from the Governor of the State of Georgia, Zell Miller, an award appointing me Lt. Col. Aide de Camp, Governors staff. Although this is not a paid position, it is an honor to receive whereas it is by Executive order and is a full military commission in the Georgia State Militia. Its basis dates from the Revolutionary War. I also was awarded the same from past Governor Joe Frank Harris.

Just to let you know we are out there helping all Brothers. Americal first and foremost takes point.

Frank Morrison told me to tell you thank you. He contacted the 25 Inf. Div. you did a world of good for him. God Bless.

From the Brotherhood in the South,
Alan L. Fuchs aka Big Al
Viet Nam Vet 1/14th 198th
Chu Lai 67-68

Members:

Our readers will recall ADVA member, Mike Burnes, and his proposed walk across the country to bring attention to homeless vets and POW-MIA's. Mike had his schedule set to arrive in D.C. for Veterans Day but a lack of funds forced him to postpone completion of his trek. If he is able to raise more cash he plans to continue on from his last stop which I believe was in Kansas.

Mike wrote to the Newsletter, "Please let the members know that I tried to complete the event but due to lack of financial support it was not possible. I still feel that the POW-MIA issue is very important. One time while my platoon was engaged, I became separated from them and very easily became a POW myself. Thanks for putting the info in the newsletter and I'm still proud to be a member of the Americal Division."

Michael Burnett

San Diego, CA 92101

Members:

Please send me information and an application for membership in your association. I was with the 1st. of the 1st. Armored Cav; Americal Div. (23rd Inf. Div.) in Viet Nam, 1968. Unfortunately or fortunately, my memory of Viet Nam has been hindered since being wounded. If you have any information as to where we were located, it would be greatly appreciated as I can't recall. I was driving an APC when we found a mine and evacuated to a hospital in Japan in a comma. If you could help me put a little of my life back together it would mean a great deal to me.

James A. Everett, Jr.

Garland TX 75040

Dear Ron,

I just returned from a wonderful visit with Linn Hoopes and his family in Iowa. Linn and I were in D Company 4/3, 11th LIB in 69-70. Although we spent about eight months out in the field together in Viet Nam, we didn't know each other then. He was in the 2nd Platoon and I was in 4th Platoon. We got in contact with each other through the Americal Newsletter and since have become good friends. Linn and I have been contacting other Delta Company members and encouraging them to join the Americal Association.

One thing that Linn and I have done that has worked out very well for us is putting our pictures and slides on videotape. We sent a copy of the tape to a couple of other men in our company that we located and asked them to review it. The response to our doing this has been outstanding and its very simple to do. You just set up your pictures or slides at a point that you can focus in on them with your video camera. Slides are a lot easier than pictures, but with the micro switch on the video camera and a little patience, you can do it. You then turn the camera on, talk about the picture, saying everything you know about it, i.e. who's in it, who you don't know, etc. You then turn the camera off, focus on the next picture, turn it on and discuss what you know about it. It takes some time, but it's well worth it. It's a great way to share your pictures and your experience with others that were in your company. It's also a great way to find out some of the names of the men that you've forgotten over the years. Once you have made the original copy, additional copies are easy to produce if you have access to two VCR's.

I hope this information is helpful to other Association Members.

Sincerely,
Jack Kanady

Springfield IL 62702

Members:

In my research on the "Fall of Kham Duc Special Forces Camp" I have located one of the heroes that some members of your organization might like to thank. "Former Warrant Officer Clarke Smiley of 178th Aviation Americal Division flew three loads of Americal infantry out of Kham Duc Special Forces Camp on May 12, 1968 (Mother's Day) in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. He was a hero who saved many a brother. If he gave you a ride out that day, give him a call at (603) 659-5080 and say "THANKS!"

K. Housel Bogue

Columbia SC 29209

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN

Members:

Sgt Russell A Pedersen served with B 3/1 11th LIB. He was KIA around November 1968 in Quang Tri Provence. Anyone with information about this soldier should contact his cousin:

M.T. McCormick

Rocky Point, NY 11778

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Members:

I'm looking for Americal bro's who were with A and C Battery 1/14 198th LIB during 67-68. I'm trying to find out about the B-52 Arc-Light that took place 22-26 December 1967 in Quang Tin or Quang Ngai Provence.

Al Fuchs

[REDACTED] Atlanta, GA 30340-4164

DO YOU KNOW THESE MEN?

Members:

I have been hoping to locate Pat McAllen or someone else who served with my brother in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. Recently, my mother showed me the enclosed pictures. I had never seen them before. They are from film that was in his camera and with his belongings in September, 1970, that was sent home.

I would like to find out who these fellows are and I'd like to hear from them. They must have been with Lee in the 123 Avn. Aero Scouts Co B. My brother's name is Lee MacDonald.

Janice Nelson

[REDACTED] Waterford MI 48328



CHECK TO THE RIGHT OF YOU NAME
ON THE ADDRESS LABEL
FOR YOU DUES DUE DATE

Fellow Americal Vets,

I just received my third issue of the newsletter, and I must say that it definitely is a fine publication and, make no mistake, it is doing Vets like me a lot of good.

I am a new member who served with C/3/1, 11th LIB, from July 69 to July 70, off FSB 411. I started out as a Point Man, then Demo, and finally RTO. I have enclosed three pictures and a letter which may be of interest to your readers. One picture is of the Chapel at the Combat Center in Chu Lai, one is of the gateway to the beach at the Combat Center, and I think the picture of the other sign was taken near the Stand-Down area in Chu Lai. The letter is one that a very young RTO (myself) sent home.

I experienced the same confusion and feelings of alienation that most of you did for several years. I was lucky enough to find a good employer and a good woman who were willing to take a chance on me, and I guess I fall under the category of "adjusted".

After being out of the Army for 17 years, I did a strange thing, I joined the Army Reserve. To my surprise, this had a very positive effect on me. I was treated with the utmost respect within the military community with my CIB and Americal shoulder patch. I was very proud to wear these insignia again. Though I decided to get out after three years, I will always be glad I had this experience. I have not had contact with anyone from my unit since leaving Vietnam. I would be very interested in hearing from the following:

Bill Brumley, TX
Pat Butcher, CA
Claude Fernandez, New Orleans
Dennis Amaro, Palo Alto CA
Mike Dore, NYC
John Alves, CA
Wm. Caulley, IN
Ismael Rendon
Mark Geiser, WI
Paul Douglas, SC
Jake Perry, Chicago
John Anderson
Micanopy, FL
Dale Clough, VT
Joe Harris
"Groucho"

I have lots of pictures, slides, and letters concerning Duc Pho and FSB 411. I worked in HHC, C/3/1, Awards Section for a while also. I have heard that there may be an organization or a reunion for FSB 411, and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has knowledge of that. Last, I would like to remember Doug Koning, Platoon Sgt. and Jim Jaquish, 60 gunner, who didn't make it back. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten as long as I'm alive. Thanks for all your hard work for this great organization. I hope I can recruit some new members.

Dean Hendrickson
1667 "D" St West Fort Dodge IA 50501



VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Veitnam Editor:

It was good to hear from you, and I appreciate your prayers. I had a checkup last week with the doctor that was in charge of my radiation therapy and he is very happy with my progress. He says that my blood problems are not from my cancer, and that it may be normal for me to be anemic. I wouldn't be surprised if Agent Orange was connected to part of my problem since I have had several unexplained non-malignant fatty tumors and I was treated for a form of lymph cancer which are two of the symptoms involved in Agent Orange.

The reason I am writing back so soon is to correct the two names that I sent you. The correct spelling is Lochman and his nickname was Rusty. He was wounded at Kham Duc when they were overrun. It was my teletype jeep that called in the C-130's and my teletype team missed being on the one that took the direct hit only because the fire was so heavy they had to run back into the jungle. The only reason I wasn't with them was because I was in Australia on R&R living it up while they were fighting for their lives.

The other name was John Mayhue, not Ron, as I had in my previous letter. He had four names instead of the usual first, middle and last, but I can't remember what the other two were. Also, I was told by one of my other buddies that I talked to last week that he was from closer to Kansas City than St. Louis. After 24 years, I'm lucky to remember my name some days.

Thanks again for the letter, and for all your efforts.

Steve Monroe

Cameron WV 26033



Steve Monroe NCOIC
Division MARS STATION
523rd SIGNAL

HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

1/Sgt David L. Recob, 23rd MP Co is seeking former Medics or Doctors and Nurses of the Medical Field Hospital at Chu Lai in July 1971 who may recall treating his Punji Stake injury to his right foot, injured at Hai Van Pass near DaNang while escorting a food and ammunition convoy bound for Kae Shan. Medical records went to the South China Sea during Typhoon Hyster and if you can recall please write him at 1241 S.W. 31st St, Topeka, KS 66611-2132. Information is needed to substantiate claim for a service connected disability. Any assistance is greatly appreciated and thanked. Please write!

HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

HAVE YOU CALLED THAT BUDDIE YET?

Dear Members:

The Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has a program called "In Touch", a locator service to connect loved ones, friends, and fellow veterans of persons lost in Vietnam. It has been a most rewarding experience to facilitate such important connections. I'm enclosing a list of persons from the Americal Division who died in Vietnam and whose families want to communicate with those who served with their loved ones. Would it be possible for you to print this list in your newsletter? As an organization which promotes the healing legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, we receive frequent requests for help when Vietnam veterans, friends, and families of deceased Vietnam veterans attempt to find each other. Any assistance you could offer us would be greatly appreciated.

In addition to "In Touch", the services we offer include providing name rubbings requested by families and friends throughout the country, placing roses at the Memorial on Father's Day, maintaining an assistance table at the Wall, and responding to the many inquiries about the Memorial and related subjects. Our work is accomplished largely by volunteers and there are no charges for these services. The sale of Wall-related books, tapes, and other items, memberships and donations provide for our costs of operations. If you would like more information about any of our projects, please write or call us at: Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, [REDACTED], Washington DC 20005,

On behalf of the families of your fallen comrades from the Americal Division, we would very much appreciate your efforts in helping us locate their fellow veterans.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline L. James
"In Touch" Volunteer

FAMILIES ARE LOOKING FOR VETERANS WHO KNEW THESE MEN:

AMERICAL

Allen, Wayne SFC
71Avn, 14AvnBn, 16AvnGr 01/10/70
Biddulph, Thomas A. 1LT
D, 1/198 10/17/68
Daley, Gerald PFC
D, 2/196 06/30/69
Hanson, Johnnie PFC
A, 2/1 (196) 03/19/69
Heitman, Kenneth SGT
C, 3/21 (196) 03/25/70
Holden, David PFC
A, 4/31 (196) 02/28/67
Mangino, Thomas SSGT
D, 4/31 (196) 04/21/67
Murphy, Larron CPT
F, 8th Cav 04/23/70
Newberry, Larry CPL
11th LIB 09/30/68
Richard, Duane SP5
335 TransCo, 16AvnGr 02/10/70
Two Crow, Blair PFC
11th LIB 05/12/68
Widner, Danny SGT
E, 1/2 05/12/68
Haynes, Jr., Robert M. SP4
198th Inf. Bde, 5/46 10/05/69

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION MAKES A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN HEART FUND, EACH YEAR, IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

KOKOMO, INDIANA

In September of 1991, Howard County, Kokomo, Indiana, held a Vietnam Veterans Reunion.

PNC Ronald Ward and the Junior Vice Commander of the A.D.V.A. were present. Below are some pictures of the Reunion.



Bob Kastings Ernie Huerta Dutch DeGroot Ron Ward



THE WAY IT IS

The jungle's aroma cut the clean through the air, of burnt and rotten flesh.

The ticks and scorpions were countless, malaria and jungle rot made it hard to rest.

Life was just a passing thing, with little meaning at all.

Some would return home to die, yet many were taken from our side: We often watched them fall. Filth was not only companion, in a night as dark as Hell.

The water had to be purified, even then we drank it through the smell.

Was the war a victory, or a sign unto our Nation. Was it possibly a warning, from the One who made Creation?

To a country blinded by its greed, these things are hard to see.

But still, within the providential path the war simply had to be.

A nation loses all that's good, when its infiltrated by such sin.

God forbid, yet it must surely come, the black Eagle will fly again.

Paul Hughes

Ward 9A, USA Hospital
APO San Francisco 96343
KVN Patient
Awarded Medal of Honor

RETURN TO THE PACIFIC

GUADALCANAL

NEW CALEDONIA

VALOR TOURS, LTD.

GUADALCANAL ITINERARY NO 3

Mon Aug 03 Depart Los Angeles at 2045 (8:45 PM)
 Tue Aug 04 Cross International Date Line
 Wed Aug 05 Arrive Fiji. Connect with flight to Guadalcanal.
 Arrive about 1300 hours. Trans To Hotel Mendana.
 Thu Aug 06 Choice of cruise across Iron Bottom Bay or busses
 to Eastern Battlefields.
 Fri Aug 07 Shuttle Bus to War Memorial dedication on Skyline Drive.
 Sat Aug 08 Shuttle Bus to Allied Memorial at Rove Police Station.
 Sun Aug 09 Choice of cruise across Iron Bottom Bay or Busses to
 Western Battlefields.
 Mon Aug 10 Busses to Tambea, Vilu Village etc.
 Tue Aug 11 Free day
 Wed Aug 12 Noon departure to Fiji. Connect with flight to Noumea.
 Thu Aug 13 Free day
 Fri Aug 14 Full day trip to Burail
 Sat Aug 15 Tour of historic Noumea - WW II points of interest.
 Sun Aug 16 CEREMONY and PARADE
 Mon Aug 17 Tues Aug 18 To be planned
 Wed Aug 19 Early morning flight to Fiji. Stay at Regent Hotel on
 beach. Flight to Suva if selected. Otherwise
 spend day at the Hotel Regent.
 Thu Aug 20 If you selected Suva-sightseeing around Suva
 Fri Aug 21 Evening party with the Fiji Returned Servicemens
 Club. (Like our V.F.W.)
 Sat Aug 22 By coach to Nadi along the Coral Coast. Evening
 flight to Los Angeles. Arrive same day-Sat Aug 22

The cost of this combined 19 day tour will be approximately \$4770
 per person sharing a room. For just the Guadalcanal leg of the
 tour (ten days) the price is \$2950 round trip from Los Angeles.

Please write IMMEDIATELY if you are interested. A soon as the
 number of persons going is determined the EXACT fare will be
 quoted. If you are just interested in New Caledonia see next page.

Publisher of
COLOR
GUARD



RETURN TO THE PACIFIC

NEW CALEDONIA

VALOR TOURS, LTD.

Publisher of
COLOR
GUARD



ITINERARY NO.1.

LOS ANGELES/SYDNEY/NOUMEA/SYDNEY/LOS ANGELES (Or San Francisco)

Mon Aug 10. Late evening departure from Los Angeles via QF12.2030 hrs.
 Tue Aug 11. Cross International Date Line and lose this day.
 Wed Aug 12. Arrive Sydney 0720 hrs. Transfer to hotel. Sightseeing
 to include the Battle of the Coral Sea Museum.
 Thu Aug 13. Transfer to airport for flight SB145 to Noumea. Transfer
 to Le Surf Novotel.
 Fri Aug 14. Full day trip to Burail.
 Sat Aug 15. Tour of historic Noumea to include WWII interest.
 Sun Aug 16. CEREMONY and PARADE.
 Mon Aug 17. Early flight SB140 to Sydney. Transfer to hotel in Sydney,
 probably Olims near Kings Cross.
 Tue Aug 18. Optional sightseeing, recommend the Harbor Cruise.
 Wed Aug 19. Evening departure via QF3 to Los Angeles via Honolulu.
 Option to return to San Francisco if you wish.
 Cost estimate \$3167 per person twin share based upon a total of 15
 persons travelling together. Cost includes airport transfers, sightseeing,
 hotels on twin share basis, transport on Sun Aug 16, cancellation insurance.

ITINERARY NO.2.

WEST COAST/FIJI/NOUMEA/SYDNEY/WEST COAST (Los Angeles or San Francisco)

Sat Aug 08. Late evening departure via QF to Fiji.
 Sun Aug 09. International Date Line. Lose this day.
 Mon Aug 10. Arrive Nadi, Fiji connect to 30 minute flight to Suva.
 Stay at Travelodge. Transfers.
 Tue Aug 11. Sightseeing of Suva in morning. Optional visit to Fiji
 Veterans Club this evening. Very good fun.
 Wed Aug 12. Coach ride from Suva to Nadi via Coral Coast. Stop for
 lunch along the way. Early evening flight to Noumea. Transfers
 to Le Surf Novotel upon arrival.
 Thu Aug 13. Four hour tour of WWII history in Noumea.
 Fri Aug 14. Full day trip to Burail.
 Sat Aug 15. Day free.
 Sun Aug 16. CEREMONY and PARADE.
 Mon Aug 17. Early morning flight to Sydney. Sightseeing in Sydney.
 Tue Aug 18. Mid afternoon flight via QF to Los Angeles or San Francisco.

Cost estimate \$4014 per person twin share based upon 15 persons travelling
 together. Includes transfers, hotel on twin share basis, sightseeing,
 baggage transfers, cancellation insurance. Transport on August 16 in Noumea.

Airlines used are Qantas and Air Caledonie.

When we have a better idea of the number in the group and your choice of
 Itinerary 1 or 2, we will be able to finalise cost. But this should give
 you a very close approximation.

Please note: Flight schedules to Noumea are very infrequent. Robert F. Reynolds

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

Members:

I believe that many of the members, the aviation types in particular, will recognize the photograph I'm enclosing. I painted it on the wall of our radar bunker in 1969 while a member of the 252nd on Artillery Hill. We were a counter mortar/rocket radar unit. For the most part, we worked at night but we also did quite a few artillery registration missions during daylight hours. When I went to Vietnam, in May, 1968, I was assigned to the Survey Section, HQ Battery, 3/16 Artillery on Artillery Hill. Nine months later I was transferred to the 252nd located on the same hill. The 252nd was later moved to Quang Nhí on a hill overlooking the Song Trabong and a sugar refinery. At that time it was our job to train the ARVIN's in the operation of the radar. My DROS was November, 1970.

I had many "interesting" experiences and found many friends while in country. If any of those friends are reading this I would like to hear from them.

To the Americal Division Veterans Association and the editors of the Americal Newsletter, I must say: "Keep up the good work".

James Besonen

Grayling MI 49738



D CO. 1/46 INFANTRY 196 LIB

I am trying to locate my buddies from my old outfit. I lost all of my addresses a long time ago. I served in Vietnam from September 1970 until September 1971.

I would certainly like to hear from anyone that served in 1/46.

Carl Austin

Murphy, OR 97533

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

Michael Stuart, who did two tours in Nam is trying to locate men he served with. First hitch was with 5/46th 198th LIB 67-68' and second tour was with 75th Rangers of the 173rd Airborne. In country 1969 and part of 70' when he was wounded.

Michael Stuart

Wright City, Mo. 63390 phone # [REDACTED]

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

FINNIS MC CLEERY DOWNPLAYS HEROICS OF MEDAL OF HONOR

**M. HENSON 26TH ENG.
FIRST PLATOON - ROADSWEET POINTMAN**
In March, 1969, with an increase in NVA and Viet Cong activity in the area, and nearly nightly mortar attacks, 1st Platoon was again pulling the roadsweep duties from LZ Baldy to the Triple Culverts Crossing. The halfway point to LZ Ross.

The increase of enemy activity was enough to make everyone feel uneasy or become more superstitious but now many of us had another reason to be more so. Half of us were now short, having completed ten months or more of our tours.

After spending so much time In-Country, those of us who were short didn't want to now make that one minor mistake "Get too Careless!" Meaning anything from letting your guard down, to overlooking some small minor detail.

Early, on the morning of the 22nd, the Platoon was getting ready for another roadsweep to the Triple Culverts. Since all the men had been picked for each of the three mine detector teams, the rest of us waited for our assignments.

No one seemed to want to be the Pointman, so looking at Sgt. Wettig, our Platoon Sergeant, I said, "I'll be the Pointman!" O.K. was his answer, then added. "Two men will also go with you." They will follow at a distance to remove the debris from the road."

We were then told to stay well ahead of the Platoon at all times. I knew for most of the roadsweep that we'd be out of sight of the Platoon and hoped I wouldn't get the three of us too far ahead, in case of trouble. Leading the way, the three of us started and soon were out of sight. Depending on the amount of, and kinds of debris that would be on the road, I didn't want to slow the sweep teams down. Knowing that they'd run the risk of getting ambushed, if slowed.

Recalling roadsweeps that got us into many ambushes in the past, I knew those of us who were short knew one thing as a fact. We had always been so lucky, but now knew that soon the cards and luck were sure to be against us, one day.

It always happens, get short and your luck runs out! Then I thought of a friend who had been scared his whole tour. He was finally short and had one day to go when the truck he was riding in hit a mine. Vietnam had beat him!

Glancing back to check on the two men, I stopped and waited. When they got closer I told them not to bunch up and be more cautious. Then we saw the lead elements of the platoon come into sight. We were going to have to get moving a little faster and soon we had put some distance between us and the rest of the Platoon. With very little debris found so far, and not wanting to get too far ahead we decided we could take a short break.

Turning to let the other two know they could take a short break, I saw they were still walking along and talking.

Smoking a cigarette and keeping an eye on the Country and hoping we weren't too far ahead of the Platoon now, I decided to tell the other two, in case they forgot where they were, that they were in a place called Vietnam. Where strange things happen to those that don't stay alert.

To be continued..

San Angelo's only living Medal of Honor winner likes to attend events honoring veterans. But only as a spectator.

At a recent parade "someone asked me to ride in one of the cars, and I said, 'You let the other guys. It's their time,'" Finnis Mc Cleery said. "I received more than my share of appreciation." Mc Cleery, 63, was a 40-year-old Army platoon sergeant in Vietnam when he earned the nation's highest award for heroism. The attention came from receiving the award made the shy soldier painfully uncomfortable. "At first, I asked them just to ship the medal to me," Mc Cleery said. "I've never been comfortable around crowds of people." President Richard Nixon pinned the medal on Mc Cleery in a White House ceremony in 1971. San Angelo honored the soldier with a Finnis Mc Cleery day celebration shortly afterward.

Mc Cleery overcame his uneasiness with the San Angelo crowd to make this speech: "All I really want to say is how much I'm grateful for this wonderful welcome you've given me. Thank you." Since then, he has tried to live a "normal life." He worked for a refrigeration company for a while, then ran his own refrigeration company for 10 years before retiring. "I keep pretty quiet," he said. "I can go anywhere I want and nobody recognizes me. That's the way I like it."

For most of his life, though, Mc Cleery longed to be a soldier. During World War II, he pestered his parents to sign for him so he could enter the Merchant Marine at age 16. They wouldn't. But a week after his 18th birthday, he had enlisted and was on a bus to Fort Bliss. He did not see combat during his three-year enlistment during that war nor during the Korean War, when he served as an Army paratroop trainer. By the time he found himself on a troop ship in the late '60s, heading for Vietnam, he had "some doubts about my ability to fight. I'd been in the service for a long time, but had never been in combat." He remembers the first catching sight of Vietnam, from his troop ship eight miles offshore. Mc Cleery saw combat soon after arriving. "The Tet Offensive was in '68. You've probably heard of that. We hit action pretty quick after we got there." He quickly earned two medals, Silver and Bronze stars. "I didn't think they gave medals for things like that," he said, down playing his heroics. "I thought, 'Well, you fight and you fight as long as you can. You're a soldier. That's just what you're supposed to do,' I thought they had me mixed up with someone else."

He was awarded the Medal of Honor, according to an Army statement, for "distinguishing himself on May 14, 1968, while serving as platoon leader of the 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, Americal Division." American troops were attacking a reinforced company of North Vietnamese Army regulars who were entrenched on Hill 352, west of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province. "As sgt. Mc Cleery led his men up the hill and across an open area," the statement said, "his platoon and other friendly forces were pinned down by heavy fire coming down by heavy fire coming from the fortified enemy positions. Realizing the damage the enemy could inflict on the allied forces if their advance stopped, Mc Cleery began a one-man assault on the bunker complex. Mc Cleery is credited with running across 80 yards of open ground under heavy rifle, grenade and rocket fire, returning the fire as he neared the complex. Although wounded by shrapnel, he continued the assault on the main bunker and killed its occupants.

"He climbed on the top of the bunker he had just captured and, in full view of the enemy, shouted encouragement to his men to follow his assault. He was wounded a second time as he destroyed a bunker, but he continued his attack until the friendly forces had routed the enemy."

"I was mad at the time," Mc Cleery recalled. Two U.S. companies had previously taken the hill and had it taken away. "I thought they should have held their objective. I thought, 'Hell, I can take that hill by myself, if I have to.'" He remembers part of the "encouragement" he shouted from the top of the enemy bunker. Another sergeant shouted to Mc Cleery, "Get down before you get your head blown off." Mc Cleery replied, "Get up here and fight like a man!" The other sergeant "finally got the men moving up the hill," Mc Cleery remembered, "and when they got moving, they fought like hell." Mc Cleery is quick to play down his heroics. "I don't know whether I really earned the medals," he said quietly.

"I guess I did. I was out there by myself a lot. And I tried to kill as many of those people as I could. That bothered me some, later on."

They don't close their eyes, you know. You hit a bunker, kill three or four of them, and, while you're in their bunker, reloading, you're close to them. "You see them, watch them. Just lying there. Eyes open. Staring at you like, 'why the hell did you do that for?' They were young people. That kept me awake many nights. I did a lot of floor-walking over that."

"I felt bad about them, but, hell, they would've done the same thing to me. "We were soldiers."

REFLECTIONS ON THE GULF WAR

I realize that Vietnam vets had some differences among themselves on the 'Gulf issue' but I believe the common issue that binds us is how best to secure peace. I'm sharing some of my perceptions taken from a speech that I delivered at work back in January.

I believe it is important for Americans to form firm opinions and for them to express these opinions on Persian Gulf issues. Primarily, because anyone who speaks with others influences others, which in turn can collectively influence the outcome of events.

To formulate my position, I returned to the basics, beginning with historical observations that when disagreements cannot be resolved diplomatically, nations often resort to violence to impose their will upon their adversaries.

Societies resort to war primarily to advance or defend their economies, religions, cultures, or to expand the power of their leaders. "Oil" appears to be synonymous with economic power in this current crisis. Economies of industrialized nations. Unfortunately these nations remain petroleum dependent. Predictably, nations whose economic foundations are oil-driven will, at some point, commit military forces when they perceive a threat to price stability or availability of petroleum. Reliable reports indicate a mere 200 mile thrust of Iraqi forces along the coast of Saudi Arabia would leave 40% of the world's known oil reserve under Iraqi

Continues on Page 13

VIETNAM NEWS NETWORK

REFLECTION ON THE GULF WAR (Continues)

control--with Husseins hands around the worlds economic jugular vein. The additional oil leverage would have provided funds to fuel Husseins armed territorial acquisitions in a region already torn by instability.

History has taught many lessons, yet few are as consistently repeated as the tyrant's willingness to use force to gain power. As the United Nations align in rare sanctions against Iraq, it seems reasonable to predict Americas active military involvement in the Middle East either now or later. In many estimates, "later" means facing a more deadly enemy who would exact greater American casualties.

It is logically desirable to secure stable peace through minimum expense of American casualties and resources by seeking reasonable, attainable objective, including:

1. Rapid U.S. victory, without resorting to Selective Service.
2. Minimization of casualties on both sides.
3. Establish responsible medical, emotional, fiscal support for veterans.
4. Stabilize balance of power in the Middle East.
5. Elimination or control of Iraq's ability to produce nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.
6. Allied contribution to U.S. costs. U.S. secures stable oil prices.

I believe a pragmatic stance demands my support in granting President Bus use of military power against Iraq. Yet, my opinion is not formed in an emotional vacuum. In southeast Asia I witnessed first-hand the cruel face of combat. When my emotions speak, war is a monument to human political failure, its vile carnage stains the human spirit, takes a toll beyond battle. My emotions urge that I refuse to sanction risking large-scale American casualties for any threat less than imminent invasion of American or Allied soil.

Ironically, it is precisely my hatred for the brutality of war, coupled with my understanding that will always be wars and rumors of wars, that causes me to support the Presidents use of force now to avoid spending more American lives, in what I believe would be an inevitable war later. I accept the responsibility that if the war becomes more costly than anticipated or fickle public opinion shifts, I have the courage of my commitments to admit to wounded servicemen, families of the casualties, and the public, that I believe we were correct to accept the risk, once victory has been secured. Thanks, mostly to veterans, the public appears willing to separate the Gulf War from the warriors. I challenge Vietnam veterans to increase support, aid, and honor for Americas veterans and pray the American people will follow our example.

Jan "Duster" Heath
198 L.I.B. '67-68'

OUR ACTIVITY WILL ONLY GROW IF YOU DO YOUR PART . . .

RECRUIT !

HOW THE SHARKS GOT THEIR TEETH

Poenix, Arizona
June 28, 1966

Major Dick Overham USA
174th Aviation Co. (Airmobile) (Light)
14th Aviation Battalion
APO US Forces--96238

Dear Major Overham:

Having just returned from the Air force Academy and our 1966 Annual Convention of the American Fighter Association (where I was with just about all the Flying Tigers) I considerate it an appropriate time to acknowledge your letter of June 14th--requesting permission to adapt the shark-mouth used on our P-40s back in World War II--to the "faces" of your organization's 540 Huey 'copters.

So--you have my immediate permission. As the Commander of the 23rd Fighter Group as well as General Claire Chennault's Fighter Commander for the CATF--I pass it on to you because I know that if he were alive he would give it to your organization. He and his Tigers gave me that permission long ago--and they would want any group of American fighting men to aid in its continuance of use--for the purpose of winning against the enemies of the United States...

Therefore, authority is hereby granted and I assure you I will write members of the First American Volunteer Group (Flying tigers) and tell them what I have done in their name. I assure you that such men as Tex Hill, Ed Raster, Bob Layher, Bob Neal, Chuck Sawyer, Gil Bright and Jim Howard--of the original group--as well as General Bruce Holloway, Dallas Clinger and all the others of my later 23rd fighter Group--will back me. In the mean time--please pass on to your fine men that all of us who ever flew in combat behind that shark-mouth--wish you--the 1966 version of the Tigers---every success...

Good hunting and GOOD LUCK!

Robert L. Scott Jr.
B/Gen., USAF (ret.)
Former Fighter Commander
China Air Task Force



Fred Thompson on left with Ralph G. Cartt C/E of A/C 242 at Khe Sahn, March 1971
174th AHC Sharks Gun.

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

ARMY POST CLOSINGS TO START IN 1996
FORT DEVENS FIRST

The Air force is moving faster than the Army and Navy to close unneeded bases.

A tentative base closing schedule released by the Defense Department shows the Air force plans to close seven bases in 1993, five in 1994 and one in 1995.

The Navy plans to close one base each of those of years and close three in 1996 and three in 1997. The Army plans to close two bases in 1996 and three in 1997.

The Air force is motivated by money, said Maj. Nino Fabiano, an Air force spokesman. "It cost a lot to operate the bases" and closing them early will save money, he said.

Closing bases and relocating troops may be a simple process for the Air Force than for other services, Fabiano said. "There are smaller numbers of people move," he said. Closing an Air Force base probably requires locating fewer people than closing an Army base and moving the "huge numbers of people" attached to an Army division, he said.

And in most cases, the Air force is moving people to bases where no new construction is required to accommodate them, Fabiano said.

Closing bases across the country was recommended by a special commission to shrink the military's real estate holdings as its work force decreases. The recommendations made in June and approved by President Bush and Congress. The Commission called for closing 27 military bases and seven research facilities and changing missions and adjusting troop numbers at 48 other bases.

The 1991 base closing recommendations followed a 198 decision to close 86 bases and partially close or realign 59 others. The Defense Department has decided to stop operations at dozens of small and medium-sized installations in Europe.

The schedule for closing the bases on the 1991 list is tentative, Defense Department officials caution, but Eaker Air Force Base, Ark., appears to be the first base scheduled to be close.

The first Army troops affected by the new round of base closings will be the 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Devens, Mass. They will begin moving to Fort Carson, Colo., in 1992 and complete the move by 1993. At Fort Carson, they will be housed in temporary quarters until new quarters are completed in 1996.

One of the controversial base closing for the Army is Fort Ord, California. The 7th Infantry Division (Light) is scheduled to move to Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1993 and 1994. Military operations at Fort Ord will end July 1995. Environmental cleanups on the base are expected to continue at until until the year 2000.

SCEDULE OF CLOSINGS

Fort Devens, MA	June 1996
Fort Ord, CA	September 1996
Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN	July 1997
Harry Diamond Lab. VA	September 1997
Sacramento Army Depot, CA	September 1997



182D INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
[REDACTED], EVERETT, MA. 02149

On October 24th, 1991, our Association held their annual elections of the 1992 membership year. Those elected were - Charles L. Doyle of Revere (Commander); James E. Lane of Charlestown (Vice Commander); Warren J. Zannino of Malden (First Vice Commander); Robert A. Cox of Arlington (Adjutant); Donald E. Estabrooks of Peabody (Finance Officer); John D. Malenchini of Melrose (Trustee - 3 yrs); David I. Westerman of Malden (Trustee - 2 yrs); PC Donald E. Tibbets of Chelsea (Trustee - 1 yr); plus PC Ronald V. Gibbons of Chelsea, PC William Duke of Melrose, and PC Douglas F. Tarbox of Everett (Executive Council).

Our congratulations to Staff Sergeant Ronald F. Baker of company B and Specialist Kevin J. Sherman of Headquarters Company, on having been selected as 182d Infantry Battalion's "Soldier of the Year" for the 1991 training year.

Attention all former members of the 182d Infantry, and prior service men regardless of military service. Membership in the 182d Infantry Association is open to all officers and enlisted personnel now serving, or have served with the 182d Infantry, an an assigned or attached status; or as a member of any US military service; or as a citizen of the US with no military service. If not yet a member of our Association, and would like some literature on us, drop a note or postcard to Commander, 182d Infantry Association, P.O. Box 278, Everett, MA 02149. By return mail I will see that you get information of our Association; plus how you can join our organization.

Charles L. Doyle Commander

WINGED VICTORY DIVISION

43d INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SUNBELT CHAPTER

January 23 thru January 26, 1992

Panama Orlando Central

[REDACTED]

Orlando, Florida 32808

For additional information please contact:

William E. Head

Crystal River, FL 32629
904/795-1170

THE AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION
MAKES A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE
AMERICAN HEART FUND, EACH YEAR,
IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

AMERICAL (23) INFANTRY DIVISION
Historical Section

The History Section of the ADVA wants YOU!

Military histories are written about units. From time to time, the exploits of individuals are included to give depth to the narrative. BUT units are composed of many individuals with many different experiences. Each person has his own story to tell and we want it.

My first day in combat was awesomely awful. What was your experience?

Did you have happen and event so unbelievable that, even today, you find it difficult to believe?

In the heat of operations, did something happen which was out-of-place, or funny, that you remember it to this day?

Etc., etc., etc..

You could be surprised how easily events and conversations are recalled. Take a sheet of paper and ---

Write (or print): Your name, date of birth; unit in Americal to which you were assigned; term of service with that unit; highest rank in Americal; branch of service; awards and citations; campaigns.

THEN

Then tell us your story. Write it, type it, record it. We will keep a file set up in alphabetical order by period of service. (ie. WW II, Canal Zone, Vietnam).

FINALLY: Mail it to: W. Mark Durley
ADVA History Section

Santa Maria, CA 93454

Ed Note: Mark is the official Historian for the Americal Division Veterans Association. He is well qualified for this position and will do an excellent job. He has already completed several projects for the ADVA, as noted in the last issue of the Americal Newsletter.

Please give him your cooperation--these are stories that only YOU can tell and they should be recorded in the history of the Americal. Jim

COMPANY B 182 INFANTRY

Please accept the enclosed donation to the Guadalcanal Solomon Island War Memorial in memory of my husband Robert D. Appell, who was in Company B 182 Infantry. He was very proud of the Americal.

I have been reading and re-reading "Under the Southern Cross" and no wonder, it was such an outstanding and brave history of World War II.

Thank you,
Mrs. Jean Appell

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED YOUR NEWSLETTER
PLEASE PASS IT ON TO A NON-MEMBER

★ GUADALCANAL ★
SOLOMON ISLANDS
WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Roland T. Castranova
252 Newbury St.

Peabody, MA 01960

Dear Roland:

The Guadalcanal-Solomon Islands War Memorial Foundation thanks not only the Americal Division Veterans Association for their contribution but most of all for having a continuing publication of the contributors and the progress of the memorial.

Although the Memorial is not entirely paid for we lack only about \$40,000. Dedication will be held at Guadalcanal on August 7, 1992, some time in the morning. The Allied Memorial will be dedicated in the afternoon of August 7, 1992.

In addition to the dedication of the Memorials the Heroes' Wall will be updated with plaques listing the Medal of Honor Awardees for Guadalcanal, the Victoria Cross and Medal of Honor Awardees for the Solomon Islands and Bougainville. A plaque will list the American naval vessels that were either sunk or damaged. There will be a plaque to list all the air and ground units that fought in the Battle for Guadalcanal.

A number of obelisks will bear plaques describing the battletrail from Red Beach including Edson Ridge, Ilu River through to the End of the Land Struggle.

The marble walls are being engraved in Australia with the words of Wm. Manchester and Bob Muehrcke. In late November 1991 they will be shipped by Australian naval vessels to Guadalcanal for assembly.

Many thanks to the officers and editorial staff for their continuing excellent cooperation. Thanks for helping in every way possible in making this Memorial a lasting Memorial to those men not only from the Americal Infantry Division but the Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Coastguardsmen that fought there during World War II.

Thanks and God bless you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Muehrcke, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Chairman

If you are interested in being present for the dedication of this Memorial please see the brochure for the trip in the Centerfold. If you have not already written of your interest Please write to Jim Buckle NOW!

LETTERS FROM THE OLD GUARD

ATTENTION WW II MEDICS & INFANTRYMEN

During the Phillipine Island campaign in 1945 the US Army used the Helicopter for the first time to evacuate wounded from mountain and jungle positions on Luzon. I have established that units of the 38th DIV and 112th CAV were involved and I would be grateful if anyone can recall the use of helicopters with any AMERICAL unit in the Pacific! I am also interested in air evacuation by Liaison aircraft from "frontline" positions. Your recollections on these or any other unusual or difficult casualty evacuation would be important in my history of "aeromedical evacuation" Please write or call me!

Joe 'Doc' Kralich

[REDACTED]
Ranchos, NM 87557
Tel [REDACTED]

At our Convention next year in San Antonio be sure to consider a visit to the Army Medical Museum and Post Museum at Fort Sam Houston! Each has some fine exhibits on WW II and Vietnam. Joe

Ed Note: Joe served in the Americal in Vietnam. He is writing a book on the MEDICS. I had the pleasure of meeting him when visiting "Angel Fire" New Mexico. This is a monument to a Marine KIA in Vietnam.

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COMPANY C 182 INFANTRY

Are there any guys out there, that belong to the ADVA, from Company C 182 Infantry, that were on the Landing Craft with me when we made the beachhead landing on Cebu?

Do you remember when the Officer in charge of the Landing Craft panicked when shells, from the big guns in the hills, were exploding all around us as we approached the beach?

We were all hunkered down on the boat when they let the ramp down. What a surprise we got when we stepped off--we were up to our necks in water--and at least a hundred yards or more from shore.

From reports that I heard, Captain Brown, our Company Commander, had him court-martialed.

On the lighter side, do any of y'all remember when they let us come down from the front lines, for a day, to take a bath and a shave. I mean, you talk about a bunch of dirty, filthy, bderaggled, bearded guys. You never saw the likes of this bunch! Instead of a shower a water truck met us. We preceede to shed our dirty clothes and get a helmet of water. Well, as luck would have it, I got all soaped up and the truck ran out of water. So there I stood in heat over 100 degrees, waiting for the truck to get back with more water. I thought the truck would never come, the soap dried on me so I put my clothes on and waited. It certainly felt good to get that soap off, after the water truck finally arrived. The ting about it was tha after the bath we had to put our dirty clothes back on. But anyways, it still felt good after a bath. After that ordeal, I never took a bath from a water truck again.

One other thing. I know that Company C went to Japan on the AKA Samuel Chase because I met a guy on board ship from Corpus Christi, Texas, that I went to school with. I called him the other day and he said that that was the ship we were on. They were all Coast Guard ships that took the Division to Japan.

If any of you remember me, drop me a line or, call 512-643-4964.

William B. Maddox

[REDACTED]
Portland, TX 78374

P.S. Roy Fettters, who was in the same squad with me on Cebu, is very ill and would appreciate hearing from members, especially C Company.

Roy Fettters

[REDACTED]
Covington, OH 45318

On September 10, 1991, PNC Al Doig and PNC Bob Thornton presented a copy of "Under the Southern Cross" to General Wayne E. Wagner on behalf of Bernie Chase and Bill McLaughlin, Co-Chairmen for the 1991 Convention in Hyannis.

General Wagner is Commanding General of the 26 (Yankee) Infantry Division MNG. He was most helpful in arranging for a band at the Convention and also arranging for a tour of Camp Edwards.



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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1991

Eligibility for Membership

Membership in ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted men now serving with or who have served with the Americal (23d INF) Division in an assigned or attached status during the following periods:

World War II (South Pacific)	1942-1945
Korean War (Caribbean)	1954-1956
Vietnam	1967-1973

Eligibility includes those who served with Task Force 6814 and Task Force Oregon. Branch of service is immaterial.

Dedication

ADVA is dedicated as a LIVING MEMORIAL to all veterans of the Americal Division and is pledged to foster true American patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the Americal Division of the United States Army.

AMERICAL DIVISION VETERANS ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1381, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02104

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:	Telephone:		
Address — Street:	City:	State:	Zip:
Americal Unit: Rgt.	Bn.	Co/Bty.	Other
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Date of Birth:	Blood Type:	Religion:	
V. A. Claim No.:	V. A. Office — City:	State:	
Occupation:	Wife's First Name:		
Date:	Signature:		
Sponsored by:	(NOTE: Please Enclose Initial Dues) \$16.00		

PLEASE: Attach a copy of the following information to your application.

1. DD 214 Form.
2. Officer's or Enlisted Report of Service and Honorable Discharge.
(All copies of records will be returned)