

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 585

Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

President: Dave Olson
Vice President: Larry Steimel
Sec/Trea: Rick Baumen (Ranger)
Sgt. at Arms: Ricky Foshee (Frenchy)

Newsletter
2nd Edition
April 2013

Coming in May 2013:
Comments: NONE SUBMITTED

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Sec/Trea

Board of Directors:

1. Dave Olson
2. Larry Steimel
3. Rick Bauman
4. Gary Smith
5. Rick Olson
6. Tom Owen
7. Bernard Pasqualini

Upcoming Events:

1. **April 28th, 2013** VVA Breakfast 0800-1100. Come by and lend a hand.
2. **May 4th, 2013** State Council Meeting, Newport Oregon.
3. Newport Loyalty Days- Friday, May 3rd, 2013 "Reading of The Names" Don Davis Park Gazebo Saturday, May 4th, 2013 at 12pm- 56th Annual Newport Loyalty Day Parade- HWY 101
4. **May 5th, 2013** at 10 am General Membership Meeting. American Legion, Lebanon Oregon. Breakfast served before \$5.00.

Bring a guest or potential new member!

Need Correct Phone Numbers For:

1. Richard Bishop
2. Gary Coakley
3. Haskell Cribbs
4. Michael Elliot
5. John Green
6. Stephen Hanold
7. Dennis Polluck

Joke of the Month: A Lesson In Morals

One day at the end of class, little Johnny's teacher asks the class to go home and think of a story to be concluded with the moral of that story. The following days the teacher asks for the first volunteer to tell their story. Little Suzy raises her hand. "My dad owns a farm and every Sunday we load the chicken eggs on the truck and drive into town to sell them at the market. Well, one Sunday we hit a big bump and all the eggs flew out of the basket and onto the road." When the teacher asked for the moral of the story, Suzy replied, "Don't keep all your eggs in one basket."

Little Lucy went next. "My dad owns a farm too. Every weekend we take the chicken eggs and put them in the incubator. Last weekend only eight of the 12 eggs hatched." Again, the teacher asked for the moral of the story. Lucy replied, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch."

Next up was little Johnny. "My uncle Ted fought in the Vietnam war, and his plane was shot down over enemy territory. He jumped out before it crashed but could only take a case of beer, a machine gun and a machete. One the way down, he drank the case of beer. Then he landed right in the middle of 100 Vietnamese soldiers. He shot 70 with his machine gun, but then ran out of bullets! So he pulled out his machete and killed 20 more. Then the blade on his machete broke, so he killed the last ten with his bare hands. The teacher looked a little shocked. After clearing her throat, she asked what possible moral there could be to this story.

"Well," Johnny replied, "Don't mess with Uncle Ted when he's been drinking."

CHANGE OF OFFICERS AT THE STATE COUNCIL

President Richard Gorby stepped down, effective January 1st, 2013. First Vice President Ron Morgan assumed the office of president effective the same date.

2nd Vice President, Gary McAdams is now 1st Vice President. The 2nd Vice President office will remain vacant until there is discussion on May 4th and a possible special election.

Meanwhile, Richard Gorby, Immediate Past President (IPP) has agreed to accept appointment to "Chief of Staff". As such, President Ron Morgan will depend upon Dick for a smooth transition to President and provide access to his vast wealth of knowledge and experience. The COS will not be an elected, voting position, but rather should be viewed as "counselor".

Our mission should dominate our conversation, defending and promoting

Veterans' rights and benefits is a never ending battle. Only in death, will the veteran find an end to battle. In everything we do, we should ask the question, "How are the lives of veterans and their families benefited?" Only with affirmative answer should any effort proceed.

Our chapters have very capable delegates at State Council and State Council has capable and dedicated officers. Together, great things can and should be done.



**TESTIMONY ON SB 461 OF STUART A. STEINBERG,
PRESENTED BY PRESIDENT RONALD H. MORGAN, FOR STUART A. STEINBERG
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, OREGON STATE COUNCIL,
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY COMMITTEE**

Oregon Senate
The Chair and Members of the Senate Veterans and
Emergency Preparedness Committee.
State House
Salem, Oregon 97301

Legislators, Witnesses and Other
Attending the Hearing:

My name is Ronald H. Morgan. I am the President of the Vietnam Veterans of America's Oregon State Council (VVA OSC) and am here to present testimony of Stuart A. Steinberg.

I served with the First Infantry Division (The Big Red One) in the Republic of Vietnam in four campaigns between July 1967 through July 1968. My twenty six

Legislators, Witnesses and Other
Attending the Hearing:

My name is Stuart A. Steinberg. I am the Co-chairman of the committee that seeks to have the bill before you—SB 461—become law and part of Oregon's great tradition of honoring its veterans. I served in the Army from 1966 – 1971, and was in Vietnam for eighteen months in 1968 - 1970. I volunteered to go and then volunteered to extend my tour. In this regard, I was no different than most of the men I was honored to serve with.

I was an Explosive Ordnance Disposal operator and was wounded twice. I have the Bronze Star with "V" Device for heroism in ground combat and a second Bronze Star and two Army Commendation Medals Star for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces. I went to college and law school on the G.I. Bill. Since 1978, I have been an accredited service officer for Vietnam Veterans of America and, over the past 34 years, have assisted at least 2,000 of my fellow veterans, their widows and children, with their claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am proud to say that I am a co-founder of Central Oregon Veterans Outreach in Bend, one of Oregon's premier non-profit organizations that delivers comprehensive

year career in the U.S. Army included service in the Army Security Agency in Berlin for five years as a German linguist in intelligence collection and later service with the National Security Agency in intelligence analysis. After twelve years in Special Operations, service connected disabilities required my retirement.

I served my community as a sheriff's reserve deputy and an Oregon State Correction Officer until PTSD and other

services to the homeless, disabled and disadvantaged veterans of Central Oregon.

I am asking that this bill be passed as a way to further honor those Oregonians who served in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. In fact, any veteran of the Vietnam War will know that they are being honored, no matter what state he or she lives in, if they travel down Interstate 84 in Oregon. Even though our closest held memories of our time in Southeast Asia concern the men we served with in close, and often brutal, quarters, we share a bond with all Vietnam veterans and often say, when we meet another one of us, "Welcome, home." I do not have to go into detail about how often many of these men and women who served in the Vietnam theater were shabbily treated upon their return from what had become an unpopular war. That said, it is apparent that for the past eleven years, ever since we began to send our best young people to Afghanistan and, two years later, into Iraq, people have come to better understand what it means when a young person goes off to war in the name of the United States. As a result, Vietnam veterans have now been given their just due, from our very personal national memorial—*The Wall*—to the many state memorials, like Oregon's own, to highways being named in our honor, and

service connected disabilities led to an early retirement in 1998.

For over thirteen years I have dedicated my time to support my fellow veterans, serving with VVA and several other veteran service organizations (VSOs) at both, local, and state levels.

It is with great honor that I present the following testimony, as it reflects both, my sentiments and those of thousands of our brothers-in-arms:

even to small town memorials like the one we have, here, in Bend.

Because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the country now has a clearer picture of the impact of extreme combat trauma on many of our soldiers. Many of the men and women who served in Vietnam have, for years, been dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the murderous diseases many of us suffer and die from that were caused by exposure to herbicides. It took us many years—too many, from my perspective as a service officer—to be justly recognized for these problems. However, I think that one of the major issues that kept many of us from seeking help, or from even admitting we were having problems, has been solved by the country's newfound understanding of what it means to go to war, survive things very few have experienced and then come home and return to civilian life. There is no question in my mind that recognition of our sacrifices by our fellow citizens, and honoring those who served in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos with remembrances such as the proposed *Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway*, helps those in need to further the process of coming all the way home.

I thank you all for your time and energy in making SB 461 the law of the State.

This newsletter is not only intended to be an informative but also a tool to reach out to the officers of the chapters with questions or comments you would like posted in the newsletter. You are able to remain anonymous but must be respectful in your questions or comments. To ask a question or make a comment:

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