

# News From “The Front”

## Vietnam Veterans of America

### Chapter # 757

#### Brookings, OR

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Volume One

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Number Three

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#### “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another”

**Meetings:** Meetings of Chapter #757 are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Brookings Elks Lodge, lower level. Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, in the lower room as well.

**Sam Sez:** Again, thank you all for your continued support and hard work in keeping this Chapter active. We are very proud of **Judi Anderson**, who received the National “**AVVA Fellowship Award**”. She and other Associate members are a big part of who we are. “Remember, there are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure”. *Colin Powell*.

“A Little Story”: This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody,

Anybody, and Nobody. There was a job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got mad about that, because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

#### What we’ve done since last issue:

**Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>:** **Sam Vitale** and his wife **Rita** (AVVA) attended the Oregon State Council of VVA, in Lebanon. It was announced that our own **Judi Anderson** will be awarded this years “**National AVVA Fellowship Award**”.

**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>:** **Annual VVA Picnic** was rained-out at Loeb Park, so we gathered at the Elks Lodge, (downstairs), just like last year. There were about 50 people in attendance, the food was good, (**Sam’s Steaks** and **Rick’s Ribs**), lots of side dishes and desserts. Good Times, Good Food, Good People, what more could you ask for.

**Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>:** **Flags for Gold Star Mothers**. Because of the rain on Sunday, the traditional flags over the Chetco bridge were not raised this day. (*I’m a Gold Star Dad*)

**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>:** **Curry County Cruisers** donated \$250.00 to Chapter 757. They have been good friends to us this past year. Lets support them at all of their Car Shows.

**Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>: Sam and Rita Vitale** were guests for dinner at the Outreach Gospel Mission Harvest Banquet, held at the Trinity Lutheran Church. **Michael Olsen**, OGM Executive Director, thanked **Sam** and his merry band of helpers for building the new storage shelves and a door at the mission.

**Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>:** Associate member **Judi Anderson** was honored at a special breakfast at the Flying Gull Restaurant, for her years of dedication and service to Vietnam Veterans, other veterans, and their families. The award is a **National AVVA** award given for **AVVA** members only, the “**National Fellowship Award**”. It was presented by **John C. Birch Jr.**, (Regional Director of A.V.V.A.) [There are six states in this Region] This is the third award ever given by the **National Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America**. The last two consecutive awards have been in the State of Oregon, both to AVVA members in Chapter #757.

**Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>: Rick Mahanay** presented the Marine Corps League, Det 578 with a letter outlining how their members could purchase memorial bricks for CCVMA. **Commandant Bob Gilmore** suggested that he will bring a recommendation to their Staff meeting, suggesting a possible purchase of a memorial bench for the Curry County Veterans Memorial site.

**Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>: Bingo Benefit at Lucky 7 Casino.** Arranged by **Jo Atherton**, this is the second time **Lucky 7** has sponsored this event for us. The Bingo games and raffles were a great success. The Chapter made **more than \$1,000**. We’d like to thank each of our contributors for the many raffle prizes; **Onion Grill** (2 gift certificates), **Vista Pub** (gift certificate), **Fred Meyers** (2 gift certificates), **Blue Water Café** (gift certificate), **Salmon Run Golf Course** (gift certificate), **Gold Beach Lumber** (Bird bath & Weed Eater), **Mary DeArmond** (hand painted canister with pretzels inside), **C & K Markets -“Rays”** ( 2 gift certificates), **Celia Stewart** (snack gift basket, 3 pc. Bracelet, & set of earrings), **Pancho’s Restaurante** (gift certificate), **Sally Laasch**, (carved wooden wall hanging). We’d also like to thank **Lucky 7 Casino** and **A.J.**(Bingo Mgr.), for their help and support of our major fund-raiser. Let’s support **Lucky 7 Casino** during the rest of the year. Bingo games and many raffles make for lots of winners in our community.

**Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Chapter 757's** Color Guard, (**Sam Vitale, Jim DeArmond, and Irv Tillung**), honored Leonard “Butch” Herron at the Fellowship Christian Church memorial service. (“Butch” was the first recipient of our new Remembrance Certificate from VVA Chapter 757) (*See below*)

**Nov.13<sup>th</sup>: Veterans Day Breakfast** will be held at the Elks Lodge from 0800 - 1200 hrs. **Sam Vitale** again will stand-up as **Master Breakfast Chef** to help **Terry Clawson** pull off yet another fantastic Vets Day Breakfast. Several VVA and AVVA members are pitching-in to serve and cater to the needs of the guests.

**In Remembrance: Chapter 757** has begun remembering our fallen Brothers and Sisters by presenting their families with a plaque honoring the fallen veteran for their service to our country. As soon as you hear of a death of veteran from our area, let us know at [rickmahanay@charter.net](mailto:rickmahanay@charter.net), or snail-mail to **Rick Mahanay** at 19026 Pacific Crest Dr. Brookings, OR 97415. We’ll need: Date of Birth, Date of Death, Military Branch and Rank while serving. They did not have to be a member of Chapter 757, or Vietnam.

**Who we've donated to since last issue:**

**Chapter 757** again donated Coffee, Tea, Sugar and Creamer to the V.A.'s Brookings Clinic.

**Chapter 757** donated \$50.00 to the Outreach Gospel Mission, in Harbor.

**Jim Newman, (Chapter Recording Secretary)**, donated a thorough carpet cleaning to the Brookings V.A. Clinic, and it really needed it. If you've got carpets, give Jim a call. His company is called Crystal Dry Carpet Cleaning.

**Chapter 757** supports **The Marine Corps League's "Toys for Tots"**. Every year we have donated \$50.00 Let's see how much it is this year.

**Chapter 757** donated 216 pairs of new socks to the veterans in White City; cost\$233. \$183. was from the donation jar at the meetings and an additional \$50.00 was from the Chapter. Additionally, **Ken** and **Bobbi Vogt** donated another 12 pair of new socks. The Chapter also donated 12 new Pocket T-shirts. **Judi Anderson** also donated a sweat shirt/pants suit. **Jim** and **Mary DeArmond** delivered the gifts to White City

**Membership:** As of the October Board Meeting, we have 83 members of VVA, including 43 Life members and 30 AVVA members, including 11 Life members.

**New V.S.O. Kimberly O'Neal** of Roseburg announced as the new VSO for Curry County. County Commissioner **Bill Waddle** said **O'Neal** is an eight year veteran of the U.S.A.F. and has worked as the VSO in Roseburg for two years. She will start off working two days a week until 1 Jan. 2012, when the job becomes full time. Welcome aboard Kimberly.

**Coming Up:**

**Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving !!** Lots of good food, with the family, and **Football** on T.V.  
*Be Thankful for what you've got. You earned it.*

**Dec 13<sup>th</sup>: Second Annual VVA Christmas party at Star of the Sea Church Hall, 820 Old Country Rd. At 1800 hrs. (6:00 P.M. in real time).** Our own **Chef Sam** will cook up his own Spaghetti sauce with Homemade sausage, *now that's traditional*. K.P. crew, (Yes, **Sam** needs volunteers. Call him at (541) 661-5155 to sign up. All members and families are invited to join in this Christmas feast, with a 50/50 Raffle and a Gift Exchange, (price limit of \$10.00 per item). **Note:** Side dishes are always welcomed as before.

- An Appetizer, if your last name begins with "A" through "H"
- A Salad or Side Dish, if your last name begins with "I" through "P"
- A Dessert, if your last name begins with "Q" through "Z"

**Something you didn't know before:**

There is only 1/3 of all Vietnam Vets still alive today.

There are 58,367 names on that polished black wall in D.C., including those added in 2010. The first known casualty was T/Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbon Jr., USAF, of North Weymouth, Mass. The U.S. Department of Defense shows that he died on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

31 sets of brothers on the Wall.

8 women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.

244 Service members were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of just 475, lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

Nine football and basketball players of Morenci, Arizona High school graduated and then enlisted in the Marine Corps on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

Also on that Wall in D.C. is this inscription:

“Carved on these walls is the story of America, of a continuing quest to preserve both Democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream”

*President George Bush*

*(Thank you, Allan Stewart, for that information)*

### **Something Else You Didn't Know:**

At the start of WWII, the Army's 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division shoulder patch was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was called 'Amerika'. Both were soon changed for P.R. purposes.

*(Thank you Mike Noonan, MCL, for that information)*

## **Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Staff of "News From The Front" (Rita, Jo and Rick)

**As always**, if you find a glaring mistake, or if someone's name was horribly mangled, or if something important was overlooked please write or email your thoughts and we will attempt to correct them by the next issue.

Email to: [rickmahanay@charter.net](mailto:rickmahanay@charter.net) or: [mzjo@aol.com](mailto:mzjo@aol.com)

Write to: Rick Mahanay 19026 Pacific Crest Dr. Brookings, OR 97415

### **And, Keeping us up to date:**

If you change your address, and/or your email address, or your phone numbers please let us know, or you won't be able to receive this fine newsletter. For those of you on our email address system, **NOTE:** The newsletter is sent as a PDF attachment to the email and must be open separately once you receive the email. *RM*

### **Your Thoughts of the Day:**

1. You can't control the wind.....but you can adjust the sails.
2. If it can be done, , , do it...If it can't be done, , , Don't.
3. No one is totally useless, , , you can always serve as a bad example.
4. When you're right, no one remembers, , , When you're wrong, no one forgets.