



Mike Healy Umpqua Valley

VVA Chapter 805 Newsletter

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"



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October 2011

Vol 4 Issue 10

Next Chapter Meeting Monday October 3 7:00 PM VA Auditorium , Building 16

MIA Accountability

Special Mission

By Gary Baxman

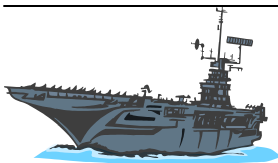
I've been asked by our Chapter President Tom Johnson to lead a special mission in gathering POW-MIA information from chapter members. What consists of this mission you ask? I'm trying to gather any information that you might remember that would lead us to bringing home our POW-MIA Brothers. Did one of your fellow Brother's disappear while in battle? Do you remember the terrain or any other information that could be of help? I'll have a form for you to fill out if you do. Do you remember where the enemy was buried?

We are also working with the Consul General of Viet Nam, Mr. Nguyen Ba Hung in helping locate over 200,000 of their missing. I've been back to Vietnam in 1994, 2001 and 2009 in

which each time I took personal belongings that I took off of dead soldiers. Those items were identifications and family photos. As a medic it was my duty to remove these items before burial and turn them into the proper authority. At one time in Bong Song I put 8 such items in my pockets and forgot them. When I returned home I found them. In 2001 I took one set with me as the I.D. was from the Pleiku area. We were able to find that family and I was able to give some



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News From the Flight Deck

By Rob O'Brien 9/11 A Day Remembered

As the sun came up over the Atlantic Ocean in New York City, on the morning of September 11th, 2001, it would be another beautiful day. Folks got up, ate breakfast and went to work as usual, a day just like any other. No one could ever, in their wild-

est imaginations know or suspect what would happen that day. On that fateful morning 15 Saudi terror suspects and 4 others from the Middle East boarded 4 different flights, even though they were on the FBI watch lists. The flights departed as scheduled.

Back in New York, residents, workers and tourists gazed up in wonder at the 2 main towers of the World Trade Center, then the tallest in North America, only to see a low flying airliner crash into

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Tom Johnson

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Sgt At Arms



Don Hegele

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Stephen Dickinson

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Chair Rob O'Brien

AVVA Rep



Linda Mooney

Board member



Rick Sciapiti

Notes from the Prez

Another month has blasted by. Where did the summer go? Our next meeting is just around the corner. I hope everyone had a good summer.

We had a table at the Commissary Sale last week. It was a fun adventure and we were able to share POW and MIA Day with many who walked through the door. We handed out our black POW-MIA Poppies and everyone who walked through the door was a veteran or Veteran's spouse. We handed out many VVA applications for membership. The trend is still that many Vietnam Veterans are not aware we exist. We need to get the word out.

We have some events coming up fast we all need to put on our calendars. In just a little over a month the Veterans Day Parade is coming up. The AVVA has already started working on their float. Their float will have an Agent Orange message. The Grand Marshalls this year are the recipients of the Purple Heart. I am still looking for

ideas for the VVA float. If you have any and want to help, please call or talk to me.

We will be having another potluck dinner in conjunction with our December meeting this year. Be sure to mark your calendar and invite you significant other to this meeting. I think we all enjoyed our meal together last year. Keep your eyes open as we head into the holiday for that Veteran and his or her family that we can help for the holidays.

Elections are at the January 2011 meeting. The nominating committee is working hard to bring us a ballot of candidates. If you have any interest in serving on the VVA please let the committee know. It is a lot of work, but I think all of your current officers have had a very rewarding tour. Take that leap and serve Chapter 805.

I am heading out for the VVA Oregon State Council Meeting today. I wish

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Chapter Office Hours
Monday-Wed-
Thurs 10-Noon

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 805 is a tax exempt organization under the provisions of the IRS Code Section 501 (c) (19) Exemption # 3202 . The Newsletter is published monthly.

Chapter Committee Members

- ✓ Fundraiser : Chair Jack Miles, Gary Baxman
- ✓ Communication:
- ✓ Membership: Chair Gary Baxman, Stephen Dickinson, Valerie Williams
- ✓ Office Manager: Gary Baxman
- ✓ Government Affairs: Rick Sciapiti
- ✓ Public Relations:
- ✓ Newsletter: Editors Rob & Caryn O'Brien,
- ✓ Newsletter Publisher Rick Sciapiti
- ✓ Advertising: Terry Mooney, Rick Sciapiti
- ✓ Veterans Day Float: Tom Johnson, Don Hegele
- ✓ Avenue of Flags: Fred Becker
- ✓ Southern Oregon Stand Down : Rick Freund
- ✓ Women Veterans: Chair Jane Johnson
- ✓ AVVA Secretary: Patti Sciapiti
- ✓ AVVA Treasurer: Christy Mooney

Flight Deck

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Tower #1 and burst into flames. Everyone stood absolutely still as they watched what was happening right before their eyes. No one could have imagined this. By this time the world woke up and was stunned to see that this had just happened. Then just a short time later, everyone watching on TV and those on the ground, as well as nearby buildings watched in horror as a second plane crashed into a corner of Tower #2, also bursting into flames. As this was happening, hundreds of police officers and firefighters were storming up the tower staircases to rescue those trapped inside.

Then Tower #1 came crashing from the top down like a house of cards, followed quickly by Tower #2. As the hijackings were happening, fighter jets were scrambled and immediately took to the skies over Washington DC as one of the other 2 hijacked planes, the primary target being either the White House or the Capital building, diverted by the jet fighters crashed into the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, on the 4th hijacked plane, passengers were getting calls on their cell phones from loved ones, who told them what was happening. These passengers, knowing what was going to happen to them, took matters into their own hands. They tried to overpower their hijackers. The hijackers knew they wouldn't make it to their target, so they flew the plane into the ground near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The passengers were true heroes, as were the police officers and fire

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AVVA

By AVVA Representative: Linda Mooney



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Our Chapter has grown to 13 members in good standing with a lot of activities planned for the next couple of months. After participating in my first State Board Meeting and giving my first State Report, I found we are right on track for compliance with the National AVVA recommendations for Strategic Planning! Thank you members of AVVA Chapter 805 for being open and enthusiastic for these changes. I want to bring everyone up to date on what we have done and what we have planned:

We were very successful in getting our Agent Orange Project off the drawing board with our first event to the public with the Douglas County Fairgrounds/Beale Air Force Base Commissary Program on Friday, September 16th and Saturday, September 17th. Thank you so much Sandi Parent for your wonderful cookies! You, Lynn Ferrone, Carmine Little and Christy Mooney made the difference for our success. We handed out over 300 educational pamphlets on Agent Orange and PTSD.

Our VVA brothers made it a complete package with their table right next to us handing out Black Poppies for MIA/POW day, VVA information and applications. Thank you Don Hegele, Gary Baxman, Jim Little, Rob O'Brien, Phil Ferrone, Tom Johnson and Terry Mooney. Everyone from the Commissary Program gave us positive feedback. We were noticed and appreciated!! You can't ask for more.

Patti Sciapiti will be leading us in our Veterans Thank You Card Project. We will be hand making special cards of Thank You for our Veterans that are housed in

our local nursing homes and the VA hospital to be delivered on Veterans' Day. This will be the second year for this project as it was such a success last year. The staff at all facilities have asked us to please do it again. Thank you Patti for taking us all on and teaching us how to do what you do so well!

We are working on our Veterans Day Agent Orange Community Awareness Project. We have an entry in the Veterans Day Parade and will follow our VVA brothers and sisters' float with our Orange Balloon Release float. We have received approval for our entry from the Parade Committee, Roseburg, and the Roseburg Airport.

We plan to release hundreds of orange balloons during the parade to bring awareness of Agent Orange and its' effects to our Veterans and their families. We will need a lot of help and participation. Please keep watch for more information coming soon.

Our AVVA meeting venue has changed to Zen's Mongolian Grill at Southgate Market off Old Highway 99 South. They have given us a quiet room to meet. We meet the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. We welcome all that wish to join us. Thank you all for all you do and have done.

Linda Mooney
President
AVVA
Chapter 805





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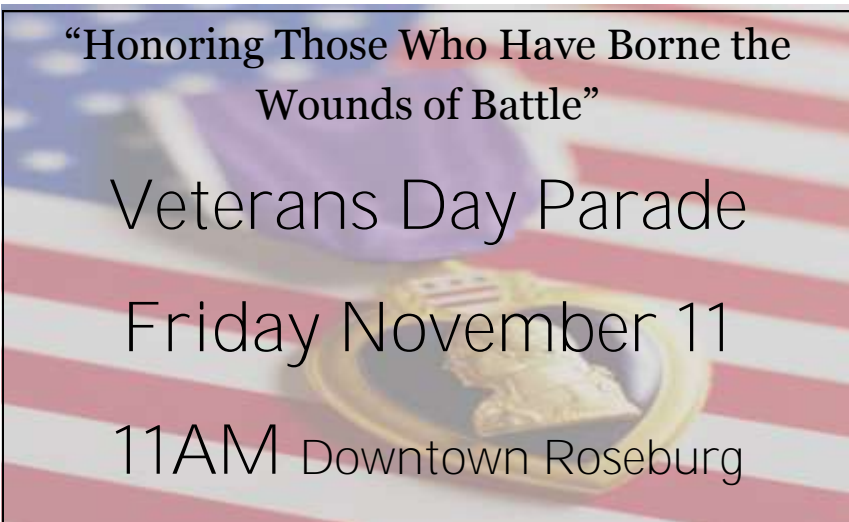



Support Our Troops



“Honoring Those Who Have Borne the Wounds of Battle”

Veterans Day Parade
Friday November 11
11AM Downtown Roseburg



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fighters in New York who lost their lives, the passengers of the other hijacked airliners, all of those in the Twin Towers and about two hundred lives lost at the Pentagon.

This country hasn't been the same since then. Coming off the heels of a very hotly contested presidential election, everyone came together on September 11th, 2001. For one brief moment, putting aside their differences to stand together united in this country's sorrow

On this September 11th, marking the 10th Anniversary of these tragic events, commemorations went on around the country honoring the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001. Let us all keep them in our thoughts and prayers everyday, not just on the anniversary of this day and may history never forget.

On a brighter note

There was a powwow on the grounds of the Mills Casino and hotel September 10th & 11th. They had a drumming ceremony to honor all veterans, Indian and non-Indian alike. To be honored by the first peoples of this country is indeed an honor in itself. I will never forget this. That night there was a show featuring Native American Stand-up comedians. After the show Caryn and I had a chance to have personal discussions with 2 of them. We talked about Vietnam vets, PTSD and the bad treatment we got when we got back from Vietnam, and expressing support of our current service members in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the comedians, Mark Yaffee, went to Iraq 2 years

ago to entertain the troops.

POW/MIA Tribute

On Friday, September 16th there was a tribute honoring former Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. Speakers included Jim Little of the VVA and the Douglas County Veterans Forum (DCVF), County Commissioner Joe Laurence and Carol Bodge-dain, the new Director of our VA hospital here in Roseburg. I represented the US Navy during a wreath laying ceremony by the veterans of the 6 branches of the military. There was a table set up by the stage in the auditorium with one empty chair to represent someone missing in action. A turned over drinking glass representing someone who could not be there to share a meal as he was missing in action. Twelve former POWs from WWII and the Korean War were there to be honored, as well. I was privileged to greet them afterwards, thanking them for their service and sacrifices. Some of them in turn thanked me for my service. It was truly an honor to be part of this event.

Meeting Highlights

At the September membership meeting we honored and thanked Doug George for his service as our secretary. Tom Johnson presented Doug with a plaque. Doug has resigned as secretary and has moved to Mississippi. We wish him all the best. For other info on our meeting, minutes will be available at the October membership meeting and possibly online. Our new secretary is JoAnn Compton. Welcome aboard JoAnn, and thanks very much for

stepping up.

AVVA is taking over phoning us, reminding us about the membership meetings.

Chapter Officer Elections

Officer elections for next year will be held at the January 2012 membership meeting and I suggest that nominations be done by this December, so we can make up the ballots. Ballots will be filled out by the members, making their choices. The AVVA will count the ballots and announce the results. At that time the current officers will step down and the new officers will step up and sworn at - I mean sworn in. (LOL)

Note: we may be expanding the number of Board of Director positions to 5, to conform more to National VVA by-laws. This was brought up at the September Board meeting and should be addressed before the election. We will be looking for those who wish to become officers. We especially need those interested in Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Board of Directors positions. There will be a formal nominating process, including those who wish to nominate themselves or others. We will also be looking for committee heads and members. These are not elected positions, but are the backbone of this chapter. Committees such as Fundraising (need 2 heads), communications and other committees need to be filled. All interested members are encouraged to apply and are really needed.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Special Mission

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information of the date and place where he was buried.

In 2009 I went to North Vietnam and lived with the tribes for 10 days. When I got back to Hanoi a meeting had been set up for me to return the 7 remaining I.D.'s. They were all NVA soldiers from the North. We met with former soldiers who had been to that battle ground of January 1966. Do you want to know what was said that day in Hanoi? Please come to our meeting October 3rd I will be giving a short presentation on the missing of both sides. Please!! If you have anything that you brought back from Nam whether it's info or an item that can lead to the recovery of our Brother's or the NVA and VC, please do.

You probably wonder why I continue to return to Vietnam. Come and ask me at our meeting. You won't have to ask; just look at what I'm wearing around my neck which I have traveled back with each time. I have a 30 day trip planned for late 2012 or early 2013. Are you ready? You don't need to do the whole trip. I'll be bringing a flag that was captured and has not been identified and hopefully maybe one of you can I.D. it at our meeting on Monday, October 3rd at 7:00PM. See you there my fellow brothers and sisters.

Gary

Prez Notes

some more of the membership had the time to go. The Council meets twice a year and in many ways is like a chapter meeting, but you get a free lunch. We find out what other chapters are doing. I will be carrying the message of our involvement in the fight in saving the Roseburg VA Hospital. I will also share our week of the Healing Field of Flags.

Right after our October meeting I will be headed to Washington DC for the Council of State Council Presidents. This is a first for me and I look forward to serving at the national level. This is sure to be an adventure worth doing, because the National Convention sure was. It will give us the opportunity to have input at the national level for both the state and our chapter. I am planning to share with you next month what I have learned.

I have asked Gary Baxman our Treasurer, to work on the gathering of POW and MIA information. This topic was briefed to us at the National Convention. Gary has already developed a plan and information which he will be presenting to us this meeting. The recovery effort has taken on a new twist, so be sure to attend and find out what that new twist is.

As always it has been an honor to serve you all.

Tom



Under Construction—Roseburg VA National Cemetery Expansion