



PERIMETER REPORT

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc.

www.vietnamandallveteransofbrevard.com

Together Then - Together Again

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the last time that I will be writing to you as the president of our organization. We will have our annual election in December and probably by the time you get this we will have new officers. I wish them all well and want all to know that I will continue to support the organization in any way that I can.

We continue to maintain our transitional housing facility for veterans who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. One of the things that has become evident is that the face of the veteran's population that we serve is changing. They are becoming younger and many have families. Our direct

assistance program and food bank is also experiencing the same transition. Many of the folks that need assistance are returning Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. It seems as though no matter how often we are involved in conflicts, it takes an extended period of time for our government to respond to the needs of those who are called upon to serve. We have outstanding supervision of this project in the person of Paul Whitmore, the Program Director. It is absolutely imperative that this program continue to operate.

We have begun to put the construction of a home on the "front burner" so to speak. It is my personal opinion that the acquisition of a "home" that we can call our own would provide a boost of major proportions to the health of our organization. In the coming months and years we will be asking members to participate in fundraisers and other activities to support the construction of a place for us to meet and conduct business and social activities. Remember that we are the

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard

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Upcoming Events

- ☉ January 20—21st VVOF State Coalition Meeting
- ☉ March 24th Stand Down

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President's Message cont.

only ones who really care about this issue and if we do not assume the responsibility for accomplishing this it simply will not happen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have served as officers in the organization for the past two years. It is never easy to take the responsibility for decisions that others disagree with. I do not know who will be the organization's officers after the election, but I am encouraged by the number of members who are running for office. It is a sign that our members have opinions and ideas about the direction that we need to go in and are willing to step up to make our mission happen. And I would say that we do not always need to agree about what we are doing, but that it is absolutely necessary that we respect one another's opinions and ideas and that we personally respect each other. I ask that you support our incoming officers.

To all our members I thank you for the support that you have shown me in the past two years. I believe that we will continue to grow and that the projects we have ongoing and will undertake are valuable to the veteran's com-

munity. Floyd Merckle,
President



Members Ill or Distressed:

- > Michael Martin
- > Sue Merckle
- > Joe and Ingrid Clark
- > Jack Jackson
- > Bob Brekke
- > Dave Paul

Please keep these folks in your prayers.

As a group of soldiers stood in formation at an Army base, the Drill Sergeant said "All right! All you idiots fall out."

As the rest of the squad wandered away, one soldier remained at attention.

The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow.

The soldier smiled and said, "There sure were a lot of 'em, eh sir?"



Members Needed!

The Perimeter is taking on a new look and direction. Members are encouraged to send interesting articles to Denise. Any and all suggestions will be taken into consideration, so, feel free to SPEAK UP!



VVB Color Guard and Rifle Team

By-Law Amendment

Color Guard - Jack Jackson is in the process of reorganizing the team and creating a uniform to be worn by all Color Guard members. The Board has approved the selected shirts and pants that match, and are more comfortable in the heat.

Rifle Team— Status quo. Camouflage uniforms will continue to be worn .



The by-law change for Section 7.2 was approved and now reads as follows:
"All Officers and Directors must be registered regular members. To serve in the office of President, or Vice President you shall be a veteran who served in a military organization, and received an honorable discharge as shown on their DD Form 214. All Officers claiming veteran status must hold an honorable discharge with a DD 214 on file."

Brevard County Veterans Court

The BCVC Committee continues to meet monthly to formulate the plan of moving forward with the program. The projected start-up date is set for mid-January.

The BCVC is currently seeking volunteer mentors to assist our veterans as they are processed through the legal system.

Volunteer Veteran Mentors are a key component to Veterans Courts. Shared war and combat experiences create an enduring and therapeutic trust that can be a stronger bond among returning veterans than in some cases with families and friends.

The volunteer mentor develops a supportive relationship with the



Veterans Court participant, acting as an advocate and ally. The volunteer mentor coaches, guides, acts as a role model, assists participants with accessing health and social service support from the VA and re-entry into civilian life. There are no hard and fast rules.

The volunteer mentors may help with readjustment issues such as anger management, impulse control, conflict resolution skills and other issues that create a difficult re-entry into civilian life. There are no hard and fast rules.

In Veterans Court, volunteer mentors may assist the Veteran to navigate through the Court, treatment, and the Department of Veteran's Affairs system, but they do not assume the role of attorneys or treatment providers.

If you would like further information on this program, please contact Don Wassmer at 321-726-6752.

VVB Veterans Day Picnic Nov 11 2011

The VVB hosted a Veterans Day picnic at the F. Burton Smith in Cocoa. We had a good turn out, and the food was great! Jim Day manned the grill for hamburgers and hot dogs, and we each brought a side dish to share. The weather was beautiful, and the camaraderie was superb!



Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State Coalition

Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State Coalition Meeting will be January 20th thru 22nd, hosted by FL Dustoff Association.

Jan. 20th will be our Meet and Greet starting at 6pm. Meet delegates of the other organizations around the state. Saturday the meeting will start at 10 a.m.



The entire event will be held at the La Playa Resorts and Suites in Daytona Beach.

For further information, please call Roberta Neitzel at 772-971-8338

Veterans Transitional Facility

The function of the transitional facility is to take in homeless veterans and help them to re-engage with society. Veterans (and their spouses and children) are provided with housing, clothing, food, and transportation to the VA for appointments. We also provide assistance to veterans within our community.

Candidates are placed in touch with our facility via the community who come into contact with veterans in need, such as: the VA Administration, hospitals, Daily Bread, the temporary housing facility in Melbourne, to name a few.

The veteran is interviewed by the VA Admin Grant Per-Diem coordinator and the transitional facility manager to see if the veteran in-need and the facility will be a good fit. The average length of housing is 90 days.

The candidate must be alcohol and illicit drug-free at the time of placement, and continue to be free of substance abuse during the length of stay at the facility. Random testing will take place throughout the stay.

Goals are set with the candidate that will be met during the stay at the facility. Case management continues during the length of stay, helping to

achieve goals and to find employment, as well as looking into vocational rehabilitation. There have been successes with employment thanks to vocational rehabilitation.

For more information on the facility, please contact Paul Whitmore at 321-409-8167. For information on the Veterans Assistance program, contact Karen Templeton at 321-690-0805.

University of Central Florida Community Veterans History Project

University of Central Florida Community Veterans History Project (UCFCVHP) intends to record and archive oral history interviews of Central Florida veterans.

As part of this initiative, UCF is recruiting Central Florida veterans who were born, raised, lived, served or retired in this region.

While these histories will be largely archived and made available

through the UCF library, a portion will be contributed to the ongoing Veterans History Project based out of the Library of Congress.

A representative from UCF will be at our February 13th general membership meeting to sign up anyone who is interested in telling their story. Please be a part of this important documenting history of our veterans.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the RICHES office in the History Department at the University of Central Florida; the number is (407) 823-0242 or you can send your questions by email to riches@ucf.edu.

POW/MIA



Joint Personnel Recovery Agency Opens Training Facilities— Spokane, Wash. Is home to the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency's (JPRA) three newest training facilities. These facilities provide more than 40,000 square feet of space for conducting specialized survival, evasion, resistance and escape training. (SERE).

The unique design, tailored environmental conditions, and support areas of the facilities will allow instructors to create teaching environments, both academic and experiential, that are vital to specialized SERE training for U.S. personnel. The new facilities will also help JPRA provide research and development for SERE courses,

curriculum design, and a myriad of additional support products to the Services and the Combatant Commands to meet their training requirements. These new structures are model examples that will meet current and emerging training requirements well into the 21st century.

Mission Statement

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard

PO Box 237225
Cocoa, FL 32922-7225

Phone: 321-690-0805
Fax: 321-690-0106
Email: thevbbunker@aol.com

Veterans Helping Veterans



Provide assistance to Vietnam and all Veterans in their readjustment to life in the civilian community. The services provided by the corporation will be charitable in nature.

To provide aid to economically, emotionally, and culturally deprived persons and groups through education, sports, and motivational programs.

To make available to the public, information regarding the worthwhile and noteworthy contributions to the Brevard County community by Vietnam and all Veterans, and information regarding the activities and programs initiated by the corporation.

To work toward the elimination of discrimination suffered by Vietnam and all Veterans and to develop channels of communication, which will assist Vietnam and all Veterans to maximize self-realization and enrichment of their lives and enhance life fulfillment.

To study on a nonpartisan basis proposed legislation or rules and regulations introduced in any federal, state, or local legislative or administrative body which may affect the social, economic, educational or physical welfare of Vietnam and all Veterans, and develop policy proposals designed to address the value of such proposed legislation.

To conduct and publish research on a nonpartisan basis, pertaining to the relationship between all Veterans and the American society, the Combat experience, and the role of the United States in securing a peaceful coexistence in the world community

To engage in all other activities which are related to the foregoing purposes provided, however, that the corporation shall have no purpose and shall exercise no power which would prevent it from qualifying as an organization described in 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as exempt from taxation under Section 501(a), and to which contributions and gifts may be made which would entitle the donor to the allowance of a deduction under the provisions of Section 170 of said Internal Revenue Code.

VA News

New Online Tools for Veteran Job-Seekers - Veterans can download official data about their military training and experience, which can be used to help them find jobs and continue their careers. Their service data can be uploaded to job search and networking sites to help identify employment opportunities. Veterans can use the VA's online My HealthVet portal (www.myhealth.va.gov) to see official information about their military service, Veterans can electronically download information to their personal computers. Veterans can access their military service information through My HealthVet.



3.6% COLA for 2012

The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2012 will be 3.6% for military retired pay, Social Security benefits, and VA disability compensation. This is the first COLA increase since 2009.

Gulf War, Iraq/Afghanistan War Presumptive Conditions

The VA has proposed a regulation change that names nine conditions or diseases as "presumptive" due to service in the Persian Gulf War, and for the first time, the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Presumptive status means that veterans with such conditions only need show that they served in the conflicts/areas included for their condition to be deemed service-connected. The nine conditions/ diseases are malaria, West Nile Virus, brucellosis, campylobacter jejuni, coxiella burnetii, mycobacterium tuberculosis, nontyphoid salmonella, shigella and visceral leishmaniasis.

STAND DOWN COCOA ARMORY MARCH 24TH

This year's 17th Operation Stand Down will be held on Saturday, March 24th at the Cocoa Armory from 8 am till 2 pm. This event helps our homeless veterans in the county by providing health assistance, clothing, hair cuts, camping supplies, legal assistance, VA assistance, transportation and much more.

We really need your help setting up for this event. On Friday March 23rd our supplies for the event are moved from our storage unit near the Veterans' Memorial Center to the armory and we set up for the event. We meet at 0900 at the VMC and finish about 1400 . On Saturday we will process about 200 or more homeless vets and in some cases their families. We start at 0800 until about 1400. Contact Bill Vagianos, vagianos@prodigy.net , (321) 431-0364, for more information. Thank you, Ted Whitlock

2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL/CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc.

P. O. Box 237225

Cocoa, FL 32923-7225

Membership in the VVB is open to veterans, family and supporters at annual dues of \$15.00 on the calendar year. New member dues after July is \$10.00. Veterans should include a copy of your DD-214. Non-refundable Life Memberships are: Age 54 and under, \$175.00; 55-64, \$125.00; 65 and up, \$75.00.

New Member:___ Renewal:___ Change Address:___ Enclosed: Life:___ \$_____ Annual:___ \$15.00/\$10.00

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____ St.: _____

Zip: _____

Primary Phone # (H, W, C): _____ e-mail: _____

Service Branch: _____ Rank: _____ Dates: _____

Units/Duty stations: _____

2012 VVB Officers

***President:** Don Wassmer 726-6752 ***Vice Pres.:** Richard Desrochers xxx-xxxx ***Treasurer:** Ralph Earrusso 453 7498 ***Secretary:** Donna Rogers 305-4612 ***Sgt. @ Arms:** Richard Russo 652-4185
***Membership Reps.:** Denise Wassmer 726-6752; Linda Sulzer; 243-8755; Rod Smith 632 6702 ;Bob Bodine 242 1904; Katie Day 751-4568 **Membership Chairman :** Billy Valashinas 323 6475; **Quarter-master :** Linda Marhon 453-9824; **Perimeter Report :** Editor: Denise Wassmer dmwassmer@yahoo.com ; 321 726 6752; ***Past President:** Floyd Merckle 264-0581

Contacts and Locations

VVB Bunker: (Veterans Assistance Program)- Ph. 321 690 0805; Fx. 321 690 0106

VVB Transitional Housing Facility: 700 Fee Ave., Melbourne 32901; Ph. 321 409 8167

Veterans Memorial Center : 400 S. Sykes Creek Pkwy., Merritt Island 329953; Ph. 321 453 1776

Legal Services: Shelly Campbell: 386 255 6573 X 2441; e-mail: shellyc@clsmf.org

Melbourne Vet Center: 2098 Sarno Rd., Melbourne 32935; 321 254 3410

VVB Annual Reunion: Wickham Park, Melbourne; Ralph Earrusso Ph. 321 453 7498; e-mail: Daydrmr333@aol.com

Brevard County Veteran Services Team: 321 633 2012

Veterans Administration, Viera: Benefits Info, Ph. 321 637 3693; Patient Advocate, Ph. 321 637 3788 X 3534

Rifle Team/Color guard : Bob Bodine; 321 242 1904, kbob4wic@juno.com

School Speaker Program: Rod Smith; rsmith2580@bellsouth.net; 321 632 6702



Florida's 25th Annual Vietnam & All Veterans Reunion April 26 - 27 - 28 - 29, 2012

Memorial Walls April 22—29, 2012 at Beautiful Wickham Park, Melbourne, Florida

Wall Escort 10 AM Apr 22, 2012 - Web Page: www.floridaveteransreunion.com

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall - Web Page: www.travelingwall.us

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