



“Welcome Home” NEWSLETTER



“Member Feature”

Hazel Simeon – Chapter Secretary

I was born in Minnesota where I lived on my mom and dad’s farm with 3 brothers and 2 sisters. I graduated from McGregor High School in 1972 and immediately joined the Air Force. I was a Personnel Specialist. I went to basic training at Lackland AFB, San Antonio TX and tech school at Keesler AFB, Biloxi MS. My first duty assignment was at Ellsworth AFB in Rapid City, SD. My new husband and I were transferred to Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage, AK. Then we were moved to ID, ND, CA, and the Philippines. After the Philippines I moved back to ID, then my job transferred me to WV. While in WV, I went back to college and got my Associate Degree in General Business. I was laid off from the company that I had been working for 5 years and then felt the call to Haiti to be a missionary. I put my youngest daughter in college and then I spent the next 3 years in Haiti working as the Director for Student Sponsorship at The School of Hope where 1300 students were provided an education through the support of American/Canadian sponsors. After 3 years, I came back to the US but relocated to GA where I worked for 5 years for a company, got laid off again, and so decided to go back to school and to get my BS degree in Organizational Leadership. I thought that I would be going back to Haiti to open a business manufacturing solar lights, but that did not transpire as I had hoped. When I could not find a job (the economy was still not good in 2012), I moved here to Denver to be near my son and his family. After settling here in Denver, I decided to find a veterans organization that I could join, I

found Vietnam Veterans of America and became a founding member of VVA Chapter 1106.

Welcome New Members

VVA Members:

John A. Vargas
Wendell Wallace

New Associates:

Mary Eakins - Lifetime
Linda Messenger - Lifetime
Larry Smith - Lifetime
Eileen Surrena - Lifetime

VVA Chapter 1106 Totals:

VVA - 50
AVVA - 14

Notes from the President

Lee White

Major spring/summer event – journey to Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial - Angel Fire, New Mexico

Join the VVA Chapter 1106 in partnership with Rolling Thunder CO Chapter1 for the “Until They All Come Home” ceremony on Saturday, June 11, 2016. The ceremony is to remember and honor those American soldiers, airmen, and seaman from Colorado and New Mexico who are still missing in action and have not been returned to American soil.

Our chapters will perform “the missing man table ceremony” along with guest speakers, reading the names of the fallen, and presenting the colors.

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The program will be from 1400-1500 hours.

A block of rooms (30) has been reserved at the Kachina Lodge, 413 Paseo Del Pueblo Norte, Taos, NM 87571 – 575-758-2275 website: www.kachinalodge.com special rate: \$89.95 per night plus local & state taxes. Rooms are going fast!!! So book early!!!

Visit Vietnam Veteran's Memorial website: www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org for additional information.

Contact information:

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Military Trivia

What does the term **Black Balls** mean? See answer at the end of the Newsletter

Honor Bell Foundation

Three members of the Honor Bell Foundation (HBF) were our guest speakers our first meeting of 2016:

- Louis "Lou" Olivera - Founder and Executive Director
- Michelle G. Mallin, Chief of Staff, Director of Communications
- Robert "Bob" Dawes. - Veterans Outreach Director

Lou and Bob, both veteran Army Rangers, both Purple Heart recipients, and both retired.

The Honor Bell Foundation is creating a community of veterans to foster public appreciation of military service and honor their fellow veterans with a proper, final tribute. They will do all of this with The Honor Bell, a 1,000-pound bronze bell cast with artifacts from Colorado's military servicemen and women, and tolled by Colorado's veterans at graveside and memorial services.

The Bell Honors Program involves the casting of a bell — the only one of its kind in the state — which will be tolled by veterans to honor fellow vets at interment and memorial ceremonies. This thousand-pound bronze bell will be dedicated on Memorial Day, 2016.

The Veterans Outreach Program will bring together vets from every generation to form the Bell Honor Guard, which will toll the Bell at military funeral services and maintain the Bell when not in use. This program provides our veterans another way to serve their fellow service members and their community after their commitment to their country has concluded, and to assist in their transition into non-military life.

ROLLING THUNDER
CHAPTER 1 COLORADO
AND
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 1106 COLORADO
PRESENT
REMEMBERING AMERICA'S MIA

SATURDAY JUNE 11, 2016
2:00 PM TO 3:00 PM
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
ANGEL FIRE, NM

Please join us for an hour of tribute and recognition of America's Missing In Action. There are greater than 83,000 US Soldiers, Seamen and Airmen who remain unaccounted for from WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

Our program will include Guest Speakers and the reading of names of those still missing in Vietnam from Colorado and New Mexico. We will Honor and Remember them as we perform the Missing Man Table Ceremony.

"When ONE American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost."

UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME
DAVID WESTPHALL VETERANS FOUNDATION
GOD BLESS AMERICA

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Preserving the legacy of our heroic men and women happens most effectively through education and the retelling of stories to younger generations. This will be the aim of the Foundation's Education program. The Foundation will work with education professionals and veterans to develop programs that will allow students from all backgrounds to explore the values and beliefs that Americans embraced during the wartime service of our honorees.

In 2015, Honor Bell Foundation received a grant to help fulfill their mission and ensure the first Honor Bell is cast. "This generous grant from the Daniels Fund will enable our Foundation to cast this unique bell and connect veterans from World War II through the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts together for a common purpose: honoring those who served and sacrificed", said Louis Olivera, Executive Director of the Foundation.



Honor Bell Foundation is Colorado nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation whose objective is to provide a unique funeral honor for deceased military veterans through the slow ringing, or tolling, of a half-ton, ceremonial bell—The Honor Bell. The Foundation also will provide veteran outreach and community education. As a result of a nationwide military drawdown and budget reductions, in the United States over 6,900 veterans who honorably served their nation, did not receive even reduced military honors at their funerals in fiscal year 2015.



For more information, call 720-282-9182, or visit HonorBell.org.

*See dedication event at the end of the newsletter.

Colorado Vietnam War Memorial

The ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony to unveil a new Vietnam War memorial was held on January 30, 2016 at 2200 W. Alameda, Denver. Members of VVA Chapters 1106 and 1071 were in attendance as well as a number of dignitaries. The memorial serves to honor all American and South Vietnamese armed services personnel who engaged in the conflict. The memorial is the realization of years of planning and fund raising by the Vietnamese-American community of Denver.

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Dignitaries included Mayor Michael Hancock, Congressman Mike Coffman, Denver City Council Members, and a representative from Senator Cory Gardner's office. VVA Chapter 1071 President Richard Cox and Chapter 1106 President Lee White were present and invited to say a few words.



AVAA Chapter Member Suzanne Sigona

Photo from AVAA Chapter Member Suzanne Sigona who just returned from Vietnam. She travels and supports a local Catholic orphanage. This photo was taken at the orphanage in Mang Lang, near Tuy Hoa, Vietnam.



February Guest Speaker Phillip Read Read's Roofing & Repair, Loveland, CO

Phillip spoke about his company and the great foundation he has started – Roofs For Disabled Veterans. Phillip is a veteran of the US Army. He understands the dedication and true strength of someone who dedicates their life to fight for our rights and our country. Phillip said, "We are your one-stop roofing and repair solution with service you can trust and quality you can afford with timely service. We offer free estimates and 24/7 service. We have over 18 years combined experience in repairing and replacing all types of roofing

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systems, carpentry, painting, home improvement, siding, HVAC, etc. There is no job that is too large or too small, and we look forward to providing a free quote to anyone who seeks our services.”



A completed roofing project.

The photo below is from a 50 year warranty coating project completed in 2014.



This project was completed for a local Fort Collins, CO veteran who was recently diagnosed with colon cancer. We also replaced his swamp cooler for no charge. All materials were bought and donated by Read's Roofing & Repair, local vendors and/or business owners. Read's Roofing & Repair has provided disabled veterans with new roofs and other repairs at no cost to them. They dig from within their own pockets and provide free labor to give these repairs to veterans as a thank you for

what they have done for our country. If you are interested in donating materials or helping, please contact his company.

www.readsroofingrepair.com

Vietnam to Begin DNA Profiling Unidentified War Casualties

January 13, 2016 | by Ben Taub



Most of those killed in the Vietnam War have still not been identified, and remains continue to turn up in mass graves across the country. SAIGON 1968 - MPs With Captured Vietcong Guerrilla by manhhai via Flickr. CC BY 2.0 11.7K

Scientists in Vietnam are set to embark upon the largest mass identification project in history, using DNA analysis techniques developed in Germany to determine the identities of millions of people who died during the Vietnam War. Though it is now more than four decades since hostilities ended, remains of those who lost their lives on the battlefield continue to turn up across the country, yet most of these have decomposed to such an extent that identification is not possible.

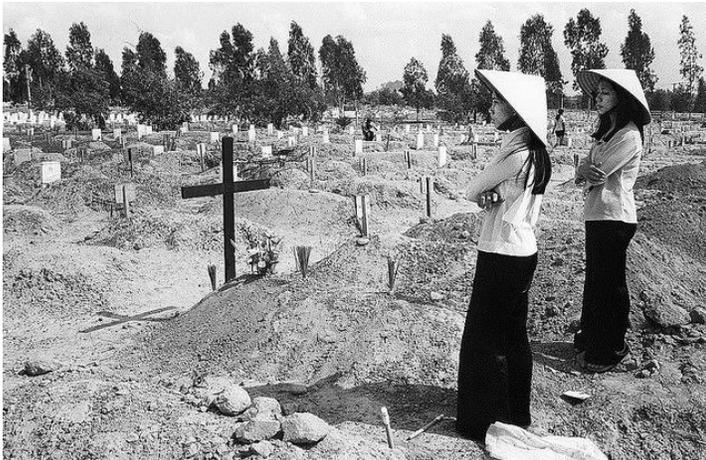
In an attempt to resolve this ongoing tragedy, the Vietnamese government has recruited German biotechnology firm Bioglobe to oversee a large-scale DNA profiling project, which is now ready to be rolled out. The first stage of the operation will begin next month, when a group of Vietnamese scientists will travel to Hamburg to receive training

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on how to use special DNA analysis kits developed by another German firm called Qiagen.

This technique has been specially designed to meet the particular challenges of working with bones that have remained buried for over 40 years in the humid Vietnamese climate. Under such conditions, DNA tends to decompose very rapidly, which makes it very difficult to obtain sufficient samples to create a profile of the individuals to whom these bones belonged, Nature reports.

The new approach will involve chemically breaking down the cells in bones in order to extract their genetic material. This will then be amplified using specialized enzymes to generate a sufficient amount needed to read the sequences and create a genetic profile. At the same time, researchers hope to collect DNA samples from thousands of surviving Vietnamese civilians, enabling them to create a national genetic reference bank. Using this, they should be able to finally determine the identities of those corpses for which DNA profiles are obtained.



The number of Vietnamese civilians and soldiers killed during the conflict could be as high as 3.8 million. VIETNAM WAR, 29 April 1975 - National Cemetery in Bien Hoa by manhhai via Flickr. CC BY 2.0

The Vietnam war raged from 1954 to 1975, and saw the Communist-backed North Vietnamese Army and National Liberation Front (or Viet Cong) take on the forces of the South Vietnam government and the U.S.A. Estimates for the number of Vietnamese civilians and soldiers killed

during the conflict are highly ambiguous, ranging from 1-3 million, although some reports suggest that the number could be as high as 3.8 million.

A major reason for this confusion lies in the fact that so many of those who died on the battlefield have not been identified. While only one U.S. soldier killed in the conflict remained unidentified at the end of the war, the vast majority of Vietnamese casualties have still not been formally confirmed or named.

However, the team behind the forthcoming project – which includes experts who helped to identify more than 20,000 victims of the Bosnian War – hopes to DNA profile around 1.4 million unidentified specimens by 2020.

*Article submitted by Mike Messenger

Food Drive – Lee White

As most of you know, VVA Chapter 1106 conducted our first "Food Drive" this past Saturday (Feb 6) to benefit the Fresh Harvest Food Bank in Lone Tree serving over 100 families in Douglas County.

All food items were delivered to Fresh Harvest Food Bank on Monday, February 8, 2016 with a "HUGE THANK YOU" from Executive Director, Brie McMahan.

Board of Directors/Officers

Lee White - President

Bob Easter - Vice-president

Paul Seppo - Treasurer

Hazel Simeon - Secretary

Board Members – Milt Omoto, Patti Ehline, Patrick Surrena, Joe Plant

Working Committees

(Folks are needed to fill some spots!)

Agent Orange/PTSD -

Membership - Lee White, Pat Surrena, Mike Messenger

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Newsletter Editor - Bob Rotruck
Fundraising/Grants - Milt Omoto
Marketing/Media/Events - Pat Surrena
POW/MIA – Mike Messenger
Webmaster - Hazel Simeon
Women Veterans - Patti Ehline
Scholarship Program - Hazel Simeon, Richard Phillips, Bob Easter Joe Langran, Paul Seppo, Mary Seppo
Veteran Emergency Assistance Committee - Joe Plant, Bob Rotruck, Lee White

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 5, 2016 - VVA Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting at 0900. Board Meeting at 1030. Location: South Metro Fire & Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial, CO

Monday, March 7, 2016 - Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day - State Capitol

Saturday, March 12, 2016 - Colorado State Council Meeting - Phillip Miller Library - Castle Rock, CO

Thursday, March 24, 2016 - Honor Bell Foundation - "An Artifact Dedication Event" - Alamo Draffthouse Cinema - 1800-1100 PM - Littleton, CO

Saturday, April 2, 2016 - VVA Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting at 0900. Board Meeting at 1030. Location: South Metro Fire & Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial, CO

Trivia Answer

Black Balls - Three black balls hung in a vertical line on the mast indicate the ship is aground. - Coast Guard Navigation Rules

Book/Articles Published by Members

No input!

Wintertime
Douglas County Veterans Monument
Castle Rock, CO



Photo: Nick Lucey – NICKLUCEY.COM



Photo: Nick Lucey – NICKLUCEY.COM

From the Editor

Articles in this newsletter are not necessarily the views or opinions of VVA Chapter 1106.



Please join us March 24, 2016 for a very special evening of honor.

When The Honor Bell is cast in May of 2016, artifacts from Colorado's military servicemen and women will be placed into the molten bronze. These artifacts include service related items—dog tags, medals, badges—earned by veterans of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, which will make this instrument truly “forged from honor.” **When the Bell tolls in memoriam, the legacy of those veterans will forever ring.**

As a guest on March 24, you will learn about The Honor Bell, see a demonstration of the Bell Honors Ceremony, and witness the reverent dedication of these artifacts into our care.

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We will also have a complimentary screening of the film, *Taking Chance*. In 2004, US Marine Lt. Col. Michael Strobl volunteered to provide dignified escort for the body of 19-year-old US Marine Chance Phelps back to his hometown of Dubois, Wyoming. He wrote an essay on his experience which was made into this poignant film. Michael Strobl will be our honored guest and speaker for the event.

You will not want to miss this unique event and learn of Honor Bell Foundation's vision to honor all those who have served and sacrificed.

Event Details:

- Date: Thursday, March 24, 2016
- Time: 6–9 pm
- Location: Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, Littleton, CO

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FRIENDS OF CHAPTER 1106



Caribou Coffee
12501 E Lincoln Ave
Englewood, CO 80112
303-799-1258



Olinger/Dignity Mortuary
8600 E Hampden Ave
Denver, CO 80231
303-771-4636



Home Depot Foundation
8477 S Yosemite St
Lone Tree, CO 80124



South Metro Denver Fire & Rescue
9195 E Mineral Ave
Centennial, CO 80112



Monthly Membership Meetings
VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00a.m.
Our meetings are held at: VFW Post 2461
1350 S Broadway, Denver, CO 80210



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1390 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver



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