



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015
VOL 1 NO 7

“Welcome Home” **NEWSLETTER**



“Member Feature”

VVA Member Mike Messenger

OCT 10th 2015: VVA Chapter 1106 member Mike Messenger, along with family friend Kelly Spicer, sang some “Patsy, Dylan and Willie” for our healing Brothers and Sisters at the VA Medical Center in Denver. We played a long set of 60’s-70’s tunes, mixed with some current stuff, during a BBQ that was cooked up for the residents by Rolling Thunder.



I am very fortunate to have such a talent as Kelly to be a part of my passion to bring some down home music for shut-in Veterans. Last year Kelly and I performed at the Colorado State Community Living Center (nursing home) and for a function at VFW Post 2461. Kelly enjoys playing for the Veterans and has brothers who had served. She is very passionate in regards to “paying it back” to those who have served in the military.

Kelly is the mother of 3 and a stay at home Mom.... Sorta. She stays at home when she’s not out playin’. Kelly who comes from a musically talented Cleveland family, plays locally in Denver and at Maddie’s in Castle Rock. I met Kelly through my youngest daughter 5 years ago and we’ve had some fun jams since. I picked up my first guitar from a fellow airman who needed some quick cash for \$15 while stationed at McChord AFB in Tacoma Washington in 1964 and I haven’t put it down since. In 1966 I was stationed at Cam Rahn Bay South Vietnam where I met a fellow airman from my home state of Wisconsin by the name of Irwin Schroeder. When we were not in the field, Irwin and I would grab a six pack and hit the strings. He had the patience to teach me some chords and technique which primed me for a lifetime of playing guitar. I should mention that as a boy growing up in Wisconsin my parents INSISTED I learn to play the accordion. Some years later I dumped the big box instrument and never looked back.

While not overly talented... I’ve played in a Polka Band in Wisconsin, a Cowboy and Country Western band in Colorado Springs, countless campfires and I’ve sat in with some great talents along the way. Is music my passion? Not really but I enjoy playing and especially when I have the chance to play alongside a talent such as Kelly. Our next gig will be at the VFW Post 2461 on Saturday November 21st for a Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 fund raiser. I put the “old” in old time rock and roll!!

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1106 S. METRO DENVER, CO

Notes from the President

Lee White

In any organization, for profit or non-profit, leadership and communications are vital to the success of that organization.

VVA Chapter 1106 has had a great, successful “start-up” on our first year of operation (actually only 10 months)! Our membership needs to be commended for all their support in the activities/events that Chapter 1106 participated in during 2015.

Increasing membership is paramount for our Chapter 1106 to move forward in order to service our veterans in 2016. Our national headquarters has made a “once in a lifetime membership offer”. Lifetime membership for only \$100.00.

Eligibility: Membership is to all U.S. Armed Forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purpose) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

It's as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Go to our website: www.vva1106.org print off the “special membership application”
2. Fill in the application, attach a copy of your DD214, along with your check or money order. Sign and date it (be sure to fill in chapter 1106).
3. Send in to: Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299

Welcome home!!

Military Trivia

What does **Flight Suit Insert** mean? See answer at the end of the Newsletter

Wonderful Donation

Applewood Plumbing Heating & Electric awarded the chapter with a \$1,000 check. Thanks Milt Omoto for voting 3,762 times for us to win the award.



Lee White, Bob and Barbara Rotruck receiving the check! (Note: Lee tried to put it in his billfold but had a slight size issue!)



Very nice number!



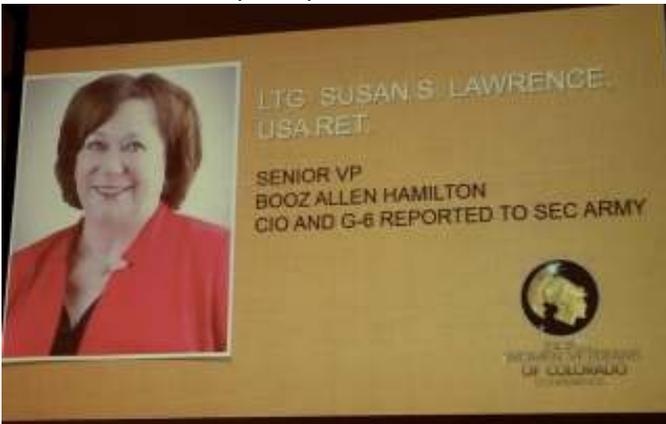
Lee and Bob presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Kelly Schreffler, Marketing Coordinator for Applewood.

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Women's Veterans of Colorado



Vietnam Veterans Hazel Simeon and Patti Ehline attended the 5th annual WVC conference held Saturday, September 12, 2015 at the Inverness Hotel, 200 Inverness Drive West, Englewood, CO. Title of the Conference, "Celebrating Colorado Women Warriors, Realizing Our Full Potential." They both reported that they had a wonderful time connecting with fellow women veterans and listening to the wonderful presentations. The featured speaker was LTGen Susan S. Lawrence, USA (RET).



Kathryn Wirkus United States Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) President and Founder, Women Veterans of Colorado



Patti & Hazel proudly displaying VVA1106

Patti said, "It was great to meet and network with other women veterans and of course I was able to recruit a number to check out VVA 1106 if they met the criteria for potential membership."

Upcoming Events

Saturday, **October 31, 2015**

Poppy Give-A-Way - Donation Drive

King Soopers Locations:

1. 9551 S. University Blvd., Highlands Ranch
2. 2205 W. Wildcat Reserve Way, Highlands Ranch
3. 4000 Red Cedar Drive, Highlands Ranch
4. 17000 E. Iliff, Aurora

Remembering Our Veterans

The Remembering Our Veterans Organization (ROV) will host a presentation of the World War I Museum in Kansas City, MO at the Castle Rock Senior Center on **November 6** at 1:00 PM The ROV meets the first Friday of the month at 1:00 PM, at the Castle Rock Senior Center. Activities and events include local veterans discussing their military experiences, authors talking about their military history books, and trips to military history museums. For more

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information please contact Larry Adams at 303-660-1857 or via email at gladams1@mac.com.

For other veteran information please visit www.douglasveterans.org

VVA Chapter 1106 Membership Meeting
Saturday, **November 7, 2015** - South Metro Fire & Rescue Bldg., 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial

Denver - Veterans Day



This year's Veterans' Day Denver event will be held Sunday, **November 8, 2015** at Civic Center Park. Every year on the weekend before Veterans Day, Denver comes together to celebrate and commemorate our nation's and local heroes. Denver Veterans Day is a celebration and an opportunity to salute our local Veterans. Events include a 5K/10K run in the morning, followed by the Veterans Day Parade, and the Veterans Day Festival in the afternoon.

The Remembrance Ceremony is presented by the Colorado Fallen Heroes memorial 9:45 - 10:00 am at the Colorado Veterans Monument, Civic Center Park. The Veterans Day Festival is presented by the Colorado Veterans Project and will run from 11:00 AM through 3:00 PM. This is a family-friendly festival that offers free admission, live music, kid's activities, and wide

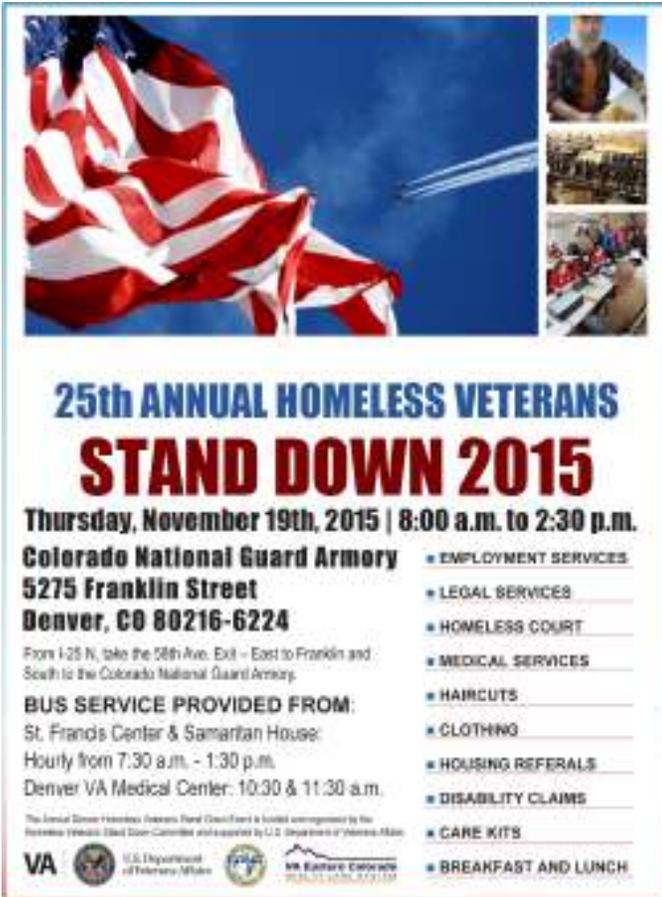
variety of food. The festival serves as a celebratory "thank you" to our Veterans who have fought to ensure our freedoms. The Festival will have static displays of both vintage and modern military vehicles for spectators to engage and take photos with. Uniformed men and women will be in attendance and encouraged to interact with children and adults.

Denver Veterans Stand Down 2015



The Veterans Stand Down event is scheduled for Thursday, **November 19, 2015** at the Denver National Guard Armory located at 5275 Franklin Street, Denver CO. The Stand Down is a Veterans Administration sponsored one-day event that provides supplies, food and services for our homeless Veterans in the area. Shelter, clothing, health screenings and VA Social Security benefits counseling is provided. Veterans also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance abuse treatment, and mental health counseling. This is a collaborative event between the local VA Medical Centers, other government agencies, and community homeless service providers. Of the approximately 750 homeless veterans in Colorado, 40% are in Denver.

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**25th ANNUAL HOMELESS VETERANS
STAND DOWN 2015**

Thursday, November 19th, 2015 | 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Colorado National Guard Armory
5275 Franklin Street
Denver, CO 80216-6224

From I-25 N, take the 58th Ave. Exit - East to Franklin and South to the Colorado National Guard Armory.

BUS SERVICE PROVIDED FROM:
St. Francis Center & Samaritan House:
Hourly from 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Denver VA Medical Center: 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.

The Annual Stand Down Homeless Veterans Panel (Stand Down) is funded and supported by the Veterans Affairs Stand Down Committee and supported by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

- EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- LEGAL SERVICES
- HOMELESS COURT
- MEDICAL SERVICES
- HAIRCUTS
- CLOTHING
- HOUSING REFERRALS
- DISABILITY CLAIMS
- CARE KITS
- BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs VA Eastern Colorado Healthcare System

If you know or are aware of a homeless vet, please pass on this info to them so that they might get some help.



Volunteers of America and the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, along with various Veterans organizations, including VVA Chapter 1071, conducted a week-long ground campaign, October 19-24, with the goal of identifying every Veteran experiencing homelessness in the Denver Metro and Boulder Areas. Currently one of the greatest barriers for ending Veteran

homeless in Colorado is having the capacity to identify and connect every Veteran with services. The ground campaign addresses this obstacle by sending teams of Metro Denver Homeless Initiative partners and volunteers to comb the streets in Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties to identify each unreached homeless Veteran.

Staff and volunteers passed out information on resources for assistance, distributed socks and hygiene items, and collected necessary information for service providers to follow up with the individuals. The ground campaign helps service providers identify locations of greatest need while also pointing individuals to attend the Denver Veteran Stand Down on November 19, 2015.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thursday, November 26, 2015



Just dropping a few love letters to our Viet Cong friends!!!

Wreaths Across America

Our mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. We also organize a week of

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events including international veteran's tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long "Veteran's Parade" between Maine and Virginia where we stop along the way to spread our message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.



National Remembrance Ceremony **December 12 2015!**

This week of events is made possible by thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths, and participate in the events. We receive no government funding. The cost of our programs is paid by individual wreaths sponsors, corporate donors and volunteer truckers.

We also coordinate veteran services and recognition through a variety of programs, and provide schools with teaching aides for projects throughout the year.

See more at:

<http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/about/mission-vision/#sthash.lyTWsXu5.dpuf>

See donation form on the last page!

Getting there: the path forward for delivering better health care

Time and again, leadership in the Department of Defense asks the Military Health System: How can we get more value for our 9.5 million beneficiaries? How can we serve them better? How can we spread improvement across the military community? How can we be more efficient?

The Military Health System has been eager to answer those questions, said Dr. Michael Dinneen, director of the MHS Office of Strategy Management in a presentation in August at the Defense Health Information Technology symposium (DHITS) in Orlando, Florida.

In one of the 50-plus working sessions where information technology experts focused on a range of process improvement and modernization programs across MHS, Dinneen and Dr. Paul Cordts, the Defense Health Agency's (DHA) deputy director for Healthcare Operations, asked attendees to look at the bigger picture.

Their talk in a session called Partnership for Improvement (P4I): The Access, Quality, and Safety Dashboard for MHS Leaders centered on methods for measuring and improving processes across the MHS organization—efforts that serve to monitor progress and advances in access, quality, safety and transparency essential elements, they maintain, that promote excellence in health care.

"We were required earlier this year to demonstrate the capability of this organization to drive enterprise-wide improvement in those areas, and to show that we have a system to drive improvement across the whole MHS enterprise," said Dinneen. "At DHITS, we explained our system of measures, which is combined with reporting, and process

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improvement. And, thanks to the work of Army, Navy and Air Force teams making improvements at hospitals around the world, we were able to write a report to the deputy secretary of Defense demonstrating that the MHS now has the ability to drive system-wide improvement.”

Dinneen said a set of 30 measures now in place provide a total view of MHS performance. He cited examples including measuring the total cost of care per person per month; the rate of bloodstream infections; and the satisfaction of patients with their care as just a few ways MHS tracks its progress. He said leadership focused on four key areas for improvement: access, quality, safety and primary care capacity. The measures are reviewed monthly by the Deputy Surgeons General and the deputy director of the Defense Health Agency. The assistant secretary of Defense and the Surgeons General lead a higher-level strategic review on a quarterly basis. “DHA leadership is working together to achieve shared goals on behalf of those we serve,” said Dinneen. “I believe that we need a culture that embraces the idea that ‘measurement is for improvement, not judgment’,” said Dinneen.

Cordts said the mark of progress in an organization in transition, like MHS, is willingness to achieve “meaningful transparency.” Echoing the remarks of DHA leaders, Cordts called transparency a “key characteristic of high-reliability organizations,” and reflected by the commitment within MHS to ensure that information on its performance is available and useful to beneficiaries. Cordts’ presentation included an explanation of the four domains of transparency, including: with the public (reporting safety data); between clinicians and patients (disclosure after a medical error); among clinicians; and, among organizations.

Dinneen said that getting there, in terms of becoming a leading health system and a high

reliability organization, requires MHS to know where it’s trying to go, and having a set of reliable measures.

“Having your set of measures will give you a sense of ‘true north’,” said Dinneen. “We think of true north as improved readiness, better health, better care and lower costs. In the area of better care, specifically we are talking about improved access, safety and quality.” But, said Dinneen, having measures is only part of the work.

“You then have to identify what processes need to be improved in order to improve your performance on those measures,” he added. “That is where you get into the requirement in our system for robust process improvement, which is a key element of a high-reliability organization.”



I guess we’ll have to take a different taxi!!!

Veteran’s Benefit Corner

As too many veterans have discovered, dealing with the Veterans Administration (VA) can be a daunting and frustrating experience. Knowing where to start, completing complex forms, and navigating through the complex VA maze is just the start. Dealing with long delays and disapprovals is something veterans should not have to experience.

But, there is help. The State and Counties have veteran services that are here to help you, the veteran. They serve as your advocate to help

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you understand your benefits, help you prepare documents, and deal directly with the VA on your behalf. Below are the agencies within our Chapter's area that you can seek help from:

State of Colorado
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
1355 S. Colorado Blvd., Building C, Ste. 113
Denver, CO 80222
Phone: (303) 284-6077

Douglas County
Office of Veterans Affairs
301 Wilcox Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104
Phone: (303) 663-6200

Arapahoe County
Community Resources Department
County Veteran Services
1690 West Littleton Blvd., Suite 110
Littleton, CO 80120
Phone: (303) 738-8045

The Colorado Veterans Monument at the State Capital is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

A re-dedication will take place on Tuesday November 10, 2015 at 11am. The Colorado Tribute to Veterans Fund has completed bush removal and sod replacement. The cost to "spruce up" the monument is over \$31,000. The Tribute Fund still needs about \$1,000 to cover all expenses.



The American Legion was a sponsor of the original legislative bill that authorized the building of this impressive monument. We are asking that you, or your post, consider a donation to the Tribute Fund to finish the work. You can send donations directly to Veterans Tribute Fund, c/o Tim Drago, 3210 S University Blvd, Denver, CO 80210. For more information contact Tim at: 303-263-5993 or email: tdrago6990@comcast.net.

Membership Drive!

Do you have a VVA1106 Business Card? Send an email to: bobrotruck73@gmail.com and he will send you a template to print 10 business cards. When you see some folks that look like they could be Vietnam Vets, give them a card! Step up to the plate and ask them to join

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VVA1106? **Do it!** The best answer this month:
"I don't want to be a part of a group that sits
on their ass once a month and accomplishes
no more than a really good fart???"

Membership Total as of 10/31/2015: 48

Facts about the Vietnam Veteran

Of the 23% of homeless population that are veterans, 47% of these are Vietnam War veterans.

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 - Pat Surrena, Mike Messenger,
Lee White

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, Bob
Rotruck

Veterans Grants - Hazel Simeon, Bob Rotruck

Angel Fire Journey 2016 - Lee White, Mike
Messenger

Editor's Quip

Bob Rotruck: I usually don't put anything
political in the Newsletter, but I could not pass
this up since it is your and my tax money!!!

Book/Articles Published by Members

The Light Side

Painting the porch!

A blonde girl in her late teens, wanting to earn some extra money for the summer, decided to hire herself out as a "handy woman" and started canvassing a nearby well-to-do neighborhood. She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do. "Well, I guess I could use somebody to paint the porch," he said. "How much will you charge me?" Delighted, the girl quickly responded, "How about \$100?" The man agreed and told her that the paint and everything she would need were in the garage. The man's wife, hearing the conversation, said to her husband, "Does she realize that our porch goes ALL the way around the house?"

"No idea; but that's her problem. She quoted" he responded. The wife replied, "You're right. I guess I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes." A few hours later the blonde came to the door to collect her money. "You're finished already?" the surprised husband asked. "Yes," the blonde replied, "and I even had paint left over so I gave it two coats." Impressed, the man reached into his pocket for the \$100 and handed it to her along with a \$20 tip. "Thank you," the blonde said, "And, by the way, it's not a Porch, it's a Lexus."

Little Girl on an Airplane

Caution: contains a four letter word!

An atheist was seated next to a little girl on an airplane and he turned to her and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger." The little girl, who had just started to read her book, replied to the total stranger, "What would you want to talk about?" Oh, I don't know," said the atheist "How about why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death?" as he smiled smugly.

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"Okay," she said. "Those could be interesting topics but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff - grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, but a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?"

The atheist, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea." To which the little girl replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss God, Heaven and Hell, or life after death, when you don't know shit?" And then she went back to reading her book.

If you see someone wearing camouflage, make sure to walk right into them so they know it's working

Conversation:

Mike Messenger: Maybe my wifey wouldn't see me drinking a cold one.....

VVA1106 FB: But remember Mike, the beer can has to be camo too!!!!!!

Mike Messenger: Dang... that's where I blew it!

Tool Definitions

For all of you do-it-yourselfers -

SKIL SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make boards too short.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from

fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh shit'. Will easily wind a tee shirt off your back.

DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

Channel Locks: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

WISE-GRIPS: Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for igniting various flammable objects in your shop and creating a fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

TABLE SAW: A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity. Very effective for digit removal!!

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

BAND SAW: A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut large pieces into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the

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trash after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge. Also excels at amputations.

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of all the crap you forgot to disconnect.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids or for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

STRAIGHT SCREWDRIVER: A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws and butchering your palms.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts adjacent to the object you are trying to hit. Also very effective at fingernail removal.

UTILITY KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door. Works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts. Especially useful for slicing work clothes, but only while in use. These can also be used to initiate a trip to the emergency room so a doctor can sew up the damage.

Trivia Answer

Flight Suit Insert – Air Force slang for a pilot.

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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



The UPS Store
.17011 Lincoln Avenue
Parker, CO 80134
303-841-0919



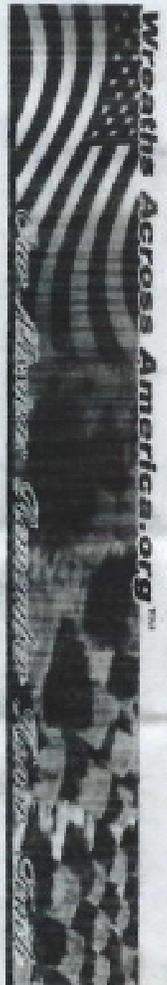
Applewood Plumbing Heating & Electric
Main Billing Office: 5000 W 29th Ave.
Denver, CO 80212
Phone: 303-232-6611
Fax: 303-477-4310
Email: custservice@applewoodfixit.com



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 State: _____ Zip: _____
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Marines at Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq
Wreaths Across America Ceremony 2006

**Sorry, we are unable to accept grave specific requests through the main office's*

Sponsorship Levels	Price	Qty	Total
Individuals= 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate= 100 Wreaths	\$1500.00		
Wreaths Across America (A Non Profit Corp.)			Grand Total

REMEMBER, HONOR & TEACH
 National Remembrance Ceremony
 DECEMBER 12, 2015

GROUP ID # 00000000 Location ID COFLND
 (If you are not supporting a participating fundraising group leave Group ID # blank)

Cut Here for Receipt ✂

Please make checks payable to Wreaths Across America™ and mail to:
Wreaths Across America™
 P.O. Box 249
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623
 Any questions please call 877-385-9504

Wreaths Across America would like to "Thank you" for your wreath sponsorship.

Date: _____ Name: _____ of City: _____ has

Made a donation of (Total Wreath Sponsorships) \$ _____ to Wreaths Across America™ of Columbia Falls, ME.
 Wreaths Across America is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

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