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“Welcome Home” **NEWSLETTER**

“Member Feature”

1stLT Patti Ehline – US Army Nurse

Vietnam Nurse – Trials and Tribulations

Patti Muehling (now Ehline) left home for Vietnam a young innocent 21 year old 2nd LT in the Army Nurse Corps and came home a very mature 22 year old war hardened 1st LT. It was a very eye opening experience for this innocent child of the '50s. “I had a very romantic attitude about the war at that time,” she recalls. “I envisioned it as the good guys versus the bad guys. We were all so young and naïve. Not any of us thought about the possibility of dying until after we were there.” She didn't know what to expect in Vietnam since living the majority of her life in Omaha, NE. Not only was her trip to Vietnam her first ride in an airplane, but also her first time out of the United States. The war began for Patti in 1968 and ended one year later. Today, over 40 years later, she continues to deal with her moral and ethical issues of her experiences in Vietnam.

While the war still brings back many negative memories, it was also a year that presented many personal challenges and responsibilities and today she often reflects on that year to draw strength and faith in herself. “The Vietnam War broadened my vision about life,” Patti says. I really grew as a person that year.” Patti was assigned to the 2nd Surgical Hospital which handled all surgical and acute care patients from the field. She was later transferred to the 312 Evacuation Hospital, a 400 bed facility which treated the wounded from the field and provided emergency, acute, and long term care

to patients with illness or injuries who could later return to the field to fight. Patients needing more extensive care were transferred to facilities in Japan, Philippines or the United States.

Coming Home – Coming back to the United States was like stepping into a different world. Patti, like thousands of other veterans, returned home to antiwar marches, hostility, and protests. “I had no idea that there was so much protest about the war,” she says. “That made me very angry.” Patti now knows that she suffered post-traumatic stress disorders like so many other Vietnam veterans.

Patti is proud of the positive life changes she has made and many of these she contributes to the impact that the Vietnam War has had on her life. She cannot forget the war and continues to reflect on her Vietnam experiences often. “The war is something that stays with you forever,” she says. “You can never totally shut it out of your mind.”

“I am a Vietnam Veteran, a nurse (now retired) and I am dedicated to standing by my military sisters and brothers as they walk the path of healing from the effects of PTSD caused by war!”

Notes from the President

Lee White

In the last few weeks, I have been gathering information on, what I think, will be a very interesting project for our Chapter 1106.

I was shocked to learn that Olinger/Dignity Mortuary has in their possession some 3,000

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unclaimed “cremains” with an estimate of 20-25 % that could be veterans. Some cremains go back as far as 1954!!!! With about 20 mortuaries in the Denver metro area, who knows what the total may be.

Olinger/Dignity has asked for our support in inventorying and cataloging these “boxed cremains”. Our efforts are expected to result in a spreadsheet that will contain the decedent’s name, date of birth, container number, and vault location. This information will be forwarded through the support of Ft. Logan to the VA data base to verify if the cremains are veterans.

Once we identify a veteran, we will attempt to obtain a DD214 and strive to contact next of kin from the discharge documentation.

Finally, an Honors Ceremony will be conducted with the support of Ft. Logan.

This will be a huge undertaking with VVA Chapter 1071 already onboard, but much remains to be organized. Olinger/Dignity at this time is asking for volunteers to spend a day gathering the information and putting it on a spreadsheet. Volunteer day probably will be in September/October timeframe. TBD

Chapter 1106 will discuss our potential involvement at our next meeting on Sept. 5th.

WELCOME HOME!!

THANK YOU

Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric
Our chapter wants to thank you for the \$1,000 donation under your Caring Community Award program. We very much appreciate Applewood's support of our organization.

Military Trivia

What does **Scrounger** mean? See answer at the end of the Newsletter



Bob Hope was always the star and began each show by strutting on stage with his golf club, firing off jokes tailored to each base. And he always brought the outstanding glamour star from back home. On the 1967 tour, actress Raquel Welch joined Hope on stage to add a few crowd-pleasing dance moves to Bob's rendition of "Dancin' in the Streets." (Photos: National Archives)

October Meeting Guest Speaker

We will have an important guest speaker for our October 3 Chapter 1106 meeting. Renee Pace, Colorado State Veterans Services Officer will discuss:

- Pension
- Compensation
- Health Benefits
- Widow's Benefits
- Burial Benefits

These are provided by the Veterans Administration that are available to veterans. She will have VA materials and other handouts to pass out. Renee has a long career helping veterans, starting with the Oregon County Veterans Services Office which was administered by the Vietnam Veterans of America. She has been helping veterans her entire career and is currently with the State of Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

It is important for veterans, their spouses, and family members to be informed of VA benefits. Please invite other veterans, their spouses and others interested in learning about veteran benefits to attend. It is also important to know that State and County Veteran Affairs offices are there to help veterans understand qualification requirements, complete VA forms, and to navigate the rather complex VA system.

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Please help us get the word out to other veterans about the October 3rd meeting.

Upcoming Events

September 5th, 0900 regular member meeting at South Metro Fire & Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial!

Saturday, September 12, 2015 -- Colorado State Council Meeting -- Douglas County Library, Castle Rock, CO. Time: 1300 - 1500 -- Dick Southern, Regional Director, is scheduled to attend.

Saturday, September 12, 2015 -- 5th. Annual Women Veterans of Colorado Conference -- Inverness Hotel, 200 Inverness Drive West, Englewood, CO. -- 0800 - 1630 -- Patti Ehline and Hazel Simeon to represent Chapter 1106.

Saturday, October 3, 0900 regular meeting at South Metro Fire & Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial!

Saturday, October 3, 2015 -- KEZW's "Veterans Fair" -- Hudson Gardens -- Details Pending (Great turn-out of veterans last year!)

Special Offer Membership Drive!

Vietnam Veterans of America national headquarters is presenting a special lifetime membership one time offer. Lifetime memberships for only \$100. No age requirement for qualified Vietnam Veterans. Offer good from August 1, 2015 until December 31, 2015.

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

1. Go to the national website: www.vva.org -- print off copy "onetime special offer application" and fill it out.
2. Enclose application, copy of DD214, payment by check, money order, or credit card (signature required) checks made out to VVA.

3. Mail to: Vietnam Veterans of America, PO Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299

This is a great deal for new and renewal memberships!!!!!!!!!!!!

Membership Total as of 9/1/2015: 43

AVVA Membership: 8

Welcome:

Jim Hemphill - First New "Lifetime Member" (SPECIAL OFFER MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN)
Richard Coon - Transfer from VVA Chapter 1071

Leslie Gorsuch - Lifetime Member Transfer from VVA Chapter 1071

Facts about the Vietnam Veteran

At least half a million Vietnam veterans still lead lives plagued by serious, war-related readjustment problems. Of the 21% of the homeless population that are veterans, 47% of those are Vietnam War veterans.



Wonder where the meter was on these taxis?

Board of Directors/Officers

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Board Members – Milt Omoto, Patti Ehline,
Patrick Surrena

Working Committees

(Folks are needed to fill some spots!)

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Marketing/Media/Events - Pat Surrena

POW/MIA – Mike Messenger

Webmaster - Hazel Simeon

Women Veterans - Patti Ehline



Denver Stand Down 2015

The veterans Stand Down in Denver for this year will be on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at the National Guard Armory, 5275 Franklin St., Denver, Colorado. The Stand Down will be a one-day event providing supplies and services to homeless Veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Veterans can also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment and mental health counseling. They are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, other government agencies and community-based homeless service providers. A survey (2014) found that there are currently about 750

homeless veterans living in Colorado, with about 40 percent of them in Denver.

What is a Stand Down?

The original Stand Down for homeless veterans was modeled after the Stand Down concept used during the Vietnam War to provide a safe retreat for units returning from combat operations. At secure base camp areas, troops were able to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms, enjoy warm meals, receive medical and dental care, mail and receive letters, and enjoy the camaraderie of friends in a safe environment. Stand Down afforded battle-weary soldiers the opportunity to renew their spirit, health and overall sense of well-being.

That is the purpose of the Stand Down for homeless veterans, and achieving those objectives requires a wide range of support services and time. The program is successful because it brings these services to one location, making them more accessible to homeless veterans.

In July 2002, the founders of Stand Down – Robert Van Keuren, Dr. Jon Nachison and Vietnam Veterans of San Diego – asked the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) to become the “keeper of the flame” and provide national leadership for the movement. Since the first Stand Down in San Diego in 1988, the program has become recognized as the most valuable outreach tool to help homeless veterans in the nation today.

Bringing the Courts Uphold Homeless Veterans

At our August Chapter meeting, you heard our guest speaker Judge Kerry Hada talk about how the Denver court supports veterans at Stand Downs. It can be daunting for homeless veterans to clear their records of the types of minor infractions from park-curfew fines, trespassing, public intoxication, that often go

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hand in hand with living on the streets. The temporary court focused on clearing the tickets and warrants related to misdemeanor, nonviolent violations. In most cases, defendants get community service rather than jail time.

Stand Downs are sponsored by the Veterans Administration. They also provide an opportunity for other veterans to support homeless veterans by volunteering at the event. More information about the Denver Stand Down is forthcoming.

Book/Articles Published by Members

Got no input from members again this newsletter, so you will have to again put up with some of my stuff!! I wrote the following when my daughter-in-law, LCDR Shannan Cook, Nurse Corps, USN was deployed to Afghanistan as part of a Forward Surgical Team.

By the Dawn's Early Light FOB Lagman, Afghanistan

O say can you see, the sun rising in the east?
Normally it is something special for the eyes to
feast.

But for some, it is another day to face the pain,
To test medical skills and remove the blood
stain.

We are in a land far away from our home,
Where people with bombs are allowed to roam.
A land where the people don't want us here,
Because the Taliban plant bombs with no fear.
They don't care who the bomb blows apart,
Even their own people who are just pulling a
cart.

And in our front gate they enter in tears,
For the life of their loved ones who stare
solemnly with fears.

Please help us they cry out to the American
team,

My grandchild is all that I have left, the tears do
stream.

And we do the very best we can in this foreign
place,

Because we too are members of the human
race.

These farmers and herders don't want the war,
They have no agenda or bet to settle a score.
They just want to see the sun rising in the east,
And tend their lambs and goats in peace.

We are weary too of seeing the pain and
suffering,

But our job is to help, our medical training we
are offering.

We do the best we can for each person that we
see,

We don't question their motives or their political
decree.

Just stop the blood and save a limb or two,
We are proud of our work for the red, white,
and blue.

And when day is done, oft times late at night,
We go to our beds and try to sleep without
fright.

And we say our prayers quietly to our heavenly
Lord,

That tomorrow we'll not see more pain that
their people scored.

We also pray we will soon go home to those
who love us,

And they will hug and kiss us and make such a
fuss.

We will stand tall and say we did the best we
could,

Just like our troops do daily as they should.

And we will thank God that we are not
physically damaged,

But we know there will be nightmares of what
we've managed.

To save some lives for their country and ours,
And we will live on with all of the mental scars.

Thank you God for giving us the skills to save,
We only ask for our minds to be brave.

God bless America as we sit at our morning
feast,

And stare at the sun rising far in the east.

AMEN!

ROTRUCK – 2010

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The Light Side

Facebook and Twitter

For those of my generation (and others) who do not really comprehend why Facebook exists: Boca Joe making friends fast, using Facebook principles! Presently, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Every day, I go down the street and tell passersby what I have eaten, how I feel, what I have done the night before, what I will be doing and plan to do. I freely spout my political and religious thoughts without regard to theirs. I give them pictures of my family, my friends, my dog, my vacations, my gardening and spending time in my pool. I also listen to their conversations, and I tell them I love them.

And it works. I already have 3 persons following me: 2 police officers and a psychiatrist.

MOSES



Over five thousand years ago, Moses said to the children of Israel, "Pick up your shovels, mount your asses and camels, and I will lead you to the Promised Land." Nearly 75 years ago, (when Welfare was introduced) Roosevelt said, "Lay down your shovels, sit on your asses, and light up a Camel, this is the Promised Land." Today, Congress has stolen your shovel, taxed your asses, raised the price of Camels and mortgaged the Promised Land! I was so depressed last night thinking about Health Care Plans, the economy, the wars, lost jobs, savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc I called a Suicide Hotline. I had to press 1 for English. I was connected to a call center in Pakistan. I told them I was suicidal. They got excited and asked if I could drive a truck..... Folks, we're screwed.

Senior Citizens

(Caution: Politically sensitive!)

A senior citizen is walking along a Florida beach when he comes across a lamp partially buried in the sand. He picks up the lamp and gives it a rub to brush off the sand. A genie appears and tells him he has been granted one wish.

The old man thinks for a moment and says, "I want to live forever."

"Sorry," said the genie, "I'm not allowed to grant eternal life."

"OK, then, I want to die after the Democrats balance the budget and eliminate the debt."

"You are a crafty old bastard," said the genie.

Trivia Answer

Scrounger – A very important member of a unit, a Soldier or Sailor who can obtain any materials and/or equipment, usually by other than normal official channels and you don't question where it came from!!! (Also: Midnight Requisition).

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FRIENDS OF CHAPTER 1106



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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