



SEP/OCT 2016
VOL 2 NO 5



“Welcome Home” **NEWSLETTER**

“Member Feature”

My name is John Williams. Right after I graduated from high school, I joined the United States Marine Corps. From July 1959 to January 1960, I went through boot camp at the Infantry Training at Camp Pendleton, Individual Replacement Pool, in San Diego. My first duty station was with the Machine Gun Section, Weapons Platoon, “G” Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Brigade, 3rd Marine Division at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, Hawaii. This duty lasted from February 1960 to February 1962.

My second duty station was with the 2nd Platoon, “A” Company, 1st Anti-Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division back at Camp Pendleton, California. It was during this time that I was introduced to the “Ontos*.” My duty here was from March 1962 to July 1962. Then in August 1962, I was transferred to the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) at McAlester, Oklahoma to August 1965. At that time, I received my first orders for Vietnam.



M50 “Ontos”, Multiple 106 mm, Self-propelled



M50 “Ontos”, Multiple 106 mm, Self-propelled

In Vietnam, I was part of the 1st Platoon, “A” Company, 3rd Anti-Tank Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, 3rd Marine Amphibious Force RVN. I spent most of my in-country North and West of Da Nang attached to various Infantry Companies of the 3rd Marine Regiment. I served in-country until October 1966 when I returned to the USA. I then went to the 3rd Platoon, “B” Company, 5th Anti-Tank Battalion, 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, where I stayed until August 1967.

My second tour of duty in Vietnam was with the 3rd Platoon, “C” Company, 1st Anti-Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division. I went right back to the same area that I left in 1966. In November of 1967, our Platoon went aboard an LST to go to the Philippines to refurbish and rearm. We boarded the LSD for the return trip to Vietnam. Upon reaching the coast of Vietnam, the unit made several landings. Our mission was to keep the supply waterway open from the sea to Dong HA. We stayed along the Cua Viet River until we left in May 1968. We then joined the floating 2nd Battalion 7th Marines in June and went back to the Philippines on a LPH to refurbish and rearm.

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In the Philippines, I left the unit and returned to the States for a discharge.

In March 1976, I decided to enter the Marine Corps Reserve and joined "D" Company, 4th Recon Battalion, 4th Marine Division in Albuquerque, NM. This is a Reserve Unit, where I stayed until October 1976. Then I joined "B" Company, 4th Recon Battalion in Billings, MT, where I stayed until February 1978. Finally, I joined the 4th 175MM Self-Propelled Gun Battery in Denver where I've stayed since. In total I served 9 years active duty and 3 years 3 months in Ready Reserve.

Milt Omoto Notes: John was awarded the Navy and Marine Commendation Medal with "V", Combat Action Ribbon, and Personal Award Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Medal with Bronze Star. In a quick interview with John, Milt discovered that he often gets confused with composer John Williams of "Star Wars" film score fame. He asked the composer for some "royalties" but never received any. 😊

Notes from the President

Lee White

In my last July/August newsletter I announced the results of the Colorado State Council elections held on June 4, 2016.

As the newly elected president of the Colorado State Council, I find many opportunities and challenges as we move forward in identifying and developing areas of Colorado for start-ups of additional chapters to service our veterans in need.

At the present time, our State Council has determined Pueblo, Colorado Springs (north end/Monument), Loveland, Fort Collins, Longmont/Brighton, and Grand Junction. This will require "all hands on deck" from the State Council and chapter members to participate in making initial contacts to start the process.

Our State Council has developed and implemented new "By-laws", "Mission Statement", Declaration of Principles" and has a new website: www.costatecouncil.org

State Council's Mission Statement:

"To promote and enforce the principles and policies of the Vietnam veterans of America, as set forth in the VVA constitution"

"To act as a conduit to establish additional chapters within Colorado"

"To support existing chapters in their efforts to promote the welfare of all veterans and their families"

"To develop positive relationships within the local community, and participate in veteran community events"

In Remembrance

Richard Cox, Past President, Chapter 1071
Past Vice President, State Council
Passed away Sunday, August 7, 2016

Military Trivia

What is a **100mph tape**? See answer at the end of the Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 3, 2016 – First Annual Chapter 1106 Picnic/Pot Luck – Heather Gardens

Saturday, September 10, 2016 – VVA Colorado State Council Meeting – Castle Pines Library

Saturday, October 1, 2016 – Chapter 1106 Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2016 – VVA State Council's President Meeting – Silver Spring, MD

Saturday, November 5, 2016 – Chapter 1106 Monthly Meeting

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Wednesday, November 9, 2016 – “Honoring Vietnam Veterans” – Wings Over the Rockies – Register online: www.auroragov.org/salute

Saturday, November 12, 2016 – Chapter 1106 – Poppy Drive

Membership!

Membership Total as of 8/17/2016: 52

AVVA – 18

Welcome New VVA Members: Bill Pine, Thomas Werzyn

Welcome New AVVA Member: Jim Williams



CVA-59 USS Forrestal – Never forget that fateful day in the Gulf of Tonkin

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 – Chaplain

Working Committees

(Folks are needed to fill some spots!)

Agent Orange/PTSD -

Membership - Lee White, Pat Surrena

Newsletter Editor - Bob Rotruck

Fundraising/Grants - Milt Omoto

Marketing/Media/Events - Pat Surrena

POW/MIA – Mike Messenger

Webmaster – Robert Senatore

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, Dave Lyons

Honors Committal Program

On Saturday, June 26, 2016, Chapter 1071 of the Vietnam Veterans of America conducted a Final Roll Call and Honors Committal Internment for 30 veterans. The remains of these veterans have been unclaimed by relatives and next of kin and have been in storage for decades. These veterans' service periods include WWII, Korea, and Vietnam and having served in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force. Ranks range from Private to Lt. Colonel with several having earned awards for valor.



Milt Omoto transferring urns to ceremony

The cremains of each veteran were contained in hand crafted wood, each a work of art with the seal of the appropriate service branch engraved on the wood. The de-bossed name plate is a period authentic dog tag, created for each individual. Each urn was accompanied by an American flag. Olinger Cemeteries and Mortuary transported the cremains to Fort Logan.

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Beautifully handcrafted containers



Patriot Guard

Mr. Stan Paprocki, President of Chapter 1071 presided over the ceremony. John Altfeltis, Chapter 1071 Chaplain gave the invocation. Guest speaker was Major General H. Michael Edwards. The Colorado Joint Color Guard presented the colors.



Colorado Joint Color Guard

The ceremony included a final roll call for each veteran called out by Al Roettger and their presence verified by a uniformed member of the military, a twenty-one gun salute, and military fly-over by the Colorado Air National Guard.



Stan Paprocki, President of Chapter 1071

Of the 868 cremation certificates researched, Chapter 1071 has, to date, identified and qualified an additional 41 veteran remains for internment.

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MAJGEN Michael Edwards – Guest Speaker



Final Resting Place



Twenty-one Gun Salute

**VOLUNTEERS
WANTED**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT VETERANS SERVICE CENTER!!!! 1247 Santa Fe

Are you interested in an opportunity to serve Veterans? The VSC is looking for front desk receptionists. Shifts needed: M, W, TH, F mornings from 8am-12pm.

Please contact Rachel Denenberg Email at: denenberg@voacolorado.org or call at: (303) 297-0408 Ext.13126 to get started!

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Voices for Veterans

From chapter member Patti Ehline

Mission:

The purpose of this council is to address Veterans' concerns, evaluate suggestions and develop relationships between the Veterans and the Mental Health Service so as to improve the quality of care and promote recovery for all.

The council will be a source to aid Veterans of all eras entering various pro-grams of mental health treatment.

Additionally, the intent of this council is to enhance the partnerships between the VA, Veterans' and their families, including the community abroad.

For more information, contact Patti.

Douglas County News Release

Published on July 6, 2016

Breaking News, Community & Human Services & What's New Veteran's Affairs

Introducing a new service for those who served. New by-appointment service eases application process for disabled veterans' license plate.



Assemble the needed paperwork, make your appointment, and receive personal assistance completing your Disabled Veteran License Plate application.



If you are an eligible Douglas County disabled veteran, applying for your initial free set of license plates, you may secure a personal appointment for assistance at the Lone Tree office of the Douglas County Motor Vehicle Division.

To secure an appointment, please call 303 660-7440, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or email DCMVBBusinessSVCS@douglas.co.us

At this appointment you will receive assistance completing the Disabled Veteran License Plate application which must be accompanied by copies of these required documents:

- Discharge documents showing proof of honorable discharge from a branch of the U.S. Armed Services;
- A letter from Veterans Affairs (VA) specifying permanent disability, thus establishing eligibility. When contacting the VA, be sure to obtain the information shown below. It is very important that the eligibility letter from the VA states the following:
 - Disability of veteran is 50% or more;
 - Disability of veteran is service related; and
 - Disability of veteran is permanent
- Vehicle registration or title receipt or title completion notice
- Proof of insurance
- Proof of emissions (if required – diesel only)

“This is great news that our veterans can now obtain these services here in the County,” said David Maxwell, Douglas County Veterans Affairs Officer.

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2016 Chapter Scholarship Winners

At the July 2nd chapter meeting, the two winners of the \$1,000 scholarships were introduced by Hazel Simeon.



Zachery Hall and Emily Walker with Hazel

Zack is a graduate of Arapahoe High School in Centennial and has been accepted to attend Creighton University, College of Arts and Sciences in Omaha, NE starting the fall semester, 2016. Zack's father, Richard Hall, was a Marine Corps pilot and was Honorably Discharged June 23, 1964.

Emily Walker is a graduate of Castle View High School in Castle Rock and has been accepted to attend the University of Northern Colorado, School of Nursing, Greeley, CO starting the fall semester, 2016. Emily's grandfather, Seymour Walker, was in the Army and was Honorably Discharged September 23, 1945.



Courtesy of WHAFV

Welcome Home Montrose Warrior Resource Center Newsletter

<http://welcomehomemontrose.org/>

Book/Articles Published by Members

A little something written by a Navy guy:

Author unknown

We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times. We know in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing.

Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the "job" and merely being allowed to leave "active" duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that "Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called children of God," and you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

From the Editor!

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ROCKIES BASEBALL

Some of the chapter members attended the American Legion Rockies event honoring military active duty and veterans.



The guy closest to the camera is wearing dark glasses because the sun was hurting his eyes from drinking too many Coors!!!



Civilian Friends vs. Veteran Friends

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will kick the crowds' ass that left you behind.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, "You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!!" Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will talk crap to the person who talks crap about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will knock the hell out OF THEM.....for using your name in vain.

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, or national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life." From one Veteran to another, it's an honor to be in your Company.

Doctor Visit

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person

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would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Grandpa, what is couple sex?

Grandparents and others, listen and understand! We are all reaching that stage where we need to keep the wax out of our ears and keep the hearing aids tuned up.

An 8-year-old girl went to her grandfather, who was working in the yard and asked him, "Grandpa, what is a couple sex?"

The grandfather was surprised that she would ask such a question, but decided that if she's old enough to know to ask the question then she's old enough to get a straight answer.

Steeling himself to leave nothing out, he proceeded to tell her all about human reproduction and the joys and responsibilities that go along with it.

When he finished explaining, the little girl was looking at him with her mouth hanging open, eyes wide in amazement. Seeing the look on her face the grandfather asked her, "Why did you ask this question, honey?"

The little girl replied, "Well, Grandma says to tell you that dinner will be ready in just a couple secs."

Trivia Answer

100mph Tape - Standard issue Army green duct tape. Called 100mph tape due to the belief it can withstand speeds of up to 100 mph when slapped on holes.

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FRIENDS OF CHAPTER 1106

 <p>ERC MANAGEMENT INC.</p>	 <p>Freddy's FROZEN CUSTARD & STEAKBURGERS®</p>	<p>ERC Management, LLC 791 Southpark Dr., Suite 600 Littleton, CO 80120 720.328.3299 www.FreddysUSA.com</p>
 <p>Caribou Coffee 12501 E Lincoln Ave Englewood, CO 80112 303-799-1258</p>	<p>American Legion Post 1260</p> 	
 <p>Home Depot Foundation 8477 S Yosemite St Lone Tree, CO 80124</p>	 <p>South Metro Fire Rescue Authority</p>	<p>South Metro Denver Fire & Rescue 9195 E Mineral Ave Centennial, CO 80112</p>
 <p>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</p>	 <p>APPLEWOOD PLUMBING HEATING & ELECTRIC SINCE 1973</p> <p>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</p>	
 <p>THRIVENT FINANCIAL®</p> <p><i>Connecting faith & finances for good.®</i></p> <p>9137 E Mineral Cir Ste 100 Englewood, CO 80112-3422</p>	 <p>6882 S. University Blvd. Centennial, CO 80122 303-771-2244</p>	
 <p>CRUSIN 1430 Main Office: 4700 South Syracuse Street, Suite 1050 Denver, CO 80237</p>		