



JAN/FEB 2016
VOL 2 NO 1

“Welcome Home” **NEWSLETTER**



**And to ISIS, an
eternal GOOD NIGHT!!**

“Member Feature”

G. David Lyons – CS2 (Commissaryman Petty Officer 2nd Class, USN – 1967-71)

I am a Colorado native and graduated Englewood HS in 1967. I Joined the Navy after graduation. I was stationed aboard the USS Sanctuary AH-17 Hospital Ship as a ship’s cook from October 1967 to May 1969. The ship assigned to duty off South Vietnam on a non-rotating basis, Sanctuary began her extended overseas tour spending a minimum of 50 days

operating on the line each quarter, followed by an availability and upkeep period at Subic Bay. By April 1968, after a year on that schedule, she had admitted 5,354 patients and treated another 9,187 on an outpatient basis. Helicopters, bringing patients from the battlefield, transferring them from and to other medical facilities, or carrying passengers to and from the ship, had made more than 2,500 landings on her deck.



USS Sanctuary AH-17 Hospital Ship



Navy nurse and patients aboard USS Sanctuary in the 1960s

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From July 1969 – 1971, I was stationed at Naval Operating Base, Bermuda (tough duty). Following my tour in the Navy, I attended the Culinary Institute of America 1971 to 1973 and received an A.O.S. (Associate Occupational Studies Degree). I then attended the University of New Haven from 1973-1975 and earned a B.S. in Hotel and Restaurant Administration and Graduated 1975. The remainder of my careers, I spent 15 years in the restaurant business, 28 years in insurance, 2½ years as a limo driver, and 5½ years as a security supervisor. Now – RETIRED!!!

Notes from the President

Lee White

Where did 2015 go? VVA Chapter 1106 has had a very successful “first” year in operation due to all the member support. Thank you!! A brief overview of 2015 events/activities:

- April - “Welcome Home” breakfast presented by Castle View High School.
- May - Chapter 1106 participated with VVA Chapter 1071 in an “Agent Orange Town Hall meeting” over 100 veterans attended.
- May - Poppy give-a-way/donation drive at 3 King Soopers
- July - Highlands Ranch July 4th parade.
- August - “Cruise with a Vet” to Colorado Freedom Memorial
- Sept - Women’s Veteran Conference
- Oct - Veterans fair – Hudson Gardens
- Oct - Poppy-give-a-way/donation drive – 4 King Soopers locations
- Nov - Veteran’s Day events – multiple locations
- Dec - Christmas holiday dinner – social event

Moving forward to **2016** events and activities:

- Mar/Apr - Agent Orange Town Hall meeting
- April - VVA Chapter 1106 elections
- May - Poppy give-a-way/donation drive – three King Soopers and Sam’s Club

- June - Angel Fire Journey – Vietnam memorial
 - May/June - VVA Chapter 1106 Spring/Summer picnic
 - July - Highlands Ranch July 4th parade
 - Nov - Veteran’s day events
 - TBD - Cremains Honor Ceremony
 - TBD - Coat/food drive
 - TBD - Car Show Fundraiser
- Guest speakers every other month.
Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!

WELCOME HOME!!

Military Trivia

What is a **Padeye**? See answer at the end of the Newsletter

2015 Christmas Party

What a great holiday social event nearing the end of our first year as an official VVA Chapter. Our President, Lee White did a great job of setting up our gathering place at the Country Buffet in Lone Tree. Great food and great fellowship. We were greeted at the door by Wendy White (on left) and Cookie White, Lee’s sweet daughter and wife. They made sure we all had raffle tickets.



The following are quick pics of about half of the attendees.

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There was a Certificate of Appreciation presentation made to our wonderful President, Lee White from all of the members present.

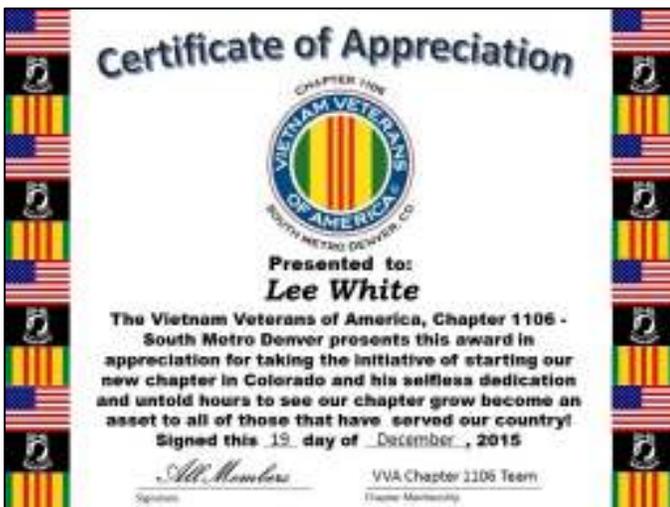


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The presentation was made by Santa's helper, an Aviation Apprentice (E2) wearing a white suit!!



modify their homes and make them handicap accessible.



Thanks Lee for all that you do for us!

November Guest Speaker Diane Fleming



Diane Fleming of Purple Heart Homes was the guest speaker. This organization helps veterans who have lost a limb or are otherwise injured

Email from Jamie Stantz to our Chapter

Hello Everyone,

In honor of Veterans Day and in honor of the absolutely amazing people that are involved with your organization, I say "THANK YOU!" Thank you for your service to our country, thank you for protecting American, and thank you for your continued service to your brothers and sisters in the armed forces. Any time you help another Veteran, you honor them, but more than that, you honor our country and those who gave their lives protecting it. The

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work you do every day helps other Veterans on their own journey of healing - the emotional and physical scars that they bare. By supporting and lifting up Veterans in need, you demonstrate your love for them. On this day, "Thank You", does not adequately express my feelings for the work you do and for the people you help. I am so very honored to know you and so very humbled by the sacrifices you have made and continue to make.

God Bless You!

Jaime S Stantz , FIC

Financial Consultant, Rocky Mountain Region
Panorama Group, Thrivent Financial®

Veterans Benefits Corner

WHAT IS "PRESUMPTIVE" SERVICE CONNECTION?

(Source:

www.benefits.VA.gov/benefits/factsheet/serviceconnected/presumption)

The Veterans Administration (VA) presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. VA does this because of the unique circumstances of their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a Veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded.

What is Presumptive Conditions?

A "condition", in the language of the VA, is any disease, illness or injury that occurs during active duty military service. To be service connected and eligible for a disability compensation rating, the condition must be caused or contributed to by an event that occurred during service. If the condition existed prior to service, it must be shown to have been aggravated (made worse) by military service. To achieve a disability compensation rating, the veteran must prove that he or she had

appropriate military service, that an event that caused the claimed condition occurred and that a medically diagnosed condition that is disabling exists today.

The regulations that govern presumptive conditions only eliminate the requirement to prove that an event caused the condition. For example, a Vietnam veteran does not have to prove that Agent Orange caused the diabetes he has today. It is presumed that he was exposed to Agent Orange and also that Agent Orange is at the root of the diabetes. While Agent Orange and the Vietnam veteran are the best known of all presumptive conditions and ratings, atomic veterans, certain Korean veterans and other veterans may also be eligible for presumptive ratings of certain conditions. The regulations are complex. Some veterans who have a Vietnam Service Medal aren't eligible for presumptive ratings because they didn't set their boots on the soil of the country of Vietnam. Many Korean veterans don't realize that they may be eligible for service connections due to exposure to the herbicide agent orange.

If you believe that you may be eligible for any presumptive condition and rating, the best way to find out is to file a VA disability claim. The process of adjudication is the only sure way to know.

WHAT CONDITIONS ARE "PRESUMED" TO BE CAUSED BY MILITARY SERVICE?

Vietnam Veterans (Exposed to Agent Orange)
Served in the Republic of Vietnam between 1/9/62 and 5/7/75:

- Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy*
- AL amyloidosis
- B-cell leukemias
- Chloracne or other acneform disease similar to chloracne*

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- Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
- Diabetes type 2
- Hodgkin's disease
- Ischemic heart disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease
- Porphyria cutanea
- Tarda*
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma)

* Must become manifest to a degree of 10 percent or more within a year after the last date on which the veteran was exposed to an herbicide agent during active military, naval, or air service.

They Deserve a Stamp



<https://www.facebook.com/theydeserveastamp>



Help for Homeless Veterans

The VA runs a domiciliary in Lakewood called Valor Point Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans, which opened in 2013. This residential treatment site is for veterans who need assistance and treatment intervention to gain skills that will help them move to independent living. The facility includes 40 rooms total, 32 for men and 8 for women.



Valor Point Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans
The facility, at the end of the light rail line, opened in 2013. It is staffed with doctors, social workers, nurses, therapy assistants, one pharmacist and one dietician. It provides secure and separate bedding for 8 women, the fastest-growing veteran population. VSOs visit weekly to help veterans complete and file claims. The homeless coordinator works with the claims department to expedite claims for homeless veterans or those in financial crisis.

Valor Point Homeless Domiciliary (DOM)
7350 W. Eastman Place
Lakewood, CO 80027
Info provided by Robb Robichaud

County Court for Veterans is Truly Impressive

Note: This article appeared in the November 26, 2015 issue of the Highlands Ranch Herald (Vol. 29, Issue), Guest Column, by U.S. Representative Mike Coffman. It is being reproduced here for VVA Chapter Newsletter readers.

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Recently I was invited to visit and observe court proceedings at the Adams County Court for Veterans (ACCV). I was deeply impressed with its mission: “using a collaborative, respectful and accountable approach to assist military veterans to access treatment and supports while holding them accountable for their actions within the criminal justice system.” In other words, the ACCV strives to get veterans who have been arrested or convicted out of trouble and keep them out of jail.

Upon my arrival, I met with Judge Brian Bowen, two defense attorneys, and the prosecutor for the court. The prosecutor – a decorated Marine Corp combat veteran from the Vietnam War – had a deep understanding of military culture and the capabilities of the veterans being tried because of his extensive military background. Veteran volunteers were assigned as mentors to the veterans in court.

At first, I questioned the need for a special court for veterans. After my observations, however, the value of the court to veterans quickly became clear.

Each of the veterans stood before Judge Brown with pride. When asked what branch of service they served in, the veterans spoke with the same military bearing as if they were still in uniform, addressing Judge Brown with the same respect given to a senior officer. Some even stood at attention.

The goal of keeping these veterans out of jail and returning them to responsible, contributing members of society was apparent in the court’s proceedings and protocols.

Veterans appearing before the ACCV are required to undergo routine drug screening, treatment (if necessary) and counseling. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), of which I am normally a critic, had a representative with a

laptop and direct access present to schedule appointments with the VA for medical and mental health issues. This system seemed remarkably effective in serving our veterans.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, Judge Brown invited me to address the veterans who came before the court that day. I spoke to them about the common bond that we all share as veterans. At one point in time, each veterans completed basic training and earned the title of “Soldier,” “Marine,” “Airman,” or “Sailor.” Each title represents the challenges faced and demonstrates values such as determination, self-discipline, honor, and integrity. I reminded each of them of their achievements earned in the past and the expectations of each veteran in the future, both in and out of uniform.

My visit to ACCV made me a big believer in the services and missions of the court for veterans. It is my hope that more communities follow in the footsteps of Adams County, the 18th Judicial District, and other areas to implement these cost-effective solutions to rehabilitating those who have served this nation and still have more to give.

U.S. Representative Mike Coffman, R-Aurora, is a Marine Corps combat veteran with a combined 21 years of military service. He serves the 6th Congressional District, which includes Aurora, Centennial, Littleton, Highlands Ranch, and part of Adams County. He currently serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Veterans Affairs Committee, where he chairs the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. He is the only member of Congress to have served in both Iraq wars.

Editor’s Note: This article was submitted by Board Member Milt Omoto. Anyone having questions or comments about the inclusion of this article in the Newsletter can contact Milt directly at omoto.milt@gmail.com.

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Here's a picture of a soldier sleeping during an airport layover with his canine partner. There is no measure of loyalty greater than that shown here. Sleep soundly soldier. **A worthy goal in life is to be as good a person as your dog thinks you are!** God bless our Military men and women and God Bless America!

Poppy-Give-A-Way/Donation Drive

"A BIG THANK YOU" to all the participants!!!
You all did an amazing job. – Lee White
LZ (Landing Zone) 1 -Highlands Ranch Pkwy/
University Blvd.



LZ 2 - W. Wildcat Reserve Way/Highlands Ranch Pkwy



LZ 3 - 4000 Red Cedar Dr.



LZ 4 - Buckley/Iliff, Aurora

**LZ4 PHOTOS REDACTED
BY THE FBI FOR THE
IMPROPER USE OF A
CERTAIN FINGER WHILE
BEING PHOTOGRAPHED!**

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USS Forrestal CVA59 – Gulf of Tonkin before the big fireworks display!!!

Upcoming Events

January 2, 2016 - Next VVA Chapter 1106 Regular Meeting - Location: 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial, CO 80112 - Guest Speaker from Honor Bell Foundation

Membership Drive!

Membership Challenge!! The member bringing in two or more new members at the January or February meeting will win a grand prize!! See the end of the newsletter for the **Grand Prize!!**

Membership Total as of 12/15/2015: 48



"Hey, do you want to take a ground limousine or a luxury air taxi?"

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

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



Photo: Nick Lucey – NICKLUCEY.COM

Wintertime

Douglas County Veterans Monument
Castle Rock, CO

Book/Articles Published by Members

"Thank You, America" by Bob Rotruck

"Invisible Odyssey" by W. Robb Robichaud

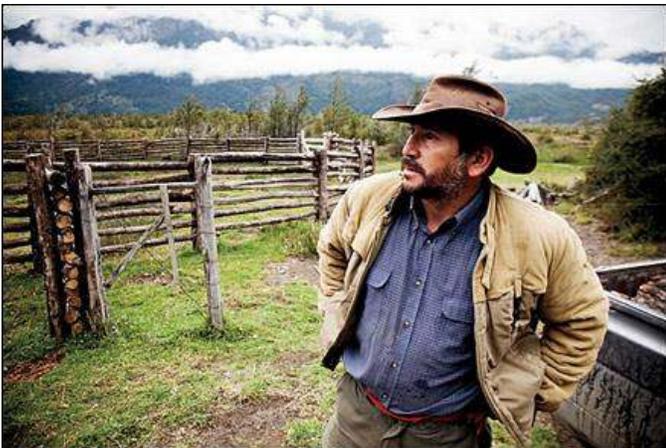
From the Editor!

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Light Side

Montana Rancher



A man owned a small ranch near Great Falls, Montana. The Montana Labor Department got a tip that he was not paying proper wages to his help and sent an investigator out to interview him.

"I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them," demanded the investigator.

"Well," replied the rancher, "There's my ranch hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$1200 a week plus free room and board."

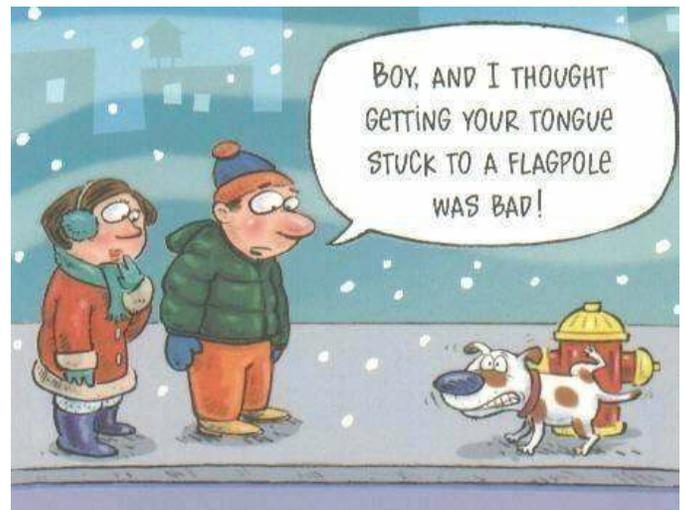
"The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$1000 per week plus free room and board."

"Then there's the half-wit. He works about 18 hours every day, with no days off, and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week and pays his own room and board."

"But, I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night, and he also sleeps with my wife occasionally."

"That's the guy I want to talk to... the half-wit," says the investigator.

"You're talking to him," replied the rancher.



Marine Pilot

The teacher gave her fifth grade class an assignment: Get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it. The next day, the kids came back and, one by one, began to tell their stories.

There were all the regular types of stuff: Spilled milk and pennies saved. But then the teacher realized, much to her dismay, that only Janie was left. "Janie, do you have a story to share?"

'Yes ma'am. My daddy told me a story about my Mommy. She was a Marine pilot in Desert Storm, and her plane got hit. She had to bail out over enemy territory, and all she had was a flask of whiskey, a pistol, and a survival knife. She

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drank the whiskey on the way down so the bottle wouldn't break, and then she parachuted right into the middle of 20 Iraqi troops. She shot 15 of them with the pistol, until she ran out of bullets, killed four more with the knife, till the blade broke, and then she killed the last Iraqi with her bare hands."

"Good Heavens!" said the horrified teacher. What did your Daddy tell you was the moral to this horrible story?"

"Don't screw with Mommy when she's been drinking."

RAMBLINGS OF A RETIRED MIND...

I found this timely, because today I was in a store that sells sunglasses, and only sunglasses. A young lady walks over to me and asks, "what brings you in today?" I looked at her, and said, I'm interested in buying a refrigerator. She didn't quite know how to respond. Am I getting to be that age?

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So I'm wearing my garage door opener.

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age and call it 'Pumping Rust'.

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'An ambulance.'

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me. They were cramming for

their finals. As for me, I'm just hoping God grades on the curve.

Birds of a feather flock together and then potty on your car.

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells 'Theirs...'

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

Love Service Dogs

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Trivia Answer

Padeye – (1) A recessed tie-down point on a flight deck or a flight line. (2) Almost any anchor point on a bulkhead or deck.

Membership Drive Grand Prize

The Grand Prize is an all-expenses paid weekend (Saturday – Sunday) at the #@%&@ Reso&(in €£*!, Colorado. Dag gum it, the spell checker must not be working!!!! – Your Editor

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Are you a veteran with a desire to help veterans?

Volunteer sought for part-time Veterans Service Officer position

Published on December 8, 2015 in Whats New Veteran's Affairs, Breaking News & 2015



Douglas County is seeking a veteran able to work 12-16 hours per week as a Veterans Service Officer.

If you are a veteran with a desire of helping fellow veterans, you may wish to consider applying to be a part-time, volunteer Douglas County Veterans Service Officer. The successful applicant will be eligible to receive a \$500 monthly stipend and work part-time, 12-16 hours per week. Duties include assisting veterans and their dependents applying for VA benefits and services, as well as providing administrative support in the [County's Office of Veterans Affairs](#).

Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to a two-year term, the successful applicant must provide proof of prior military service in the United States Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy or Coast Guard, as well as proof of honorable discharge. Residents of Douglas County will receive priority standing in the application process. Competent computer skills with some knowledge of social media are a must. Interested applicants may fill out an [online application](#) or print out the application and mail it to: Douglas County Commissioners' Office, 100 Third St., Castle Rock, CO 80104 by Jan. 15, 2016. For additional information, please contact David Maxwell at the Douglas County Veterans Affairs Office at 303-663-6257.

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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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Main Billing Office: 5000 W 29th Ave.
Denver, CO 80212
Phone: 303-232-6611
Fax: 303-477-4310
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