



AUGUST 2015  
VOL 1 NO 5



## “Welcome Home” **NEWSLETTER**

### “Member Feature”

Note from the Editor: No input this month! I’m sure a lot of you have “smart” phones and text all the time, but you don’t have time to write a brief bio or short story of interest for our newsletter?? Word to the wise: a SEAL Team member will make a visit to your house sometime after midnight on @\$#%day, Aug 2015 for a little pep talk!!!! Don’t say you haven’t been warned!!!

### Notes from the President

Lee White

Although our chapter 1106 has been in existence for only six months or so, I think it’s time to mention our strong support group, the “Associate” Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1106 and we have eight “Associate Members”

Barbara Rotruck  
Suzanne Sigona  
Mary Haddon  
Litta Plant-Schoper  
Cecilia White  
Wendy White  
Linda Messenger  
Chris Omoto

The associates contribute and support our chapter 1106 in many ways. They lend their expertise and leadership to all our programs and events. They are made up of veterans of all

eras, family and friends of veterans, and all persons who support veteran issues.

I salute them!!

WELCOME HOME!!

### Special Presentation

A Certificate of Support was presented to Mr. Lloyd Swint, General Manager, Olinger Hampden Mortuary for donating the funds to purchase our four flags and the printing of our Chapter 1106 brochures.



The presentation was made by President Lee White at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Chapter is very thankful for such wonderful support!

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



### ***Military Trivia***

What does **Mail Buoy Watch** mean? See answer at the end of the Newsletter

### ***August Meeting Guest Speaker***

Our guest speaker is the Honorable Judge Kerry Hada. Judge Hada, a graduate of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, is a Denver County Court Judge, and a Vietnam combat veteran. Judge Hada served in the US Army from 1971 to 1974 as an Airborne Ranger infantry officer, platoon leader, company commander, and commander & special operations team leader.



Judge Kerry S. Hada

He is also the Veterans' Stand Down presiding judge, Denver Colorado Guard Armory from 2014 to present. Judge Hada will share his experiences with the Denver Veterans Treatment Trauma Court system (VTC). The VTC is a state and grant funded program that provides an alternative to incarceration for U.S.

military veterans with trauma spectrum disorders and/or substance abuse issues who have proven to be high risk and high need.

Program participants agree to actively engage in treatment and counseling, make regular court appearances, and are intensively supervised. The VTC team assists participating veterans in accessing PTSD, domestic violence, mental health and/or substance abuse treatment. They are also connected to educational, housing, and employment resources. The VTC takes veterans regardless of their discharge status as we recognize that veterans lacking VA healthcare eligibility need our assistance. Peer support is also available.



Please join us for this meeting. Guests are welcome.



**Always a helping hand for a brother!**

### ***Upcoming Events***

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

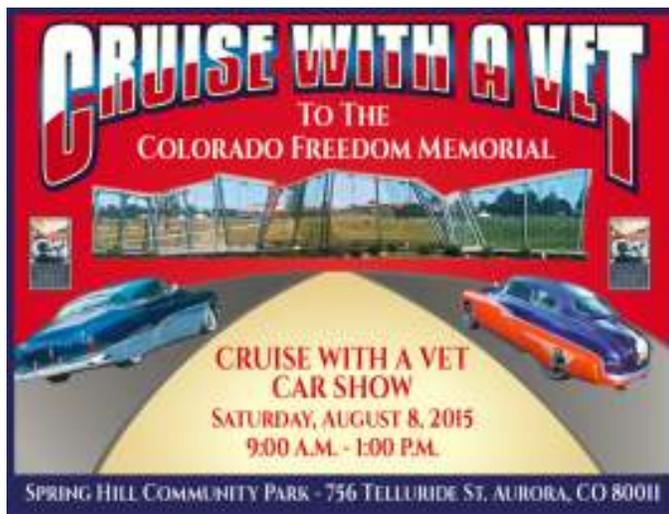


Opening of July meeting with Pledge of Allegiance!  
Next meeting August 1, 2015, 0900: South Metro Fire & Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Ave., Centennial!

**"Cruise with a Vet"** - A classic car show event. Enjoy a ride to the Colorado Freedom Memorial.



John Kurowski presenting info about the event at the July meeting!



The purpose for this event is to help build awareness of the Colorado Freedom Memorial, to raise funds for future improvements of the Memorial & Park, to share a fun classic car event with a veteran, to say thanks to a veteran. We will have additional information available at our August meeting.



Colorado Freedom Memorial

**"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."**  
— General of the Armies, John J. Pershing

The Colorado Freedom Memorial is located in Aurora, Colorado, near Buckley Air Force Base. On its glass panels are the names of nearly 6000 killed in action since Colorado became a state. These heroes left the mountains of home to fight in places they'd never heard of, answering their nation's call to duty. Almost half of the men and women honored on the Memorial never returned home, their remains lost at sea, never recovered behind enemy lines, or buried in faraway places. For families that never had a cemetery to visit, the Colorado Freedom Memorial becomes a place of grief and of healing.



The Colorado Freedom Memorial was dedicated on May 26, 2013!

Location:  
Springhill Community Park  
756 Telluride St.  
Aurora, Colorado, 80011

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

### ***Congress OKs new ID cards for all veterans***

By Leo Shane III, Navy Times Staff writer

Congress on Tuesday approved plans to offer new veteran ID cards to honorably discharged service members, in an effort to more easily prove their military service.



(Photo: Ian Maule//Savannah Morning News/AP)

Photo caption: *Vietnam veterans chat while waiting for the start of a Welcome Home Ceremony for Vietnam veterans at Fort Stewart, Georgia, on June 19 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. President Obama is expected to sign into law a bill to offer new veteran ID cards to honorably discharged service members.*

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., would create official VA cards for all veterans, instead of only those who qualify for certain health care and financial benefits.

Supporters called it a simple move to honor the sacrifice and service of veterans.

"This legislation will assist veterans in proving that they are indeed veterans," said Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif. "The majority of service members leave before retirement ... and are sometimes challenged to provide proof of their

honorable service. This is a simple way to resolve this issue."

The cards would not replace medical IDs or official defense retiree IDs for veterans, and could not be used as proof of eligibility for obtaining federal benefits.

But they would serve as easy proof of military service for many veterans who complain they have to carry around copies of their discharge paperwork to get discounts or services at a host of private businesses.

Buchanan argued that practice is at best cumbersome and at worst unsafe, given the personal information included on those official documents.

Veterans requesting the IDs would have to pay a small fee, to be determined by Veterans Affairs officials. That fee would cover the cost of the program.

The measure passed through the Senate and House without objection, but took several years to get through Congress. The Obama administration has expressed reservations about the need for the new IDs, but has not threatened to veto the legislation.

The measure heads to the White House to be signed into law. No time frame has been established for when the first ID cards might be issued.

### ***Membership Drive Business Cards!***

When you see a person that looks like they could be a Vietnam Vet, give them a card! You can do it and ask them to join VVA1106? **Do it!** The best answer this month: **"I just can't get excited about joining a group!"** I found out he has been married eleven times!!! Do you have a VVA1106 Business Card? Send an email to: [bobrotruck73@gmail.com](mailto:bobrotruck73@gmail.com) and he will send you a template to print 10 business cards.

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

VVA Membership Total: 40

AVVA Membership Total: 7

## **New VAA Members**

## **New AVVA Members**

Chris Omoto

## **Facts about the Vietnam Veteran**

By April 1993, the Department of Veterans Affairs had only compensated 486 victims, although it had received disability claims from 39,419 soldiers who had been exposed to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam.



**Oh boy, let's go play in some tunnels!!**

## **Board of Directors/Officers**

Lee White - President

Gary Fortner - Vice-president

Joe Plant - Treasurer

Hazel Simeon - Secretary

Board Members – Milt Omoto, Patti Ehline, Patrick Surrena

## **Working Committees**

(Folks are needed to fill some spots!)

Agent Orange/PTSD -

Membership - Gary Fortner, 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



**Another fun day for Marines to play on the beach!!!**

## **Book/Articles Published by Members**

No input this month!

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment**

\*THE STORY OF MY GUN..... \*

Today I swung my front door wide open and placed my Remington 30.06 right in the doorway. I left 6 cartridges beside it, then left it alone and went about my business. While I was gone, the mailman delivered my mail, the neighbor boy across the street mowed the yard, a girl walked her dog down the street, and quite a few cars stopped at the stop sign near the front of my house. After about an hour, I checked on the gun. It was still sitting there, right where I had left it. It hadn't moved itself outside. It certainly hadn't killed anyone, even with the numerous opportunities it had presented to do so. In fact, it hadn't even loaded itself. Well you can imagine my surprise, with all the hype by the Left and the Media about how dangerous guns are and how they kill people. Either the media is wrong or I'm in possession of the laziest gun in the world. The United States is 3rd in Murders throughout the World. But if you take out just 4 cities: Chicago, Detroit, Washington DC and New Orleans, the United States is 4th from the bottom, in the entire world, for Murders. These 4 Cities also have the toughest Gun Control Laws in the U.S. ALL 4 of these cities are controlled by Democrats. It would be absurd to draw any conclusions from this data-right? Well, I'm off to check on my spoons. I hear they're making people fat.

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

### *On the lighter side....*

#### ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?"

Her response, "Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men!'"

#### USS JOHN F. KENNEDY – CV67

For those of you that are unaware, the Kennedy family is trying to make the USS. John F. Kennedy into a museum for tourists and history buffs. They want to place it in the Chappaquiddick River. (You have to be old enough to remember this one! ☺)

#### SPLINTERS IN A BAD PLACE...

**(Warning – piece may be politically offensive!)**

A woman from Los Angeles, who was a tree hugger, a liberal Democrat, and an anti-hunter, purchased a piece of timberland near Colville, WA. There was a large tree on one of the highest points in the tract. She wanted a good view of the natural splendor of her land, so she started to climb the big tree.

As she neared the top, she encountered a spotted owl that attacked her. In her haste to escape, the woman slid down the tree to the ground and got many splinters in her crotch. In considerable pain, she hurried to a local ER to see a doctor. She told him she was an environmentalist, a Democrat, an anti-hunter and how she came to get all the splinters.

The doctor listened to her story with great patience, and then told her to go wait in the examining room and he would see if he could

help her. She sat and waited three hours before the doctor reappeared.

The angry woman demanded, "What took you so long?" He smiled and then told her, "Well, I had to get permits from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management before I could remove old-growth timber from a "recreational area" so close to a waste treatment facility. I'm sorry, but due to ObamaCare...they turned you down.

#### Pregnant a 71

A woman went to the doctor's office where she was seen by one of the younger doctors. After about four minutes in the examination room, she burst out screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he had her sit down and relax in another room. The older doctor marched down the hallway back to where the young doctor was writing on his clipboard. "What the hell is the matter with you" the older doctor demanded. "Mrs. Terry is 71 years old, has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?" The younger doctor continued writing and without even looking up said...

"Does she still have the hiccups.....?"

#### **Trivia Answer**

**Mail Buoy Watch** – A practical joke pulled on inexperienced crewmembers and midshipmen which revolves around convincing the victim that mail is delivered to a ship at sea via a buoy. The more gullible victims are dressed in outlandish garb (lifejacket, helmet) and with a boat hook and sound powered telephone directed to stand watch for the buoy and retrieve the mail usually midnight to 0400. He would relieve a player in the ruse at midnight and then would be relieved by a player in the ruse at 0400 and it would go on until somebody wised the guy up!!!

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



Photo courtesy of Steve Mackey and photo taken by John Rowan



President Lee White conducting the July 11th meeting!

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

**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