



In Service to America

THE OUTPOST

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa Fl.



**NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2001, FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL,
CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
FOR INFORMATION CALL BOB SILMSER (813) 220-7246 OR (813) 685-3483.
WEB SITE: WWW.VVA787.COM**



Chapter Fund Raiser

Publix (Lithia and Bloomingdale) brings in over \$1200 on March 9th and 10th. Your chapter thanks President **Jim LaGarde**, VP, **Carl Harris**, Secretary and Treasurer **Bob Silmsers**, members **Tony Towers**, **Don Wallick** and **Steve Williams** for giving up their valuable time to staff our table.



Chapter Officers

President: Jim LaGarde
Vice President: Carl Harris
Secretary: Bob Silmsers
Treasurer: Bob Silmsers

Board of Directors:

Ron Schott
Tom Hall
Kevin Ruhl
Jon Mueller

State Council Delegate:

Kevin Ruhl

Newsletter Editor: Jon Mueller, E-mail: ParaSF68@aol.com

Meetings

Chapter Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month.

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Brandon Veterans Hall, 115 W. Clay Brandon Fl. 33510. See Map on last page. **Mail-ing address: P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404.**

Chapter member Ron Murray and other Vietnam Veterans were on hand to Counter Protestors in Washington DC on a cold March day.

Ron said he felt most of the protestors "were not just Anti-War but Anti American." See his pictures on page 7.



It must be noted that there may have been Vietnam Veterans, and other Military Veterans among the protestors. *The editor.*



What Is A Veteran



Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity.



Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

You can't tell a vet just by looking. What is a vet?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She - or he - is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade - riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.



Continued on next page.....

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He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in

the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, the greatest nation ever known.



So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded. Two little words that mean a lot,

"THANK YOU."

author- Father Denis Edward O'Brien
USMC



Election of Chapter Officers at the April 26th Meeting



Come and Vote.



Anyone who wants to run for chapter President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer

Please contact **Bob Silmsner** at 813-220-3031 or e-mail: Rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com.

Those of you who have different thoughts regarding the management of chapter 787 and how things have been handled in the past, now have a chance to step up and take charge!

This Month during the War in Vietnam

April 1965: President Johnson authorizes the use of U.S. ground combat troops for offensive operations. The next day he offers North Vietnam aid in exchange for peace. North Vietnam rejects the offer.

April 1965: The 3rd Marine Regiment arrives in Vietnam at Da Nang along with the 4th Battalion of the 4th Marine Regiment. The following year (April 1966) the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Marine Regiment arrives.



April 1967: The 26th Marine Regiment arrives in Vietnam, along with the 3rd Force Recon Company.

April 1970: President Richard Nixon announced that the US Army's, 4th & 25th ID's, the 1st Cav, 199th Light, 11th Armored, and ARVN troops had begun the invasion of Cambodia, accusing the Southeast Asian nation of allowing North Vietnamese forces to use the country as a transit route and safe haven for its units operating in neighboring South Vietnam. After years of watching the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese using both Laos and Cambodia in this manner, American military commanders requested permission to chase the enemy into these neighboring countries. In 1970, Cambodia lost its "off limits" status.



April 1975: North Vietnam's leaders began planning for a new offensive, still uncertain whether the United States would resume bombing or once again intervene in the South. When their forces overran Phuoc Long Province, north of Saigon, without any American military reaction, they decided to proceed with a major offensive in the Central Highlands. Neither President Nixon, weakened by the Watergate scandal and forced to resign, nor his successor, Gerald Ford, was prepared to challenge Congress by resuming U.S. military activity in Southeast Asia. The will of Congress seemed to reflect the mood of an American public weary of the long and inconclusive war.

What had started as a limited offensive in the highlands to draw off forces from populated areas now became an all-out effort to conquer South Vietnam. Thieu, desiring to husband his military assets, decided to retreat rather than to reinforce the highlands. The result was panic among his troops and a mass exodus toward the coast. As Hanoi's forces spilled out of the highlands, they cut off South Vietnamese defenders in the northern provinces from the rest of the country. Other NVA units now crossed the demilitarized zone, quickly overrunning Hue and Da Nang, and signaling the collapse of South Vietnamese resistance in the north. Hurriedly established defense lines around Saigon could not hold back the inexorable enemy offensive against the capital. As South Vietnamese leaders waited in vain for American assistance, Saigon fell to the Communists.

At the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, (April 29th) over 5000 Vietnamese civilians and some ARVN military personnel were trying to get over the walls. U.S. Marines had machine guns placed on all corners of the compound. **The 65 Marines were on the walls throwing people off. The South Vietnamese civilians knew the Americans were leaving and it started a mass panic. Incredible things happened around the embassy walls that day. A Vietnamese mother threw her baby over our 8 foot wall, perhaps thinking someone would pick the baby up and it would get to America.**



Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Quote

"I hope I told them all how grateful I am to be enjoying the peace that they provide. How grateful I am that my family and I rest easy every night underneath the canopy of freedom that they so unselfishly deploy. I hope I told them all that they are the true heroes—my heroes. It makes sacking Joe Montana and John Elway meaningless. It makes my mission to get into Canton Ohio, as a Hall of Fame linebacker seem pointless."

"The heroes are not in Canton. They are in Arlington National Cemetery and countless other military cemeteries. The heroes are those proudly and gratefully serving our country in a hundred different hot spots around the globe."

"Thank you warriors. Thank you."

Kevin Greene and Lamar Lathon, while on a tour of Iraq. Kevin Greene was a former Army Reserve Captain, and played 15 years in the NFL as a star linebacker. Kevin's article was shown in the Army Times, March 12 2007.

April 29 1975, the last two American Military Personnel to die in the Vietnam War (In-Country)



Cpl Charles McMahon along with LCpl Darwin Judge was the last Killed In Action serviceman in the Vietnam War. Cpl McMahon grew up in Woburn Mass. He completed Marine Corps Boot Camp and Marine Security Guard School before shipping to Saigon, R. Vietnam as a Marine Security Guard to the American Embassy. He and LCpl Judge were killed together within the first two weeks of joining the detachment. Cpl McMahon and LCpl Judge was killed by a rocket attack from Five NVA Divisions defending the Defense Attaché Building on Than Shan Knut airbase.



LCpl Darwin Judge along with Cpl Charles McMahon was the last Killed In Action serviceman in the Vietnam War. LCpl Judge was born and raised in Marshollowtown Iowa. He was an Eagle Scout and a fine young man of the community. He completed Marine Corps Boot Camp and Marine Security Guard School before shipping to Saigon, R. Vietnam as a Marine Security Guard to the American Embassy. He and Cpl Charles McMahon were killed together within the first two weeks of joining the detachment. LCpl Judge and Cpl McMahon was killed by a rocket attack from Five NVA Divisions defending the Defense Attaché Building on Tan Son Nhut airbase. On April 29-30 2000 we honored LCpl Judge with a Memorial Services from 24th Marines and his fellow Saigon Marines.



Submitted By: **Tom Hall**

Veterans Counter Protest in Washington D.C.

VIDEO LINKS

[Video: Hot Air's Michelle Malkin reports from The Gathering of Eagles](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQo_tg70Zek)
[youtube.com/Hot Air](http://www.youtube.com/HotAir) ^ | Mar 19, 2007 | Michelle Malkin

Hot Air's Michelle Malkin reports from the historic Gathering of Eagles counter-protest in Washington,

Gathering of Eagles is an act of love by thousands of veterans who choose to honor the sacrifice of the fallen by guarding the memorials from those who ... Copy and past the following web site address (URL) to your browser to locate the video on this event.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQo_tg70Zek

Medal of Honor Winners of the Vietnam War.
The Bravest of the Brave



Lance P Sijan



Ran and organization: Captain, U.S. Air Force, 4th Allied POW Wing, Pilot of an F-4C aircraft. Place and date: North Vietnam, 9 November 1967. Entered service at: Milwaukee, Wis. Born: 13 April 1942, Milwaukee, Wis. Citation: While on a flight over North Vietnam, Capt. Sijan ejected from his disabled aircraft and successfully evaded capture for more than 6 weeks. During this time, he was seriously injured and suffered from shock and extreme weight loss due to lack of food. After being captured by North Vietnamese soldiers, Capt. Sijan was taken to a holding point for subsequent transfer to a prisoner of war camp. In his emaciated and crippled condition, he overpowered 1 of his guards and crawled into the jungle, only to be recaptured after several hours. He was then transferred to another prison camp where he was kept in solitary confinement and interrogated at length. During interrogation, he was severely tortured; however, he did not divulge any information to his captors. Capt. Sijan lapsed into delirium and was placed in the care of another prisoner. During his intermittent periods of consciousness until his death, he never complained of his physical condition and, on several occasions, spoke of future escape attempts. Capt. Sijan's extraordinary heroism and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty at the cost of his life are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Air Force and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Armed Forces.

TAPS

Decorated Cherokee Veteran Dies

By Stephanie Betz The Associated Press March 12 2007



Billy Walkabout, a native Cherokee whose actions in Vietnam made him amount the most decorated soldiers of the war, died Wednesday from possible complications of Agent Orange exposure. He was 57.

Walkabout received the DSC, Purple Heart, five Silver Stars and five Bronze Stars. Walkabout, a Cherokee of the Blue Holley Clan, was an 18 year old Army Ranger when he and 12 other soldiers were sent on an assassination mission, November 20 1968, in a region southwest of Hue. They ended up in the enemy's battalion area, however, and came under fire for hours, during which Billy was seriously wounded. Several of the other 12 men were killed at the scene, while the rest later died of their injuries.

Walkabout citation for the DSC said he simultaneously returned fire, helped his comrades and boarded other injured soldiers onto evacuation helicopters. "Although stunned and wounded by the fire fight, Walkabout rushed from man to man administering first aid, bandaging one soldier's severe chest wound and reviving another soldier by heart massage." the citation states.

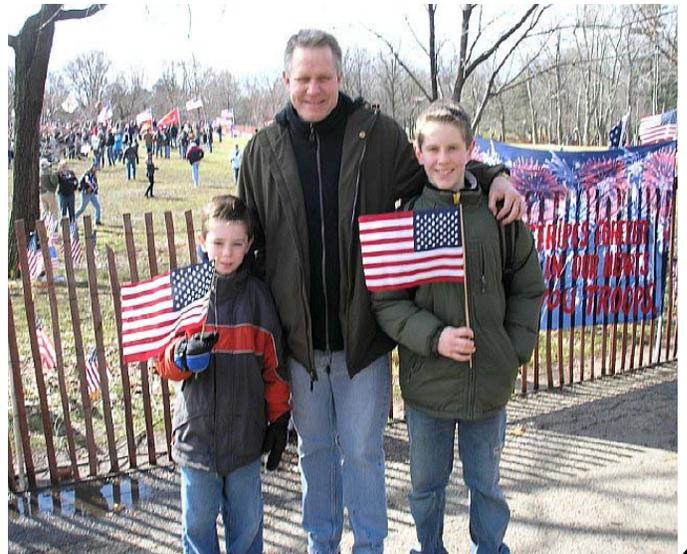
In a 1986 interview with The Associated Press, Sgt. Walkabout said "War is not hell, It's worse."

Last WW I Combat Vet Dies

PORTLAND, Ore. - The echo of a 21-gun salute and bugler playing Taps seemingly marked the end of an era as a state and national treasure was laid to rest in Portland, Ore., March 2.

Retired Army Cpl. Howard V. Ramsey, Oregon's last living World War I veteran and the last known U.S. combat veteran of WWI, died in his sleep Feb. 22 at an assisted living center in southeast Portland. He was honored in a memorial service attended by nearly 200 people at Lincoln Memorial Park exactly one month before reaching his 109th birthday.

Military Veterans, Families & Friends Counter-Protest in Washington DC



After Auction Report from Florida State Council Meeting
Mar 10, 2007

Rear Admiral Leroy Collins is the new Director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Florida.

The new VA Hospital for Orlando will be in Lake Nona area. Near the airport. Will have UCF Medical School on the property.

The Annual reunion will be Apr 26-28 in Melbourne. State will have a table there.

At the Jun 9-10 meeting there will be Treasurer training Friday and Saturday night for all chapter Treasurers, State to pay for one night hotel. Names to Tom Hall by May 1.

There is a License plate in the works for DAV, AL, AMVETS, VFW and VVA, these organizations provide VSO.

We need to check with other 501c3 for help, Chapter 522 capped the Lighting and got a suite for a hockey game for 6 PVA and 4 VVA members with food and beverages.

FSC donated \$500.00 to Oral History Program.

The new Fisher House will be completed in May and there is a Golf Tournament at MacDill AFB in Sept that FVVAF is involved in.

25th Anniversary for the Wall Nov 10 & 11, Connie has rooms reserved in Crystal City.

There is a request that each Chapter to pay \$40.00 for two AVVA Incarcerated Veterans that can't afford. I suggest one at Polk City and one in Zephyrhills. Send check to John and Tim.

Jerry needs a e-mail by the end of March of who is going to Convention and if there are any unused spots that can be filled buy other people.

I have been asked to go the Gator Nationals as the fourth person along with Ben Humphries, Craig and Gary Boucher. We will be there Saturday for the Festivities, it will be on ESPN or ESPN2.

The minutes and reports from the State Council Meeting will be posted on the FSC website soon.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Goodwill TOUR, Vietnam soldier to say thanks to old unit—
in Iraq.



Bob Konrardy served in a platoon he was willing to die for, but instead it saved his life.

That was four decades ago, in the Vietnam War. That platoon is at war again, Konrardy, now 64, will spend nine days in Iraq embedded with his old platoon in "A" Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

It's his chance to thank the platoon that saved his life 42 years ago.

He never got that chance in 1965, when he was wounded in a battle in the Ia Drang Valley and left Vietnam. His platoon's radio operator (RTO), Ronnie Mathis rescued him, but Konrardy was flown out before he could thank Mathis.

Mathis was captured, tortured and killed, later that same day.

"When I left for Vietnam, I was too young to care and was certain I would die protecting my platoon. I was ready for that and accepted it," he said. "But now I'm saying goodbye to my wife and sons and their families. It's like burying a child—it's backward and horrible terror."

Konrardy received U.S. military clearance to make the trip. He plans to accompany the platoon on all its activities except for direct combat missions.

Konrardy's goal is to learn and record as much as possible about the soldiers. When he returns home, he hopes to create a DVD for the family of each soldier he meets.

"I want to say goodbye to each platoon member on my last day, wish them luck and their tour and tell them I'll never forget them," Konrardy said.



VA Reform Meeting Turns Angry As Vets Vent Frustrations

By **RICHARD LARDNER**, *The Tampa Tribune* March 15, 2007 (Submitted By: **Tom Hall**)

TAMPA - A commission created to chart a new course for managing veterans programs found out just how challenging its task will be when a "town hall"-style meeting turned into a shouting match that undermined the broader goal of the two-hour session.

In a bid to gain control of the meeting, held Wednesday in a large auditorium at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Managing Commissioner Harry Walters fired back at several audience members who questioned the panel's bipartisan status and its ability to reform the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"You think you're mad?" screamed Walters, who was head of the VA from 1982 to 1986. "I'm plenty pissed."

Walters said the commission is not bound by political affiliations and takes no government money. Its plan is to produce a series of recommendations by May 2008 that truly transform the VA so the agency can deal with a growing population of veterans with increasingly complicated medical problems.

"I want this to happen!" Walters said, still emotional. "I want the VA to grow! I want it to support you! &help I don't care if you're black or white or green; if you're a veteran, you're mine!"

The Commission on the Future for America's Veterans was formed in September by the nation's leading veteran's service organizations.

This was the group's second town hall meeting; the first was held in January in Charleston, W.Va., and the next takes place in May in San Diego.

Walters started the meeting by emphasizing the need for a "conversation" between military veterans and the commission's 12 members to find out what the biggest problems are and how to tackle them.

The session started tamely enough. A few general comments came from the audience, and aides to members of Congress unable to attend read aloud benign letters of support from their bosses.

Army Maj. Tom Deierlein, an Army officer badly wounded in Iraq by a sniper, said his care at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center has been excellent.

Deierlein also said the system is too complex and too overburdened with paperwork. Noting that there are nearly 400,000 veterans awaiting VA decisions on their disability ratings, he said he's worried about his future.

"I'm heading into that system and that makes me nervous," he said.

The session grew more animated after Andy Berman, a Florida representative from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, said the relationship between service organizations like his and the VA had become too "adversarial."

Walters acknowledged the VA "is broken in many ways."

"We're not talking about quick political fixes, we're talking about transformation," he said of the commission's vision for reform.

Until that point, the commission had controlled the discussion, picking speakers who had previously filled out a comment card.

But Fernando Hernandez, a 59-year-old Marine Corps veteran who drove from Miami for the meeting didn't wait for his turn.

Raising his voice, Fernandez said he's had difficult conversations with VA representatives about his benefits.

"They degrade you and demean you," he said.

"Stop yelling, I'm on your team," Walters told Fernandez.

From there, audience members started speaking out of turn and ignoring the three-minute limit on comments.

One questioned why there were no African-American members on the commission. Another demanded to know the political affiliation of each of the commission members.

One by one they answered, until the question reached Chad Colley at the end of the dais where the commissioners were seated.

Colley, a triple amputee and former national commander of the Disabled American Veterans, refused to answer, calling the question a "personal insult."

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<u>April 2007</u>		
6th Friday	Fund Raiser, Publix, Fish Hawk Blvd. and Lithia Pinecrest	11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
7th Saturday	Fund Raiser, Publix, Fish Hawk Blvd. and Lithia Pinecrest	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
12th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
26th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Vote for Officers , Veterans Hall, Brandon Fl.	7:00 PM
<u>May 2007</u>		
4th Friday	Fund Raiser, Publix Providence & Bloomingdale	11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
5th Saturday	Fund Raiser, Publix Providence & Bloomingdale	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
10th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
24th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Veterans Hall, Brandon Fl.	7:00 PM
28th Monday	Memorial Day	

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

State Senate OK's Tax Break For Disabled Vets

An amendment to the Florida Constitution voters approved last year to give property tax discounts to a small group of disabled veterans would be implemented under a bill that cleared the Senate.

Only veterans with combat-related disabilities who were Florida residents when they joined the military would be eligible for the tax discounts on their primary homes, known as homesteads.

The percentage of a veteran's discount would correspond to the percentage he or she is disabled. as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Senate passed the bill 39-0. It goes to the House, where no similar bill has been filed.

Financial Status of Chapter 787 as of February 8 2007

Checking Account.....\$7,381.12 (Moving Wall Fund..\$3,743.00, Merch/Misc..\$355.00, Holiday Meals Fund...\$1140.08*)

Household Goods.....\$3,264.92 (Convention Fund.....\$2,460.82 Household.....\$ 804.10)

All Accounts Total: \$10,722.74

Thanks to our Treasurer Bob Silmsr

***It is estimated that we will need \$3,540 to cover this years Veteran Holiday Meal Program.**

Melanie Troxel & Her V.V.A. POW/MIA Dragster

GAINESVILLE - It took only one run for Melanie Troxel to qualify the Vietnam Veterans/POW-MIA dragster presented by Torco Race Fuels and Lucas Oil in the NHRA Gatornationals Top Fuel field. Troxel had extra incentive with over three-dozen Vietnam veterans and POW-MIA families in attendance this weekend to cheer on the Evan Knoll-donated tribute.

"We're qualified on the one pass that we did make it to the finish line today," said Troxel. "The car was spinning the tires and dropping cylinders on our qualifying run so I lifted early, so it probably would have run 4.58-4.59, right there, which would have equaled low E.T. (elapsed time) for the session. It seems everyone is struggling with this track and there are only a few cars that have made it more than once down the track. Obviously, we're not running as well as we would like, but I don't feel we're that far behind anybody else. This is just a tricky track and for tomorrow we're hoping the conditions will continue to get better. I think we have as good of a shot as anybody else at it. We'll just have to hit the setup right tomorrow."

Troxel qualified 12th and will race the Army-sponsored dragster driven by Tony Schumacher. Schumacher is the defending world champion and in 2007, Troxel holds a 1-0 advantage in head-to-head competition.

Last year's final round pitted Troxel against David Grubnic (.093) (4.943 ET, 317.90 MPH – (.089) 7.995 ET, 93.59 MPH) with the Australian racer winning the event, but at the same time extending Troxel's incredible 2006 pace of three consecutive final round appearances up to that point.

"Last year we got a runner-up at this track and we started that year out so incredibly that I think we were in a little bit of a daze by the time we got here," said an optimistic Troxel. "Our present record speaks for itself. We had a runner-up the last race in Phoenix, so I know we're capable of winning the event. We're going to have to get out there and see how the track is in the morning. We have a car that will run in the 4.50s and I think that will be plenty good for tomorrow. The key is just getting down the track because it does appear to be a little difficult."

With the prestige that is associated with a victory at the Gatornationals, Troxel is primed and after last year's runner-up result, she wants to see four win lights on Sunday.

"The Gatornationals is one of those big events just short of the U.S. Nationals and I don't think I can think of another National event that I would like to come away with a win."

Just getting in the show was a special moment for Troxel and her new contingent of fans. Each Saturday morning at 10 AM, Troxel meets and greets the veterans and families. Born in 1972, She has immersed herself in learning about the Vietnam War. Three-dozen Vietnam veterans were at the back of her trailer yesterday.

"Gainesville has provided the largest turnout for us," Troxel said. "Every gathering, I manage to find out something new and the excitement just grows with each event."

Troxel's fan base has been injected with a healthy contingent of 50somethings.

"It's just so great to see their enthusiasm," Troxel said. "To see the emotion of these guys and the tears that are shed really hits you hard. I have really learned a lot in just three races and I have met some great people. I can't tell you how honored I am to be associated with such a great cause."

"The Vietnam veterans went over and fought a war -- young Americans who gave so much of themselves, so many of them gave their lives...This is one small thing we can give back to them. I'm so proud to be involved in this, to be giving back to the veterans. It's such a huge honor for me to give something back to them."

The National League of POW-MIA Families presented Troxel and the team with a POW-MIA flag that flew during a night mission in Afghanistan.

The Vietnam Veterans/POW-MIA dragster is made possible by the generosity of Evan Knoll's Torco Race Fuels (www.torco.com) and Forrest Lucas' (Lucas Oil Products).



Melanie Troxel & Her V.V.A. POW/MIA Dragster



Chapter Membership Rewards

Any member of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, in good standing, who sponsors a new V.V.A. or A.V.V.A member to Chapter 787 will be rewarded with his or her yearly dues paid for up to a maximum of three years.

Therefore, if you know of any Vietnam Vet, Era Vet, or any other person (non-vet) who may be interested in joining our select group under the General Membership or A.V.V. A. program, now is the time to contact them and save some money on your next annual due's payment.

Membership Application

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28th 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: VVA Chapter 787, P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404



Name: _____ Male: _____ Female: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Apt. # _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work or Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Chapter #787 Sponsor _____

Membership Type:

Individual: 1 year _____ \$20 3 years _____ \$50. Associate: 1 year _____ \$20 3 years _____ \$50

Life Member Options: _____ Life Member Ages 49 and Under: \$250, _____ Life Member Ages 50-55: \$225, _____ Life

Member Ages 56-60: \$200, _____ Life Member Ages 61-65: \$175, _____ Life Member Ages 66 +: \$150

_____ I am already a V.V.A. member and want to become a life member. My V.V.A. Member number is _____.

Optional Time Payment plan: \$50 down, and \$25 per month until paid in full.

Payment Method: Check _____

Money Order _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ If using a credit card: Card

Exp. Date: _____ Signature _____

This newsletter is not the official publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of Chapter 787, the VVA State Council, the VVA National or the Chapter members.

You can receive a copy of the OUTPOST each month at no cost. Contact Jon Mueller via e-mail at JonMue@aol.com and provide your e-mail address. You will need to have an Adobe Acrobat Reader on your PC to open the newsletter. You can also receive it by US mail. The cost is \$12 per year. Make your check payable to V.V.A. Chapter 787 and mail it to P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404. Make sure you identify the payment for the OUTPOST.

THE OUTPOST

Help Your Chapter Grow

Bring a New Member to the Next Chapter Meeting.

Come and Join Us. Give us your Ideas.

Chapter meetings are held at the Brandon Veterans Hall. 115 W. Clay Ave, Brandon Fl. See map below.

Contact E-mail Addresses:

President Jim LaGarde:

cLaGarde@tampabay.rr.com

VP Carl Harris: c-e-harris@tampabay.rr.com

Secretary & Treasurer Bob Silmsner:

Rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com

State Council Delegate Kevin Ruhl:

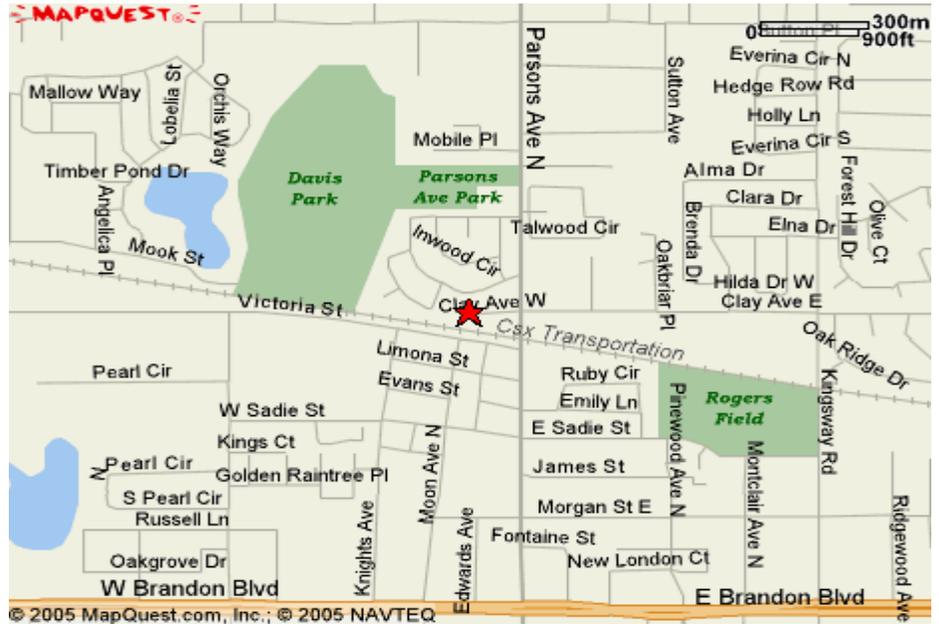
MSgtMCRet@aol.com

Board of Directors

Ron Schott: RonD1120@aol.com

Kevin Ruhl: MSgtMCRet@aol.com

Jon Mueller: ParaSF68@aol.com



Important Web Sites

- Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida..... <http://www.vva787.com>
- Vietnam War Statistics.....<http://my.eiis.net/cmart/vietwarstats.html>
- Vietnam, Yesterday & Today.....<http://servercc.oakton.edu/~wittman/chronol.htm>
- Vietnam Veterans Legacy Foundation.....www.vvlf.org
- National League of Families of American POW's/MIA's.....www.pow-miafamilies.org
- V.V.A. National Office on the World Wide Web.....www.vva.org
- U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.....www.va.gov
- OPM Veterans Hiring Preference.....www.opm.gov/veterans
- Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP).....www.usfhp.com
- U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.....www.vetapp.uscourts.gov
- Children of Vietnam Vets.....www.geocities.com/pentagon/9125
- The Center for Women Veterans.....www.va.gov/womenvet
- Vietnam Women Memorial Foundation, Inc (formerly "Project").....www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org
- The Moving Wall—Vietnam Combat Veterans LTD.....www.themovingwall.org
- The Virtual Wall.....www.virtualwall.org
- Get a Copy of your DD-214 on-line.....<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>