



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, CHAPTER STATE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE YEAR 2007, FOR INFORMATION CALL JIM LAGARDE (813) 758-4547  
WEB SITE: WWW.VVA787.COM**



## To All Chapter Members:

Chapter 787 conducted its Annual Meeting on April 22, 2010 with 8 member present. The Election of Officers and Board Members was conducted. Unfortunately, not one person stepped forward to run for any office. You can't have a chapter without officers and a board.

In compliance with the VVA Constitution another Election of Officers and Board members will be conducted again at our scheduled chapter meeting on **May 27, 2010**.

You may wonder what will happen after that if we fail to elect a full slate of officers and board members. A special meeting is scheduled for **June 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Veterans Memorial Park. At this meeting a vote will be put forth to dissolve the chapter. If the vote is to dissolve, then all chapter members will be placed in an "At Large" status within the state of Florida or you may choose to transfer your membership to another chapter.

As far as assets and money is concerned, at the special meeting the members will vote on how to distribute any monies in both checking accounts. Any monies leftover will be forfeited to the Florida State Council. We will also have a sale of our chapter assets in the storage unit. Again, any assets left will become the property of the Florida State Council.

Like many of you I hate to see the chapter heading down this path. We were hoping that when our members who are starting to retire would become more actively involved in the chapter and step forward to lead us. It's still not too late. Step up and run for office and help guide the chapter in the future. As a volunteer you always have an opportunity to help someone and maybe change their life.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 655-7129.

Semper Fi,  
Tom Hall

### Chapter Officers

President: Jim LaGarde  
Vice President: Carl Harris  
Secretary: Bob Picariello  
Treasurer: Tom Hall

### Board of Directors:

Bob Silmser  
Kevin Ruhl  
Dave Braun  
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: 6:30 PM

Location: Veterans Memorial Park & Museum  
3602 Hwy. 301 N.  
Tampa Fl. 33619. See Map on last page.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404.

## **Chapter 787 awards JROTC Cadets**



Pictured above, past chapter President **Jim LaGarde** presents our V.V.A. chapter 787 medal to Army JROTC cadet Justin Kramer at Newsome High School. **Col. Lonnie Dale Vona** is the Sr. Army Instructor.

Each year, chapter 787 presents a medal and a beautiful wood-backed certificate to JROTC cadets who represent all our military branches at the Hillsborough County High Schools. **Bob Silmser** handles most of the coordination and members like **Jim LaGarde** and **Tom Hall** make the rounds to present the awards.

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Submitted by: Jon Mueller

## **Today's Youth are Too Fat to Fight!**

By Katie Drummond AOL news

A startling 75% of all U.S. youth are unfit to serve in the U.S. Military for one reason or another, according to a 2009 Pentagon report. That leaves 4.7 million viable recruitment candidates, out of 32 million American teens ages 17 to 24.

Here is the breakdown, 45% are over weight, 20% lack a H.S. diploma, 18% have criminal records, 17% fall into a miscellaneous category.



## Thank You to our Chapter Fundraising Volunteers!

Were would we be without the men and women who step up for each of our Publix or Wal-Mart fundraisers. What a great way to help the chapter, meet other veterans and socialize with your neighbors. If you can spare a few hours of your time please contact **Jim (Rambo) LaGarde** at (813) 758-4547.



Pictured above is chapter VP **Carl Harris**, next is **Jim (Rambo) LaGarde**. Chapter State Council Rep. **Kevin Ruhl** took the pictures.

Submitted by: Jon Mueller

## Hillsborough County Veterans Council Field of Honor Ceremony

On April 10th, members of the Marine Corps League Det. #1226 along with members of the local VFW and AmVets hosted the quarterly Field of Honor Ceremony at Veterans Park. During this event, the names of those U.S. service men and women who have died in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, in the last 90 days, are read aloud. On hand was a Gold Star Mother w **Kelly Kowall** who read the name of her son **Corey Kowall**. Corey, a U.S. Army Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne, died with a fellow soldier and medic when the were trying to aid another group hit by and IED.





## **Annual Chapter 787 Car Show**



Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa, Florida will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Car Show on Saturday, May 29, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park located 3602 Hwy. 301 just 1 mile South of I-4. The proceeds from this car show will be used to help in the construction of the Hillsborough County Vietnam Memorial in Veterans Memorial Park. Opening ceremony begins at 9:00 a.m.

In addition to the Classic Car Show, Vietnam Veterans of America will be conducting a "Blood Drive." All blood donated during this event will be used exclusively for veterans at the Tampa VA Hospital. The public is encouraged to attend this event and donate blood. This is a family oriented event.

This event will feature Oldies music, a 50/50 drawing, silent auction, food, vendors, and patriotic vendors. The Blood Mobile will be on-hand to collect blood to be used exclusively for the veterans at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa.



**Chapter 787  
makes a small  
amount on  
each phone.  
The PDA type  
phones bring  
in the most.  
See any chap-  
ter officer or  
call Tom Hall  
at 813-655-  
7129**

## **Donate your old Cell Phones and Batteries!**



## **Chapter 787 needs your donations!**

Like all non-profit groups, we depend on fundraisers and donations, monetary and otherwise.

Please give what you can. Monetary contributions can be made in cash or by check to V.V.A. Chapter 787 and should be given to any chapter officer or mailed to P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404.

We can also accept any item that can be converted to cash or used in our fund raising events. Please contact a chapter officer for details.

## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<b><u>May 2010</u></b>		
8th Thursday	Board of Directors meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
27st Thursday	<b>Chapter meeting, Hillsborough County Veterans Park , Officer Elections come and vote!</b>	6:30 PM
29th Saturday	7th Annual Chapter 787 Car Show, Veterans Park	9:00 AM
31st Monday	<b><u>Memorial Day</u></b>	
<b><u>June 2010</u></b>		
5th Saturday	Possible Special Meeting to dissolve chapter	10:00 AM
10th Thursday	Board of Directors meeting, Jon's House	6:00 PM
24th Thursday	Chapter meeting, Hillsborough County Veterans Park	6:30 PM
<b>Archival copies of the OUTPOST can be viewed on our web site: <a href="http://www.vva787.com">www.vva787.com</a></b>		

Submitted by **Kevin Ruhl**

## VA Warning

The VA is warning Veterans not to give credit card numbers, bank routing information or any personal and financial information over the phone to callers claiming to update, confirm, or verify VA-related information. VA simply does not call Veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone.

A Veteran targeted by scammers alerted the VA, saying that someone called claiming to be with the VA pharmacy and asking a lot of questions. The caller ID indicated that the incoming call was from 1-888-555-1234. There are a number of scams associated with this number, and it's been reported that the callers will call repeatedly and become aggressive. They will claim to be a VA employee saying your medical card is expired and the Veterans must send a check for a certain dollar amount for a renewal. In other versions, the caller says that your bank account is listed on a public computer in an effort to get it removed, you need to verify your bank information. Be leery of any calls originating from this number.

The VA has not changed its process for dispensing prescriptions or for enrollment. Nor has the VA changed its long-standing commitment to protect personal information of this nation's Veterans. Veterans with questions about VA services should call 1-877-222-8387, or the nearest VA medical center.

Submitted by: Jon Mueller

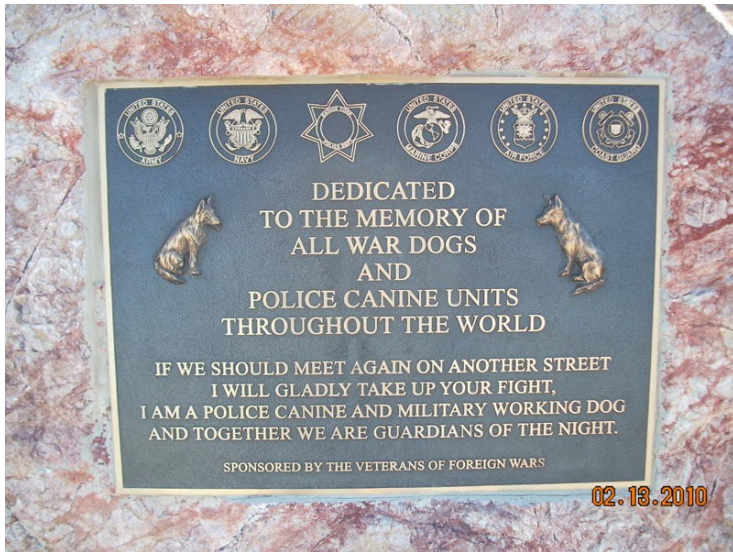
## Sick Call

Two long time hero's of V.V.A. **Bob Silmser** and **John Koprowski** were recently in the hospital for heart problems. Bob is doing well with his new pacemaker. This device will keep his heart beating in rhythm.

**John Koprowski** is not doing so well. He has been in and out of ICU for the past week. This long time V.V.A. leader needs your thoughts and prayers now.



## Bolder City Nevada Veterans Park





## On the Road with Glayron & Judi, Faries

Judi and I were passing through St. Louis yesterday and stopped for gas. Right across the street was this Veterans Memorial. We stopped and walked around a little while. It is very impressive. Plain and simple, but leaves a great message. All those boots lined up in marching platoon formation with the right heel of the boot up about an inch or two. Somewhere near the right front corner of the platoon, a man is missing. His boots are in front of the flag pole with the MIA/POW flag and the Eternal Flame. The 5 granite Monuments with a plaque for each branch of service and their flags make the back-drop. VERY TOUCHING.

[http://www.ofallon.mo.us/dept\\_tourism\\_VMW.htm](http://www.ofallon.mo.us/dept_tourism_VMW.htm)

If you are ever in the area, I would highly recommend a stop for a few minutes. Bring your Kleenex.

Glayron

Submitted by: Jon Mueller

## Big Pig Roast Party



Glayron Faries, at the Fourth Annual Nam Knights Haley House Fundraiser, talks about the upcoming improvements at the Veterans Memorial Park in Hillsborough County, Fla.



Pictured above L-R, V.V.A. Chapter 787 member **Glayron Faries** and Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assoc, member **Jim Basta**. Both were at the Nam Knights Pig Roast to benefit the Haley House.

## 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.



In Service to America®

### 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 (VVA), Chapter 787, Tampa Florida. All articles, and opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views 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 ParaSF68@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 Veterans Memorial Park & Museum, 3602 Hwy. 301 N. Tampa FL. 33619.**

#### Contact E-mail Addresses:

**President Jim LaGarde:** clagarde@tampabay.rr.com

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

**Secretary: Bob Picariello**

**Treasurer : Tom Hall** MarineDI@aol.com

**State Council Delegate Kevin Ruhl:**

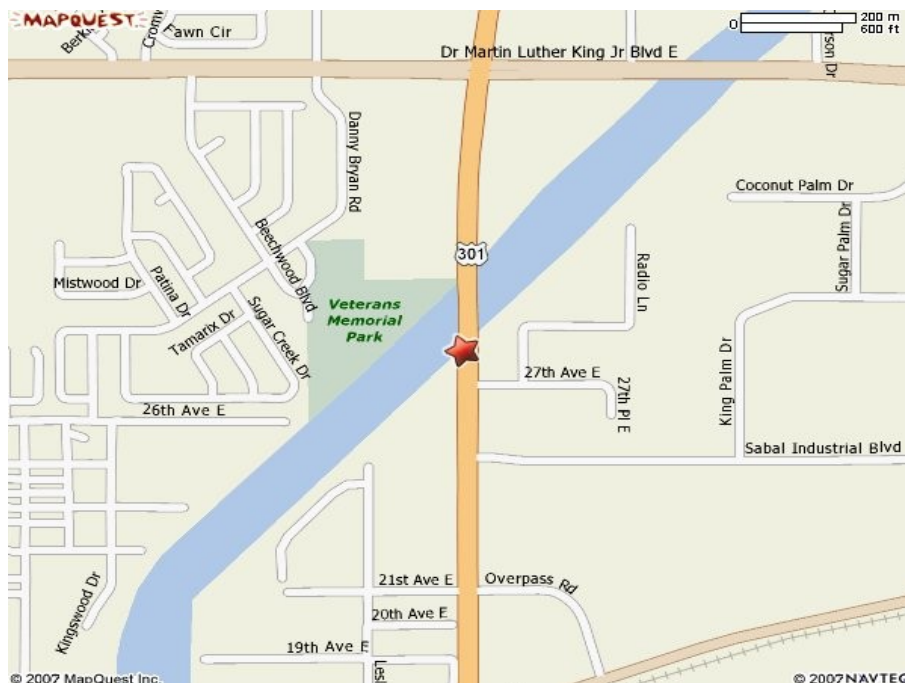
MSgtMCRet@aol.com

#### Board of Directors

**Kevin Ruhl:** MSgtMCRet@aol.com

**Dave Braun:** Prowler143@aol.com

**Jon Mueller:** ParaSF68@aol.com



## Important Web Sites

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