



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans of America

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Andy's Dinner was Wonderful

November 8th 2008 was a wonderful time for our former President of VVA-835. He, Brenda and the rest of us truly enjoyed ourselves. Dinner hosted by Famous Dave's, was out of this world and we made it a special night just for him. Gifts included an Air Force Flag, USAF coffee cup, a B-52 pin and a Cold War Medal. I believe we all went thru the Cold War, so this will add nicely to his ribbon rack. Andy and Brenda, thank you for making this evening special for each of us and Andy, your service is as always, **OUTSTANDING**.

The City of Yuma Hosted a Great Parade



Once again the city of Yuma hosted a parade to beat of the ones in the past. We decided to ride this year in Lee McCain's trailer (thank you) and had the

opportunity to "look around" and see the crowd. We started in the 5th Division and about 9:30am we rolled out for our two mile ride to American Legion Post 19 on Virginia Drive. We had standing room only crowds with many people knowing us from previous events and we certainly thank them for their effort to come see us on our day. For the three day function we enjoyed from Saturday night, Sunday morning and Tuesday morning, we are a blessed people. We thank everyone that made an effort to HONOR us during our time of year. We also keep those who could not be with us in prayer and trust they too enjoyed their day the best possible.

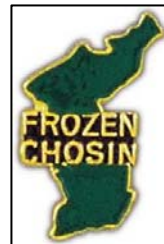


VVA Adopt' a Family for The Holidays

If you happen to know a veteran family that is truly in need, please call Walt at 920-0907 as VVA 835 usually has the tradition to **"ADOPT A FAMILY"** during the holidays and we're going to attempt to find one for the Christmas Season. Gifts will include gifts for the children and food for the family that they might no otherwise enjoy. [You know it is important to help those that cannot otherwise help themselves](#), so please keep that in mind.

Veterans Day at Faith Baptist Church

The 9th of November was a special celebration hosted by Faith Baptist Church consisted of a breakfast, a tremendous ceremony honoring all the veterans, especially the four **"Frozen Chosin"** from the Korean War Era. We honored many organizations that graced us such as VVA 835, Marine Corps League, American Legion, Rough Riders Club and others. We had the honor of raising a flag on top of a new flag pole, sang the Star Spangled Banner and fired a 21 Gun Salute to commemorate the occasion. We then, enjoyed a lunch provided by the Church. We thank Pastor Eric Tharp and his congregation for making our day extra special just for us **VETERANS**. To top it off,



we also had the opportunity to bless Andy Noriega with two plaques honoring him for his role in supporting veterans in the Yuma Community.



Grow the Army—Changes Coming

In January 2008, the President requested, from Congress, a 74,200 Soldier increase in Army end strength across the Active, Guard and Reserve components. The initiative to "Grow the Army" (GTA) provides additional ground forces to meet strategic demands and mitigate persistent capability shortfalls, and reduce stress on our Soldiers and Families. The types of organizations the Army will grow are Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs), Support Brigades, Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) units. To support these IBCTs and Support Brigades the Army is simultaneously announcing the stationing of approximately 30,000 Soldiers in Combat Support and Combat Service Support units throughout the United States as well as various overseas locations. In addition to the Grow the Army units, one Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) will be re-stationed to Ft Drum, NY and one MEB is planned to be re-stationed to Ft. Richardson, AK pending completion of an environmental analysis in accordance the National Environmental Policy Act. The Army also plans to relocate 1st Armored Division from Germany to Ft Bliss, TX, and 1st Infantry Division from Germany to Ft Riley,

KS and Ft Knox, KY by September 2011 while extending BCT capabilities in the European command through the activation of 2 BCTs in Germany in 2008 and 2010. These two heavy brigades are scheduled to re-station from Germany in 2012 and 2013. They are tentatively designated to relocate to Fort Bliss, TX and White Sands Missile Range, NM. Once complete, the Army's adjusted posture will meet long term operational needs and sustain the All Volunteer Army.

A Big Battle

In late 1944, in the wake of the allied forces'



successful D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, it seemed as if the Second World War was all but over. But on December 16, with the onset of winter, the German army launched a counteroffensive that was intended to cut through the Allied forces in a manner that would turn the tide of the war in Hitler's favor. The battle that ensued is known historically as The Battle of the Bulge. The courage and fortitude of the American Soldier was tested against great adversity. Nevertheless, the quality of his response ultimately meant the victory of freedom over tyranny. Can you imagine spending as many winters in Germany or other countries such as our Father's may have had to?

The Holidays Are Upon Us – Make the Most of Them Christmas is just around the corner. Thanksgiving has passed and we missed the boat on supporting anyone this year, however, we're going to make up for it by attempting to support a single family. Yuma has an abundance of veterans within the city limits, not to mention those that are homeless. Those of course usually wind up at the Cross Roads Mission. So, if YOU are looking for a charity to give some money to, please consider Cross Roads Mission on 10th St and Arizona Avenue. About 40% of their homeless folks are veterans and many of those men are of course, from the Vietnam era. With the family, we're planning on getting the name, family and status of what they might need to sustain themselves over the holidays. Once again, if you have a heart for these folks, please write a check to VVA-835 if you'd like to help out with any of this for us.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is to be **December 16th 2008 at 7:00pm**. We ask that as many of you come as possible. Location is American Legion Post 56 at 1490 W. 3rd Street, Yuma, AZ. 85364.

Keep Your Family – And Bless Them This Season at Christmas 2008

For those of you reading this article, we'd like to wish you the most pleasant of holidays. We trust they will be the best ever for you and ask that you consider remembering someone else, either in your family, your neighborhood or "just that guy on the street" that has nothing. Buying him a meal might just be the only blessing he receives this season. I heard a message in Faith Baptist Church on Veterans Day and the Pastor said this: "LOVE YOUR FAMILY". I know family can be a real pain at times, but they are your family. You can NEVER REPLACE them. They are no better and no worse than you, so wake yourself up and call that long lost brother, sister, aunt or uncle and send them a gift card to let them know YOU LOVE THEM. You will NEVER regret it.

Looking for Vietnam Veterans to Attend Meetings at VVA 835

Arizona has a abundance of Vietnam Veterans, nearly the most in all of the USA. We currently have around 50 VVA vets in our chapter and would love to have more of you attend. In fact, let me be brave enough to ask what would it take to get you to come? What are we NOT doing to prevent you from coming? If we're not performing in keeping with our charter, goals, etc, please let us know. We send the newsletters out as a courtesy to you to let you know what is happening as well as reading with what we hope is interesting "stuff". But, we'd like to see more of you. Please consider coming to the December meeting would you?

Pastor Tharp Presented with Vietnam National Medal



With his involvement in Veterans since he has been here in the last year, Pastor Eric Tharp has certainly made ALL of us very welcome in the veteran community. It was his church, his idea and his people that **HONORED** us to nth-degree on November 9th 2008. Therefore, we honored him with this medal. This was the first time he has been honored by any organization dealing with Veterans', so VVA-835, I take my hat off to you for making him feel "**like a veteran**" on our day.

Have a great New Year

To all of you, we trust you'll have a blessed Christmas and New Year event. Stay safe and God bless you and yours this holiday season. Hope to see you all of next year. We'll look forward to seeing you in January of '09.