



Vietnam Veterans of America



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Web Page: <http://www.vvayuma835.org>

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Mary Haynes – New Student

VVA 835 is delighted to welcome our Mary Haynes into Vietnam Veterans of America, 835 Scholarship Program for year 2009 and 2010. She is studying to be a nurse and her main goal is to help people. We had the opportunity to interview Mary in our December 2008 meeting and find out something about her. She said “I learned a lot about Vietnam and felt so sorry about the homecoming and what the Soldiers and Marines had to go through while over there”. She qualified for the position to receive \$500 per semester for two years starting this month. Mary currently works at YPG in the Admin Division of NACCITEC and is a wonderful employee. The constant smile on her reminds all of us that we should all be grateful for what we have in life. We are honored to support her in this endeavor and know that she will maintain her 3.0 GPA while attending Arizona Western College. Mary, to you thank you for making the effort to complete the requirements, as the end result is here and that is a financial help for you. We trust you'll do well and in time, you'll be doing what you are good at “Helping Others”, when they cannot help themselves.



Armed Forces Park Inaugural



10 December 2008 was Yuma's Armed Forces Park initial inaugural celebration. After several years of preparation to get it completed, Art Nottingham and others

have strived to make this a true symbol of what Veterans mean to everyone. The park is a beautiful symbol of honoring others, especially those that served in wars in previous generations. Consider purchasing one of these plaques for your Dad, Grandfather or even yourself. Each one costs \$100.

VVA Really Does Some Good – Here's How

VVA 835 was extremely instrumental in helping in the following situations. Norm Pulley's daughter Theresa needed some financial help when she had a medical condition and we came to the rescue with \$1000 for her. We also adopted a couple here in town that literally had nothing to call their own. One member also adopted them and our chapter donated \$250 to help them get food and other essentials such as silverware, plates and sheets for their bed. It can be a real blessing to help those that cannot help themselves especially during the holidays. It gladdens the heart by doing something for someone else especially during Christmas. A consistent need is the Cross Roads Mission. We provided them with \$75.00 to feed the homeless of which many are veterans. Needless to say, if any of us should ever wind up there, we would welcome any sized donation to feed a veteran.

Updated Website

Our web site located at <http://www.vvayuma835.org> has been “remodeled” and we encourage you to look at it. Soon, we'll have current photos and maybe some video clips of our events. For those of you that don't see yourself, we encourage you to come out and see what goes on with our endeavors as we serve the community.

Rodeo Parade

If you're half-cowboy, you'll want to join us for the Yuma Rodeo Parade, held on the 14 Feb 09. The time and place yet to be announced. We'll need a walking Color Guard for this event. This has always been a good time for us as we see a lot of different events in this parade.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting to be held on 20 January 2009 at 1490 W 3rd St, Post 56 here in Yuma of the American Legion at 7:00pm. Last count, we have 48 members with about 6-8 showing up the meetings. We're going to attempt to layout the events ahead for 2009 and offer some things for the chapter at large.

State Council Meeting - January 24th 2009

We have a AZ State Council Meeting coming up on January 24 2009 in Laughlin, NV. Time and place yet to be determined. So, if you are the President, Secretary, Treasurer or a Delegate, you are needed to attend this meeting.

The Year 2008

We are all old and smart enough to know what our VVA mission is, as it clearly matches that of simply being a human being. **SERVE OTHERS**.

That said, allow me to let you know what our local chapter did last year for **OTHERS**, which will include the populace and individuals.

- Honored those for Memorial Day
- Gave \$1000 for Hurricane Ike victims
- Marched in the Rodeo Parade in Yuma
- Four Color Guards in Yuma for the college
- Celebrated the Bushmasters Ceremony
- Provided dozens of cookies to the military
- Provided \$56 for the thanksgiving homeless
- Donated \$1000 to Theresa Bucsko
- Honored Andy Noriega as former President
- Adopted a local veteran family for Christmas
- Offered \$44 for Thanksgiving Shut-ins
- Veterans Day Parade on November 11th
- Veterans Day Celebration at Faith Baptist Church and honored Pastor Tharp with a Vietnam National Medal.
- Provided a \$2000 scholarship to Mary Haynes for this next school year.
- Gave \$75 to Cross Roads Mission for the homeless veterans for Christmas.
- Armed Forces Park Grand Opening

This is what we are good at. Helping others in need; Assisting those that are young in life to get started in their career; honoring those that went on before us and **encouraging others to stay the course, when the tough gets going**

As it was mentioned on page one of this document, we are asking some of you to come out and join us as we live on the Vietnam Veteran Heritage. We're all getting older and ***we all need to make that special difference for someone else in our lives.***

A Word From Mike Thompson

Texas talk: "He shouldn't a had not ought to do that." I hope 2009 is the year when people finish getting dressed; tucking in their shirts, buttoning their sleeves and getting the bills on their baseball caps to the front. I remember Mom telling me that time would go faster as I got older. Now it seems it's just one Sunday morning

news show after another. I got out of the long horn cattle business this year. No room left in the garage for the cars. Ford is coming out with a new electric car that's good for 100 miles at a time. Cost of car; \$1,800. Cost of 100 mile extension cord; \$27,000. "Those who cast the votes decide nothing; those who count the votes decide everything." By Joseph Stalin.

2009 Is Almost Upon Us

By the time you read this newsletter, 2009 will be within a few days or so. And knowing the economy the way it is, plus the condition of the world in general leaves a lot to be desired. My folks told me over and over that the teamwork during World War II was so important; being there for people was critical; and doing what you "for the other guy" was the right thing to do.

That aside, what are your plans for the New Year? Well, we all likely have our list of planned things, then we'll "obtain" that list of the unplanned items that cause a disturbance during the year. May we recommend that you involve yourself in a worthwhile organization that will provide some comfort for others? At the same time, the Vietnam Veteran has also been through a lot over the decades and re-joining the group for some fellow-ship could also be important to you.



And then how about your military legacy. I've mentioned before that leaving your legacy to your children could be the best thing you ever did. It does not take that long to do it and having it in an organized fashion vs. those few stories that some of us tell over and over again and will eventually forget. Sometime in January, I will place the 'LEGACY' forms on the VVA 835 web <http://www.vvayuma835.org> under the **Legacy** tab.



See this flag? We all need to join together for the cause of America. We have our children, grandchildren and those 2 or 3 generations behind us that would also like to enjoy what the United States has to offer. Become a part of saving America. Help those who are already doing just that for us as we did it for them.