



Vietnam Veterans of America



Chapter 835 P.O. Box 6281 - Yuma, AZ 85366 – vvayuma@roadrunner.com

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

Volume 07

July 2008

Jay Leno on America

Jay Leno wrote this; it's the Jay Leno we don't often see....As most of you know I am not a President Bush fan, nor have I ever been, but this is not about Bush, it is about us, as Americans, and it seems to hit the mark. The other day I was reading Newsweek magazine and came across some poll data I found rather hard to believe. It must be true given the source, right? The Newsweek poll alleges that 67% of Americans are unhappy with the direction the country is headed and 69% of the country is unhappy with the performance of the President. In essence 2/3 of the citizenry just ain't happy and want a change. I started thinking, 'What are we so unhappy about?'

Is it that we have electricity and running water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Is our unhappiness the result of having air conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter? Could it be that 95.4 percent of these unhappy folks have a job? Maybe it is the ability to walk into a grocery store at any time and see more food in moments than Darfur has seen in the last year?

Maybe it is the ability to drive our cars and trucks from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean without having to present identification papers as we move through each state? Or possibly the hundreds of clean and safe motels we would find along the way that can provide temporary shelter?

I guess having thousands of restaurants with varying cuisine from around the world is just not good enough either. Or could it be that when we wreck our car, emergency workers show up and provide services to help all and even send a helicopter to take you to the hospital?

Perhaps you are one of the 70% of Americans who own a home. You may be upset with knowing that in the unfortunate case of a fire, a group of trained firefighters will appear in moments and use top notch equipment to extinguish the flames, thus saving you, family, and your belongings.

Or if, while at home watching one of your many flat screen TVs, a burglar or prowler intrudes, an officer equipped with a gun and a bullet-proof vest will come to defend you and your family against attack or loss.

This all in the backdrop of a neighborhood free of bombs or militias raping and pillaging the residents--- neighborhoods where 90% of teenagers own cell phones and computers. How about the complete religious, social and political freedoms we enjoy that are the envy of everyone in the world? Maybe that is what has 67% of you folks unhappy.

Fact is, we are the largest group of ungrateful, spoiled brats the world has ever seen. No wonder the world loves the U.S., yet has a great disdain for its citizens. They see us for what we are. The most blessed people in the world who do nothing but complain about what we don't have, and what we hate about the country instead of thanking the good Lord we live here.

I know, I know. What about the United States president who took us into war and has no plan to get us out? The president who has a measly 31% approval rating? Is this the same president who guided the nation in the dark days after 9/11? The president that cut taxes to bring an economy out of recession? Could this be the same guy who has been called every name in the book for succeeding in keeping all the spoiled ungrateful brats safe from terrorist attacks?, the commander in chief of an all-volunteer army that is out there defending you and me? Did you hear how bad the President is on the news or talk show? Did this news affect you so much, make you so unhappy you couldn't take a look around for yourself and see all the good things and be glad? Think about it.....are you upset at the President because he actually caused you personal pain OR is it because the 'Media' told you he was failing to kiss your sorry ungrateful behind every day. Make no mistake about it.

The troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have volunteered to serve, and in many cases may have died for your freedom. There is currently no draft in this country. They didn't have to go. They are able to refuse to go and end up with either a "general" discharge, an 'other than honorable' discharge or, worst case scenario, a "dishonorable" discharge after a few days in the brig. So why then the flat-out discontentment in the minds of 69 percent of Americans? Say what you want but I blame it on the media. "If it bleeds, it leads" and they specialize in bad news. Everybody will watch a car crash with blood and guts. How many will watch kids selling lemonade at the corner? The media knows this and media outlets are for-profit corporations. They offer what sells, and when criticized, try to defend their actions by 'justifying' them in one way or another. Just ask why they tried to allow a murderer like O.J. Simpson to write a book about how he didn't kill his wife, but if he did he would have done it this way.....Insane!

Turn off the TV, burn Newsweek, and use the New York Times for the bottom of your bird cage. Then start being grateful for all we have in our country. There is exponentially more good than bad. We are among the most blessed people on Earth and should thank God several times a day or at least be thankful and appreciative. "With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mudslides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

Jay Leno



Yes, you guessed it, this Arizona's State Council Banner for all of us to be proud of. Thanks to all of those that contributed to having it made for our benefit.

Good Morning Vietnam – Who is this person??



We all have a different look to us as get a little older, so let's take a guess as to who this is. [When you recognize yourself, please do not give it away](#) and I'll print a current day photo of this young man. Very instrumental in our chapter and an overall great guy, we thank him for all he has done for VVA and our local chapter.

Email me at at this address, prov2007@yahoo.com if you know who it is.

Excellent Color Guard at Yuma High School Graduation

VVA 835 did it again with a superb color guard action at the Yuma High School Graduation. It was just like we did it everyday. About 1,500 people were on hand for it and about 850 students witnessed us performing while they sang the Star Spangled Banner. Thanks to [Gerald Casares, George Zepeda, Bob Lucas and Walt Schumacher](#). And a special thanks to [Bill Thornton](#) for being on stand-by. Good job.

New Officers Installed

Bob Lucas, Gerald Casares, John Zehovetz were installed as new officers as of the June 2008 meeting. Their three year term will begin a new chapter in VVA 835. We're asking that all of you fully support them and utilize your gifts and talents to make the chapter a little better organization to belong to by supporting Vietnam Veterans along with those from other conflicts the USA has been involved in. We appreciate all of you over the years that have given Andy Noriega his full and needed support. Andy, thank you for a superb five years you have provided to our chapter. Your leadership has been outstanding and we so appreciate it very much.

The men and women of vVA-835

Do You Believe This??



General Giap was leader of the North Vietnamese Army.

The following quote is from his memoirs currently found in the Vietnam war memorial in Hanoi: "What we still don't understand is why you Americans stopped the bombing of Hanoi. You had us on the ropes. If you had pressed us a little harder, just for another day or two, we were ready to surrender! It

was the same at the battles of TET. You defeated us! We knew it, and we thought you knew it. But we were elated to notice your media was definitely helping us. They were causing more disruption in America than we could in the battlefields. We were ready to surrender. You had won!" General Giap has published his memoirs and confirmed what most Americans knew. The Vietnam war was not lost in Vietnam -- it was lost at home. The exact same slippery slope, sponsored by the US media, is currently well underway in regards to the War on Terror, and the conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan. Giap's writings expose the enormous power of a biased media to cut out the heart and will of the American people. [A truism worthy of note: Do not fear the enemy, for they can take only your life.](#)

Maxine Says . . .

We need to show more sympathy for these people.

- * They travel miles in the heat.
- * They risk their lives crossing a border.
- * They don't get paid enough wages.
- * They do jobs that others won't do or are afraid to do.
- * They live in crowded conditions among a people who speak a different language.
- * They rarely see their families and they face adversity all day every day...



I'm not talking about illegal Mexicans, [I'm talking about our troops!](#)

Next Meeting

We'll be having our next meeting on Tuesday, July 15th 2008 at 7:00 pm at the American Legion located at Location is American Legion Post 56 at 1490 W. 3rd Street, Yuma, AZ 85364. We hope to see you there.

Hope your 4th of July was wonderful