



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans of America



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

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Memorial Day 2008



Memorial Day 2008 was a day none of us shall ever forget and that was to remember our fallen comrades from WWI forward. VVA835 along with eight other organizations honored those fallen in conflicts some, some well before our time in our lives and yet we saw some that had passed on many years earlier. We are the fortunate and blessed souls who still have America on their doorstep.

Greg Luna provided the prayer while Bill Thornton gave the Pledge of Allegiance and was the main speaker on "Those Remembering Memorial Day". Part of his remarks surrounded around the price of gas and the infamous BBQ that many of us enjoy rather than remembering the fallen ones from previous and current conflicts that America has been involved in. George Zepeda provided himself as Drill Instructor for the Color Guard consisting of: Greg Luna, Mark Theis, Gerald Casares, Walt Schumacher, Bob Lucas and Bill Thornton providing a 21 gun salute for those fallen.



An impromptu part of the service was when a lady from the audience named Barbara Weberg from Portland, Oregon gave this poem to those listening.
*This is dedicated to the many who were trained to be strong as steel, they were taught to show no emotion And ordered to ignore what they feel, These people are real life hero's.
With time, we've come to forget war's now become their yesterdays, They're our American Vets,
Tho many made it home again, it seems they all died at heart, they often relive that nightmare In which they had played a part, so if given an opportunity to smile or just lend a hand, remember those who died for us and offer to do what you can. We can't erase their memories or pretend to help them forget but we can show them we "love them all". God Bless Our American Vets. With Love and Appreciation
Rose M. Rael, Portland, OR*

Remembrances



A Rilda Hayes lost her husband in 2004 after he served in Vietnam during the 1960's. She herself (in a wheel chair), served in the Marine Corps from 1959-1961. She was at Sun Vista Memorial Park today with her daughter and granddaughter remembering their husband, father and grand-father. What a way to recall the fond



memories of those who have been in your life for several decades and served your country. We thank people like Rilda and her family for honoring their loved one.

This Flag is What It Is All About



This flag offers more than any of us realize. While we have all served, we need to instill in others that are not aware or care about America and the American Flag means to us. It is vital to be part of our person and realize without it, we have nothing.

Other Memorial Day Events

Monday, Memorial Day, events will be at the Quechan Burial Grounds at 0745. We have been asked by Andy to have a color guard here. At 0900, the Colorado River ceremony in honor of those lost at sea, was held at the Gateway Park. The wreath will be tossed from the bridge above. Our attendance was voluntary.

Chapter News

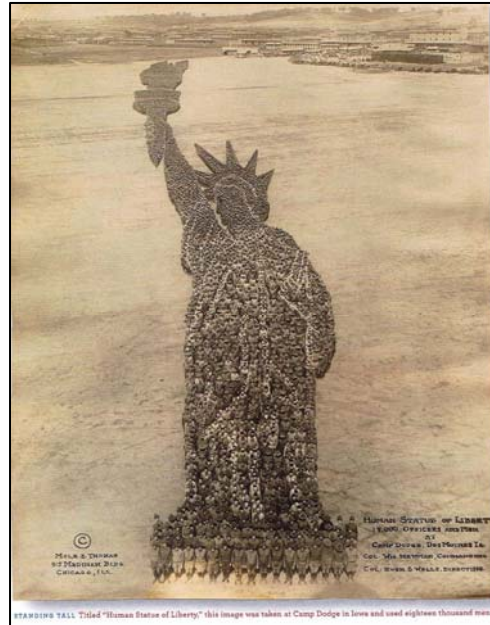
Our membership in March was 50. Three members would be dropped from April membership rolls, as their membership dues were late. They will be dropped from the email and newsletter lists. Our highest count was 58 members. Election results include our Chapter president will be **Robert "Bob" Lukas**. Treasurer remains **John Zohovetz**. Their terms are now until 2010 when voting for those offices will take place again. Secretary remains the same, **Gerald Casares**.

At the June meeting, Bob will be sworn in as President and he will step down as VP and name a temporary vice president to serve out the VP's last year in office. VP elections will be up in 2009, along with the Secretary slot. The election report will be submitted after the new officers are sworn in next meeting in June.

Next Event

We are having a Color Guard Event at a Yuma High School Graduation on this Friday, 30 May 2008, at 6:45 pm at Yuma High School Football Field. Please show up in Cammies and help these kids celebrate their accomplishments.

WWI Photo



Not too often do we get photos or drawings or anything else regarding the first Great War known as World War I.

This photo is really 18,000 Army guys standing in a formation to represent the Statue of Liberty in New York in 1918. What

a scene. If only our armed forces could do that today.

What Do You Remember?

Here is a situation that you might want to talk about and have published in our newsletter. Do you have a story that others would like to hear about during your time in Vietnam?



If you prefer, we don't have to use your name, so simply email me at prov2007@yahoo.com and I'll print what you'd like to have others read about you when you were in country. The picture above represents the "small GI" who was able to get into a small hole, which we commonly referred to as a tunnel rat. I'm not so sure that I would like to do that.

Next Meeting

We'll be having our next meeting on Tuesday, June 17th 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.