



One Powerful Voice.

# Citrus County Chapter

## Leaders Proud to Care and Ready to Share

Volume 23, Issue 2

October 2009

### “Lean on Me”

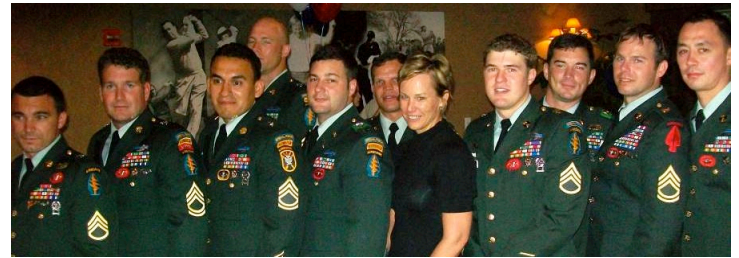
### COL Sharon I. Richie-Melvan, USA (Ret)



On Saturday, September 12, 2009 I was privileged to join 250 community and military leaders, friends, and family members at Black Diamond’s County Club to welcome home our Citrus County Hero CW2 Romulo “Romy” Camargo. Chief Romy and his team were ambushed in Afghanistan on September 16,

2008 and he was shot multiple times. His injuries have left him paralyzed; but as Romy says to any senior Army officer who visits him, “This is just temporary. I will walk again and the Army still owes me another 120 days on my Afghanistan tour!”

2000 feet with smoke billowing from their boots and the American flag waving off of the commander’s back. It was breath taking! The only active duty member of the team was a female Lieutenant Colonel stationed at Fort MacDill. Her only child is all set to join the Army Nurse Corps as soon as she finishes school so you know that I was proud. That pride was nothing compared to what was to come that day.



I was moved to tears during the program after lunch when Chief Romy spoke of his love for the members of his Special Forces Team, Operational Detachment Alpha 7115. These young E-6 and E-7’s were sitting next to my table and there wasn’t a dry eye among them as he recounted the day he was shot. It has been almost a year since he left them and it was clear that he is still their beloved leader. A member of that team visits the chief every few weeks at the Tampa VA and they speak with him on the telephone frequently. After the program I introduced myself to the Chief and the first thing that he said to me was, “You have to meet my army nurse; she and my medic saved my life.” He pointed across the room to LTC Sandra McNaughton who had flown in from Walter

The celebrations began with a reception at Harley-Davidson of Crystal River where Romy was met by his Crystal River High School friends from 14 years ago. A large contingent of Rolling Thunder members then provided a motorcycle escort for Romy and his family to the Black Diamond Country Club driving range. Once Romy was in place on the greens in his wheelchair, a four person SOCOM parachute team jumped onto the range from the minimum altitude of



*Presidents Message (Continued on Page 4)*

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**Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2009**

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The General Meeting of Military Officers Association of America, Citrus County Chapter convened at 1217 hours, September 3, 2009 at the Emperor's Garden restaurant, Inverness, Florida. President Sharon Richie-Melvan presiding. There were 28 in attendance.

The meeting began with the invocation and the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

President Richie-Melvan introduced our guest speaker, Inverness City Manager, Frank Digiovanni.

Mr. DiGiovanni began his remarks by noting that he grew up in Brooklyn. In 1978, Mr. Digiovanni moved to Florida and worked for eight months as Assistant Director of Leisure Services for Citrus County. In 1979, he accepted a position with the City of Inverness as Director of Whispering Pines Park. The Park became his second home and he remained in this position for 13 years. Frank literally cleared the way to help make Whispering Pines Park what it is today.

In 1991, he was promoted to the position of Assistant City Manager and then interim manager in January 1995.

He is a former member of the Little League Board, the East Citrus Soccer program and was the principle founder of the local Competitive Swim Association. He served on the Parish Council for Our Lady of Fatima Church and currently serves as a board member on the Economic Development Council for Citrus County. His affiliations include being a member of the Inverness Elks Lodge #2522 where he served as Youth Committee Chairperson, an advisor to the Citrus County Art League, a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Digiovanni is also a member of the International City/County Manager's Association, the Florida City/County Manager Association and the Florida Personnel Management Association.

During his tenure as Inverness City Manager, Mr. Digiovanni has been recognized for twenty-five years of local government service by the International City and County Manager's Association, received the Outstanding Chamber of Commerce Service Award, given the President's Award from the Inverness Little League, and was presented a plaque of appreciation from the City of Dunnellon for

his guidance and assistance to their community.

Mr. Digiovanni discussed where Inverness is heading while in the shadow of the current economic recession. He said that everything that is being built today was "planned for" ten years ago. Inverness has been very successful in getting state grants that either match or assume a major share of the total cost of various projects.

A seventeen million dollar waste water treatment plant is being built south of the Airport. This plant will be able to treat waste water according to the most stringent standards in the United States. The reclaimed water will then be sent to various golf courses so that rain water can be freed to use as drinking water.

Mr. Digiovanni noted that there is a plan to put "just a little" ammonia in the public water so that we will not have to put a "whole lot" of chlorine in it. The little dab of ammonia is a means of avoiding a massive amount of other chemicals to keep the water clean.

The Pine Street parking lot is being revamped which will add five more parking spaces.

The traffic problem on school days around Citrus High School, and Inverness Primary School is a major headache. Many parents do not want their children to ride the bus so they drive them personally. This causes a major traffic snarl early in the morning. Our city needs some options for traffic control in this area.

One of Mr. Digiovanni's considerations when he proposes new projects is that he wants Inverness to be beautiful. It should have eye appeal for its citizens.

Citrus County is a bicycle friendly area. Our county has many bicycle trails. Accordingly, a bicycle trail is being planned for the city of Inverness. It is only a matter of time before \$5.00 per gallon gasoline will be back with us.

Inverness has received a \$700,000.00 building grant towards a one and a half million dollar city improvement project.

The improvement spent on Whispering Pines Park is money well spent. Not only are there now better facilities, but it Meeting Minutes (*Continued on Page 3*)

Meeting Minutes (Continued from Page 2)

increases the value of all property owners. The highest point in the county is located in this park.

The county bought more land around Cooter Pond Park. Again this was using grant money. There will be improved lighting at the park.

The city has upgraded its electronic infrastructure. This will make things more efficient. For example, payrolls are now computed automatically.

The city manages Oak Ridge Cemetery. It is normal to have many issues with cemeteries. There are legal upkeep issues that result when a government takes over a failed private cemetery as well as historical issues concerning the county's ancestors buried there.

Inverness recently bought the old Valerie Theatre. This building is a part of the Inverness downtown Court House Square district. Our old Court House is one of only five Court Houses in the United States that sits on its own square. The old theatre was beginning to become an eyesore to the courthouse. So, the city bought it at a bargain price and will restore it for use in various public events. The old marquee was torn down since it was unstable and dangerous. It will be rebuilt to give the theatre its original Art Deco style.

Mr. Digiovanni noted that the County does not maintain all parks since some of the parks are privately owned.

The city has looked into a formal trash recycling program. Due to the small size of the population, it is not yet cost effective to have such a program.

Mr. Digiovanni said that he and several other city managers will be accepting an award on September 11 in Rochester, New York. Inverness has been selected by the 40/8 Veterans Organization as the National Patriotic City of the Year.

President Sharon Richie-Melvan thanked Mr. Digiovanni for his remarks.

Secretary Gary E. Runyon said that the minutes had been published in the newsletter. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved.

Auxiliary member Sallie Davis died June 28, 2009. Her husband CWO Clyde Davis (AUS) predeceased her.

The secretary thanked everyone for their quick responses to the various "yea or nay" emails he has sent out. The electronic responses save much telephone time for the telephone trees.

Tom Green gave the Treasurer's report. Tom said that this is the first time we began a new season with over a \$5,000.00 balance in the Bud Wise fund AFTER we had awarded an annual scholarship. So, the account is growing.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Tom Green said his church as a community dinner on the first Friday of each month. All guests are cordially welcome.

Tom also said that Nedra Barber has had cataract surgery and is doing fine. Tom said he had had similar surgery last spring and the increase in vision is dramatic.

Sharon Richie-Melvan said that after winning a MOAA Chapter four star award last year, we will be receiving the coveted five star award this December.

There will be a MOAA FCOC president's meeting in Fort Myers. Curt Ebitz will attend this meeting and will report on the results during his presentation at the October general meeting.

Our Chapter will take out a 1/8 page souvenir magazine ad as a part of next year's MOAA FCOC convention.

This year's MOAA Installation dinner will be at the Citrus Hills Country Club on December 5. This is a Saturday and NOT a Thursday.

Our January General meeting will be a joint meeting with the Ladies Auxiliary at the Citrus County Woman's Club building in Inverness. This will be a pot luck dinner and will be hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary. JJ Kenney will speak to the assembled guests about veteran matters.

The fall picnic will be on October 18 at Admiral McLeod's home.

Don't forget to get in your bios for the Honour Ground coffee sold at Sweet Bays.

Butch Schultz will be participating in a new medical procedure whereby blind people can be trained to see electronic images. A simple camera is attached via wire to a metal plate. The metal plate is then placed over the person's tongue. The tongue is very sensitive and has many nerve endings. Accordingly, the tongue can sense the tiny voltages generated by the camera. It has been demonstrated that people can be trained to interpret the currents generated by the camera and received by the tongue. The result is that the brain can visualize simple images and outlines. This is a new and exciting medical development.

Sharon introduced our new webmaster, Michael Melvan. Michael is taking over from Mark Gibbs. The new web site has been operating for about a month and the members like the new layout. The "dog tags" selector buttons definitely gives the site a military touch.

The meeting was adjourned at 1337 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary E. Runyon  
Secretary

*Presidents Message (Continued from Page 1)*

Reed AMC for the festivities. My pride tripled when I learned that I had been her Medical Center Chief Nurse many moons ago and she still claimed me as such. We has a heart warming reunion which led to more tears as she shared that she'd recently spoken about Chief Romy at a MOAA St Petersburg meeting as a guest of her father, a retired Special Forces colonel. Yes, we are a mighty and powerful family and we take care of our own.

Chief Romy's physical, emotional, and spiritual care since his injury has met the gold standard that we wish for each injured veteran. To that end, MOAA and the U.S. Naval Institute sponsored another (I think this is their 4<sup>th</sup>) Wounded Warrior Symposium on September 16, 2009 entitled "Coping with Unseen Injuries: From the Battlefield to Homefront." As a member of MOAA national's Healthcare Committee, I was honored to be able to attend the day long program which included three expert panels and two distinguished opening and closing speakers; Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Honorable L. Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary of Veteran Affairs and Intergovernmental Affairs. I was encouraged by the record attendance of over 500 civilians and military members who were committed to raising the standard of care for our injured troops.

I want to thank Curt Ebitz for agreeing to represent our chapter at MOAA Florida Council's Healthcare Forum for Chapter Presidents on September 25-26. He will get the most up to date information about potential changes to our healthcare benefits and share that information at our October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. If you have specific questions, email Curt so he can take the questions forward to the Forum and share the responses at the meeting.

I also want to thank Cynthia Researe for agreeing to be our November speaker. Her presentation will be Part II of her

insights about the Middle East. Those who heard Part I were enthralled with the presentation and requested a return engagement. We are looking for a few more speakers for our 2010 program roster. Don't be shy. We would love to hear about your unique experiences during your military career.

I have a thank you letter from David Peterson, recipient of our 2009 MOAA Chapter JROTC Award at Lecanto high school. He wrote, "The generosity of those who established this award encourages me academically and personally to stay involved in helping." David spent two weeks in Honduras this summer helping school children. Thank you Citrus County Chapter members for your generous donations to our Bud Wise scholarship fund!

Get ready for another fabulous Fall picnic at the admiral's home on October 18<sup>th</sup> with fellowship, a festival of food dishes and fun. Please pick up the phone or start typing your email to Gary Runyon, "Yes, I will volunteer to speak to at least one student class and help with our Veterans in the Classroom program this year." Sign yourself up, invite your neighbors and announce it at your church—we need more veterans to volunteer! You can also let Gary know at that time if you want tickets to the November 14<sup>th</sup> Veterans Forum at the First Baptist Church in Inverness. It includes local elected leaders as guest speakers and a free lunch provided by Tommy of Margaritagrille. This is a free event but you must obtain your tickets in advance. Don't forget to check our new website frequently ([www.citruscountymoaa.org](http://www.citruscountymoaa.org)) to get the most up to date information about our chapter and to access links to our sister military and civilian organizations. Thank your Mr. Web Wizard, Michael Melvan!

I continue to be honored that you "Lean on Me," that you lean on each other and that you loudly proclaim and openly demonstrate our chapter motto, "Leaders . . . Proud to Care and Ready to Share."

Sharon



LTC Sandra McNaughton ANC, COL Sean Mulholland their former CO and medic SFC Steven S. Hill surround CW2 Romulo "Romy" Camargo who was paralyzed in Afghanistan.

# Annual Fall Picnic

Sunday October 18, 2009 1330 hrs

RADM McLeod's House

670 W. Pearson Street  
Citrus Hills  
Hernando, Florida

There will be a \$7.00 per person charge that includes a donation for the Bud Wise Scholarship fund. As per tradition, all Auxiliary members may attend for free and are highly encouraged to participate in this event. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served from the grill. Sodas, wine, beer and water will be available. Each family is encouraged to bring a small potluck item, salad or desert. Please bring your own folding chair.

## September meeting photographic moments

Photos by Ken Brown



Inverness City Manager Frank DiGiovanni was our guest speaker.



The MOAA Women members gave a \$100.00 check in memory of LCDR Bud Hogberg USNR to the Citrus County Veterans Foundation. MOAA Women was represented by their president, Louise Hogberg and member Cyntha Resare. Admiral McLeod represented the CCFV.

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## LUNCHEONS



## MOAA

Emperor's Garden  
1314 Highway 41N., Inverness  
Next door to the Inverness Post Office.  
1130 hours Thursday, Oct 1, 2009

## MOAA Women

The Women of MOAA will meet on Thursday, October 22, at Stumpknockers on the Square. Downtown Inverness at 1130 hours. We will order from the menu.

RSVP by October 20.  
Bette Jones: [bettejones28@yahoo.com](mailto:bettejones28@yahoo.com) or  
726-2767 or  
Emmy Hubbartt 726-0859

## Chapter Calendar of Upcoming Events:

Thursday, October 1. Guest speaker will be Curt Ebitz reporting on the MOAA Healthcare Issues Briefing 9/29/099

Sunday, October 18. **Fall Potluck Picnic at RADM Mac's** 1330 hrs 670 West Pearson St Hernando, FL 34442 Bring a dish to share & \$7.00 (free for Auxiliary)

Friday/Saturday, October 23/24. **5 Star Chapter Award at MOAA Convention** San Diego, CA Volunteer representative needed; meals & hotel paid - call Sharon 637-1301

November 2-13. **Veterans in the Classroom - Recruit!!! All Veterans Needed!!!** POC: Gary Runyon 563-5727

Thursday, November 5. Guest speaker will be Cynthia Resare, Esq. : **Middle East Overview Part II**

Saturday, November 7. **Veterans Fair** Crystal River Mall 0900 hrs. POC: JJ Kenney 527-5915

Sunday, November 8. **Massing of Colors** St Scholastica Catholic Church 1500 hrs. POC: Dave Garroay 726-3774

Monday, November 9. **Female Veterans Luncheon** by Crystal Women's Club 1100 hrs 320 N. Citrus Ave. POC: Leslie Martineau 382-0777

Tuesday, November 10. **Inverness Primary School Veterans Luncheon** 1400 hrs. POC: Sandy Cross, IPS

Wednesday, November 11. **Veterans Day Parade "Combat Nurses & Medics"** 1000 hrs  
**Veterans Day Memorial Service** 1130 hrs Inverness Historic Courthouse

Saturday, November 14. **Veterans Forum** 1100 hrs. Local Leaders Update, First Baptist Church of Inverness (Free Lunch by Margaritagrille) MOAA Tickets to Gary Runyon's RSVP email to members.

November 14. **Military Ball** 1800 hrs West Citrus Elks, Marine Corps League Detachment 819; Tickets \$35; MOAA tickets POC: Sharon 637-1301

Saturday, December 5. **Holiday Dinner & Installation Ceremony**, Citrus Hills Country Club 1800 Reception, 1900 Dinner, 2000 Speaker: TBD

Thursday, January 7. **Joint Potluck Meeting** Inverness Women's Club 1130 hrs. Speakers topic **VA Update**



## Secretary's Notes LCDR Gary Runyon, USN (Ret)

We now begin a period of increased activity regarding our various MOAA events and programs. The events start coming at us fast and furious beginning late October through early December. On Sunday afternoon, October 18, we will be having our annual picnic at Admiral McLeod's home. This is our traditional fall get-together with hamburgers, hot dogs and pot luck salads and deserts. Mark it on your calendars.

I will be updating the new annual roster in late September. I will again send it out as an Adobe pdf attachment to an email. Those who are not on the Internet can give me a call and I will print you a copy and send it to you.

As I write this column, it has been announced that Inverness has been selected as National Patriotic City of the Year by the national level of the 40/8 veterans organization. Inverness beat out 51 other entries to win this award. Several of Inverness City leaders were on hand in Rochester, New York to receive the presentation. Inverness City Manager, Frank Digiovanni commented on the 40/8 award when he spoke at our September general meeting. He was exceptionally pleased that Inverness got this recognition. It's a wonderful feather in the cap for our home county's prime town.

This award, plus the two Veterans in the Classroom awards as well as the various write-ups in national magazines do indeed demonstrate that our county veterans are being noticed. As MOAA members, we can take great pride and a sense of accomplishment in helping Inverness to achieve this latest award. Much of this visible civic patriotism is demonstrated during the various activities of our county's annual Veterans Appreciation Week. Many of our MOAA members work tirelessly during the various events as planners, implementers and participants. Year-after-year, JJ Kenney has coordinated the Veteran's Fair at the mall and many of our MOAA members have regularly staffed our booth. Curt Ebitz has set up the Veterans Day parade each year and MOAA members have perennially provided a majority of the parade marshals. A number of our MOAA members are participants in floats

belonging to other veterans organizations. Year-after-year Admiral McLeod has set up the Courthouse ceremony at the end of the parade. Several of our MOAA members have been guest speakers and masters-of-ceremony at some of the Veteran's appreciation week events. For the past six years, MOAA has participated in and paraded its colours during the truly impressive Massing of the Colours service. Several of our MOAA members are active participants of the Citrus County Veterans Foundation that provides help and financial assistance to some of our fellow veterans who find themselves in dire situations. So as you can see, the tireless year-after-year efforts of our MOAA chapter members as well as the members of all the other various veteran organizations have helped bring great credit to the prime city of our home county. Through our efforts, we have made Citrus County a better place to live in.

As we deservedly pat ourselves on the back for our MOAA participation in the various veteran programs efforts, let's examine, in particular, this year's Veterans in the Classroom effort. MOAA is managing this program for the Veterans Appreciation Week Ad Hoc Committee as we have done for the past seven years. I've added a reprint of a public interest submission that Bob Truax and I put together. This article was published in part in an August issue of the Citrus County Chronicle. Please pay attention to the paragraph at the end that discusses the classroom presentation per instructor ratio. As you can see, we need about thirty to fifty more volunteer instructors to sustain this program. So I am asking those that participated last year to participate again this year. I am also asking those of you who have never tried this program to give it a try this year. Also, if you know of any veteran who lives in this county who might be able to help us out, please send me that person's name. Here's the reprint of the newspaper submission:

"Citrus County veterans are gearing up for this year's Veterans in the Classroom program which runs November 4-17. The program assigns various county military veterans to give classroom presentations throughout the county's schools. The veterans discuss their personal military experiences as well as emphasize American history, civic duty and love of country.

Veterans in the Classroom is under the purview of the Citrus County Veterans Appreciation Week Ad Hoc Committee and is one of approximately ten activities that comprise the Veterans Appreciation Week held each November. The classroom program was conceived during the early 1990s as a method to educate this county's students about what military service is and what veterans actually do.

The veterans who give presentations are drawn from all five United States Armed Services and are drawn from all ranks of both enlisted and officer personnel. Also, classroom presenters represent all eras and wars from WWII up to the current military activity in the Middle East. Presenters are also drawn from active duty, former active duty or retired veterans. The presentations are given to all grade levels and most county schools.

Since 2003, members of the Citrus County Chapter of Military Officers Association of America have been managing the program for the Ad Hoc Committee. Current Veterans in the Classroom managers include RADM Carlton McLeod USN, COL Sharon Richie-Melvan USA, CDR Bob Truax USN, LCOL Hank Butler USA and LCDR Gary E. Runyon USN. These managers take the



classroom teacher's requests and assign appropriate veterans to make the presentations.

The program has been well received by students and teachers as well as county educational leaders. As a rule, veterans are very proud of their military jobs, qualifications and unique duty experiences. After once giving their first presentation before a classroom, many instructors form an informal bond for that class and that particular teacher. It is not uncommon for teachers to request the same veteran for the following year's presentation and reciprocally, for the veteran to specifically volunteer for "their teacher's" class year after year. Classroom presentations also neatly satisfy certain state educational requirements to introduce and discuss the concept of civic duty and public service. So it's a win-win situation for all involved. It's a unique way for students to learn about the military side of American history and it's more than just words out of a history book. Rather, it is lessons from actual people who have been there, have done it and can tell students what it was really like.

This county is blessed with approximately 23,000 veterans from all the services with a variety of backgrounds. We have veterans from all wars going back to World War II. We have veterans who flew B-17 raids over Germany, airmen who flew B-29 raids over Japan, Marines who participated in the battle of Iwo Jima (and have the scars to prove it) as well as sailors who participated in the first nuclear submarine voyages under the Arctic Ice Cap. Some of these veterans crossed paths with historical figures such as General George Patton, Francis Gary Powers as well as multiple United States presidents to name a few.

'A WWII veteran appearing before a fourth grade class might be someone who participated in a war fought over sixty-five years ago. To put this in perspective, when I was in fourth grade this would have been like listening to a veteran who had fought in the Spanish-American war in the 19th century. You can see the unique opportunities available.' Quote by LCDR Gary E. Runyon USN

The program has grown steadily from eighty classroom presentations in 2003 to one hundred fifty-six in 2008. Additionally, last year's program included a live helicopter fly-in and landing by a local Army Air National Guard Unit. Over six-hundred elementary school students toured inside the helicopter and received briefs by the aircrew members. The steady growth and results of this program has brought a sense of fulfillment from a job well done to the Ad Hoc Committee and school participants.

Last year the Veterans in the Classroom program was proud to accept two awards. They were the Citrus County School District's 2007-2008 Outstanding Business Partner "Thank you for outstanding support of education in Citrus County" and the Shining Star Award presented to outstanding support of Education in the state of Florida.

In 2003 approximately 60 classroom presenters gave presentations to 80 classrooms. Since then, while the amount of classroom presentations have grown to 156, the instructor pool has dwindled from 60 to 49. Many of the instructors have simply grown too old to participate, have developed medical conditions or have passed away. This has required many presenters to give multiple presentations. Several "iron men" presenters such as Ernie Tucker and Don Guard have made 6-10 presentations during a two week period. But more presenters are critically needed. Ideally, the program needs a pool of 80 - 100 presenters for the anticipated 160 classroom requests. Volunteers may be from any military service and any rank. Those wishing to volunteer for this program should contact LCDR Gary E. Runyon USN (Ret) at 563-5727 or email: [laserger@infionline.net](mailto:laserger@infionline.net).

## Welcome back!

Major John McGee USA has returned to Citrus County and has resumed his local MOAA Chapter membership. John, who had already retired as an Army Ranger, was recalled back to active Army duty in 2007 as a part of the United States' current war on terrorism. After a two year tour in the Army, John "re-retired" and is now back in the local area."

### Treasurer's Financial Report

As of 31 August 2009

General Fund	
Opening Balance:	\$ 4058.54
Receipts:	\$ 0.00
Disbursements:	\$ 149.69
Balance:	\$ 3908.69(1)
Community Service Fund	
Interest:	No Activity
Balance:	\$ 1236.57(2)
Petty Cash Fund	
Balance:	No Activity \$ 28.50
Wise CDs and Interest:	(\$5059.57) \$ 2324.85
Grand Total:	\$ 7498.61

- (1) Includes \$2283.24 of Maurice Wise Scholarship Funds.
- (2) Community Service Fund owes General Fund \$ 65.82



## Legislation News for May



Tim Holme

Capt, USNavy (Ret)

**It may be laid down as a primary position, and the basis of our system, that every Citizen who enjoys the protection of a Free Government, owes not only a proportion of his property, but even of his personal services to the defense of it.**

### George Washington

As I began the preparation of this column, Congress was still enjoying its summer recess and wasn't scheduled to be back in Washington until some time after our September meeting. I was enjoying the monthly task of researching matters of legislation interest, knowing that they would be addressed to folks who understand and are sympathetic with the words of our first President, quoted above. Each of us, either personally or through the service of a spouse, has given those "personal services to the defense of it". I invite you to watch two versions of the St Crispins Day speech in Shakespeare's Henry V: Act IV. Go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAvmLDkAgAM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAvmLDkAgAM) for the modern version or go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9fa3HFRO2E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9fa3HFRO2E) for Lawrence Olivier's 1944 version. Both are terrific. We are indeed a "Band of Brothers" through our service.

### No COLA for 2010

It's very clear that there will be no COLA for either military retired pay or Social Security for 2010. In fact, there is some likelihood that we won't see any for 2011 either. There are two ways of looking at this. It's always nice to see an increase in our personal incomes. But,

an increase means that our cost of living has gone up to force that increase. Additionally, COLA driven income increases always follow the increase in our cost of living. This means, at best, we are always playing catch up. The good news is that military retired pay and social security annuities can't be decreased under current law and Tricare for Life frees us from expected increases in Medicare Part D payments that many of our neighbors will face. We should be grateful.

## FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Bill (S. 1390)

As this column is submitted, Congress is returning to Washington and getting back to business after their August recess. While much of their recess found them getting an earful (pro and con) regarding health care reform at town meetings and spending programs at "TEA" parties, they also have been hearing from folks like you and me regarding key provisions of next year's defense bill. MOAA was extremely successful in getting key amendments included in the Senate version of the bill. But the job isn't done yet as now the Senate and House must conference to determine the final version of the bill. MOAA says that they "will be lobbying hard to retain the key personnel and compensation provisions in the final defense bill". You and I can help by being alert to calls from MOAA to send emails to our members of Congress. It really works. MOAA reports that upon learning at 8 a.m. one morning in July "that an amendment was going to be considered that same afternoon, [they] sent out a special alert to Legislative Update subscribers. That alert generated nearly 13,000 messages to the Senate in less than six hours." I'm a subscriber and you can be too if you aren't already. I recommend it highly. It's a great feeling to be tuned in. To sign up for "Action Alerts" go to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/mlm/signup/>.

## Concurrent Receipt Stymied (Temporarily)

MOAA expressed surprise that an amendment to phase out the offset for all chapter 61 (medical) retirees beginning in January and another to fix Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) failed to be included in the FY 2010 defense bill. MOAA says don't "count our chickens" but, because virtually the same amendments are part of the bill passed by the House should help them being included in the final version of the bill that will be produced in Conference Committee action. MOAA believes that the "Hill leaders strong desire to support President Obama's strong endorsement" of the action will make it likely they will be retained in the final bill.

## More on the "Economic Stimulus" Tax

A reminder to all that the change in tax withholding last Spring as well as the \$250 "stimulus" payment to recipients

*Legislation News for October (Continued on Page 10)*



Legislation News for October (Continued from Page 9)

of Social Security annuities may cause an unanticipated and unwelcome additional tax liability come April 15, 2010.

## Military Members of Congress

Just a note on why it's so important for each of us to communicate with our legislators on a regular basis. And, I mean also in a positive way and not just when we want to complain or criticize. Every Congress sees fewer and fewer members who have personal experience in the military. From the 1970's to today the number of veterans in Congress, according to MOAA, has dropped by 75%! Currently there are only 96 veterans in the House and 24 in the Senate. Although their collective experience includes every major conflict from WWII to Iraq and Afghanistan, their number becomes, potentially, less influential with every Congress. This is one of the reasons that MOAA is so important to all of us at the national level, and it is also why we must keep the lines of communication open between us and those who serve us.

## Get Ready for More Chain E-Mails

We have talked about this before, but a recent "Legislative Update" from MOAA reminds me that it can't be emphasized too much how cautious we all need to be regarding emails we receive. Last month I warned about using the forward button indiscriminately. This month, the subject is the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Make no mistake. The CBO is a very real official government source. However, what they are tasked by Congress to do is to provide "options". The CBO neither passes laws nor makes policy. Some of their options that can be found in their latest budget options book are really quite extreme. Read them, if you are so inclined, with great caution and recognize that the CBO often offers options knowing full well that the probability of their being considered seriously (especially in the Fiscal Year immediately preceding Congressional elections) is exceedingly remote. With that said, if you just can't resist checking out the CBO options, here's the site: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/102xx/doc10294/08-06-BudgetOptions.pdf>. In the mean time, beware the alarmist email that cites the CBO as evidence of an imminent action by Congress.

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## *To your health!* STRESS - Some good advice

A lecturer when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked 'How heavy is this glass of water?'

Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, 'The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes.' He continued, 'And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, eventually, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on.' 'As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden.' 'So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can.' So, my friend, put down anything that may be a burden to you right now. Don't pick it up again until after you've rested a while.

Here are some great ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- \* Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue..
- \* Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- \* Always wear stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- \* Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be "Recalled" by their maker.
- \* If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- \* If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- \* It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to be kind to others.
- \* Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- \* Nobody cares if you can't dance well. just get up and dance.
- \* Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- \* The second mouse gets the cheese.
- \* When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- \* Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
- \* You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- \* Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- \* We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box..
- \* A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.



## Items of Interest:

### Newsman Tips for Handling

#### Telemarketers Three Little Words That Work!!

(1) The three little words are: 'Hold On, Please...'  
Saying this, while putting down your phone and walking off (instead of hanging-up immediately) would make each telemarketing call so much more time-consuming that boiler room sales would grind to a halt.

Then when you eventually hear the phone company's 'beep-beep-beep' tone, you know it's time to go back and hang up your handset, which has efficiently completed its task.

These three little words will help eliminate telephone soliciting..

(2) Do you ever get those annoying phone calls with no one on the other end?

This is a telemarketing technique where a machine makes phone calls and records the time of day when a person answers the phone.

This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a 'real' sales person to call back and get someone at home.

What you can do after answering, if you notice there is no one there, is to immediately start hitting your # button on the phone, 6 or 7 times as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialed the call, and it kicks your number out of their system. Gosh, what a shame not to have your name in their system any longer!!!

#### (3) Junk Mail Help:

When you get 'ads' enclosed with your phone or utility bill, return these 'ads' with your payment. Let the sending companies throw their own junk mail away.

When you get those 'pre-approved' letters in the mail for everything from credit cards to 2nd mortgages and similar type junk, do not throw away the return envelope.

Most of these come with postage-paid return envelopes, right? It costs them more than the regular 44 cents postage, 'IF' and when they receive them back.

It costs them nothing if you throw them away! The postage was around 50 cents before the last increase and it is according to the weight. In that case, why not get rid of some of your other junk mail and put it in these cool little, postage-paid return envelopes.

#### One of Andy Rooney 's (60 minutes) ideas.

Send an ad for your local chimney cleaner to American Express. Send a pizza coupon to Citibank. If you didn't get anything else that day, then just send them their blank application back! If you want to remain anonymous, just make sure your name isn't on anything you send them.

You can even send the envelope back empty if you want to just to keep them guessing! It still costs them 44 cents.

The banks and credit card companies are currently getting a lot of their own junk back in the mail. We need to OVERWHELM them. Let's let them know what it's like to get lots of junk mail, and best of all they're paying for it....Twice!

## *The Florida Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America invites you to their 2010 Annual Convention*

May 21 – 23 are the dates for the 2010 convention. The prices are outstanding - \$90.00 per night per room with no additional taxes or fees. We are saving you the extra charges by doing the registration for you with the hotel. This makes it simpler for you to register and pay for the convention. Just add up the costs for all the events and the room nights needed on the registration form and write one check to our chapter. We will do the rest and send you a confirmation number from the hotel. One check does it all!

There are still a few spaces available for the free room night drawing at the convention. Register now and be one of the first 45 eligible to be in the drawing for the \$90.00 cash.

Check the Florida Council of Chapters website [www.moaafl.org](http://www.moaafl.org) and click on the "convention" tab, then choose "2010" for details and registration form or contact Jim Conner at 239-542-5627 or [jmcfl@comcast.net](mailto:jmcfl@comcast.net). We can mail a registration form to you complete with return addressed envelope if you prefer. See you there!



So, lift a pint of stout – or a glass of scotch – on October 25th in a toast to these famous soldiers ... and the even more famous poets who immortalized them.

## October 25th St. Crispin's Day

And St Crispin's Day shall ne'er go by,  
From this day to the ending of the world,

But we in it shall be remembered ..."

St Crispin's Day, a day most famous for inspiring two of the greatest works of military literature.

As most are aware, Henry V defeated the French at Agincourt on St Crispin's Day, 1415. Shakespeare's fictionalized account of Henry V addressing his soldiers that day has become the classic military speech ... and has inspired countless other works to include the recent movie/TV mini-series "Band of Brothers."

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers:

For he today that sheds his blood with me

Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,

This day shall gentle his condition.

And gentlemen in England now a-bed

Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,

And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks

That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day"

But you might not recall that St. Crispin's Day, 1854 was date of the Battle of Balaklava between a British/French force and the Russian army. During this battle, a mis-communication resulted in British Lt Gen (Lord) Lucan ordering his brother-in-law, Maj Gen (Earl) Cardigan, to lead a suicidal cavalry charge against a heavily fortified Russian position. Tennyson memorialized this action in verse as 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' and introduced one of the most common military sayings of all time. Speaking of a soldier's duty to follow orders –even orders that appear to make no sense -- the poem's most famous lines state:

"Some one had blunder'd.

Theirs not to make reply,

Theirs not to reason why,

Theirs but to do and die."

This quote appears often in war flicks, most notably in Saving Private Ryan as "It's not our job to reason why, it ours but to do and die."

Additionally, the term 'The Thin Red Line' was first used to describe the heroic stand of the British (Scottish) 93rd Highlanders at Balaklava. James Jones invoked the memory of this famous defense by using The Thin Red Line as the title of his novel (and later movie) account of the WWII fighting on Guadalcanal.

## NAVY DAY



October 27, 2009

Welcome to the September/December Army Echoes.

[http://www.armyg1.army.mil/RSO/docs/echoes/09\\_Sept.pdf](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/RSO/docs/echoes/09_Sept.pdf)

In this issue, you'll find both the latest news -- including a new California-based Retirement Services Officer for California and Nevada, our very first National Guard Retirement Guide, and the first official Website for Space-A travel -- as well as news you can use such as pointers on using the Pay Center's Interactive Voice Response phone system and requesting copies of records.

We hope you'll find this issue especially informative and useful!!

Thank you for your service!

Laura Paul

Army Echoes editor

*"Tell me and I will forget;  
Show me, and I may remember;  
Involve me, and I will understand."*



## Vietnam Facts verses Fiction

For over 30 years I, like many Vietnam veterans, seldom spoke of Vietnam, except with other veterans, when training soldiers, and in public speeches. These past five years I have joined the hundreds of thousands who believe it is high time the truth be told about the Vietnam War and the people who served there. It's time the American people learn that the United States military did not lose the War, and that a surprisingly high number of people who claim to have served there, in fact, DID NOT.

As Americans, support the men and women involved in the War on Terrorism. The mainstream media is once again working tirelessly to undermine their efforts and force a psychological loss or stalemate for the United States. We cannot stand by and let the media do to today's warriors what they did to us 45 years ago.

Below are some assembled facts most readers will find interesting. It isn't a long read, but it will....I guarantee....teach you some things you did not know about the Vietnam War and those who served, fought, or died there.

Vietnam War Facts: Facts, Statistics, Fake Warrior Numbers, and Myths Dispelled

9,087,000 (Million) military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975. 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation. 240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

1. The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.
2. 58,148 were killed in Vietnam
3. 75,000 were severely disabled.
4. 23,214 were 100% disabled.
5. 5,283 lost limbs.
6. 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
7. Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21.
8. 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.
9. Of those killed, 17,539 were married.
10. Average age of men killed: 23.1 years.

11. Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.
12. The oldest man killed was 62 years old.
13. As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.
14. 97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged.
15. 91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served.
16. 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.
17. Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.
18. Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.
19. 87% of Americans hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.
20. There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (Source: Veterans Administration Study)
21. Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.
22. 85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.
23. Interesting Census Stats and "Been There" Wanabees:
  - a. 1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures).
  - b. During that same Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country was 9,492,958.
24. As of the current Census taken during August 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day.
24. During this Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country is: 13,853,027. By this census, FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE Vietnam vets are not.
25. The Department of Defense Vietnam War Service Index officially provided by The War Library originally reported with errors that 2,709,918 U.S. Military personnel as having served in-country. Corrections and confirmations to this erroneous index resulted in the addition of 358 U.S. Military personnel confirmed to have served in Vietnam but not originally listed by the Department of Defense. (All names are currently on file and accessible 24/7/365).
26. Isolated atrocities committed by American Soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while Communist atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The United States sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of its strategy.

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27. Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while Communists who did so received commendations. From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers, and school teachers. - Nixon Presidential Papers.

### Common Myths Dispelled:

#1. Myth: Common Belief is that most Vietnam veterans were drafted.

Fact: 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

#2. Myth: The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from 50,000 to 100,000 - 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population.

Fact: Mortality studies show that 9,000 is a better estimate. "The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year post-service period, the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans' group.

#3. Myth: Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War.

Fact: 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, and 1.2% were other races. Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book "All That We Can Be," said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam "and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed in Southeast Asia, a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. Population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war."

#4 Myth: Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated.

Fact: Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers. Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat.

79% had a high school education or better. Here are statistics from the Combat Area Casualty File (CACF) as of November 1993. The CACF is the basis for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall): Average age of 58,148 killed in Vietnam was 23.11 years. (Although 58,169 names are in the Nov. 93 database, only 58,148 have both event date and birth date. Event date is used instead of declared dead date for some of those who were listed as missing in action) Deaths Average Age Total: 58,148, 23.11 years Enlisted: 50,274, 22.37 years Officers: 6,598, 28.43 years Warrants: 1,276, 24.73 years E1 525, 20.34 years 11B MOS: 18,465, 22.55 years

#5 Myth: The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19.

Fact: Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam to be 19 years old is a myth, it is actually 22. None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

#6 Myth: The Common belief is that the domino theory was proved false.

Fact: The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries that won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

#7 Myth: The common belief is that the fighting in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II.

Fact: The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. One out of every 10 Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty.. 58,148 were killed and 304,000 wounded out of 2.7 million who served. Although the percent that died is similar to other wars, amputations or crippling wounds were 300 percent higher than in World War II ...75,000 Vietnam veterans are severely disabled. MEDEVAC helicopters flew nearly 500,000 missions. Over 900,000 patients were airlifted (nearly half were American). The average time lapse between wounding to hospitalization was less than one hour. As a result, less than one percent of all Americans wounded, who survived the first 24 hours, died. The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility. Without the helicopter it would have taken three times as many troops to secure the 800 mile border with Cambodia and Laos (the politicians thought the Geneva Conventions of 1954 and the Geneva Accords or 1962 would secure the border).

#8 Myth: Kim Phuc, the little nine year old Vietnamese girl running naked from the napalm strike near Trang Bang on 8 June 1972.....shown a million times on American television....was burned by Americans bombing Trang Bang.

Fact: No American had involvement in this incident near Trang Bang that burned Phan Thi Kim Phuc. The planes doing the bombing near the village were VNAF (Vietnam Air Force) and

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were being flown by Vietnamese pilots in support of South Vietnamese troops on the ground. The Vietnamese pilot who dropped the napalm in error is currently living in the United States. Even the AP photographer, Nick Ut, who took the picture, was Vietnamese. The incident in the photo took place on the second day of a three day battle between the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) who occupied the village of Trang Bang and the ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) who were trying to force the NVA out of the village. Recent reports in the news media that an American commander ordered the air strike that burned Kim Phuc are incorrect. There were no Americans involved in any capacity. "We (Americans) had nothing to do with controlling VNAF," according to Lieutenant General (Ret) James F. Hollingsworth, the Commanding General of TRAC at that time. Also, it has been incorrectly reported that two of Kim Phuc's brothers were killed in this incident. They were Kim's cousins not her brothers.

#9 Myth: The United States lost the war in Vietnam.

Fact: The American military was not defeated in Vietnam. The American military did not lose a battle of any consequence. From a military standpoint, it was almost an unprecedented performance. General Westmoreland quoting Douglas Pike, a professor at the University of California, Berkley a major military defeat for the VC and NVA.

**FACT: THE UNITED STATES DID NOT LOSE THE WAR IN VIETNAM, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE DID.** Read on..... The fall of Saigon happened 30 April 1975, two years AFTER the American military left Vietnam . The last American troops departed in their entirety 29 March 1973.

**FACT:** How could we lose a war we had already stopped fighting? We fought to an agreed stalemate. The peace settlement was signed in Paris on 27 January 1973.

\* It called for release of all U.S. prisoners, withdrawal of U.S. forces, limitation of both sides' forces inside South Vietnam and a commitment to peaceful reunification.

\*The 140,000 evacuees in April 1975 during the fall of Saigon consisted almost entirely of civilians and Vietnamese military, NOT American military running for their lives.

\*There were almost twice as many casualties in Southeast Asia (primarily Cambodia) the first two years after the fall of Saigon in 1975 then there were during the ten years the U.S. was involved in Vietnam.

\*Thanks for the perceived loss and the countless assassinations and torture visited upon Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians goes mainly to the American media and their undying support-by-misrepresentation of the anti-War movement in the United States.

\*As with much of the Vietnam War, the news media misreported and misinterpreted the 1968 Tet Offensive. It was reported as an overwhelming success for the Communist forces and a decided defeat for the U.S. Forces. Nothing could be further from the truth. Despite initial victories by the Communists forces, the Tet Offensive resulted in a major defeat of those forces. General Vo Nguyen Giap, the designer of the Tet Offensive, is considered by some as ranking with Wellington, Grant, Lee and MacArthur as a great commander. Still, militarily, the Tet Offensive was a total defeat of the Communist forces on all fronts. It resulted in the death of some 45,000 NVA troops and the complete, if not total destruction of the Viet Cong elements in South Vietnam. The Organization of the Viet Cong Units in the South never recovered. The Tet Offensive succeeded on only one front and that was the News front and the political arena. This was another example in the Vietnam War of an inaccuracy becoming the perceived truth. However, inaccurately reported, the News Media made the Tet Offensive famous.

Credit and research go to: Captain Marshal Hanson, U.S.N.R (Ret.),and Captain Scott Beaton, Statistical Source.