



In Service to America

THE OUTPOST

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa Fl.



**NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2001, FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL,
CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, CHAPTER STATE NEWSLETTER
OF THE YEAR 2007, FOR INFORMATION CALL BOB SILMSER (813) 220-7246 OR (813) 685-3483.
WEB SITE: WWW.VVA787.COM**



Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Chapter 787 Honors Those Who Have Fallen

Chapter Officers

President: Jim LaGarde
Vice President: Carl Harris
Secretary: Bob Silmsler
Treasurer: Bob Silmsler

Board of Directors:

Ron Schott
Tom Hall
Kevin Ruhl
Jon Mueller

State Council Delegate:

Kevin Ruhl

Newsletter Editor: Jon Mueller, E-mail: ParaSF68@aol.com

Meetings

Chapter Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month.

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Veterans Memorial Park & Museum
3602 Hwy. 301 N.
Tampa Fl. 33619. See Map on last page. **Mail-
ing address: P.O. Box
89247, Tampa Fl.
33689-0404.**



On Saturday, January 12th 2008, at Hillsborough County Veterans Park & Museum, Field of Honor, Chapter 787 was the lead veterans group to honor those military men and women from all service branches who gave their lives so that others may live. These were the KIA's from the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan during the months of September through December 2007.

Pictured above is chapter 787 Secretary & Treasurer, and Hillsborough Veterans Council 3rd VP, **Bob Silmsler**, who coordinated this event for the chapter and who worked with chapter member and Hillsborough County Veterans Council President, **Dave Braun**, to set in place over 160 American flags, which represented each KIA during that time frame. **Continued on the next page.....**

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Continued from page 1.....



Pictured above L-R, chapter 787 member **Richard Nye**, chapter President **Jim LaGarde**, chapter Secretary Treasurer **Bob Silmsr**, chapter member **Dave Braun** and **Gerard Abbett**. Next picture, **Jim LaGarde**, Bruce, **Bob Silmsr**, **Richard Nye** and chapter VP, **Carl Harris**.



Pictured above, **Elaine** and **Carl Harris** set flags in place.

Quote

“Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid.”

“If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly.”

LTC David Hackworth

Chapter 787 President, Jim LaGarde, Honors Nurses



During the Field of Honor flag placement and ceremony, chapter 787 President **Jim (Rambo) LaGarde**, displayed a picture of the Washington DC statue which honors the service of military Nurses in Vietnam. Jim gave a short speech about his time in a military hospital in Vietnam with a wound to his eyes. The Army Nurses took very good care of Jim during that time and he wanted to honor them with his hand made, framed picture. The wood came from a tree which his wife Cathy played on as a youngster.

Jim wanted to present it in person to chapter member **Linda Pugsley** who was a Nurse in Vietnam, (for all Nurses) but she took sick and could not make this event.

“SWEETHEART DINNER DANCE” **BENEFIT BUFFETT**



BYOB \$25.00 PER TICKET

**RESERVED SEATING IN ADVANCE WEDNESDAY,
Wednesday FEBRUARY 20, 2008 6PM – 10PM**

SUN CITY CENTER COMMUNITY HALL 1910 SOUTH PEBBLE BEACH BLVD., SUN CITY CENTER, FL

{I-75 SCC exit west to Pebble Beach Blvd. South}

BRASS BELL CATERING BUFFETT

CARVING STATION FEATURING HERB ENCRUSTED ROUND OF BEEF SERVED WITH HORSERADISH SAUCE, GARLIC MUSTARD AIOLI, HERB AU JUS

CILANTRO LIME GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST WITH TROPICAL FRUIT SALSA, FRESH CUT GREEN BEANS ROASTED RED BLISS POTATOES FRESH BAKED YEAST ROLLS & BUTTER

BYOB & YOUR SWEETHEART

{drink set-ups available, no drink sales}

*

Music, and Entertainment provided by: Jeanne Bush & Pixie Hicks Entertainment. Master of Ceremonies: Haywood Henson Honor Guard: Buffalo Soldiers Remarks: BOCC, Commissioner Jim Norman Presentation: H.C. Parks Director, Mark Thornton H.C. Veterans Affairs Director Tom Fletcher

This benefit is to raise awareness and money for the design and refurbishing of America's eleven major **'theaters of war'** at the newly redesigned Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park, 3602 Hwy 301 North, Tampa, Florida 33619. The home of the
"Veterans Freedom Memorial."

R.S.V.P.

**CALL BOB SILMSER to reserve your tickets and seating,
(813)-220-7246, CALL TODAY! SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK & MUSEUM COMMITTEE

presents

**“SWEETHEART DINNER & DANCE
BENEFIT BUFFETT”**



TICKETS \$25.00 each

RESERVED TABLE OF 8

\$200.00



SPONSORSHIP OF A TABLE

NAME ON TABLE + ON PROGRAM

\$200

SPONSORSHIP OF A TABLE + ON PROGRAM +

**ON A TRAVELING BANNER DISPLAYED AT FUTURE BENEFITS
AND EVENTS AT VETERANS PARK**

\$250

**CALL BOB SILMSER TO RESERVE TICKETS, SEATING AND
SPONSORSHIPS. BOB'S MOBILE (813) 220-7246**

**TO REQUEST A SPEAKER FOR ORGANIZATIONS MEETINGS OR TO HOLD A SPECIAL
EVENT BENEFIT TO SUPPORT**

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK & MUSEUM

DESIGN & MEMORIALIZATION OF AMERICA'S WARS AND CONFLICTS, CONTACT:

DAVE BRAUN, CHAIRMAN (813) 310-8513

TICKETS & SEATING - BOB SILMSER 813-220-7246

ALL CHECKS MADE OUT TO: FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

MAIL TO: VETERANS FREEDOM MEMORIAL

PO BOX 151, BRANDON, FL 33509

Medal of Honor Winners of the War in Vietnam

The Bravest of the Brave



Jose Francisco Jimenez



Rank and organization: Lance Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps, Company K, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. Place and date: Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam, 28 August 1969. Entered service at: Phoenix, Ariz. Born: 20 March 1946, Mexico City, Mex. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a fire team leader with Company K, in operations against the enemy. L/Cpl. Jimenez' unit came under heavy attack by North Vietnamese soldiers concealed in well camouflaged emplacements. L/Cpl. Jimenez reacted by seizing the initiative and plunging forward toward the enemy positions. He personally destroyed several enemy personnel and silenced an anti-aircraft weapon. Shouting encouragement to his companions, L/Cpl. Jimenez continued his aggressive forward movement. He slowly maneuvered

to within 10 feet of hostile soldiers who were firing automatic weapons from a trench and, in the face of vicious enemy fire, destroyed the position. Although he was by now the target of concentrated fire from hostile gunners intent upon halting his assault, L/Cpl. Jimenez continued to press forward. As he moved to attack another enemy soldier, he was mortally wounded. L/Cpl. Jimenez' indomitable courage, aggressive fighting spirit and unflinching devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the U.S. Naval Service.

Declassified Study Puts Vietnam Events In New Light **U.S. signals intelligence during the war came up short in major turning points, according to an NSA history.**

[Christian Science Monitor, January 9, 2008]

U.S. signals intelligence — the much-vaunted ability of U.S. military and spy units to eavesdrop on the radio calls and other electronic communications of an adversary — failed at crucial times during the Vietnam War, according to a just-declassified NSA history of the effort.

VA Offers Hospice Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides hospice and palliative care to a growing number of veterans at each of its medical centers and inpatient hospice care in many of its nursing homes throughout the country. Nearly 9,000 veterans were treated in designated hospice beds at VA facilities in 2007, and thousands of other veterans were referred to community hospices to receive care in their homes. VA partners with community hospice programs in 35 states to promote hospice services that are not provided directly by VA staff.

2008 "Sweethearts for Soldiers" Calendar

A group of former NFL cheerleaders representing teams from across the country joined forces to shoot the second annual "Sweethearts for Soldiers" calendar to support troops deployed overseas. Just in time for the New Year, the calendar was officially released through its website (<http://www.soldiersrus.org/>) . Anyone may support our troops by purchasing the calendar online. (<http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,159017,00.html>) Read the article at Military.com.

The Brotherhood



*“I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite.
Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep.
Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their
best;*

*men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity.
I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military.
But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust.*

*They were willing to guard something more precious than my life.
They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me.
It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.*



*As long as I have my memory, I will think of them all, every day.
I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of
my family and my comrades.....Such good men.”*



—Author unknown

Bill would widen penalty for defiling graves

By [Rick Maze](#) - Military Times Staff writer
Posted : Friday Jan 25, 2008 14:35:17 EST

A Texas lawmaker has introduced a bill that would make vandalizing the grave of a service member or veteran a federal crime, even if the grave is on private property.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, comes after the grave of a Marine killed in Iraq was vandalized just two days after his burial in Liberty, Texas.

“The outlaw responsible has since been arrested and charged with a state felony, but no federal provision exists,” Poe said. Federal laws making it a crime to damage or destroy a memorial, headstone or gravesite apply only to public land, not to gravesites in private cemeteries, Poe said.

The Marine whose grave was vandalized, Lance Cpl. Jeremy Burris, 22, was killed by a roadside bomb in October while on combat operations in Anbar, Iraq. Poe said Burris, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, survived the initial blast and helped two other wounded Marine but was killed when a second bomb detonated.

This is not the first time the federal government has had to stand by when a veterans’ grave was damaged. Last year, American flags were replaced with Nazi flags on Memorial Day weekend at the gravesites of veterans in Orcas Island, Wash., but the federal government could do nothing because the graves were in a private cemetery.

Poe’s bill, HR 4973, was referred to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. If enacted into law, it would apply the same penalty for the destruction of graves on public lands — a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to 10 years imprisonment — to graves on private property.

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
<u>February 2008</u>		
14th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
20th Wednesday	Sweetheart Dinner Dance & Buffet to Support the Veterans Memorial Park Project	6:00 PM
25th Monday	Hillsborough County Veterans Council Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	6:00 PM
28th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Hillsborough County Veterans Park & Museum	7:00 PM
<u>March 2008</u>		
13th Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30 PM
24th Monday	Hillsborough County Veterans Council Meeting, Veterans Park & Museum	6:00 PM
27th Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Hillsborough County Veterans Park & Museum	7:00 PM
<u>Check out our EVENTS page on the chapter web site. Go to www.vva787.com, click EVENTS then Calendar of Events.</u>		

GO NAVY!

Navy Can See A More Powerful Future As Its Railgun Test Sets A Record

(Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, February 1, 2008)

Science got one step closer to science fiction, when the Navy used an electromagnetic railgun to fire a 7-pound slug at seven times the speed of sound. The record-breaking shot, witnessed by a roomful of VIPs via remote camera at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, also moved the armed forces further down the road to a faster, safer, lighter, cheaper form of firepower. The Navy's railgun is basically a long tube lined with two copper alloy rails. When charged by an enormous pulse of electricity, the rails exert a tremendous force that propels an inert projectile from the barrel.

VA's mileage reimbursement rate jumps

Mileage reimbursement rates for veterans visiting Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and clinics will jump tomorrow to 28.5 cents per mile from 11 cents per mile — the first increase in 30 years.

VA officials predict more than 1 million veterans will be affected by the increase

Financial Status of Chapter 787 as of January 10 2008

Total.....\$8,630.69 (Moving Wall Fund..\$4,692.80, General checking \$2,717.08.... Holiday Meals Fund \$1,220.81)

Total.....\$2,438.17 (Household Goods.....\$548.31 Convention Fund.....\$1,889.86)

All Accounts Total: \$11,068.90

Thanks to our Treasurer Bob Silmser

Hillsborough County Veterans Council & Veterans Park



On Monday January 28th, chapter 787 member and Hillsborough County Veterans Council President **Dave Braun** presented chapter member and County Veterans Council 3rd VP, **Bob Silmsler** with a certificate of appreciation for stepping up to handle the Field of Honor program at the Veterans Park & Museum, Tampa Fl. Pictured above, L-R, **David Braun** and **Bob Silmsler**.



On Wednesday January 30th, the freshly minted Vietnam Veterans Park & Museum Memorial committee got together to formulate plans for the development of Hillsborough County Veterans Park & Museum using the \$2.20 Million that was awarded to us by the county. Shown above L-R, (back row) **Alfred MacDonald**, **Dave Braun**, **Bob Silmsler**, (front row) **Jim Basta**, **Mary Ellen Harlan**, **Steve Saunders** and **Bruce Carbone**.



History of The Vietnam War Class

In January, chapter 787 President Jim LaGarde gave another excellent presentation of the Vietnam War to the Armwood High School class who's teacher is our chapter member and ex-MP, Bruce Burnham.

Pictured at left. We do not have a list of the students shown in this picture but we feel confident that you can pick out chapter President "Rambo" LaGarde.

Also the photographer of this picture is unknown but it may be educator Burnham.

Letter to Chapter 787 President and our Support to the Fisher House

Received via e-mail, on January 10th 2008.

Dear Mr. President,

You don't know me Brother, but my family and I were at the Fisher House there in Tampa to spend Christmas and New Year's Day with My son-in-law injured from Afghanistan. The Christmas meal that your Chapter furnished for the folks at the Fisher House was a wonderful and homily touch to my family and I, and all the other families present. There were many positive comments from all who participated. I was extremely proud because I also am a VietNam vet. I served as a doorgunner with the HillClimbers out of CanTho Army Airfield in 1971-72. I keep my memories to myself. Your kindness and hospitality is greatly appreciated. God Bless and may you have a prosperous New Year.

Veterans Eligible for Compensation

Military.com Dec. 2008

Tens of thousands of veterans forced from service short of 20 years because of combat-related injuries will be eligible for Combat-Related Special Compensation effective Jan. 1, 2008, under a compromise 2008 defense authorization bill worked out recently by House and Senate conferees. The CRSC payments would be set using the same formula as military retirement, usually 2.5 percent of base pay multiplied by years of service. CRSC would be paid on top of disability compensation, thus ending for these combat-injured the long time ban on "concurrent receipt."

Old U.S. Allies, Still Hiding Deep In Laos

(New York Times, December 17, 2007, Pg. 1)

Four decades after the CIA hired thousands of jungle warriors to fight Communists on the western fringes of the Vietnam War, men who say they are veterans of that covert operation are isolated, hungry and periodically hunted by a Laotian Communist government still mistrustful of those who sided with America. The CIA operation, from 1961 until 1975, became known as the secret war because, unlike in Vietnam, America's military involvement in Laos was covert. Instead of sending American ground troops to prevent a Communist takeover, the CIA hired tens of thousands of mercenaries, most of whom were Hmong, a hill-dwelling ethnic minority. Today, the number of Hmong veterans and their families who remain hidden in the jungle is somewhere in the hundreds to low thousands, the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane estimates

Bid To Replace Tomb Monument Stalls

(Washington Post, January 30, 2008, Pg. 3)

A controversial plan to replace the Tomb of the Unknowns monument was put on hold this week when legislation requiring a report to Congress on the issue was signed into law, a Senate staff member said. The measure blocks replacement, but not repair, of the monument, pending a review of its condition and the feasibility of replacing it. John C. Metzler Jr., the superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, where the tomb is located, said yesterday that he would move forward with plans to repair the weathered monument, but he added that replacing it was "still a very viable option."

Membership Application

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28th 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: VVA Chapter 787, P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404



Name: _____ Male: _____ Female: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Apt. # _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work or Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Chapter #787 Sponsor _____

Membership Type:

Individual: 1 year _____ \$20 3 years _____ \$50. Associate: 1 year _____ \$20 3 years _____ \$50

Life Member Options: _____ Life Member Ages 49 and Under: \$250, _____ Life Member Ages 50-55: \$225, _____ Life

Member Ages 56-60: \$200, _____ Life Member Ages 61-65: \$175, _____ Life Member Ages 66 +: \$150

_____ I am already a V.V.A. member and want to become a life member. My V.V.A. Member number is _____.

Optional Time Payment plan: \$50 down, and \$25 per month until paid in full.

Payment Method: Check _____

Money Order _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ If using a credit card: Card

Exp. Date: _____ Signature _____

This newsletter is not the official publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of Chapter 787, the VVA State Council, the VVA National or the Chapter members.

You can receive a copy of the OUTPOST each month at no cost. Contact Jon Mueller via e-mail at JonMue@aol.com and provide your e-mail address. You will need to have an Adobe Acrobat Reader on your PC to open the newsletter. You can also receive it by US mail. The cost is \$12 per year. Make your check payable to V.V.A. Chapter 787 and mail it to P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404. Make sure you identify the payment for the OUTPOST.

THE OUTPOST

Help Your Chapter Grow
Bring a New Member to the Next Chapter Meeting.
Come and Join Us. Give us your Ideas.

Chapter meetings are held at the Veterans Memorial Park & Museum, 3602 Hwy. 301 N. Tampa Fl. 33619.

Contact E-mail Addresses:

President Jim LaGarde:

cLaGarde@tampabay.rr.com

VP Carl Harris: c-e-harris@tampabay.rr.com

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Rafkirk64@tampabay.rr.com

State Council Delegate Kevin Ruhl:

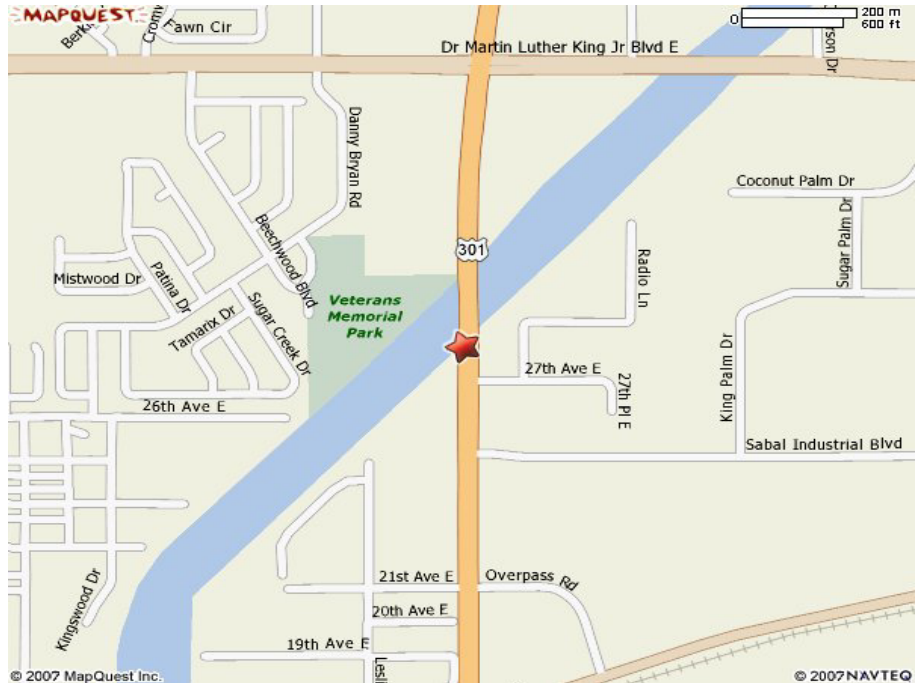
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Board of Directors

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Kevin Ruhl: MSgtMCRet@aol.com

Jon Mueller: ParaSF68@aol.com



Important Web Sites

Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida.....	http://www.vva787.com
Vietnam War Statistics.....	http://my.eiis.net/cmart/vietwarstats.html
Vietnam, Yesterday & Today.....	http://servercc.oakton.edu/~wittman/chronol.htm
Vietnam Veterans Legacy Foundation.....	www.vvlf.org
National League of Families of American POW's/MIA's.....	www.pow-miafamilies.org
V.V.A. National Office on the World Wide Web.....	www.vva.org
U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.....	www.va.gov
OPM Veterans Hiring Preference.....	www.opm.gov/veterans
Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP).....	www.usfhp.com
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.....	www.vetapp.uscourts.gov
Children of Vietnam Vets.....	www.geocities.com/pentagon/9125
The Center for Women Veterans.....	www.va.gov/womenvet
Vietnam Women Memorial Foundation, Inc (formerly "Project").....	www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org
The Moving Wall—Vietnam Combat Veterans LTD.....	www.themovingwall.org
The Virtual Wall.....	www.virtualwall.org
Get a Copy of your DD-214 on-line.....	http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html
Florida State Council web site.....	www.vvafsc.org