

February 2007



# NORTHLAND VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 16975  
Duluth Mn. 55816  
WWW.NVVA.US



"Dignity Thru Unity"

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<b>Howard Peterson</b>	<b>525 3160</b>

Meetings 4th. Monday of month at the Depot 6:00 PM 4th. Floor

**Notice Meeting Time Change to 6:00 PM**

## "VANS NEED GAS" For Immediate Press Release February 5, 2007

"VANS NEED GAS" fundraising campaign for the Duluth Honor Guard and Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans got a needed boost from members of the 148<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant's Council had a fundraiser over the last two drill weekends and presented MACV-Duluth's Regional Director Durbin Keeney with \$1,005.00 in gas cards.

These cards will be used to help keep the vans for both organizations on the road providing needed services to veterans, their families and the community. "This wonderful donation will make a big difference," Keeney said. "We have raised a little over \$1,500.00 towards our goal of \$4,500.00 for our van gas needs for the year. What is even more exciting for us is that the 1<sup>st</sup> Council has committed to making this an annual project".

If you would like to help the Duluth Honor Guard and MACV with this important project please either drop off gas cards, or donations to MACV-Duluth, 101 West Second Street, Suite 102, Duluth, MN 55802 (218-722-8763), or at the West Duluth American Legion, VFW #Post 137, Clear Channel Radio, or University Service & Car Wash.

### To add an article to this newsletter contact

**Mike Hanson** 624 4474  
[Noisyguy@chartermi.net](mailto:Noisyguy@chartermi.net)

**NWA Memberships**  
**178 Members**  
**131 Associates**

**Don't Forget Party**  
**Barkers Island**

**March 10, 2007**

**Rock-a-Billy revue**

**Happy Hour 6:00 P.M.**  
**Dinner @ 7:00 P.M.**  
**Prizes and Fun for all**



Pictured above are: Col. Howard A. Hayes, Vice Wing Commander 148<sup>th</sup> FW; TSgt Randy L. Lipsy, Medical Group; SMSgt Michael J Pecore, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt -Mission Support Group; CSMSgt. John J. Buscko, Command Chief; Durbin M. Keeney Regional Director MACV-Duluth; MSgt Mark J Wasserbauer, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt-Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (desert fatigues); SMSgt, Gerald S Mense; 1Sgt-Headquarters/Opertations; MSgt Roger R Reeves, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt-Logistic Readiness Squadron; MSgt Larry F Beaulier, 1<sup>st</sup> - Maintenance Squadron

## *NVVA History*

Do you have pictures news clippings or other pieces of NVVV history? We want to put together a history of NVVA with all the great things we have been involved in over the years. If you have item, articles, and if you would like to add your personal story about your association with NVVA please do so. Bring it, or send it to the NVVA/MACV office in the Carnegie Bldg, 101 West Second Street, Suite 102, Duluth MN 55802 (218-722-8763). We are going to begin to record and try to put a history of our organization together. We plan to work with the Northland Veterans' Museum formally know as Veterans Memorial Hall (VMH) If you are interested in being part of this contact either Dwight Nelson or Durbin M. Keeney.

### *Moving forward for Veterans History*

We helped in revise the once famed Veterans Memorial Hall with the support of the St. Louis County Historical Society. Now with the nationally award winning "Dignity Thru Unity" exhibit in it's final year, and expanding to scope of the Veterans Memorial Hall project (VMH) coming of age the scope is grown. We will be renaming Veterans Memorial Hall (VMH) to the Northland Veterans' Museum (NVM). The VMH Hall will be a major part of the NVM and we are looking forward to more educational projects and a greater impact for all veterans.

## Scholarships

The scholarship applications will be mailed next month to the High Schools check at counselors office the deadline for application is May 1st. and the scholarship will be awarded at the Memorial Day ceremony May 30th The committee will meet May 13 to determine the recipients.  
We have one ready for the website

A YOUNG HILLBILLY NAMED KENNY, MOVED TO TEXAS AND BOUGHT A DONKEY FROM A FARMER FOR \$100.00. THE FARMER AGREED TO DELIVER THE DONKEY THE NEXT DAY.

THE NEXT DAY THE FARMER DROVE UP AND SAID, "SORRY SON, BUT I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS, THE DONKEY DIED."

KENNY REPLIED, "WELL, THEN, JUST GIVE ME MY MONEY BACK."

THE FARMER SAID, "CAN'T DO THAT. I WENT AND SPENT IT ALREADY."

KENNY SAID, "OK, THEN, JUST BRING ME THE DEAD DONKEY."

THE FARMER ASKED, "WHAT YA GONNA DO WITH HIM?"

KENNY SAID, "I'M GOING TO RAFFLE HIM OFF."

THE FARMER SAID, "YOU CAN'T RAFFLE OFF A DEAD DONKEY!"

KENNY SAID, "SURE I CAN. WATCH ME. I JUST WON'T TELL ANYBODY HE IS DEAD."

A MONTH LATER, THE FARMER MET UP WITH KENNY AND ASKED, "WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT DEAD DONKEY?"

KENNY SAID, "I RAFFLED HIM OFF. I SOLD 500 TICKETS AT TWO DOLLARS A PIECE AND MADE A PROFIT OF \$998.00." THE FARMER SAID, "DIDN'T ANYONE COMPLAIN?"

KENNY SAID, "JUST THE GUY WHO WON. SO I GAVE HIM HIS TWO DOLLARS BACK."

IT IS BELIEVED THAT KENNY EVENTUALLY BECAME THE CHAIRMAN OF ENRON.

**POW MIA News**  
**By**  
**Howard Peterson**



***Chosen Reservoir MIA Coming Home***

**20 October, 2006**

**U.S. Recovers Body Of Soldier MIA Since The Korean War**

**Matthew Borghese - All Headline News Staff Writer**

**Washington, D.C. (AHN) - The U.S. Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) says they have identified a serviceman who was listed as missing in action (MIA) from the Korean War.**

**Pfc. Francis Crater Jr., U.S. Army's 32nd Infantry Regiment, of Barberton, Ohio will be returned to his family and buried with full military honors, October 21 in Akron, Ohio.**

**28 November, 2006**

**NEWS RELEASES from the United States Department of Defense  
No. 1200-06 IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 28, 2006**

**Soldier Missing in Action from the Korean War is Identified**

**The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.**

**He is Master Sgt. Robert V. Layton, U.S. Army, of Cincinnati, Ohio. He is to be buried today at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington D.C.**

**01 December, 2006**

**News Release  
Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office  
(Public Affairs)  
Washington, DC 20301-2400  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 1, 2006**

**SOLDIERS MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE KOREAN WAR ARE IDENTIFIED**

**The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of eight U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.**

They are Master Sgt. Alfred H. Alonzo Sr., of Tampa, Fla.; Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. Bucheit, of Hamilton, Ohio; Sgt. Francis E. Lindsay, of Esther, Mo.; Cpl. Joseph Gregori, of West Pittston, Pa.; Cpl. Darrell W. Scarbrough, of Fayetteville, W. Va.; Cpl. Homer L. Sisk, Jr., of Ducor, Calif.; Cpl. Charles E. Sizemore, of Rushville, Ind.; and Cpl. William E. Wood, of Moorhead, Minn.; all U.S. Army. Gregori was buried in August; Bucheit was buried in September; Scarbrough, Sisk and Sizemore were buried in October; Alonzo was buried in November; and Lindsay and Wood's burial dates are being set by their families.

From the newsletter MN Won't Forget POW/MIA, St. Paul, MN

Birchim Book Review from Military Writers Society of America

**Barbara Birchim's book "Is Anybody Listening? A True Story About The POW/MIA In The Vietnam War" is her accounting of her life and the facts around her husband Jim's disappearance in Vietnam. The MWSA says that this book is one of the most powerful personal statements from a wife of a MIA from the Vietnam War and has given this book its highest rating of Five Stars and The 2006 President's Award.**

#### **Four Decades Between MIA, Funeral**

**16 December, 2006**

**A funeral service and burial for Air Force Col. Charles J. Scharf of San Diego are scheduled today at Arlington National Cemetery, 41 years after his plane was shot down on an attack mission over a mountainous jungle in North Vietnam.**

**Air Force Col. Charles J. Scharf was downed in Vietnam in 1965. His remains will be buried today.**

#### **37 Years Later, Closure**

**21 December, 2006**

#### **Decades on, MIA's family gets closure**

**ATLANTA** — For nearly 37 years, memories were all the family of U.S. Army Capt. Herbert C. Crosby had left of the South Georgia soldier who disappeared after his helicopter crashed over Vietnam in 1970.

**Now they have a tooth and military identification tag to cherish and bury.**

**Military officials recently announced their positive identification of remains belonging to Crosby and two other U.S. servicemen who went down in the helicopter with him.**

**Relatives plan to bury those items along with Crosby's uniform at Arlington National Cemetery during the upcoming Memorial Day holiday in honor of his May 30 birthday.**

#### **SEA Identifications**

**21 December, 2006**

#### **U.S. Military**

#### **Soldiers Missing in Action from Vietnam War are Identified**

**Blackanthem Military News, WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of two U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors.**

**They are Maj. Frederick J. Ransbottom, of Oklahoma City, Okla.; and Staff Sgt. William E. Skivington Jr.; of Las Vegas, Nev.; both U.S. Army. Ransbottom will be buried in Edmond, Okla. on Jan. 13, and Skivington will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., on Jan. 23. The Final Chapter 30 December, 2006**

**Funeral is final chapter for family  
Vietnam vet's remains return for burial.**

**Army Master Sgt. Norman Payne moved through the Laotian jungle, searching for other members of his reconnaissance patrol. An enemy attack suddenly filled the night with bullets and confusion.**

**Payne and the others were part of MACV-SOG (the Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Operations Group) - elite combatants including Green Berets and Navy Seals who conducted highly clandestine operations during the war in Vietnam.**

**Thirty-eight years later, the former Clevelander and Special Forces soldier is coming home, following a search that started in 1993 and ended with identification of Payne's remains this year.**

**Stone Becomes Memorial  
15 January, 2007**

**Military mom spurs town to make POW-MIA memorial official**

**MEREDITH, N.H. --A stone in Heskey Park has long served as an informal memorial to prisoners of war and missing soldiers, and soon it will soon become official, thanks to a military mom. The chairman of the Northeast POW-MIA Network holds a weekly vigil at the stone, and the annual Freedom Ride, part of Laconia's Motorcycle Week each June, also ends at the stone.**

**Holly Tetreault says her son, who's in the Navy, was visiting Washington recently when he saw vendors outside the Vietnam memorial selling paintings of the stone. She says that's proof it has become a nationally recognized symbol. Tetreault got permission from the board of selectmen to put a bronze plaque on the stone with the POW-MIA logo and the words, "To all POW-MIA's and their families ... past, present, future."**

**The plaque will be paid for through private donations.**

**Navy MIA ID'd  
29 January, 2007**

**NEWS RELEASES from the United States Department of Defense**

**Navy Aviator Missing In Action >From the Vietnam War Identified**

**The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.**

**He is Navy Cmdr. Peter Mongilardi Jr., of Haledon, N.J. He will be buried on April 11 at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington D.C.**



# Northland Vietnam Veterans Association

P.O. BOX 16975

Duluth, Mn. 55816

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work)

Branch of Service:  USA  USMC  
 USN  USAF  USCG Period of Service \_\_\_\_\_ RVN Service \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \$10  \$10  \$15  \$30  \$100  \$150  \$225   
Regular Associate Sustaining Patron Benefactor Life Sustaining Life

Official Use:  Card Given  Receipt Given  Date Membership Entered

**Why isn't this all over the news?  
If he had done something wrong,  
it surely would be!**

**Don't Forget Party  
Barkers Island**

**March 10, 2007**

**Rock-a-Billy revue**

**Happy Hour 6:00 P.M.**

**Dinner @ 7:00 P.M.**

**Prizes and Fun for all**

**must have your  
R.S.V.P. To the party planners  
By March 1st..So get busy and  
Mail it. See You all there!**



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID W. GILMORE JR./U.S. Air Force

## Comforting embrace

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. John Gebhardt, of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group at Balad, Iraq, cradles a young girl as they both sleep in the hospital. The girl's entire family was executed by insurgents; the killers shot her in the head as well. The girl received treatment at the U.S. military hospital in Balad, but cries and moans often. According to nurses at the facility, Gebhardt is the only one who can calm down the girl, so he has spent the last several nights holding her while they both sleep in a chair.

**January 22, 2007**

**Greetings: from Ward Wallin, Volunteer Program Administrator, and Mike Bond, Administrator - Minnesota Veterans Home – Silver Bay.**

*Our census is currently 76 residents.*

**Past events:**

*Dec. 20 Christmas Party*

*Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Bash*

**Coming events:**

*Jan. 24 MOC Venison Dinner*

*Feb. 4 Super Bowl Party*

**Current Fundraising Project:**

*The Holiday season is over and we are actively seeking funds to help recreation programs, construct a three season building, build an artificial putting green, replace our entry sign, relocate our flag display in front of the building, purchase another awning for the SCU, purchase bedside tables and bathroom cabinets.*

**Activities:**

*We offer many on-going activities such as weekly luncheons, monthly birthday parties, and enjoying our natural resources. The club car has been a hit.*

*We want to thank the NVVA for all their generous contributions to the Home.*

*The Administration has an open door policy for visitation of residents. We asked that arrangements be made in advance if individuals or groups desire a tour of the facility. We encourage group sponsorship of activities.*

Attention to Orders  
Details for Tomorrow  
January 2007

A new year has begun and with all the holidays behind and so goes much of the "good will toward men." We see this at Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV-Duluth) office as so many wonderful people have come out to help us in our work with veterans and their families that are at risk of homelessness, those experiencing homelessness, and veterans in crisis. We are grateful to all those who have made the lives of those we work with better at what can be a difficult time of the year. Now comes January. For many it brings hope for a new year, and for others a long lonely winter.

While this true for those we work with this is also true for those in our military and their families. We know that the 148<sup>th</sup> will be deploying almost half of its total complement for tours of weeks up to 179 days missions. Families, businesses, and communities will be impacted. We need to be supportive of them all. Deployment is a long process. It begins with pre-deployment, deployment, and post deployment. We as members of the greater community need to be involved. That includes family, work, friends (real friends), schools, and Churches. Lets take this seriously. This is a time when we can extend ourselves to other. Lets not get callas to the ebb and flow of our Military. I have seen this already when last month twenty-three members of the Navel Reserve CB's unit came home with an event at the Depot. Where were Media and the pubic support for these troops and their families?

At MACV-Duluth office we have seen more new individuals and families from the current war so far than we ever expected to see so soon after returning. Historically issues of PTSD, disenfranchisement, and personal hardships take years to develop, but that is not as true today as it has been in the past. We are dealing with in many cased an older military many with families, established employment, and settled lifestyles. These people have to come back to an every changing world and finding it difficult to find a good fit. At MACV-Duluth do what we do very well using all the resources that we have in the community.

We don't do it alone. This is where the community needs to be in tune as well. As we see these individuals, and families we need to be open to their needs. Here are a few suggestions for you:

- There are questions that often come from a morbid courtesy. I stopped one such conversation. The person asking meant to do no harm and she had no idea what harm that could cause the person that she had questioned. Never ask anyone of what it was like to kill somebody? What was it like to see and be there? Instead do be there for the individuals when they need to talk, but don't push.
- After the yellow ribbons are gone be there as a friend for the quite times. There is a sense of loss that being at home while others are still fighting. It often a personal struggle between being home with family and your military family still in harms way. It is a struggle between a job well done and one that is not completed. It is a struggle between what the media and the politicians are saying, and the reality of the boots on the ground.
- Churches! I want to address this. NO ONE did more harm to the returning soldiers and their families when we returned from Vietnam than did the church. For many, war brings conflict that shakes and even destroys our basic belief system and that includes our belief in God. What happened to those of my generation was devastating. What we hope for this generation of soldiers is that the Church to redeem itself. This is a whole topic in itself for another time, but let it be said that the church as a whole needs to learn from it's past.

The country has learned from its past, but there is still much to learn. In many cases those who the country had treated so badly when we returned from Vietnam are leading the charge today to not let this happen again. Vietnam Veterans of America has at its core beliefs that another generation will never have to endure what we endured. I see this in programs like "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" started here in Minnesota by Chaplain Morris of the Army National Guard. The establishment of Family Resources centers like we have right here at the 148<sup>th</sup>. The VA as a whole has reacted very quickly with the establishing of four politrauma units nation wide, one being at Ft. Snelling. The Twin Ports Outpatient Clinic is working extremely hard to meet the needs of returning troops to our area. The Vets Center has expanded physically and staff wise to meet the need for those in the reintegration process. All this increasable work while Congress holds the VA hostage in the budget process. There is much to do. As a provider of these services at times it gets overwhelming. What I am asking you to do as in these new years is not forget those who we serve. The soldiers that are being deployed, been deployed, and now returned, their families, and those that are there to provide the services needed. They need you to be honest, be supportive give of your time, and resources and keep them all in your prayers.