

October 2005



NORTHLAND VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

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



"Dignity Thru Unity"

Meetings 4th. Monday of month at the Depot 6:30 PM 4th. floor

Board of Directors

Kathy Camps	President
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Mike Hanson	624 4474
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Presidents Corner

By Kathy Camps

Summer is over and so are activities at Bay front. At times it seemed that that was our second home. I want to thank all the volunteers that helped in making Bluesfest a success. Also, a big thank you to DAHA who helped us out for two days at Fourth fest and one entire shift for the Bluesfest and again at Ribfest.

I am very grateful for the members who gave up their weekends to be at the other events. They are, Bob Woods, Bob Gunnarson, Durbin Keeney, Richard Wagner, Pat Maloney, Dennis Marthaler, and Lori Doucette.

Thanks again to all, and now we can take a well deserved rest until it all starts up again next year.

Kathy Camps

Veterans Day 2005

This years Veterans Day comes on a Friday and for some that only means a three-day weekend. For all of us veterans that should be much more than that. During the Nixon Administration Veterans Day was made one of the "those" holiday's and it took a united efforts of all veterans to return it to 11-11-11.

Here is some suggestion for Veterans Day:

- Attend Duluth's Veterans Day at 1100 hours at the DEPOT.
- Congressman Obestar will be having a press conference at the DEPOT to accept the book "Home Town Heroes" the story of WWII veterans from St. Louis County and the video "Freedom Flight" from the Dignity Thru Unity exhibit in Veterans Memorial Hall. If you can be there for support that would be great.
- East High School has a wonderful concert to honor all veterans. This event is free to all veterans (other adults \$5.00 and Children \$3.00) at Ordean Middle School, 7:00 p.m. on November 14th.
- Sunday November 13th at Veterans Day at United Protestant in Morgan Park.

If you do nothing else sit down with you family and tell them your history. I cannot tell you how many children have no idea what their veterans did in the military. It is understandable to a point not to share all your history, but if you don't that very important history may be lost.

We a part of the 23.5M veterans in our society have a responsibility to our fellow veterans and even a greater responsibility to those who are serving today and those of the future. We need to be proactive on the issues. So this year make it your Veterans Day to honor all veterans and that includes you. Thank you for your service, and welcome home.

To add an article to this newsletter contact

Mike Hanson 624 4474
Noisyguy@chartermi.net

NWA Memberships
183 Members
135 Associates

Don't Forget Party
BlackWoods Proctor
March 11, 2006

lots more to come

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

JR. NAVY ROTC annual "Sea Dog Drill Meet" is November 19th at 10:00 am at Central High School gym. There will be between 500 and 600 completers from all over the state. They will compete in drill, PT, academic, and other areas. These are the young men and woman that have supported us so well any time that we needed them. Here is an opportune to come and support them. Our Color Guard has been asked to be part of their opening ceremony. It would be great to see some of our members in the stands.

October 24, 2005

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

Our census is currently 80 residents.

Coming events:

October 25: AI/VFW Annual Pheasant Dinner

October 26: VFW 8th Dist. Halloween Party

November 11: Veterans Day Program

Current Fundraising Project:

We are actively seeking funds to purchase a six passenger Surrey. We have a trail system adjacent to our facility and this will be a great asset to our recreation department. We need about \$3000 to finish the project.

Activities:

We offer many on-going activities such as bingo, luncheons, and birthday parties. With the nice weather of late, we have had many scenic trips through the Superior National Forest.

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.

POW MIA

By Howard Peterson

26 July, 2005

Air Force Officers MIA From Vietnam War are Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today the remains of two servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Col. James W. Lewis of Marshall, Texas, and Maj. Arthur D. Baker of San Antonio, Texas, both Air Force. Lewis is to be buried in Marshall on August 13, and Baker is to be buried in Longview, Texas on July 29.

27 July, 2005

One more soldier's kin find closure

Amid the table-flat cornfields of rural Ohio, a Melbourne policeman and Cape Canaveral's fire chief will lay their long-lost cousin to rest at last.

In March 1969, Army Sgt. Michael L. Batt was killed in an airplane crash in Vietnam. Search teams could not find the wreckage of the Army U-21A amid the dense, triple-canopied jungle, and Batt's body was lost for decades.

But in 2000, U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command investigators discovered and excavated the crash site, about 25 miles northwest of Da Nang. DNA testing identified Batt's remains, and he will be buried Monday after a military graveside ceremony in Defiance, Ohio.

August 10, 2005

Twelve MIAs from Vietnam War are Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today the identification of the remains of 12 U.S. servicemen missing in action from the Vietnam War. Five of those identified are being returned to their families for burial, and the remaining seven will be buried as a group in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C.

The men who were individually identified are: Cpl. Gerald E. King, of Knoxville, Tenn.; Lance Cpls. Joseph F. Cook, of Foxboro, Mass.; Raymond T. Heyne, of Mason, Wis.; Donald W. Mitchell, of Princeton, Ky.; and Thomas W. Fritsch, of Cromwell, Conn., all of the U.S. Marine Corps. Additional group remains are those of: Pfc. Thomas J. Blackman, of Racine, Wis.; Paul S. Czerwonka, of Stoughton, Mass.; Barry L. Hempel, of Garden Grove, Calif.; Robert C. Lopez, of Albuquerque, N.M.; William D. McGonigle, of Wichita, Kan.; and Lance Cpl. James R. Sargent, of Anawalt, W. Va., all of the U.S. Marine Corps. Additionally, the remains of U.S. Army Sgt. Glenn E. Miller, of Oakland, Calif. will be included in the group burial.

POW Gets Medal 60 Years Later

02 August, 2005

As a prisoner of war of the Nazis, Lloyd Kilmer was forced to march through a blizzard that left some POWs dead and Kilmer with frostbite on his hands and feet.

On July 8, the 84-year-old Sun City West resident was awarded the Purple Heart at Luke Air Force Base in a ceremony attended by his family, friends and base officials.

It had been more than 60 years since he earned the award, which was presented to him by Luke's base commander, Col. Robin Rand.

The commander praised Kilmer, telling him the nation was indebted to him for his service. Rand stressed the importance of recognizing World War II veterans.

One More Step to Closure

Burial for POW from 1951

17 August, 2005

As more troops deploy overseas from the Tri-State, the area now has the opportunity to welcome home a special Korean War veteran.

The remains of a Lawrence County, Ill., prisoner of war are returning to his hometown of Bridgeport, Ill., 54 years after he died in captivity.

Air Force Officer MIA From Vietnam 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 Vietnam War, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Air Force Col. Gregg Hartness of Dallas, Texas. He is to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., on Sept. 14.

On Nov. 26, 1968, Hartness and 1st Lt. Allen S. Shepherd, III, took off from Da Nang air base in South Vietnam, on a forward air control mission. While flying over Salavan Province in Laos, their O-2A 'Skymaster' was apparently struck by enemy fire and began to spin out of control. Shepherd bailed out and was rescued by an Air Force search and rescue team about nine hours later. He did not see Hartness bail out.

He's Home Now

25 August, 2005

DAYTON - More than three decades after he was shipped off to Vietnam, Army Capt. David Smith returned home.

On Wednesday, his partial remains were buried with military honors at the Dayton National Cemetery, bringing closure for a family which has grieved for more than 36 years.

Marine Laid To Rest After 37 Years

28 August, 2005

PRINCETON, Ky. -- A Kentucky Marine was buried in his hometown Saturday nearly four decades after he died in Vietnam.

A homecoming theme reverberated throughout the ceremony for Lance Cpl. Donald Mitchell, who died with 11 other servicemen in May 1968. Several investigations and excavations that began in 1993 led to the recovery.

SEA MIA To Be Buried At Arlington

23 September, 2005

Pfc. Czerwonka will be buried in Washington, D.C.

Marine Pfc. Paul S. Czerwonka, a Stoughton resident who was listed as missing in action in Vietnam for 37 years, will finally receive the honors owed to him when he is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on Oct. 7.

News that Czerwonka's remains had been positively identified and were being returned to the United States for burial was delivered to the family and then to the public on Aug. 10.



Stand Down North

August 26, 2005, Duluth, MN

101 West Second St., Suite 102

"For Eleven Years Helping Those Who Have Served"

After-Action 2005 Report

Let me first clear the air; what we do in Duluth is a Stand Down. It may not be by some governmental redefinition, or by somebody who is trying to diminish the value of what we do to build up they're own egos, but in the purest sense of the word, we are a Stand Down. You have understand that whoever decided that in order to be a "Stand Down" the event had to be three days was prejudicial and short sided to communities like ours. We are not a large Metro Area that may very well need a two or three day event. What we do, we do well and in an efficient manor. We have been doing so for longer than this attack on local communities was hatched. We are not a "fair" and the very idea is offensive. What we do is true to what the original founders of the concept of "Stand Down" means as a "one, two, or three day event that reaches out to the homeless veteran in our community supported by local veterans." It should be noted that the VA Web page shows 72 Stand Down events. Almost 2/3rd of those are one-day events and only 20% are three-day events. What we do know is that, in our area, like most of the country is it would be wasteful and unnecessary to do a two or three day event. We have, over the years, responded to the needs of our veteran community. Thus we have expanded and changed focus as the needs in our veteran's community has changed. Because of the success of local homeless programs by Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, Veterans Outreach North we have seen a lower number of homeless attending the event. We have adapted to reach out to meet the needs of our community by focusing on prevention of homelessness, reemployment, and this year, returning veterans with special needs.

What the Stand Down After-Action report does not show is the humanity of the Stand Down North. It does not show the family that was unable to successfully work their way through the system and are now getting that assistance they need. It does not show the relationship of recently returned soldiers from Iraq relating to WWII soldiers and talking for the first time about their experiences. It does not show the relationships being built by providers and how they can work better together for the good of those we serve.

What it does show is numbers and facts that our work is not done. We need to begin to plan for next year's event that will be August 25, 2006 at the Encounter building. The biggest issue we will face will be funds. Our cost per veteran is less than \$24.00 each that attends the event. We started out with over \$1,700.00 and this year we have only over \$415.00 to seed the next year's event. We will have to be earlier and more aggressive in our fund raising if we are to succeed.

We do believe that this year like in the past we made a difference and we will not see all that on that day, and over time we will see the long-term effect of this event. It was put very well by a veterans that came to us at a Stand Down about three years ago and came this year to encourage others. Jim said, it is nice to come here and not need anything, just to give back.

Submitted by,
Durbin M. Keeney
Stand Down North Coordinator



®

NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

2005 Stand Down After-Action Report

The information on this form is used by NCHV and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to compile an annual report on Stand Down programs that provide outreach and supportive services to homeless veterans. This information is vital to Federal Government agencies and Corporate Partners that provide funding and material contributions to support local programs. If you have questions or need assistance with this report, contact Louise Staley at 202-546-1969, or by email at nchv2@nchv.org.

**Complete this form and fax it (toll-free) to NCHV at 888-233-8582,
Or mail to: NCHV, 333½ Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003-1148**

Event contact person: Durbin M. Keeney
Organization: Northland Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation
Mail Address: 101 West Second Street, Suite 102
City: Duluth State: Minnesota Zip: 55803
Telephone: (218) 722-8763 Fax: (218) 727-9358
Website: www.nvva.us Email: dmkeeney@mac-v.com

Location of Stand Down (City/State) Duluth, Minnesota
Date: August 26, 2005 Participating VAMC: Twin Ports Out Patient Clinic
VA CHALENG POC: Jo Weable VISN 23

NUMBER of VETERANS SERVED: *(Insert number)*

Male: Female:

Total	125	Homeless	7	Total	9	Homeless	1	Homeless with family	1	Homeless with family	0
Spouses attending	4	Spouses attending	2	Dependent Children	0	Dependent Children	0				
Age: Under 25	3	Age: Under 25	1	26-35	4	26-35	1	36-50	38	36-50	3
51-65	69	51-65	3	Over 65	11	Over 65	1				

STATUS of VETERANS SERVED: *(Insert number)*

Male: Female:

With Disability	73	With Disability	6
Acute Illness	26	Acute Illness	2
Without Shelter	5	Without Shelter	1
Unemployed	24	Unemployed	3
Without Income	19	Without Income	1

(Continues on next page)

SERVICES THAT WERE PROVIDED:

(Check all that apply – specify whether service is provided “on site” or by referral)

Available Services:

On Site	Referral	On Site	Referral		
0	5	134	8	Food	
	102	0		Picture ID services	134
				34	Personal care (haircuts, supplies, clothing)
12	22	32	22	Health care services (by professional staff)	Health care screening (HIV/AIDS, TB, Hepatitis C, etc.)
0	18	0	12	Eye care	Dental care
	21	5		VA benefits Counseling	9
				4	Legal Services
	14	9		Mental health counseling	51
				45	General benefits counseling (Social services, SSI, food stamps, etc.)
	8	6		Substance abuse services	
	6	6		Housing (referrals)	27
				19	Employment services (counseling, job referrals)
8	2			Spiritual services	
N/A	N/A			Activities to empower homeless veterans (tent leaders, open mike, meetings, graduation)	7
				12	Transportation (to and from event)
				5	4
				Other: Referral to other transitional housing programs	

EVENT ADMINISTRATION:

Classification: *(Check One)* – For descriptions, go to www.nchv.org/standdown.cfm

- A. Three- or Four-day Stand Down
- B. Two-day Homeless Veterans Resource Fair
- C. One-day Homeless Veterans Resource Fair
- D. One-day Homeless Veterans Health Fair
- E. One-day Homeless Veterans Job Fair
- F. Other events (We are a community Stand Down for Eleven years anything else is offensive to the community, volunteers and those who attended.)

Event Budget: (Excluding In-kind donations)
(Check one)

In-Kind Donation Value:

Less than \$5,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Less than \$5,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,001 to \$10,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$5,001 to \$10,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$10,001 to \$15,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10,001 to \$15,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$15,001 to \$20,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15,001 to \$20,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$20,001 to \$30,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20,001 to \$30,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Over \$30,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Over \$30,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

Event Personnel

(Insert number)

Organization Staff	5	Business partners	3
Medical Staff	6	VA Representatives	5
DOL Representatives	2	Other Government	8
Military/Veterans	8	Volunteers	12

Total Event Staff 21

This survey is conducted in partnership with the Homeless Programs Office of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

NATIONAL COALITION for HOMELESS VETERANS
333 ½ Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003-1148

Additional Membership
Activities Suggested in Response to the Spring 2005 NVVA Membership Questionnaire

During the Spring of 2005, NVVA members were surveyed to help identify organizational activities that would increase member involvement and make NVVA more visible in the community. The following activities and opportunities for more member involvement and increased community visibility have been identified by the NVVA Board:

1. "Recruitment Coordinator" to locate and place volunteers in settings that help veterans (such as the Twin Ports VA Clinic). Volunteer recruitment efforts would include a focus on retired veterans.
2. "PTSD Workshop Coordinator" to organize and implement a series of workshops that address the symptoms and dynamics of PTSD. The target audience for these workshops would be potentially effected Veterans from all wars with special emphasis on veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
3. "VA Health Care Enrollment Advocate" to help veterans in need of health care get in touch with resources that will help them enroll in the VA health care system.
4. "Peer Mentoring Program Coordinator" to identify and connect veterans who fought in previous wars with veterans who are returning from current wars so they can share experiences, concerns, and resources.
5. "Speakers Bureau Coordinator" to maintain a list of veterans who are available to speak in the schools and at community events on topics relevant to veterans issues.
6. "Legislative Liaison" to monitor and respond to proposed state and federal legislation and policy initiatives that have the potential to impact veterans.
7. "Vet Center Liaison" to maintain ongoing contact between the Duluth Vet Center and NVVA to identify and promote opportunities for mutual support and advocacy.
8. "Vietnam Travel Guide" to help veterans who would like to travel in Vietnam put together trip plans and itineraries.

If you would like to serve in any of the above capacities, please contact Kathy Camps, NVVA President, for information and assistance. If you have any other ideas or ways NVVA can help veterans, please contact Kathy or any NVVA Board member.

The NVVA Board thanks you for participating in the Spring 2005 NVVA Membership Questionnaire. We look forward to hearing from you.

JOHN MULLIGAN: 1950-2005

Author depicted trauma of Vietnam War veterans

Kevin Fagan, Chronicle Staff Writer

Sunday, October 23, 2005



For decades, he'd ridden the roller coaster known too well to Vietnam veterans struggling with the mental demons of combat experience -- homelessness, alcoholism and nightmares, intercut with periods of strength and great lucidity.

But John Mulligan had a talent few possess. He was a superb writer, so much so that he rose from the street to fetch rave national reviews of his influential 1997 novel, "Shopping Cart Soldiers," and become one of the most respected voices in the nation on the travails of troubled veterans.

Even after falling into homelessness again after his novel came out, he steeled himself back to stability over the past two years to pen parts of four more novels, short stories and a book giving advice to other vets on post-traumatic stress disorder -- and he was about to get married.

That all ended at 9:51 p.m. on Oct. 12, when the 55-year-old author was crossing a busy street near his Mountain View home, pizza in hand for himself and his fiancée. He was wearing dark clothes on a dark night. A car hit him, and he died instantly.

And with that, a leading light for understanding post-traumatic stress was turned out, said his mentor, Oakland author Maxine Hong Kingston.

"He had a gift of words, a poetic soul, and he could tell a good story," Kingston said. "All of us writers have this hope that we can live long enough to finish our writing, and now ..."

Mulligan's fiancée, 48-year-old poet Kristen Jensen, said she and the writer's daughter will be going through the work he left behind to prepare it for print. But for now, she and other writers who for the past two decades hung out with Mulligan at San Francisco's famed Caffe Trieste are grieving and taking stock of the lessons they learned from the anguished but brilliant man.

"He fought so hard against his pain, right up to the end, and he turned it into something useful for other people through his writing," said Jensen, who lived with Mulligan. "To me, he's a hero. No matter how far he fell, he never gave up."

Mulligan was born and raised in the town of Kirkintilloch, Scotland, the eldest son in a family of 10 children. The family immigrated to Indianapolis in 1968, and that year, at age 17, Mulligan joined the Air Force.

He soon found himself on the front lines in Vietnam as a weather observer, watching as many of his buddies were shot or blown up beside him. After six years of service, he was home again -- and changed forever.

He married, had a daughter and worked as a machinist, but when post-traumatic stress disorder kicked in, he began to drink heavily and do drugs, friends recalled. He walked out on his family at the turn of the 1980s and spent the next 10 years on the streets of San Francisco, pushing shopping carts piled with his belongings and sleeping anywhere he could.

At his most desperate, though, Mulligan still had a knack for spinning tales in his thick Scottish brogue. He began writing and hanging out with authors. In 1991, he took a workshop with Kingston that led to his novel.

Literary fame brought stabilization for a couple of years, but he stumbled to the street again -- before crawling back to normalcy with the help of his literary pals. Recently, he seemed to be doing better than ever and was writing feverishly. But his struggles were never far from the surface.

"Even this last summer, when he was doing so well in a time of renewal, the Fourth of July was horrific as always for John," Jensen said. "When jets were flying and the fireworks were going, he'd curl up on the sofa with his head in his hands.

"You'd look at him and think he was completely normal most of the time. But he was walking with the ghosts of his Vietnam buddies all the time."

Those ghosts came to life in his novel -- which won the PEN Oakland Award for Outstanding Writing -- as he wove the tale of soldier Finn MacDonald. Set in the battlefields of Vietnam and the homeless haunts of the Tenderloin in San Francisco, Mulligan sent his character on a journey of horror and self-discovery alongside characters based on Mulligan's dead war buddies, the Celtic hero Cuchulain, Robert Louis Stevenson and others.

In one scene, MacDonald endures a fantasy shootout in the Tenderloin that leaves street people and shopping carts in pieces, and then he leans against a wall to chat with a Messiah-styled character.

"I'm weary, Finn," says the Nazarene. "I'm utterly and absolutely bone-weary."

"But why, Nazarene, why this? Why is the killing still going on? The war's more than twenty years over. Why is the killing still going on?"

"There's too few who care, Finn. There were few back in the days of the war too; there's less who care now."

In the end, Finn comes to grips with the fact that his soul was separated from him by combat trauma, and he concludes he must endure for the sake of his departed friends. It is a theme Mulligan retained through his life.

"I thought that this was one of the pre-eminent novels in the country for showing the aftereffects of the Vietnam War on the psyche, really one of the top three of its kind ever done," said Gerald Nicosia, author of "Home to War: A History of the Vietnam Veterans' Movement." "You so seldom get someone who went through that sort of experience and comes through with such a great ability to articulate it.

"Many vets have told me he really helped them understand their own experience. It's terribly sad that he's gone."

Mulligan is survived by his fiancée; his daughter, Marielle Mulligan, who lives in Mountain View with her daughter, Anjelle Mulligan and her companion John Bouland; two sons, Finley and Quinn Mulligan, both of Beaverton, Ore.; and nine brothers and sisters.

Some of Mulligan's ashes will be scattered in the Scottish highlands this year, the rest next year in Vietnam.

Donations in his memory may be made to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 333 1/2 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003-1148.

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Here is some suggestion for Veterans Day:

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- Congressman Obestar will be having a press conference at the DEPOT to accept the book "Home Town Heroes" the story of WWII veterans from St. Louis County and the video "Freedom Flight" from the Dignity Thru Unity exhibit in Veterans Memorial Hall. If you can be there for support that would be wonderful.
- East High School has a wonderful concert to honor all veterans. This event is free to all veterans.
- Sunday November ?? at ???????? Church there will be a service to veterans.

If you do nothing else sit down with you family and tell them your history. I cannot tell you how many children have no idea what their veterans did I the military. It is understandable to a point not to share all your history, but if you don't that very important history is lost.

So this year make it your Veterans Day to honor all veterans and that includes you. Thank you for your service, and welcome home.