

June 2007



# **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 6:00 PM 4th. Floor

## **Board of Directors**

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## **Bluesfest News** **By Kathy Camps**

Just a reminder, Bluesfest is just around the corner. You should have already mailed in your volunteer lists.

As you see, there will be four hour shifts this year, and your help is greatly needed. If this mailing has slipped your mind, I'll happily give you another chance to call me..at 727-5740..leave a message and I will get back to you on the available times. Remember, this is our biggest fund raiser, and as members, we all need to work together to make this event a success.

Thanks again to those who repeatedly give of their time, and looking forward to new faces

Thanks  
Kathy

## **To add an article to this newsletter contact**

**Mike Hanson**      **624 4474**  
**Noisyguy@chartermi.net**

**NWA Memberships**  
**181 Members**  
**137 Associates**

**Don't Forget Party**  
**Blackwoods**  
**Proctor**  
**March 28, 2008**

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

## **Scholarship winners for 2007**

Each receiving \$1000 N. V. V. A.

Corwin Pederson  
Parents Kevin & Phyllis Pederson  
(Sponsored by his father, Kevin Pederson)

Andrew Hadrich  
Parents John Hadrich & Brenda Hadrich  
Sponsored by his uncle, Herbert LeBlanc)

Donna Sechen  
Parent Mary Jane Grande  
Sponsored by her mother, Mary Jane Grande)

Radall Cottrell  
Parents Harry & Claudia Cottrell  
(Sponsored by his father, Harry Cottrell)

Vietnam War-era Soldier Identified, Returns Home with Son  
by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Chlosta, JPAC Public Affairs NCOIC  
May 9, 2007

Walton Jr. receives briefing from anthropologist who participated in the excavation of his father's remains in Vietnam

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii – Army Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Clark Walton Jr., an active duty National Guard and Reserve soldier with the 115th Military Police Company, East Greenwich, R.I., is a veteran of two combat tours in Iraq. His father, Special Forces Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Clark Walton Sr., didn't make it home from his second tour in Vietnam.

On May 1, Walton Jr. escorted his father's remains from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command on Hickam AFB, Hawaii to his hometown of East Greenwich for burial on May 5.

"This is very rare, that we have a son escort remains," said Steve Thompson, JPAC external relations officer. Walton Jr.'s decision to join the Army was inspired by his father, by a deep sense of patriotism and in part by a family tradition of service to the country. In addition to his father, Walton Jr.'s two uncles and a cousin have all served in the military.



Army Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Clark Jr., Active Guard and Reserve, 115th Military Police, Rhode Island National Guard, listens to Dr. Laura Miller, anthropologist, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command during his visit to the JPAC, Hickam AFB, Hawaii on May 1 to escort the remains of his father, Army Special Forces Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Clark Walton Sr., to Rhode Island for burial. Miller was on one of the missions to Vietnam to excavate the remains and material evidence related to Walton Sr.'s case.

### **NVVA Color Guard Helps Welcome Home Major Benjamin Franklin Danielson.**

**Submitted by  
Don McCormick**

On May 17, 2007 NVVA had been called upon and given the opportunity to welcome home an MIA who had been recovered and identified. The remains of Captain Benjamin Franklin Danielson (upon return of his remains he was promoted posthumously) were being flown home to Minnesota to be repatriated and buried at his home in Kenyon, MN. The family had called and asked if we would send a Color Guard to St. Paul/Mpls. Airport to give Capt. Danielson a military welcome home. We were honored that we were asked to be a part of this event.

We had four of our members (Arvid Nelson, Wayne Pearson, Butch Benniwise and Don McCormick) that went down to the first station at Humphrey Terminal—St. Paul/Mpls. Airport. We left with the MACV van at 2:00 a.m. to be in position at 5:00 a.m. to receive the remains. After a quick run down there we tried to find out who the Vietnam veteran was that we were receiving. When we were asked to participate we had no name or any other information at that point. We were receiving a Brother Vet home at this point because WE WON'T FORGET OUR POW-MIA Brothers. This is an important and special issue with us. That is why we carry the POW-MIA cage in our functions and have every year a vigil for POW-MIAs. So this was an honor for us, but we still didn't know who this was or any other information.

I finally found a P.R. NCO who gave us the name and news piece on the returning vet. Captain Danielson was shot down in Dec. 1969 trying to intercept North Vietnamese troops on the HoChi Minh Trail. His F4 Phantom was hit and Danielson and his weapons officer bailed out. Two parachutes opened and they both landed on opposite sides of a river. They were both OK and talked with each other on their radios. Hundreds of sorties tried to save the two fliers. They were driven off by enemy fire and there was a loss of one helicopter crewmember killed. The weapons officer heard sound of close fighting from Danielson's position then silence. The weapons officer was rescued 51 hours later.

Danielson had a young son, 18 months old when he was shot down. That son grew up and followed his father and became a navy pilot who is back from Iraq. Lt. Cmdr Brian Danielson went to Vietnam to look for his father. There had been found his father's dog tags, service pistol and a bone fragment. The DNA matched. Brian Danielson brought his father's remains back from Hawaii to MN where we formed up at the Airport and met them as they went by us in the hearse.

Vets from the VFW in Kenyon MN were the casket bearers and Honor Guard. Many of these Vets had been high school friends of Capt. Danielson and played football together. After the short ceremony for the media, the Vets from Kenyon came over to us and thanked us over and over for coming all the way down from Duluth for the ceremony. They were very glad we came. This touched us all and we felt honored and glad that we had come down.

Before we left, we wanted to do something to honor the Captain. So, we formed up and marched up to the casket, saluted and marched back. The other units saw us and followed our leading. The son, Brian came up to us and gave us a "We support our Troops" flag and shook our hands. He was very grateful that we had come.

**Welcome home Major Benjamin Franklin Danielson.**

*Attention to Orders*

**Details for Tomorrow**

By Durbin M. Keeney

June 2007

We in the veteran's community have had one of if not the best year ever in the Minnesota Legislature. On the real Memorial Day (this is a pet peeve of mine) at the Vietnam Memorial we heard Mike Pugliese, Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MNDVA), report that in the last two sessions veterans have seen a 140% increase in benefits being provided by the state of Minnesota. He also stated that there was still more needed to do.

Here is a summary of some of those benefits:

Program	Fiscal Year 08	Fiscal Year 09	Total Funding
State Soldiers		\$2 Million on-going	
Assistance Program	\$1 Million	\$1 Million	Base funding
CVSO Grant Program	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1.5 million on-going
		Based funding until 2011	
Tribal Services Officers	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1.5 million on-going
		Based funding until 2011	
MACV-Homeless Veterans Program	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$1.5 million one time
MNDVA marketing and outreach	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000 one time
		Funding	
Veterans Service Organization	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000 on-going
		Base funding	
Higher Education Campus Rep Program	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$900,000 on-going
		Based funding until 2011	
MNDVA Information Technology	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000 on-going base
		Funding	
Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery Administration of Veterans Programs	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$150,000 on-going base
		Funding	
Honor Guard Reimbursement	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000 one time
		Funding	
Expansion of War Survivors Act	\$52,000		\$52,000 in FY08
		Funding, but the appropriation is available until 06/30/09	
Depleted Uranium Marketing & Outreach	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000 one time
		Funding	
Veterans Counseling	\$80,000		\$80,000 one time
		Funding	
WWII Dedication Ceremony	\$250,000		\$250,000 one time
		Funding	

Many of these programs are one time funded and based on special needs as presented to the Legislature by the MNDVA like the WWII dedication that happened on June 9<sup>th</sup> where the state, in honoring the WWII veterans, provided transportation to the dedication for any WWII veteran and their spouse. This was a good and honorable thing to do. Much of the other limited funded programs were related to addressing the needs of the 2,600 Army Guard returnees that we will have from this war in the near future, those in other Guard and Reserve Units, and their families. Other programs, ourselves included, will be reviewed and reassessed over the next two years to determine if the current funding level is realistic. Some did not receive long going status because they are new and they too will be reassessed over the next two years.

Next page

There are a couple areas that I would like to address now and more in the future:

- **Tribal Service Officers** (TVSO's) has been along time coming. Mary Northup is the Fond du Lac TVSO and a great addition to helping our American Indian veteran population and we understand that soon a TVSO will be in place in the Bemidji area. These people will be a great addition to reaching out to a group of veterans in need.
- **Honor Guard** if you have ever been at a funeral, parade, or other event where the Duluth Honor Guard has been it would make you proud. These members donated their time and expenses to do over 200 funerals last year and they have done 65 to date this year and that is not to speak of the other events. It was the passionate testimony of John Marshall and Robert Woods of the Duluth Honor Guard that put this legislation sponsored by Senator Mike Jaros & Senator Solon over the top. This will help all honor guards across the state. Please continue to support them as the funds from the state will not by any count cover all expenses, but it will surely help.
- **Depleted Uranium** during Gulf War I many soldiers have become very ill from what is believes to be depleted uranium poisoning from artery shells dipped in uranium. It took thirty years for those of us with Agent Orange health issues to get the help and compensation we earned and needed. I am so grateful that the State of Minnesota is stepping out and not waiting that long to help those what have been exposed to this health and life-threatening issue by taking the lead.

There is much yet to do and, for many, the battle is not over when soldiers have returned home and cared for. I am proud of MNDVA and we at MACV-Duluth are committed to do all we can to help our fellow veterans.

A thought on the Duluth Chamber of Commerce's trip to D.C. on behalf of the 148<sup>th</sup> - "Great job!" However, the battle has only begun. Until the newer aircraft are on the ground we all need to keep the pressure on, and when those aircraft are on the ground we will need to continue to work even harder for the next generation of aircraft that will be even more limited in supply. A lot of this depends on whom we send to D.C., how long they have been there, their commitment to the 148<sup>th</sup>, and what committees they are on as to our success. It is a long time between now and 2013 when the new birds are to arrive. A lot can happen. Lets enjoy this small victory, but not lose sight of the prize.

One final thought I personally wanted to thank those of you that came out to the Cemeteries, joined us at the parade, and took time to remember on Memorial Day. Your kindness, love, and support means so much.

Again thank you.

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - An unarmed helicopter pilot who flew through a hail of bullets to rescue 70 wounded Americans in one of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam War was awarded the Medal of Honor on Monday, 41 years later.

Retired Lt. Col. Bruce Crandall, 74, received the nation's highest military honor from President Bush in the White House East Room. The medal recognizes Crandall for his valor in repeatedly flying into enemy fire to bring in ammunition and supplies and evacuate the wounded.



Crandall completed 22 flights in a 14-hour period on Nov. 14, 1965, most under intense enemy fire. His actions in the Battle at Ia Drang Valley were depicted in the 2002 movie "We Were Soldiers," adapted from the book "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young."

Bush, in his remarks, said Crandall had to fly three different helicopters over the course of the mission. Two were damaged so badly they could not stay in the air.

Yet Crandall and another pilot, Capt. Edward Freeman, "flew through a cloud of smoke and a wave of bullets," Bush said. They "kept flying until every wounded man had been evacuated and every need of the battalion had been met." Freeman was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2001.

"To the men of Ia Drang, the image of Major Crandall's helicopter coming to their rescue is one they will never forget," Bush said, adding that Crandall's battalion commander said that without Crandall, the unit almost surely would have been overrun.

Crandall, of Manchester, Wash., did not speak during the 15-minute ceremony, attended by more than 250 people. But Bush quoted from an interview in which Crandall offered his view of the mission:

"There was never a consideration that we would not go into those landing zones. They were my people down there, and they trusted in me to come and get them."

Crandall told The Associated Press that his unit had "minimum resources" and few administrators to handle the paperwork needed for the highest medals. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, as well as a Distinguished Service Cross, before being nominated for a Medal of Honor.

An accomplished high school baseball player, Crandall dreamed of playing for the New York Yankees but instead was drafted into the military during the Korean War. Two months after his heroics at Ia Drang, he rescued a dozen wounded men without using search or landing lights during a nighttime battle.

His second tour in Vietnam ended in 1968. He later worked as a city manager in Dunsmuir, Calif., and as public works manager in Mesa, Ariz., and was a consultant in the film version of "We Were Soldiers," in which he was portrayed by actor Greg Kinnear.

"In men like Bruce Crandall, we really see the best of America," Bush said. "For the soldiers rescued, for the men who came home, for the children they had and the lives they made, America is in debt to Bruce Crandall."

Crandall had a less lofty view.

"I'm so proud that I didn't screw it up," he said.

## **POW/MIA By Howard Peterson**

KW MIA's Remains ID'd  
16 February, 2007

Korean War soldier's remains to be buried in Southern California

WASHINGTON - The remains of an American soldier reported missing in action during the Korean War more than 50 years ago have been identified and returned to his family for burial, the Pentagon said Friday.

Army Cpl. Jimmie L. Dorser of Springfield, Mo., will be buried with full military honors Saturday in Lake Forest, Calif.

Dorser was a member of I Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, which was organized into the 31st Regimental Combat Team. The team was engaged against Chinese forces along the Chosin Reservoir area in north-central North Korea from Nov. 27 to Dec. 1, 1950.

61 Years Later  
15 March, 2007

After 61 years, Scott receives closure for brother's WWII service

Private Rufus Lane, brother of Reba Scott of Marked Tree, received a number of awards posthumously for his sacrifice and service in World War II. Scott just received the medals after 61 years.

Burial at Arlington  
22 March, 2007

Arlington funeral for city native  
Army helicopter pilot died at 22 in Vietnam.  
By Kevin Leininger

A Fort Wayne native whose remains were identified 36 years after he died in Vietnam will finally be laid to rest May 25 in hallowed ground.

Capt. Herbert Crosby, who was 22 when the Army helicopter gunship he was piloting crashed in a storm over Quang Nam Province in January 1970, will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

On Memorial Day, AN ENORMOUS CRIME; The Definitive Account of American POWs Abandoned in Southeast Asia, written by Former Congressman Bill Hendon and Beth Stewart, will be published by St. Martin's Press.

A book based on 66,000 pages of never-before-published USG intelligence reports concerning our POW/MIA's.

The abandonment of 600 of our living American Prisoners-of-War in 1973 was - and still is - an enormous crime. And that is the title of the single best book - ever written - about the criminal behavior of our government beginning 35 years ago and continuing right up to the present.

The first reviews enclosed below summarize this meticulously-researched book:

From Publishers Weekly:

"Controversial former North Carolina Congressman Hendon and attorney Stewart make the case that the U.S. knowingly left hundreds of POWs in Vietnam and Laos in 1973, and that every presidential administration since then has covered it up."

And from Kirkus Reviews: "A sprawling indictment of eight U.S. administrations...a convincing, urgent argument."

On Amazon there is a summary of the book and it can also be pre-ordered.

Remains Come Home  
13 April, 2007

Korean War remains of 6 finally home By William Cole

A unique diplomatic recovery mission to North Korea ended yesterday at Hickam Air Force Base with the return of six American service members' remains from the Korean War to American soil for identification and eventual return to their families.

Flier's Remains ID'd after 63 Years  
15 April, 2007

WWII Flyer Remains ID'd After 63 Years  
The Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. - The remains of a World War II navigator listed as missing in action for almost 63 years have been identified two years after they were found in Croatia, the brother of the deceased pilot said.

Air Force 1st Lt. Archibald Kelly's B-24 crashed on July 22, 1944, south of Dubrovnik, Croatia, near the Adriatic Sea. The plane carrying 10 crew members was returning from a bombing raid on oil fields in Romania.

63 Years Later - Coming Home  
16 April, 2007

Nu Mine man killed in World War II identified through DNA

Nearly 63 years after Staff Sgt. Blair W. Smith's plane was shot down over New Guinea during World War II, his remains will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

POW-MIA Balloon Launch

The Wisconsin POW-MIA Balloon Launch is for ALL POWs and MIAs from ALL wars.

MAY 28-MILWAUKEE-10th ANNIVERSARY  
POW-MIA BALLOON LAUNCH  
DOC-262-679-2872  
[www.war-veterans.org/Wlaunch.htm](http://www.war-veterans.org/Wlaunch.htm)

April 2, 2007  
Bone Fragment Ends Vet's Search for MIA Father.

(AP) Kenyon, MN An old Air Force pilot's sidearm, a set of dog tags, a survivor's recollection of enemy shouts, gunshots, a friend's scream from across the river in Laos, then silence.

A single fragment of bone. It's enough, the son says. A family and a nation have done all they could.

Capt Benjamin Franklin Danielson was 26 when his F4 Phantom fighter jet was shot down over Laos in December 1969 during the Vietnam War. He was listed as missing in action until 1976, then presumed dead.

Lt Cmdr Brian Danielson, 39, a Navy pilot from Kenyon, followed his father into the air, though he was just 1 year old when his dad went to war, 18 months old when Capt Danielson was shot down.

Last year, after directing operations of a squadron of carrier-based planes in Iraq, Brian Danielson got permission from the Joint POW/MIA Command to join a ground search. It would be a search along the Ho Chi Minh Trail and he would be the first active-duty service member to participate in a search for a MIA father. That search and a subsequent visit to another site turned up no new evidence.

But with the weight of what was found earlier, including a "highly probable DNA match from the bone fragment found in 2003, the in-country experience persuaded Danielson and his mother, Mary, to call an end to the long searching.

"You could shoot holes in all the investigative work that's been done. You could drive yourself crazy. But we found what we needed to know.... We have the certain knowledge that he is dead, and I got to go to Laos and see how the process works," Brian Danielson said.

Now the Navy flier is planning a final flight for his father, with military escort from the DNA lab in Hawaii to Minnesota, and a June memorial in Kenyon, MN.

Fond du Lac Reservation's Annual Veterans'

# POWOW

July 13, 14, 15, 2007

Mash-Ka-Wisen Powwow Grounds, Sawyer, Minnesota  
Highway 210 & Mission Road

Friday, July 13

Grand Entry - 7 PM

Saturday, July 14

Grand Entry - 1 PM

Honoring Veterans - 1:30 PM

Feast - 5 PM

Grand Entry - 7 PM

Fireworks - 10 PM

Sunday, July 15

Grand Entry - 1 PM

Lunch - 3 PM



**DANCE SPECIALS**

Men's Traditional  
Women's Traditional  
Hand Drum Contest

**M.C. - Jeff Savage**

**Co-M.C. - Pete Gahbow**

**Host Drum - Cedar Creek**

**Head Dancers - Brother & Sister Dance Team of Ed & Emily**

**Arena Directors - Jaimie Petite and Dan Houle**

**Spiritual Advisors - TBA**

*\*Veterans Gifts will only be guaranteed until 7/15/07\**

*All Specials must be pre-approved by the Powwow Committee*

*Vendor Information - Contact Mary Northrup at 218-878-7583*

- 24-Hour Security Provided
- Not Responsible for Lost or Stolen Property
- Alcohol and Drugs Prohibited