

October 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

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Bluesfest News

By Kathy Camps

The blues are over for another year. Many changes happened before the start of blues this year, but everything turned out well and went smoothly.

I want to thank all of you who volunteered to work and especially my loyal committee who worked long and hard to make it a success that it was. A special thanks goes to two great ladies who worked behind the scenes, Rose Hanson and Sandy Gunnarson.

Newsletter

This will be my last newsletter. Ron Pizana 399-8973 will be taking over. He is retired, and should be able to devote more attention to it. If you have any news you would like added to the newsletter, please get in touch with him. If you'd like to still email me, I will be happy to pass it on. Thanks to all the contributors over the years.

Mike Hanson

To add an article to this newsletter contact

Ron Pizana 399-8973

davpiz_46@yahoo.com

NWA Memberships
173 Members
127 Associates

Don't Forget Party
Blackwoods
Proctor
March 29, 2008

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

POW/MIA by Howard Peterson

July 10, 2007

Marine Missing In Action From Korean War Is Identified

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

He is Pfc. Domenico S. Di Salvo, U.S. Marine Corps, of Akron, Ohio. He will be buried July 12 in Seville, Ohio. In late November 1950, Di Salvo was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment, of the 1st Marine Division then deployed near Yudam-ni on the western side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. On Nov. 27, three Communist Chinese Divisions launched an attack on the Marine positions. Over the next several days, U.S. forces staged a fighting withdrawal to the south. Di Salvo was lost on Dec. 2, 1950, as a result of enemy action near Yudam-ni. He was among several in his company buried by fellow Marines in a temporary grave near the battlefield.

Missing WWII Sailor is Identified 20 July, 2007

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

He is Fireman 3rd Class Alfred E. Livingston, U.S. Navy, of Worthington, Ind. He will be buried on Saturday in Worthington.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Livingston was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma when it was attacked by Japanese torpedo aircraft and capsized in Pearl Harbor. The ship sustained massive casualties. Livingston was one of hundreds declared killed in action whose body was not recovered. In the aftermath of the attack, some remains were recovered from the waters of Pearl Harbor. One set of sailor's remains was recovered and thought to be associated with the USS Arizona losses. However, when efforts to identify the sailor failed, it was inconclusive what ship he was assigned to and he was buried as an unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as The Punchbowl.

Airman Remains Found Kings Canyon National Park 21 August, 2007

Frozen remains of WWII airman found in Kings Canyon National Park
Steve Rubenstein, Chronicle Staff Writer

The frozen remains of a missing World War II airman have been discovered on a remote glacier in Kings Canyon National Park, not far from the spot where the body of his apparent crewmate was discovered in 2005, it was announced Monday. A hiker discovered the remains on Wednesday at 12,300 feet near Mount Darwin in the park. The remains, which were accompanied by a World War II-era uniform and parachute, were being taken Monday to the Fresno County coroner's office.

Because of the low temperature at the recovery site on the Mendel Glacier, the remains included skin, hair and soft tissue, according to Army Maj. Brian DeSantis of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii. The command will work to identify the body once the coroner releases it to the military.

"This body was found 100 feet from where the last one was found," DeSantis said. "We're hopeful it's from the same incident."

On Oct. 16, 2005, an ice climber found the body of a man later identified as Leo Mustonen, 22, one of four fliers aboard an Army Air Corps AT-7 plane that took off from Mather Air Force Base on Nov. 18, 1942, on a training flight and was never heard from again. The plane was believed to have crashed in a blizzard.

After Mustonen's body was found, searchers scoured the area, looking for other remains, but were hampered by the thick snow pack.

This summer, however, the snow pack at the site was about one-third of normal, DeSantis said.
WW II Sub Discovered in Bering Sea - 70 MIA Crew
24 August, 2007

World War II Sub Found
By Adrienne LaFrance

BOSTON, Mass. - August 24, 2007 - Bruce, Brad, and John Abele of Newton, Mass., have spent more than 60 years wondering what happened to the submarine their father commanded during World War II.

The USS Grunion, the sub on which Lt. Cmdr. Mannert Abele's crew of 70 disappeared in July 1942, was found in the Bering Sea after a far-reaching search by his sons.

Despite an extensive search of Japanese and American records after the war, nothing revealed what may have happened to the submarine, let alone where it ended up.

"It has been on the books as missing, not missing in action but missing, for 65 years," said 78-year-old Bruce Abele, the eldest of the three brothers.

63 Years to Find His Way Home
24 August, 2007

After 63 Years, Airman's Remains Come Home
By News 8 WMTW

RUMFORD, Maine -- An Army airman, killed more than 60 years ago during World War II, finally has been laid to rest in his hometown of Rumford.

Second Lt. Al Bujolds B-17 bomber was shot down over New Guinea in 1943, but it wasn't until five years ago that DNA technology allowed the Army to identify his remains, which were part of a mass grave in St. Louis.

Attention to Orders

Details for Tomorrow

By

Durbin M. Keeney

Did you watch the Ken Burns special on PBS about WWII? What I did not watch I soon will. I plan to order the set. I do this for reasons that go beyond my personal interest in history. I hope that my children and grandchildren watch this and not the slanted history taught in our schools today.

I base this on something that happened many years ago when my son and I were covering his tenth grade books. He had a new history book and I opened it and as I looked through it I was shocked to see history told as truth very different from what I knew and in many cases what my family and I lived through. Naturally I went to the part of a page about Vietnam, my war. What I saw was a glorification of the protestors and attacks on all those and myself that were there, I threw the book in anger. My son said that I shouldn't do that, as he would have to pay for it. I told him that there is a wall in Washington D.C. that has the name of over 58,000 who had already paid for it. The next day I went to Central High School and asked his teacher, Jim Fisketti, who I considered to be a very fine and honest history teacher, about what I had read. Jim told me that while we were in the swamps and jungles of Vietnam many of those who did not go were able to finish school. They went on to be many of our teachers, professors, writers, and editors of this very book and many others. I asked him what could we do to tell the truth? He said we needed to tell it ourselves. I have tried to do just that ever since. That is in great part how any why I got involved with the St. Louis County Historical Society's Veterans Memorial Hall. That led to the award winning Vietnam exhibit "Dignity Thru Unity" and became so important to me. It was and is away to help to tell our truth, not what I read in that book.

We had to try to educate all we could who are citizens first, served as soldiers, and now are the veterans of our community. We take our place in history right along Alfred Wolson who was the last union soldier and lived to 107 years old. We were no different that those members of the Paducah, a WWI navy reserve training vessel that sailed out of Duluth Harbor prior to WWII, with her crew of local reservists. Who can forget the 125th artillery unit that served more time on the front lines with over 500 day of combat, or the men of Company "B" that marched off down Superior Street and on to Korea? We stand today with the men and woman of Gulf War One, and the current War. We stand with them in that place of honor with future soldier that are willing to stand in the breach for our freedoms.

That is why Ken Burns story is so important. It does not glorify war, it simple tells the story of those who we have sent to war on behalf of our freedoms. We need to never forget those who have, in the past and those in the future, serve to keep us free. They deserve our respect. Today it is better for those who return than it was for us, but I fear the future. We have a history of forgetting those who serve soon after the wars are over. We tend to throw over these men and woman like we have aircraft over the sides of our carries when past wars have been over. We cannot throw over another generation of veterans as we have in the past.

Many good and very positive steps have been taken to prevent the sins of the past, but what happens when this war is over? Will we, as a country, throw over these veterans? I am committed to not let that happen. Are you? A few years ago Congressman Oberstar, in his D.C. office, told Fr. John Petrich and myself that he did not support going to this war. I respect that, but what he said after that was very important. He said that we should put aside for every dollar that we send on this war an equal dollar to take care of the long-term effects of this war. I agree, but is that going to happen? It is our responsibility to keep the politicians accountable to their promises. I am hoping that you will show your respect to those that are serving today to help keep the promises made to our soldier.

We can only hope that when a Ken Burns of the future makes a film to tell the story of these soldiers of today it will be the truth. We hope that it tells of the bravery of our friends and neighbors that have served us. We can only hope that the history books tell the truth as well.

FYI, put this on you calendar, November 11th at 9:30 will be the second annual Veterans Day March. Last year was the first march in over fifty years and we had 150 veterans joined us. This year we need you to join us. Veterans we need you to march and if you cannot we plan to have vehicles for those who cannot march. If you are not a veteran we hope that you would come and stand on and support those wonderful hero's that will be in the march. It will begin at the old armory and conclude at the Depot for the 11-11-11 program.

Here is some information that you should have that came from the Minnesota Department of Veterans affairs. "**GOVERNOR PAWLENTY ANNOUNCES START UP OF NEW TOLL-FREE "VETERANS LINKAGE LINE"**" "This is a toll-free information, referral and crisis intervention line is first of its kind in the nation ~ The toll-free customer service line is the first of its kind in the nation and will provide information referrals, immediate crisis intervention and psychological counseling 24 hours a day, seven days a week at **1-888-LINKVET (546-5838)**".

"Our goal is to make Minnesota the best state for veterans to live," Governor Pawlenty said. "Understanding and navigating the many programs and services provided by state, federal and local governments can be discouraging. The Veterans Linkage Line will connect veterans and their family members with information on veterans' benefits, health care and reintegration. It's another way for us to make sure we thank and support those who serve our country."