



Vietnam Veterans of America "Stanley E. Taylor" Chapter 196 Lynchburg, Virginia



"THE LISTENING POST"

January 1, 2023



Vol 13 Issue 11

President's Comments

Vietnam Quotes

Upcoming Events

January 10, 2023, 7:00 PM,
Monthly VVA Meeting

January 10, 2023, 7:00 PM,
Monthly AVVA Meeting



To the members and associates of Chapter 196, As we start a new year, I hope you are well and survived the bitter cold weather we experienced last month. This is kind of a slow down period with not a lot happening. We will continue our monthly meetings but may be cancelled due to weather conditions. If the

Legion is closed, there will not be a meeting. Use your own discretion when traveling. Our Christmas dinner went off very well, except we didn't have the support from the membership.

Brian Moore will give a presentation at the start of our meeting. We are in the early planning stages for a Welcome Home event to be held on April 1. This will be the first one since the pandemic shut down everything. More on this in the coming months. Hope to see you on the 10th.

Keeping you informed,
David Stokes, President

*Come you masters of war
You that build all the guns
You that build the death planes
You that build all the bombs
You that hide behind walls
You that hide behind desks
I just want you to know
I can see through your masks.*

Singer-songwriter Bob Dylan, lyrics from "Masters of War," 196

North Vietnam cannot defeat or humiliate the United States. Only Americans can do that.

RICHARD NIXON, speech, November 3, 1969

There is nothing in the resolution, as I read it, that contemplates [sending American armies to Vietnam]. I agree with the Senator that that is the last thing we would want to do. However, the language of the resolution would not prevent it. It would authorize whatever the Commander in Chief feels is necessary.

J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, Senate debate over the passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, August 6, 1964

Television brought the brutality of war into the comfort of the living room. Vietnam was lost in the living rooms of America—not on the battlefields of Vietnam.

-Marshall McLuhan, 1975

"No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now. Rarely have so many people been so wrong about so much. Never have the consequences of their misunderstanding been so tragic."

President Richard Nixon in No More Vietnams

"We've been worse than Pol Pot, but the outside world knows nothing." - Vietnamese communist boast (Nguyen Van Canh, Vietnam Under Communism, 1975-1982 [Hoover Institution Press, 1983])

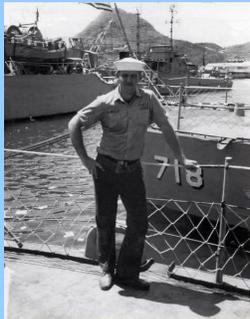
We are not about to send American boys nine or ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.

Lyndon Johnson, Oct. 1964

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Top 30 Hits

1. Woolly Bully - Sam The Sham and The Pharaohs
2. I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch) - The Four Tops
3. (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction - The Rolling Stones
4. You Were On My Mind - We Five
5. You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' - The Righteous Brothers
6. Downtown - Petula Clark
7. Help! - The Beatles
8. Can't You Hear My Heartbeat - Herman's Hermits
9. Crying In the Chapel - Elvis Presley
10. My Girl - The Temptations
11. Help Me, Rhonda - The Beach Boys
12. King of the Road - Roger Miller
13. The Birds and the Bees - Jewel Aikens
14. Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me - Mel Carter
15. Shotgun - Jr. Walker & The All Stars
16. I Got You Babe - Sonny and Cher
17. This Diamond Ring - Gary Lewis and The Playboys
18. The "In" Crowd - Ramsey Lewis Trio
19. Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter - Herman's Hermits
20. Stop! In The Name Of Love - The Supremes
21. Unchained Melody - The Righteous Brothers
22. Silhouettes - Herman's Hermits
23. I'll Never Find Another You - The Seekers
24. Cara Mia - Jay and The Americans
25. Mr. Tambourine Man - The Byrds
26. Cast Your Fate to the Wind - Sounds Orchestral
27. Yes, I'm Ready - Barbara Mason
28. What's New Pussycat? - Tom Jones
29. Eve of Destruction - Barry McGuire
30. Hang On Sloopy - The McCoys



MEMORIES NEVER DIE



Good Ol' Days

IN-COUNTRY





4 Vietnam War Myths Civilians Still Believe

Movies and television have painted a deeply embedded picture of Vietnam veterans in the American collective consciousness. Somehow, despite the numerous books, articles, and documentaries produced about the war and those who fought it, some of them are simply untrue.

The false ideas aren't just small myths, either. These misconceptions paint a distorted picture of who fought in Vietnam and the ability of the enemy and shaped how we perceived war for decades after the conflict ended. Here are the most common myths about the Vietnam War that civilians really believe, along with the truth about them.

1. The U.S. Won Every Battle of the Vietnam War But Still Lost the War

If anyone told this myth to the veterans who fought at Lang Vei in 1968, Kham Duc later that same year, or Fire Support Base Ripcord in 1970, they'd probably get a sharp, curt history lesson in logistics and math. Movies and television make it seem like the Viet Cong (VC), and People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) attacked in human waves with no armor, air force, or artillery.

In reality, PAVN forces had a lot to work with, were careful planners, and used everything they could to level the playing field with U.S. firepower, including weather, hours of darkness, and the civilian population. To undermine the enemy's ability is to do a disservice to those who made gallant stands in the face of overwhelming odds, whether they won or lost.

As for losing the war, the U.S. might have failed to meet its objectives in Vietnam, but Communism was not spread to other "domino theory" countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, or the Philippines. The Vietnam

War was the turning point for global Communism.

2. The Viet Cong Were a Bunch Of Plucky, Underequipped Farmers

The VC were pro-Communist guerrillas operating in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. They were often portrayed as bands of fighters, poorly supplied and using old weapons to make random ambushes on U.S. troops across the South. Although they were probably often hungry and poorly provided with food, the VC was well-coordinated from Hanoi.

To top it off, North Vietnam began receiving funds, arms, and supplies from Communist China and the Soviet Union from the first days of American involvement in Vietnam, starting in 1964. More than \$3.2 billion in military aid flooded into the South in the form of rocket launchers, grenades, and machine guns.



3. U.S. Troops in the Vietnam War Were Mostly Draftees

In 1985, the results of the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study of the Research Triangle Institute were released, which should have put this myth to bed forever. It revealed that 70% of the 2.7 million people who served in the Vietnam War actually volunteered to serve there, with only 11% saying they did so to avoid being drafted.

Related to this myth is the idea that

the Vietnam draft relied on the poor or on minority groups to fill its ranks. Again, the myth doesn't match the facts. Only 12.7% of draftees were Black and had no significantly higher chance of dying in combat than any other race. As for drafting the poor, research from the Veterans of Foreign Wars says that 50% of combat troops were from middle-class backgrounds and that the Vietnam War's fighting force was the best-educated force of their time.



4. Vietnam Veterans are Primarily Homeless, Addicted, or Crazy

This pervasive myth might come from those who watched Lieutenant Dan in "Forrest Gump" but didn't watch the entire movie. Homelessness among veterans is a big issue, but it's not limited to Vietnam-era of veterans. There is also no difference in drug addiction rates between Vietnam veterans and civilians from the same age group.

97% of Vietnam veterans left the military with an honorable discharge. Furthermore, by 1987, the unemployment rate among Vietnam vets was 4.8%, while the rest of the country faced a 6.2% unemployment rate. They earned 18% more on average than non-veterans and are less likely to be in prison. Just like Lt. Dan at the end of "Forrest Gump," Vietnam veterans got their stuff together.

A Week in August 1969—Mine vs. Theirs

By Preston Ingalls



War is terrifying for all those involved...combatants...civilians, etc. Vietnam was even more challenging than other wars. Mostly because we didn't have the support of the folks we were supposed to be protecting.



The farmer in the rice patty during the day, maybe a sapper cutting barbed wire and trying to enter our perimeter at night.

That cute teenage girl serving Coke at the stand alongside the road may be loading a mortar tube as a 'Co Cong' that evening and zeroing in on our position.



That mamasan with betel nut stained teeth waving to you alongside the road as your APC drives by may be providing barrels of rice to a VC unit after sunset.



Then, we knew the support from the home-front was wavering and floundering by the day. Between the sit-ins, college draft card burnings, massive war protests, and overall anti-war movement, you begin to doubt the sincerity of the intent and purpose for our being there.



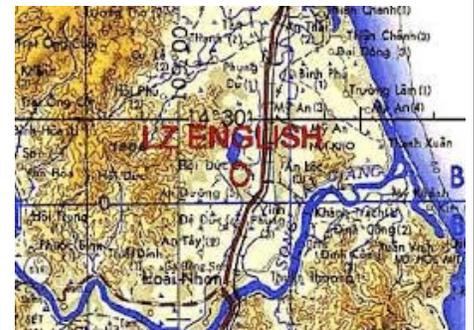
Then there was the known corruption of the Saigon government. It was a carousel of governments after Diem's assassination a few weeks before Kennedy's assassination.

It was common for wealthy Vietnamese families to bribe their son's way out of combat roles leaving the poor peasants to shoulder the burden. But we shared similar burdens

in the States as the "well to do" avoided sending their kids to war by keeping them in college with student deferments.

The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war. Douglas MacArthur

During the week of August 15-18 1969, I was with the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry (Mech) attached to the 173rd Airborne. The company's base was LZ North English with the battalion residing at LZ Uplift, and our Area of Operations (AO) covered a large area of Highway QL1 running north and south; our main responsibility was to provide road and bridge security along that stretch of road.



That particular week was a terrifying one for us as we dealt with multiple engagements/contacts. It started with an assault on our position at Sniper's Island, which was almost overrun; several bridge probes by the enemy; an assault on our perimeter at the hamlet of Tam Quan; and a lost track which was blown up by a mine - two of my buddies died and one sustained severe wounds. It was a horrible, and devastating week.

Continued on Page 5

A Week in August 1969—Mine vs. Theirs

Continued from Page 4

A Woodstock Comparison

Why do I recall that week in particular? Because it was the same week that over 500,000 of my peers were mesmerized in a drug-induced coma while listening to music at The Woodstock Concert. We both suffered in the rain that week – theirs during a passing storm, ours in the Monsoon rains.



While the Woodstock teenagers wondered about with blankets dragging in the mud looking for something to eat with a serious case of munchies; we were huddled under ponchos trying to eat our lunch and prevent the rainwater from ruining our C-rations.

While the Woodstockers sat on a hill, impatiently waiting for the next musical act to start; we sat atop our APC staring into the blackness of night through a Starlight scope for movement on the perimeter.

My peer at Woodstock suddenly heard the twang of a guitar through the remote speakers and he grinned in anticipation; my buddy on the next APC suddenly

heard the sound of barbed wire being clipped in front of his position – his heart stopped.

The 19-year-old stoned Woodstocker flashed a peace sign to another concertgoer who toked on a joint nearby; my brother in arms giving patrol signals to those of us behind him to suddenly stop because he luckily spotted a tripwire to a boobytrap.



A Woodstocker woke up on day two, soaked in urine because of him ‘tripping’ all night after taking a tab of LSD he had gotten from a cool dude from California; my buddy goes to a tree on the edge of the perimeter to take a leak and sees an enemy soldier behind another tree which causes him to piss himself before he can unslung his rifle.

A 21-year old Woodstocker is popping a pill that a 15-year old girl gave him telling him, “it will make you feel groovy, man”; my 21-year old fellow soldier is taking

his weekly large orange anti-malaria pill, (chloroquine-primaquine-phosphate) to ward off the effects of malaria – severe diarrhea is a side effect.

My Woodstock peer was lying on the ground chilling with the sound of Jimi Hendrix buzzing in the air; my Vietnam buddy is hugging the ground with the sound of bullets piercing the berm of the rice paddy he is hiding behind.



While they were entertained, we were fighting for our lives.

I know that both groups complained about the *freakin’ mud, politicians and the war*. Different perspectives for different young adults.

They were clinging to every note...we were clinging to every moment.

**Vietnam Veterans of
America—Chapter 196
Lynchburg , Virginia**



OF AMERICA
STANLEY E. TAYLOR MEMORIAL CHAPTER 196
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA



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www.vva.org

www.vva-vasc.org

Give This to a Fellow Vietnam Veteran...

The Vietnam Veterans of America association is a "home of our own" - a community of fellowship with people who share your experiences, needs, and hopes for the future. Agent Orange is still with us and our numbers are dwindling, probably at a much faster rate than we would like it. That makes it even more important for Vietnam Veterans to have a viable and strong organization to represent us in Washington

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

To have a fellow Vietnam Veteran join, either cut out the application and give it to the Vet or better yet, give your copy of our newsletter

to him or her. Don't forget that a copy of their DD-214 with their membership application is required.

Families, friends, supporters, and veterans of other eras can join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and receive the same benefits, including a subscription to The VVA Veteran.

BECOME A LIFE MEMBER

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA Return to: Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299

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New members must submit a copy of their DD-214 along with this application and dues payment.