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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON D.C. 20506

April 7, 1986

Dear Dan:

Just returned from Asia and opened your letter. I see the problem -- incredible. Hope they don't have a warehouse full.

I will forward to the right people. Thanks for the tip.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Childress
Director of Asian Affairs

Mr. Dan Meeks
1686 Ripple Brook Road
Columbus, Ohio 43223

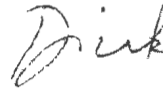
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

April 7, 1986

Dear Ev:

Please see the enclosed letter. Can you get this to the right office to handle. I had heard this before, but thought it was a temporary emptying of stock - but with the update, it looks like the picture was overlooked. Thanks.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Childress
Director of Asian Affairs

Enclosure

Mr. Everett Alvarez, Jr.
The Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Administration
810 Vermont Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20420

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Mr. Everett Alvarez, Jr. (001)
The Deputy Administrator of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Administration
810 Vermont Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20420

Mr. Daniel A Meeks
1686 Ripple Brook Road
Columbus, Ohio 43223

March 17, 1986

Mr. Richard Childress
White House - NSC
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Dick.

While I understand that this may be outside your area of responsibility, I felt that I could discuss this matter with you since you are a veteran yourself and would understand my concern.

Enclosed you will find an informational brochure I picked up at the Arlington National Cemetery on March 16, 1986. As you will see, it was printed and updated in 1985, yet the picture of the Tombs of the Unknown Soldier is very much out of date. In fact, the information under the picture does not even mention the Vietnam Unknown.

I had the pleasure of attending the Interment of the Vietnam Unknown in May of 1982, nearly four years ago. Although the brochure has been reprinted since then, no effort was made to update the photograph of the tomb or the text to reflect this very important addition.

I am not sure how many Americans or guests from other countries visit Arlington National Cemetery each year, but many must wonder why the United States Government would not picture the Vietnam Unknown. Updating a black & white picture would not have added much to the cost of the reprint when compared to the sacrifice of over 58,000 lives.

I hope you will forward this letter through the proper channels or advise me as to whom I should express this concern and I will take your lead.

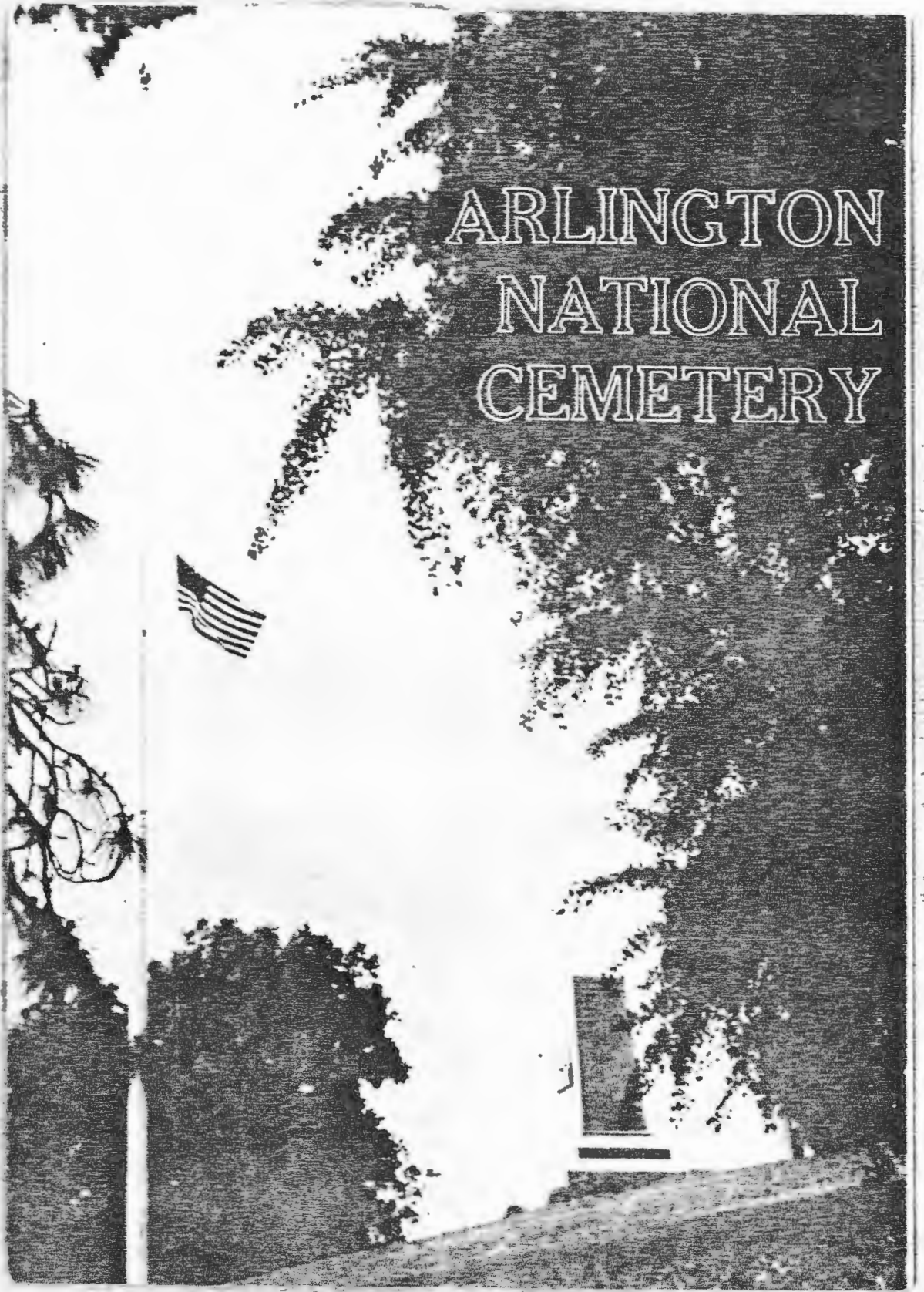
Thank you for your time and concern.

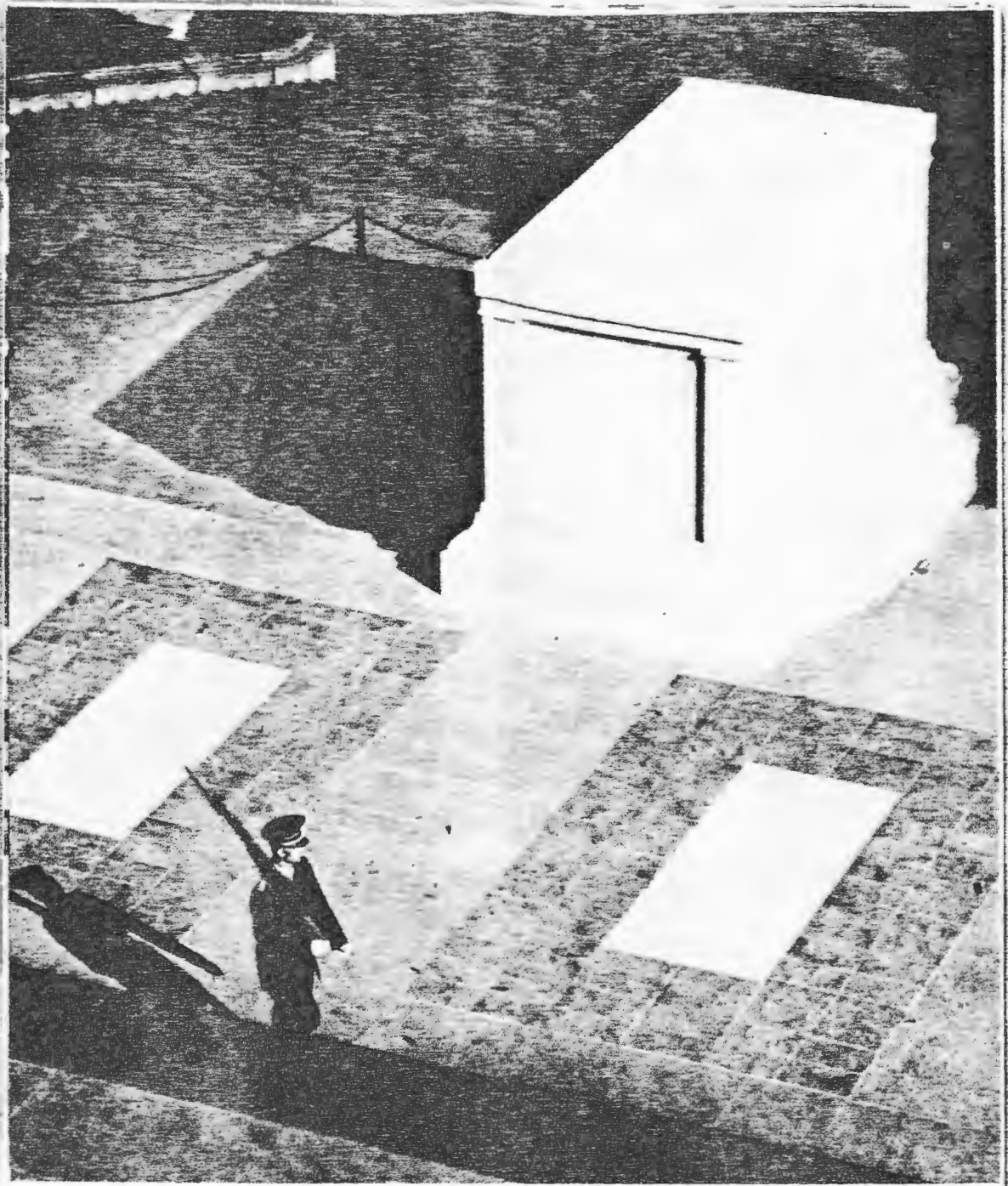
Respectfully,



Dan Meeks

ARLINGTON
NATIONAL
CEMETERY





KNOWN BUT TO GOD—Tombs of the Unknown Soldier of World War I, the Unknown American Serviceman of World War II and the Unknown American Serviceman of the Korean War. Located in the plaza of the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, this hallowed place of remembrance is guarded twenty-four hours a day by specially chosen members of the 1st Battalion (Reinforced) 3d Infantry (The Old Guard) U. S. Army of Fort Myer.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Arlington National Cemetery is located upon a portion of the area, some 1,100 acres in extent, known as the Arlington estate. This land was purchased in 1778 by John Parke Custis, son of Martha Dandridge Custis Washington by her first marriage. John Parke Custis joined the Continental Army and served as an Aide to General Washington. After his death from illness during the siege of Yorktown, two of his four children, George Washington Parke Custis and Eleanor, were adopted by Washington and taken to Mt. Vernon. Development of the vast Arlington estate was carried on by George Washington Parke Custis, and it was he who directed the building of the handsome Greek Revival residence, now known as the Custis-Lee Mansion. Custis' daughter, Mary Ann Randolph Custis, the only one of four children to grow to maturity, was married to Lt. Robert E. Lee in 1831, and the house and grounds were in possession of the Lee family at the outbreak of the Civil War when the property was taken by the United States Government for military purposes. The establishment of Arlington National Cemetery dates from 1864, though a clear title to the land was not obtained until 1883. After many years of litigation the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the contention of George Washington Custis Lee that he was the rightful owner of

the property by right of inheritance under the will of his grandfather, George Washington Parke Custis. Mr. Lee then sold the Arlington estate to the United States Government in 1883 for \$150,000.

Over the years of more than a century, Arlington National Cemetery has become an outstanding and cherished national shrine commemorating the lives and services of members of the Armed Forces of the United States. Within its boundaries rest the mortal remains of the honored dead, the known and the unknown, the great and the humble who were among those who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, the Indian Campaigns, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, World Wars I and II, the Korean War and Vietnam. Here, too, are the graves of two Presidents of the United States, William Howard Taft and John Fitzgerald Kennedy, and the white marble Memorial Amphitheater, upon the plaza of which are entombed the remains of an American soldier of World War I, a serviceman of World War II and one from the Korean War, representatives of all who fell in these conflicts—their identity Known But To God.

Comprehensive plans have been made and work is currently under way for the development and enlargement of Arlington

National Cemetery to assure that it may always be a place of hallowed memories and a "Shrine of Each Patriot's Devotion." Plans for the expansion of the cemetery to include the South Post of Fort Myer were first conceived and approved in 1924, and reaffirmed by action of the appropriate public agencies in 1960. The concept for the development of the 200 acre tract of the Fort Myer South Post, and for integrating old and new Arlington into a unified whole has been developed by outstanding architectural and engineering firms.

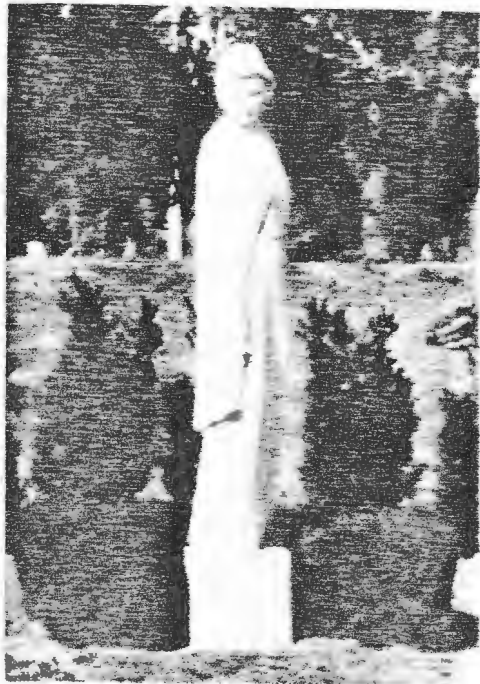
There are numerous points of interest in the cemetery for the student of American history and the casual visitor. The grave of Pierre Charles L'Enfant, Engineer, Artist, Soldier and Architect of the Capital, lies in front of the Custis-Lee Mansion overlooking the city which he planned. It is marked by a table like monument erected pursuant to congressional direction and appropriation of funds. South of the Mansion a massive granite sarcophagus surmounts a vault containing the remains of 2,111 Unknowns of the Civil War, whose remains were recovered from the battlefields of Bull Run and the route to the Rappahannock. These were the first combat Unknowns interred in Arlington.

On the western side of the cemetery off McPherson Drive stands the Confederate Monument, erected in 1914 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to honor their dead and symbolize a reunited North and South. The monument is the work of Sir Moses Ezekiel, who had fought for the Confederacy in his youth. After his death in Italy, his remains were returned to the United States in 1921 and interred at the base of the monument. Peace is the central theme of the bronze and granite structure, which is surmounted by the figure of a woman crowned with olive leaves, her face turned towards the South. A laurel wreath in her outstretched left hand symbolizes

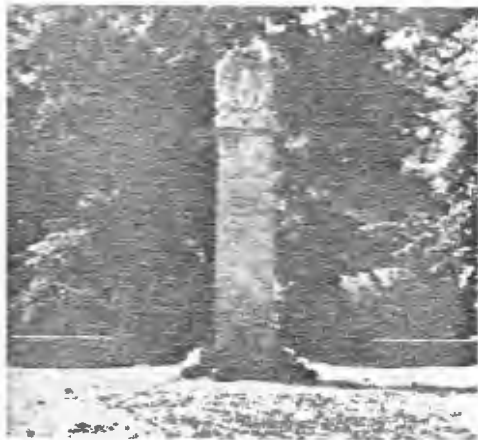
the crowning of the South's fallen sons; her right hand rests on a plowshare on which there is a pruning hook. Carved around the top of the memorial is the verse from Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." The graves of Confederate soldiers who died in Washington and its vicinity are arranged in concentric circles around the monument. More than 500 Confederates are interred in this and other sections of Arlington National Cemetery.

Off Farragut Drive is the Maine Memorial. By Act of Congress on 9 May 1910 the mast of the *USS Maine* was removed from the wreck of the ship after it was raised from Havana harbor, and brought to Arlington to honor those who lost their lives in that historic disaster. Interred directly to the north of the monument, in a plot known as the Maine Section, are the remains of 229 decedents of whom 167 are Unknowns. The names of all who lost their lives in the ship are inscribed on the Memorial.

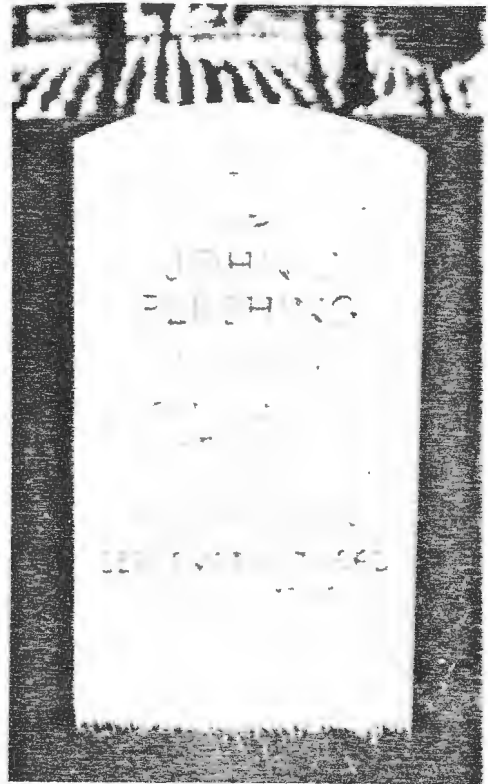
Many gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery are marked by specially designed government markers to indicate a group burial. The largest such burial location in the cemetery includes the remains of 250 who died in World War II at Lunga Beach, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on 29 January 1945, when the *USS Serpens*, a Coast Guard ammunition ship, exploded and sank, with the loss of 199 Coast Guardsmen, 50 Army personnel and one U.S. Public Health Service official. Fifty-two caskets containing the individually unidentifiable remains of these 250 casualties were brought to Arlington and interred in Section 34 on 15 June 1949. A specially designed monument of Georgia granite, five feet high and octagonal in shape, has been erected by the Government of the United States, with names inscribed in alphabetical order on eight panels.



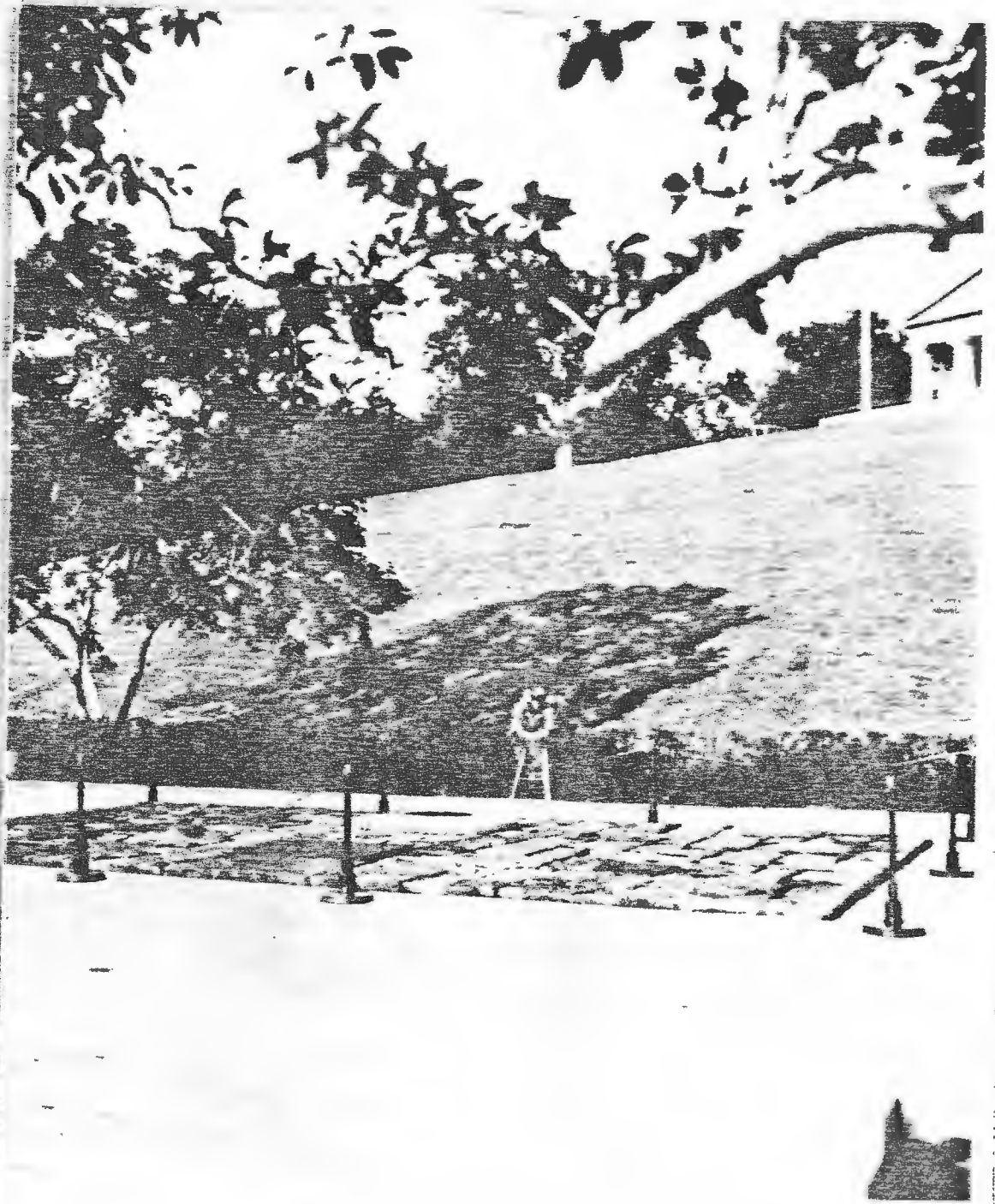
Army and Navy Nurses Memorial—This monument erected in the Nurses Section (Section 21) at Arlington National Cemetery is a memorial to deceased Army and Navy Nurses. It was dedicated on 8 November 1938.



Grave of William Howard Taft—27th President of the United States (1909–1913), Chief Justice of the United States (1921–1930), Lot S-14, Section 30.

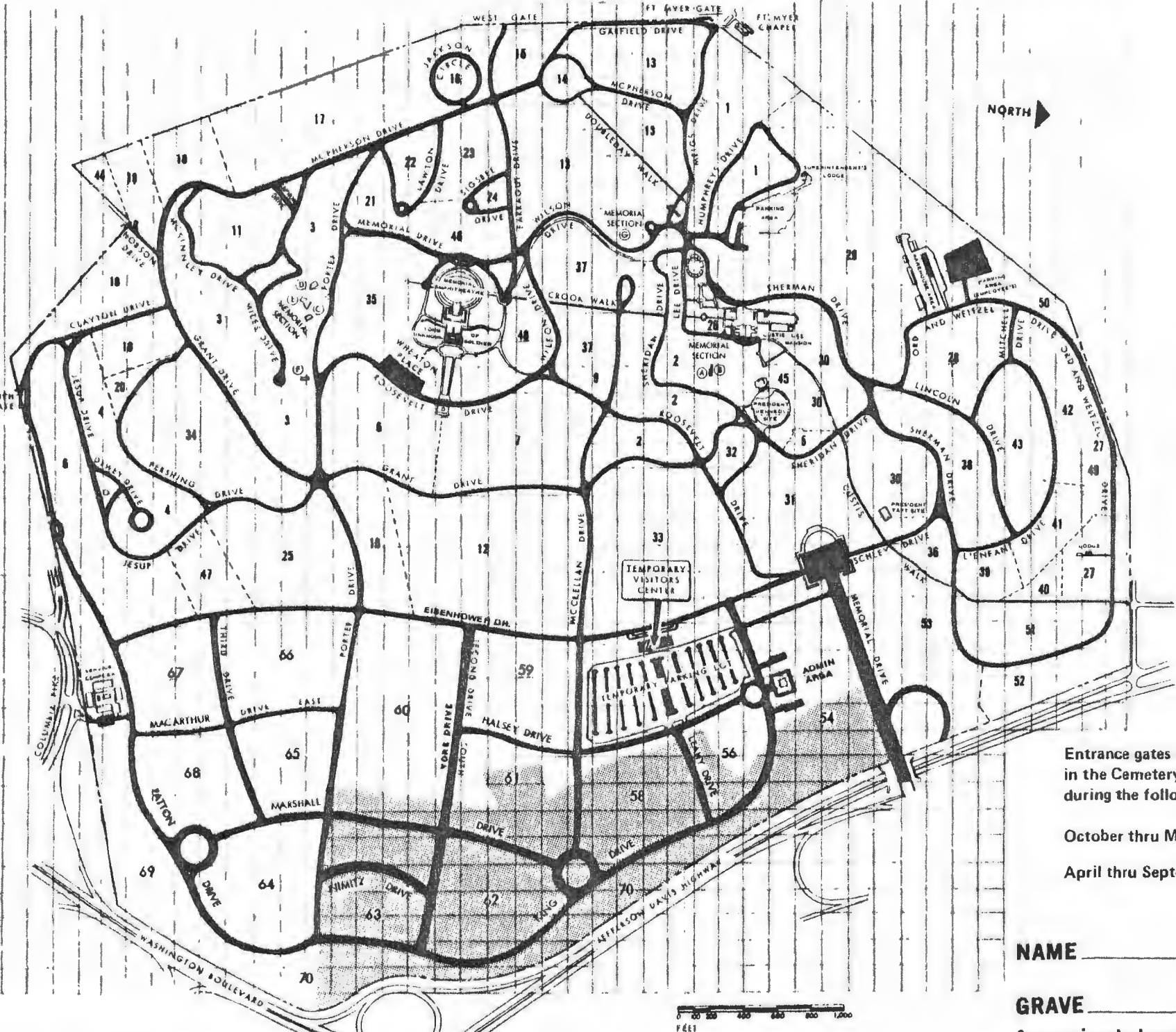


Grave of General of The Armies John J. Pershing (Lot S-19, Section 34). The grave of the famed commander of the American Armies during World War I is marked by a regulation white marble government headstone. Many years before his death General Pershing personally selected this location, stating that he desired that his remains might be at rest near his brave comrades who served with him during the World War (1917–1918).



Grave of John Fitzgerald Kennedy—35th President of the United States (1961–1963), Section 45, Special Lot. Construction of the permanent memorial and gravesite for the late President was begun in September 1965. The remains of President Kennedy and of two infants, a son and a daughter, who pre-deceased their father, were removed to the permanent gravesite during the evening of 14 March 1967. The gravesite was blessed by Richard Cardinal Cushing at brief ceremonies held the morning of 15 March 1967.

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ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Entrance gates will be open and visitors permitted in the Cemetery every day throughout the year during the following hours:

October thru March 8:00 to 5:00 P.M.

April thru September 8:00 to 7:00 P.M.

NAME _____

GRAVE _____ SECTION _____

Approximate location of grave is indicated in red.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT



GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Cemetery *will not* be used as picnic grounds.
2. Visitors *will not* litter the grounds, cut, break, or injure trees, shrubs or plants or otherwise conduct themselves in a manner not in keeping with the dignity and the sacredness of the cemetery.
3. All graves will be decorated during the 24-hour period preceding Memorial Day with small flags, which will be removed immediately after Memorial Day. *Flags are not permitted* on graves at any other time.
4. Cut flowers are permitted on gravesites at any time. Potted plants are permitted on gravesites one week before Easter. Artificial tributes are permitted on gravesites 10 October until 15 April. Artificial tributes are not permitted on graves from 15 April through 9 October. Statues, lights, glass objects or other impediments are not permitted at any time. Tributes will not be wired or tied to headstones.
5. Information regarding removal of floral items will be furnished at the Cemetery Office.
6. Persons visiting the Cemetery for the purpose of sightseeing may tour the grounds via the pedestrian routes or utilize the services of the concessionaire operated Tourmobiles. Vehicle parking is located at the Visitors Center.
7. Persons visiting gravesites of relatives or friends may obtain a temporary pass to drive into the cemetery at the Visitors Center. Permanent vehicle passes for the next of kin of persons interred in the cemetery may be obtained by writing to the Office of the Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia 22211.

During the more than one hundred years of its existence, Arlington National Cemetery has received the mortal remains of many who achieved fame and distinction in military service, or in civilian activities subsequent to that service. Though any list of distinguished persons interred in Arlington National Cemetery is at best incomplete, the following are among those interred in the cemetery:

General Henry H. Arnold, USAF	Section 34, Grave 44-A, Grids U-11
Colonel William Jennings Bryan, USA	Section 4, Lot 3118-3121, Grids YZ-11
Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, USN	Section 2, Grave 4969-1, Grids WX-32
Lieutenant Commander Roger B. Chaffee, USN (Astronaut)	Section 3, Grave 2502-F, Grids Q-15
Lieutenant General Clair Lee Chennault, USAF	Section 2, Grave 873-4, Grids PQ-31
Major General George Crook, USA	Section 2, Grave 974, Grids S-32
Major John Foster Dulles, USA	Section 21, Grave S-31, Grids M-20
Lieutenant James V. Forrestal, USNRF	Section 30, Grave 674, Grids XY-40
Lieutenant Colonel Virgil I. Grissom, USAF (Astronaut)	Section 3, Grave 2503-E, Grids Q-15
Fleet Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., USN	Section 2, Lot 1184, Grids T-31
Captain Oliver Wendell Holmes, USA	Section 5, Lot 7004-A, Grids VW-36
Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, USN (35th President of the United States)	Section 45, Grave S-45, Grids U-35
S2 Robert F. Kennedy, USNR (Attorney General-U.S. Senator)	Special Lot 45-A, Grids UV-34
Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, USN	Section 2, Lot 932, Grids H-31
Captain Robert Todd Lincoln, USA	Section 31, Lot 13, Grids Y-38
General of the Army George C. Marshall	Section 7, Lot 8198, Grids V-24
Quartermaster General of the Army Montgomery C. Meigs	Section 1, Lot 1, Grids N-32
Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, USN	Section 8, Lot S-15, Grids X-8
General of the Armies John J. Pershing, USA	Section 34, Grave S-19, Grids U-12
Admiral David D. Porter, USN	Section 45, Lot 1, Grids S-35
Major Walter Reed, USA	Section 3, Lot 1864, Grids T-16
General Philip H. Sheridan, USA	Section 2, Special Lot 1, Grids S-34
William H. Taft (27th President of the United States)	Section 30, Grave S-14, Grids YZ-39½
Tomb of The Unknown Soldier	Grids S-23
General Jonathan M. Wainwright, USA	Section 1, Lot 358-B, Grids KL-36

Administered by
Casualty and Memorial Affairs Directorate
Military Personnel Center
Department of the Army
Washington, DC 20310



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420

Unknown
@

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

May 9, 1985

Dear Mr. Childress:

Per my conversation this morning with Ann Griffiths, she thought that you would be interested in receiving a copy of the enclosed "Year in Brief", which contains information about the VA's involvement with POW/MIA activities during 1984.

I hope you will find this information useful.

Sincerely,

LEO WURSCHMIDT
Executive Assistant to the
Deputy Administrator

Enclosure

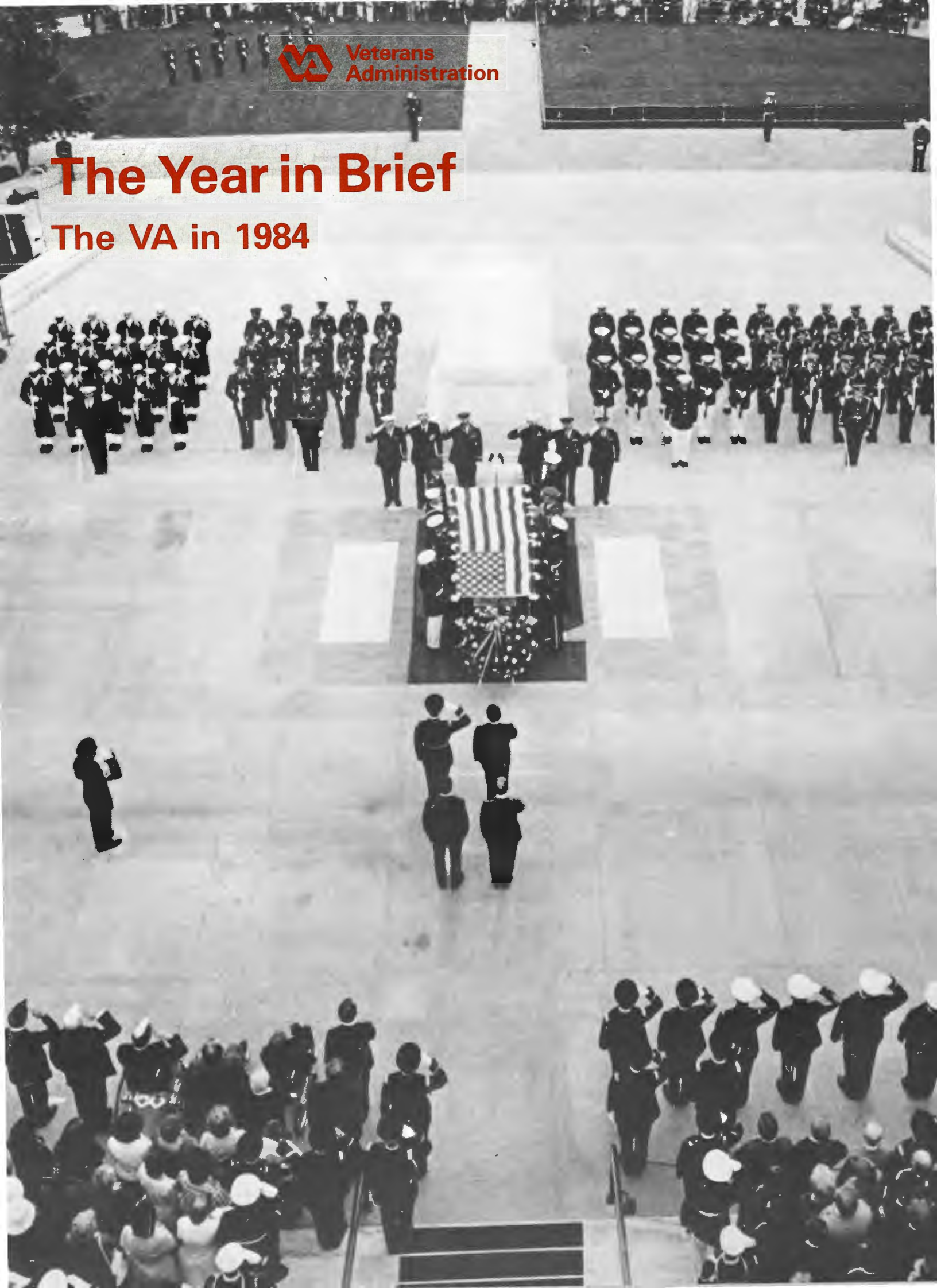
Mr. Richard Childress
National Security Council
Old Executive Office Building, Rm. 392
17th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20506



Veterans
Administration

The Year in Brief

The VA in 1984







In the Capitol Rotunda, President Reagan places a wreath before the remains of the Vietnam Unknown Serviceman

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front:

The Vietnam Unknown Serviceman is buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Day, 1984

Back:

The new marker for the Vietnam Unknown Serviceman lies between the markers for the Unknowns from World War II and the Korean conflict



Harry N. Walters
Administrator of Veterans Affairs



Everett Alvarez, Jr.
Deputy Administrator



A LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

My Fellow Americans:

In 1982, when President Reagan asked me to take the reins of the Veterans Administration, I accepted with one provision—that I would be the Federal Government's chief advocate of veterans and their needs. I have tried to live up to that challenge every day since then because I believe this country owes more to its veterans than a simple "thanks" for the sacrifice they have made in defense of our Nation.

We know the toll of war is not fully paid when the shooting stops. The demands exacted by war will only be fully accounted for when all that can be done has been done to heal the wounds and to compensate for the sacrifices of American patriots. And America owes recognition to its veterans for the leadership and patriotism they have brought back to their home communities and to our national institutions after answering the call to arms.

The purpose of the VA is to provide this recognition with dedication and compassion, and to provide it in a number of real and useful ways. This is what the VA is all about: making certain that services are in place to meet our veterans' needs and assuring that we deliver the best possible care and benefits to America's veterans in a compassionate and effective way. For the VA is, in many ways, the tangible expression of the respect Americans have traditionally shown the veterans who served and who stood between America and her enemies.

One of the greatest challenges facing the VA today is providing for the medical needs of our rapidly growing population of older veterans. In the years just ahead, we will see a virtual explosion in the number of veterans over the age of 65, from a level of 3.0 million in 1980 to 9 million in the year 2000. National health care policy decisions based on this changed clientele will profoundly affect the shape and structure of our Agency and its delivery systems. But the issue of an aging population is not an issue unique to the VA. It is an issue facing all of America.

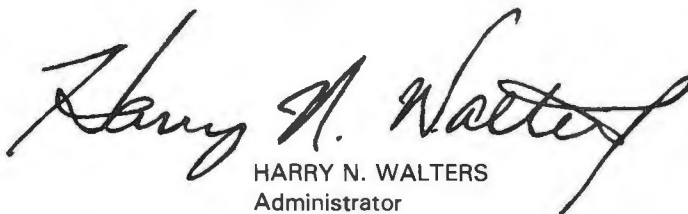
Meeting the needs of our aging veterans will require the use of thoughtful, innovative approaches as well as a careful and critical examination of our present delivery of services. To provide the quality medical care that our aging veterans deserve, we will also have to initiate new management techniques, whenever and wherever the need exists. With such innovation, not only can we improve the delivery of medical care, but we can more efficiently provide the wide range of benefits and memorial affairs services available to veterans.

This past year has been an important and an eventful one for the VA and for those whom it serves. I hope that the following stories and articles will at least briefly illustrate how the VA is committed to providing number one care—and number one service—to every eligible veteran who comes to our Agency.

For over the past year, I have been telling VA employees, veterans organizations, the Congress, the President, and the American people a message that I believe with my whole heart:

"America is #1 — Thanks to Our Veterans."

Sincerely,



HARRY N. WALTERS
Administrator

The POW/MIA Commemorative Medallion. (See story on p. 19.)



*The POW/MIA Commemorative
Medallion. (See story on p. 19.)*



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MISSION & GOALS



The mission of the Veterans Administration is to serve America's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and to be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive the care, support and recognition earned in service to this Nation.

Medical

TO ENSURE that quality medical care is provided on a timely basis within the law to all authorized veterans.

Benefits

TO ENSURE that an appropriate level of benefits is provided within the law to eligible veterans and beneficiaries.

Memorial Affairs

TO ENSURE that the memorial affairs of eligible veterans are appropriately provided for and conducted in a dignified manner which recognizes the honorable status of veterans.

Leadership

TO SERVE as the leader within the Federal Government on all matters directly affecting veterans and their families and to be their advocate in representing their just needs.

Human

TO ENSURE that the people of the Veterans Administration receive quality leadership, adequate compensation, decent working conditions, necessary training and education, equal opportunity, and earned recognition.

Management

TO PROVIDE timely, high quality health care, benefits, and services to veterans and their families as efficiently as possible.

ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Robert G. Heitz

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

Elizabeth H. Long

CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

David M. J.

CHIEF BENEFITS DIRECTOR

Anthony J. Vascotto

CHIEF MEMORIAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Paul J. Brown

America is #1 Thanks to our Veterans



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INJURY CURE RESEARCH

THE CORD SOCIETY 1100 UNIVERSITY AVENUE



CURE NOT CARE



SUPPORT SPINAL CORD
INJURY CURE RESEARCH



MEDICAL

To ensure that quality medical care is provided on a timely basis within the law to all authorized veterans.

The VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery operates the largest health care system in the United States. The department is responsible for a nationwide network of 172 hospitals, 227 outpatient clinics, 105 nursing homes, and 16 domiciliaries to provide outstanding medical care for the Nation's more than 28 million veterans.

In addition to running this nationwide health care system, the department carries out three other medical missions in support of national health care. These missions beyond patient care are providing medical education, promoting medical research, and serving as a contingency medical care system in the event of war or national emergency.

During FY 1984 approximately 1.4 million inpatients were treated in VA medical facilities. Outpatient medical and dental care amounted to 18.6 million outpatient visits.

Medical advances made during the year included the establishment of an open heart surgery program at the VA Medical Center in New Orleans, an important new diagnostic technique

developed by VA cardiologists, the adoption of a diagnosis-related group classification system, and the development of lighter and more flexible prosthetic devices for use by disabled veterans and the general public.

The department was especially proud of two of its female employees during the year. Vernice Ferguson, the VA's national chief of nursing programs, was awarded an honorary fellowship at the Royal College of Nursing in London. Dr. Millie Hughes-Fulford, a research chemist at the San Francisco VA Medical Center, was named by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a contender for a seat aboard the first space flight of an orbiting laboratory dedicated to life sciences investigation.

The Department of Medicine and Surgery, which employs more than 200,000 health-care personnel, is headed by Dr. John W. Ditzler, Chief Medical Director. Dr. Donald L. Custis, the former Chief Medical Director, retired in May. Dr. John A. Gronvall served as the Acting Chief Medical Director until Dr. Ditzler assumed his new duties in November 1984.

VA HEALTH CARE RATED HIGHLY

Patients in VA medical centers report a high level of satisfaction with VA health care in a nationwide patient-satisfaction survey recently completed.

Using scientific sampling techniques and safeguards to protect anonymity, the VA asked approximately 17,000 patients hospitalized in VA medical centers during 1983 to complete questionnaires covering important areas of patient care. Some 48,000 veterans who visited VA outpatient clinics were also surveyed.

The inpatients gave VA medical facilities favorable ratings in the areas of physician care, nursing care, cleanliness, food, attitudes and courtesy of staff, and the absence of "negative events," such as problems communicating with a doctor.

The lowest ratings were given in the areas of waiting times and emotional support. Some VA patients responded that waiting times for services were too long. However, some 67 percent of inpatients and 81 percent of outpatients were satisfied with waiting times. Patients also reported that they would like doctors and nurses to spend more time talking as well as listening to them.

These survey results compare favorably with the latest available data from private-sector patient satisfaction surveys conducted by Louis Harris and Associates in 1978 and George Gallup in 1977 and 1981.

Data from the "Survey of Aging Veterans," conducted by Louis Harris and Associates in 1983, also confirm results of the VA patient survey. Overall, veterans report a high level of satisfaction with the quality of care they receive from the Veterans Administration.

The results of the 1983 patient satisfaction survey have been summarized for each VA medical facility, and detailed information has been provided to local VA management to show how patients at their medical centers and outpatient clinics view the care they are receiving from the VA.

Since the first VA patient satisfaction survey was conducted in 1974, the process has proved effective in encouraging patients to express their opinions and offer suggestions about VA health care. The data also have been valuable in comparing hospital performance and identifying areas for improvement.



John W. Ditzler, M.D.
Chief Medical Director

HEARING ON PROSTHETICS RESEARCH

In May the VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery made a presentation on its prosthetics research before a hearing of the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

The VA's witnesses, led by the Agency's Assistant Chief Medical Director for Research and Development, Dr. Hollis Boren, were directors of rehabilitation research programs and investigators from around the country.

The consensus was that the VA witnesses did an outstanding job with their testimony and that the various devices which were demonstrated functioned very well.

The following comments on the history of the VA Prosthetics Service from Congressman Bob Edgar opened the hearing:

"I don't believe that many people are aware of the tremendous contributions VA medical researchers have made in the field of prosthesis and rehabilitation. Toward the end of World War II, battle casualties began returning to the United States at the rate of 1,200 per day. The public was appalled at the plight of those who had lost limbs in the service of their country.

"In November of 1945, General Omar N. Bradley became the Administrator of Veterans Affairs. One of his first acts was to establish the prosthetic appliance service. The need to find new and improved prostheses for GI amputees launched the medical research program which established the VA as a world leader in medical and prosthetic research.

The need for such devices is greater than ever, according to testimony from Dr. John Gronvall, the VA's Acting Chief Medical Director.

The disabled veteran population consists of more than 150,000 amputees, 50,000 veterans with spinal cord injuries, 180,000 hearing-impaired veterans, and 60,000 visually-impaired veterans or blind veterans.

"Although we are not now in a combat situation, the disabled population continues to grow as the veteran population ages," Dr. Gronvall stated. "The mission of our Rehabilitation Service is



Examining the ski sled for paraplegics

to improve the quality of life of these increasing numbers of impaired, disabled, and handicapped veterans."

Among the devices for which the VA witnesses gave "show and tell" presentations at the hearing were the robotic arm, the omni-directional electronic wheelchair, the talking braille teacher, the myoelectric upper limb prosthesis, the ski sled, and the sports bike.

All the devices were developed by VA researchers and rehabilitation specialists.

Many witnesses at the hearing considered the most remarkable demonstration to be that of functional electronic stimulation, which can be used to restore function to paralyzed upper and lower limbs.

For example, a quadriplegic patient may have some gross control of his arms, but always loses the grasp function of the hand. Researchers at the Cleveland VA Medical Center (VAMC) and Case Western Reserve University have implanted electrodes into the forearm of a quadriplegic veteran. These electrodes allow the veteran to perform routine tasks, such as picking up a pencil or a cup of coffee.

Cleveland researchers have also implanted electrodes in the legs and hips of paraplegic veterans. Before the implant, these veterans could not stand or walk: they were confined to a wheelchair. The new electrodes allow the veterans to stand up and even to walk away from their wheelchair.

As their muscle strength improves,

these veterans will even be able to climb a few stairs and be much more independent—thanks to the research and the efforts of VA prosthetics specialists.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Recreational sports for the handicapped, the aging, and the able-bodied are an important part of the VA medical program. Several years ago the VA established the National Wheelchair Games, which are open to both veterans and nonveterans, and last year the VA instituted the Annual Golden Age Games for aging veteran patients. These were sponsored at various VA medical centers around the country.

In addition to a sports bike, the VA has developed a ski-sled for paraplegics. The ski-sled allows participation in a winter sport that often has been out of reach for the disabled. These and other related VA programs help give the public at large an expanded concept of the abilities of the handicapped or aging.



Randy Hendrick, the Wheelchair Division winner in the VA's first Annual Heart Health Run

NATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 1984 National Music Festival for the VA's hospitalized and outpatient veterans was held in May in Washington, D.C. This festival provides an opportunity for hospitalized and outpatient veterans of the VA's medical system to show off their talents and accomplishments in music.

Every year each VA medical facility is encouraged to conduct a local music competition through its recreation service. The most outstanding performers in the local festivals are judged by the regional music coordinator, who in turn sends videotapes of the regional winners to the national chairperson for



A participant in the National Music Festival

judging. Some of the eight categories of competition are religious music, jazz, country Western and blue grass, and folk music. After the national winners are picked, these talented musicians gather in Washington to perform in the National Music Festival, which is sponsored by the VA Central Office.

This VA special program gives recognition to the talents of the men and women who have served in the Nation's armed forces and are a part of the VA medical community. It is committed to improving the quality of life of disabled veterans and to increasing public awareness of their abilities.

The 1984 national festival was a segment of the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. The program coordinator was Tina Haynes of VAMC Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and organizations which assisted the VA in sponsoring the musical celebration included the Veterans Bedside Network, the Music Performance Trust Fund, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

NURSING CHIEF HONORED

Vernice Ferguson, R.N., F.A.A.N., the VA's national chief of nursing programs, was one of four nurses who received the Royal College of Nursing Fellowship in London, England, in 1984.

The fellowship, awarded to non-British nationals only in rare instances, is granted in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of the science and art of nursing. The three other recipients this year are from England.

In announcing Ms. Ferguson's honorary fellowship, the Council of the Royal Col-

lege said that this selection of a non-British national was merited because of her "outstanding example of innovative leadership, not only within the nursing profession in the United States, but in other countries as well, which has set a standard for others to follow."

As the VA's Deputy Assistant Chief Medical Director for Nursing Programs, Ms. Ferguson is responsible for clinical, administrative, educational, and research activities of more than 34,000 registered nurses, 9,600 licensed practical nurses, and 19,000 nursing assistants. She has received numerous honors from American nursing and medical institutions and associations for her accomplishments in the profession. Sixteen years of her career have been spent in the VA's health-care system.

NEW DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUE DEVELOPED

A new diagnostic technique that could eliminate the need for coronary bypass surgery for thousands of patients has been developed by cardiologists at the Ann Arbor, Michigan, VA Medical Center and the University of Michigan Medical School.

The new technique, which is described in the January issue of the *American Heart Journal*, enables doctors to obtain such precise measurements of the heart's blood supply that they can determine immediately whether the patient will require bypass surgery or whether the blocked arteries can be reopened by the simpler, non-surgical procedure known as balloon angioplasty.

Robert A. Vogel, M.D., chief cardiologist at the VAMC and head of the research team, said about 200,000 persons undergo coronary bypass surgery each year. He said that about 20-25 percent of these patients might benefit from the simpler procedure, in which a balloon is inflated inside the artery to spread the artery walls and restore blood flow to the heart.

In addition to being far less costly than bypass surgery, angioplasty is also much less traumatic. Results are immediate, and recuperation is measured in days rather than weeks.

Another advantage is that if angioplasty is the treatment of choice, it can be performed immediately: the balloon is simply inserted through the catheter already in place for the diagnostic procedure.

The new diagnostic technique uses computer imaging, which was developed for bringing back pictures from space, to enhance X-ray movies of

the blood flow in patients with coronary artery disease.

According to Dr. Vogel, because computer enhancement brings out details not visible to the naked eye, "We can measure the flow of blood to the patient's heart and determine instantly, artery by artery, whether the obstructions are significant, causing a patient's chest pain or other symptoms.

"With these measurements, we can tailor therapy to each patient based on the condition of his or her arteries," he added.

The system is currently in routine use at the Ann Arbor VAMC and is being installed in University of Michigan hospitals as well.

VAMC "PLANT LADY"

When the patients and staff of the Butler, Pennsylvania, VA Medical Center talk about their "plant lady," they're talking about a petite, energetic, humorous octogenarian, volunteer Florence Castilyn, who is one of thousands of volunteers at VA medical centers across the country. For 25 of her 35 years as a volunteer in Butler, Florence has been in charge of the plant room in voluntary service.

At first, the "plant lady" brought cuttings from home and propagated them. Soon, others were donating plants, and Florence potted, transferred and delivered 20 plants a week to the long-term-care patients of Butler. "It gives them something to take care of," says the silver-haired lady. Florence admits to no formal training in horticulture but says she learned as she worked. Yes, she talks to the plants. "It's not what you say to them," explains Ms. Castilyn with grin. "They just need the carbon dioxide you exhale."



Florence Castilyn

America Remembers!



National

**POW
MIA**

Recognition Day July 20, 1984

BENEFITS

To ensure that an appropriate level of benefits is provided within the law to eligible veterans and beneficiaries.

No nation in the world shows its gratitude more to those who have served honorably in its military forces than the United States. This gratitude is conveyed in large part by the Veterans Administration through its benefits delivery system.

The Department of Veterans Benefits, through its benefits counselors at more than 200 locations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Republic of the Philippines, is usually the veteran's first contact with the VA.

Since 1977 the responsibility for administering the Agency's benefits services has rested with the Chief Benefits Director Dorothy L. Starbuck. Included are monthly compensation payments to those with service-connected disabilities; pension payments to needy wartime veterans and their survivors; death benefits; home loan guarantees; vocational rehabilitation and counseling; insurance coverage; educational training; and employment assistance.

These obligations required over \$ 16 billion of the Agency's total \$26 billion



Dorothy L. Starbuck
Chief Benefits Director

budget during fiscal year 1984. Compensation and pension payments constituted about 83 percent of this outlay: more than 51 million checks totalling nearly \$14 billion were issued to veterans and their dependents for compensation and pension.

Some 4.3 million checks totaling more than \$1.4 billion were issued to veterans and their dependents for educational benefits. And over 1.1 million payments totaling about \$223 million were received on VA guaranteed home loans.

Recipients included more than a score of men who saw service during the Spanish-American War era (1898-1902) and some 130 dependents of deceased veterans of the Indian Wars (1817-1898) and the Civil War (1861-1865). Average age of the Spanish-American War veterans is 103, the oldest being 110.

The department's honor roll also includes 250 holders of the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award for valor. Over the years, nearly 90 of these veterans have returned to civilian life to assume positions with the Veterans Administration. Twelve of the 15 employed by the VA today hold positions in the Department of Veterans Benefits, including the director of one of its 58 regional offices.

An estimated 35 percent of the Nation's population--82.3 million people--are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services. Included are 28.0 million veterans, 51 million family members, and 2.4 million survivors of deceased veterans.

Almost 19 million persons visited or telephoned VA offices for information and assistance. More than 5 million calls were received through toll-free telephone service to regional offices.

Intensive outreach programs seek former prisoners of war, women veterans, the elderly veteran, and the educationally disadvantaged veteran. Personal visits to residences and a national telephone hot line for former POW's are examples of efforts taken to assure that these veterans receive their full entitlements to VA benefits and services.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

On April 13, 1984, President Reagan signed Public Law 98-262, designating July 20, 1984, as National POW/MIA Recognition



On POW/MIA National Recognition Day, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Clark of Davenport, Iowa, place a floral wreath in honor of their son Jerry, an Air Force pilot who was reported missing in action on December 15, 1965

Day. On this day, the President called upon all Americans "to join in honoring all former American prisoners of war, those still missing, and their families who endured uncommon sacrifices on behalf of this country."

In response to the President's proclamation for recognition of these

veterans, the VA engaged in a three-month planning effort to ensure the successful accomplishment of Recognition Day goals.

The VA fully participated and cooperated with the Department of the Navy (executive agent for this year's Recognition Day National Ceremony) and the White House in planning the ceremony hosted by President and Mrs. Reagan on the South Lawn of the White House on July 20. The VA identified and submitted the names and addresses of some 450 former POW's, veterans organization representatives, and interested and supportive citizens for inclusion on the President's invitation list, and actively participated in the planning for the ceremony itself.

The VA published and distributed more than 100,000 copies of the official poster for this event (designed by VA artist Thomas M. Nielsen, who also designed the POW/MIA Commemorative Medallion), as well as almost 68,000 copies of the Presidential proclamation. These were distributed to VA and military installations, public libraries, veterans organization posts, government agencies and private groups, and individuals throughout the Nation. The poster has generated considerable interest, and numerous requests have been received from all across the country for additional copies.

In response to a personal request by VA Administrator Walters, U.S. Postmaster General William F. Bolger agreed to have the posters and proclamations displayed in all the Nation's postal facilities, thus significantly heightening public awareness and recognition of former POW's and MIA's.

In addition, on July 20 Mr. Walters spoke on the subject of POW's and MIA's at the annual convention in Washington of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. He also spoke on that day at formal ceremonies at the U.S. Postal System headquarters inaugurating a Recognition Day cancellation bar to be used each year to cancel first-class mail on this occasion.

Ceremonies honoring former POW's, the MIA's, and their families were conducted at most VA facilities and regional offices.

A REHABILITATION STORY

David D. Bridges was 20 years old when he fell from the bridge of a Navy ship. The accident left him in a coma for 10 weeks. He sustained a basilar skull fracture, severe pelvic fractures, and other injuries. The VA subsequently rated



David D. Bridges

Mr. Bridges 100 percent service-connected disabled.

After more than a year's hospitalization at the VA Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Mr. Bridges was enrolled in VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Program. Counseling psychologist Woodrow Courtney of the Muskogee Regional Office outlined an intensive neuropsychological rehabilitation regime.

Highly motivated and helped by a supportive family, Mr. Bridges began to make progress. He entered a hotel maintenance work program sponsored by the Holiday Inns of Oklahoma City and the Menninger Clinic of Topeka, Kansas. Awareness of his difficulties increased, and he became more comfortable in social situations.

Now a full-time employee, Mr. Bridges has an excellent record. He is expected to make almost a complete recovery, largely due to the assistance of the VA and its dedicated employees.

MIA FAMILIES HONORED

The families of 41 North Carolina servicemen listed as missing in action in Southeast Asia received commemorative medals in an emotionally charged ceremony at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro, North Carolina, on July 23, 1984. The commemorative bronze medal presentation was authorized last year when Congress approved an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization Act of 1984.

The ceremony was one of the first of its kind in the Nation honoring the missing servicemen from all branches of the military. The VA regional office in Winston-Salem and the Office of U.S. Representative James Broyhill of North Carolina coordinated and organized the ceremony. Mr. Kenneth E. McDonald,

Director of the regional office, made opening remarks on the program and introduced the distinguished guests. More than 300 people attended to watch the Congressional delegation present the medals to the families.

A special address was given to the audience by Captain Eugene "Red" McDaniel, USN, Retired. Captain McDaniel, who was himself a POW in a Hanoi prison for more than 6 years, told the family members of those who are missing, "If I were still among the missing, I would want someone to say to my family: 'America appreciates your sacrifice. America appreciates your years of waiting--of wondering if your man is dead or alive. America appreciates the stand your family made in the on-going battle between freedom and Communist enslavement. America will not forget the price you paid and continue to pay in the battle ... Your sons and your husbands and your fathers are not forgotten.'"

The MIA families led a standing ovation for the 82nd Airborne Division "All American" Chorus from Fort Bragg when the chorus performed "America the Beautiful" and "I Believe." After the ceremony, the crowd assembled outside the base theater and watched as four Phantom jets buzzed overhead across cloudy skies to salute the MIA's with a "Missing Man" flyover.

VETERAN HELPS VETERAN

The VA's work is made easier when people in the community care enough to lend a helping hand. In Greenwich, Connecticut, it was simply a matter of one Vietnam veteran helping another.

Glenn Ankton lost both legs below the knee, the victim of a Viet Cong landmine. Al Repicci returned from Vietnam unscathed. Mr. Ankton had no interests, specialized skills, or direction. Dr. Repicci was graduated from dental school and began orthodontic practice.

Following a visit to the Hartford Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center, Dr. Repicci



Glenn Ankton at work

invited Mr. Ankton and other veterans to his office to acquaint them with the work of an orthodontic technician. With Dr. Repicci serving as Mr. Ankton's mentor, the Hartford Regional Office's Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Division sponsored Glenn's training at the Great Lakes Orthodontic Laboratory in Buffalo, New York. The Greenwich Dental Society awarded Mr. Ankton a scholarship. Following graduation, he was hired by an Enfield, Connecticut, firm.

Mr. Ankton credits much to the VA's rehabilitative services. Extended a hand of friendship by Dr. Repicci, Glenn Ankton now has his own hand extended, seeking to make others aware of this VA program.

GI BILL MARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The 40th anniversary of the GI Bill was a cause for reflection on the impact this program has had on the lives of millions of American men and women.

The original GI Bill legislation, signed by President Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, established a program that changed the concept of adult education in this Nation. A Korean conflict GI Bill became effective in 1952, and the current program, enacted on June 1, 1966, is scheduled to continue through December 31, 1989.

"This 40-year record of achievement underlines the value the GI Bill has been for veterans and the Nation," noted Administrator Walters.

More than 18 million persons have received some form of training with GI Bill assistance. Included are almost 8 million World War II veterans, 2.4 million Korean conflict veterans, and 8 million Vietnam era veterans and active-duty service personnel.

SENIOR VETERAN HONORED

In August employees of the Winston-Salem, North Carolina, VA Regional Office honored Laura M. Nell on her 102nd birthday, for at that time she was the Nation's second oldest living female veteran. Miss Nell was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, on August 4, 1882. She died in November 1984.

Like Louella Luhrman, the oldest female veteran, Miss Nell was an Army nurse during World War I. Mr. Kenneth McDonald, Director, presented Miss Nell with a birthday card signed by 300 employees of the regional office.

Miss Nell began working for veterans



Mr. Kenneth McDonald presenting a card and a gift to Miss Laura Nell on her 102nd birthday

groups in York, Pennsylvania, in 1919, and later she worked for the VA. A disability forced her to retire from the VA in 1943. Among the founders of the American Legion following World War I, she always remained enthusiastic about strong veterans organizations.

POW HOT LINE SOLVES PROBLEMS

A veteran who had been a prisoner of war during the Korean conflict called the VA's Hot Line with a problem. He said he had a terminal illness and was seeking his military medals because he wanted to give them to his grandson. The veteran said he had requested the medals from the Army two years before and that his follow-up efforts had been to no avail.

VA Counselor Leon Sanchez, sensing the depth of the veteran's concern, located the application and explained the urgency



VA counselors in Washington who answer the POW National Hot Line

of the request. Telephone calls followed to Department of Defense offices in Washington, St. Louis, and Philadelphia. Mr. Sanchez' persistence was rewarded in the mailing of the medals to the veteran within one week.

The POW Hot Line [800-821-8139] was installed in Washington as an additional means of outreach to former prisoners of war. Requests from 80 percent of the callers are answered immediately.

Others require referral to field stations, where the veterans and their families are assisted by POW coordinators.

The counselors handle about 40 calls daily. A consumer sampling revealed a high degree of satisfaction by callers. The fact that this favorable reaction is shared by the veterans service organizations indicates the usefulness and success of the POW Hot Line.

VA OFFERS TIPS WHEN MORTGAGE PROBLEMS ARISE

The recent upturn in the economy should provide good news for some veteran homeowners who have been unable to meet their mortgage obligations due to layoffs or reduced employment. However, the Veterans Administration is aware that borrowers who will not immediately be able to resume working may be among those who need more time to fully reinstate delinquent home mortgages.

The VA continues to stress the importance of personal contact between homeowners who have fallen behind in their payments and their lenders. If additional assistance is necessary, the VA offers financial counseling and tries to arrange reasonable repayment schedules with mortgage holders when the borrower has been unable to do so.

VA representatives are actively participating in community and regional efforts to develop and implement plans to prevent unnecessary home loan foreclosures. This includes working with lenders to encourage forbearance and to ensure that mortgage holders are aware of the various options they have for assisting homeowners under VA regulations.

The VA is also in contact with state and local agencies which provide assistance in finding jobs for borrowers or which can aid with making direct mortgage payments.

Veterans who are behind in their mortgage payments and are unable to obtain further forbearance from lenders are urged to contact the nearest VA regional office.



MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

To ensure that the memorial affairs of eligible veterans are appropriately provided for and conducted in a dignified manner which recognizes the honorable status of veterans.

The Department of Memorial Affairs is charged with administering the interment benefits of veterans.

The department's basic missions include maintaining the National Cemetery System; purchasing and delivering headstones and markers for graves of veterans in national cemeteries, and, on request, in private cemeteries; and making grants to states for state veterans' cemeteries.

The department, under Chief Memorial Affairs Director Paul T. Bannai, made a record 47,000 interments in FY 1984. Some 235,000 headstones and markers were ordered this year, the third highest number in history. The department also awarded a \$680,000 grant to Connecticut for a state veterans' cemetery and a \$1.4 million grant to New Jersey for a similar facility.

On September 30, 1983, the 10th anniversary of the transfer of the National

Cemetery System to the VA from the Department of the Army was celebrated.

The National Cemetery System dates back to 1862, during the Civil War. President Lincoln that year authorized the establishment of national cemeteries "for soldiers who shall die in the service of our country." Twelve cemeteries were established. The Union Army reinterred 300,000 Civil War remains in the national cemeteries, which were established at combat areas, near Army hospitals, and adjacent to Confederate military prisons.

In 1933, President Hoover authorized the transfer of a number of national cemeteries from the War Department to the National Park Service. And in June 1973, Congress authorized the transfer of 82 national cemeteries from the Army to the VA. This action brought the total number of cemeteries under the VA's jurisdiction at that time to 103. With the transfer also came a mandate for the VA to establish new regional cemeteries.

At present, there are 500,000 available gravesites in the developed areas of national cemeteries. Undeveloped areas of these cemeteries have a potential of 3.5 million additional gravesites. To date, some 1.7 million interments have been made in national cemeteries.

Of the VA's 109 national cemeteries, located in 40 states and Puerto Rico, 62 are open to new interments and 42 will remain open well beyond the year 2000.

While 47 national cemeteries are closed to new interments, burials continue to be made of family members in the same gravesite or in reserved gravesites.

In recent years, donated land has enabled several national cemeteries to expand, including Florence National Cemetery in South Carolina, Bath National Cemetery in New York, Barrancas National Cemetery in Florida, and Wood National Cemetery in Wisconsin.

UNKNOWN VIETNAM SERVICEMAN IS BURIED

On Memorial Day the Veterans Administration played an important role in historic ceremonies surrounding the burial of an unknown Vietnam serviceman at Arlington National Cemetery.

Administrator Walters led the contingent of national commanders from veterans service organizations who represented members of the family of the Unknown. They followed immediately behind the cortege as it journeyed from the U.S. Capitol to Arlington past crowds estimated at 250,000.

Earlier, Administrator Walters; Deputy Administrator Alvarez, serving as an honorary pallbearer; and the Director of the VA Chaplain Service, Simeon Kobrinetz, were among those who met the plane bearing the Unknown's remains when it arrived at Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Washington, D.C.

All three also participated in the observances held in the Capitol Rotunda and again at funeral and interment services in Arlington.

In dramatic ceremonies at Arlington's Memorial Amphitheater, President Reagan bestowed the Nation's Medal of Honor on America's last Unknown. This service was attended by most of official Washington, national leaders of veteran and patriotic organizations, and the military and diplomatic corps. Those attending heard the President eulogize the Unknown as symbolizing "all our missing sons." As he awarded the Medal of Honor the President said "Thank you, dear son, and may God cradle you in his loving arms."

The Unknown was buried with full military honors at the Tomb of the Unknowns beside his fallen comrades from World Wars I and II and the Korean conflict. President Reagan received the burial flag



Paul T. Bannai
Chief Memorial Affairs Director

and presented it to Mr. Ray Costanzo, superintendent of the U.S. Army's Arlington National Cemetery, for permanent display.

VA OPENS FORT RICHARDSON

The U.S. Army's Fort Richardson Post Cemetery in Alaska opened as the Veterans Administration's 109th national cemetery on May 29, 1984.

The ceremonial transfer of the cemetery took place during Memorial Day activities at Fort Richardson. VA Chief Memorial Affairs Director Paul T. Bannai accepted the cemetery, which had previously been reserved for active duty military personnel and their families. The post cemetery, which has some 700 gravesites available and 19 acres of contiguous land, will provide grave space well into the next century. Alaska's other national cemetery is located at Sitka.

The transfer of the land was made possible through the cooperation of the Department of the Interior and of Eklutna Village, Inc., in yielding its native claim and legal rights to the land.

AMVETS DEDICATES CARILLONS

AMVETS dedicated carillons to two national cemeteries during the past year, one at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Pennsylvania and one at the Salisbury National Cemetery in North Carolina.

The carillon for Indiantown Gap was dedicated on May 5. The presentation was made by Mr. Robert Wilbraham, AMVETS National Commander. Chief Memorial Affairs Director Paul T. Bannai accepted on behalf of the VA and the cemetery.

Deputy Administrator Everett Alvarez gave the dedicatory address. About 400 persons attended the program, including officials and dignitaries from the armed forces, veterans organizations, and state and local government.

The carillon donated to the Salisbury National Cemetery was dedicated on July



VA officials at dedication of carillon at Indiantown Gap

21. The main speaker was U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, and the master of ceremonies was Mr. Dante Spagnolo, Past National Commander of AMVETS. Mr. Wilbraham again made the presentation, and DMA Director of Ceremonies and Special Activities Donald M. Skinder accepted the carillon from Mr. Wilbraham on behalf of Mr. Bannai.

IN-GROUND INURNMENTS INCREASING

The practice of in-ground inurnment of cremated remains continues to be very popular in the VA National Cemetery System, especially in those national cemeteries on the West Coast.

In recognition of this, the garden niche concept was implemented some time ago, which allowed four previously closed California National Cemeteries to re-open for the inurnment of cremated remains. During FY 1984, Fort Rosecrans National



Garden niches being prepared

Cemetery interred 357 cremated remains using 273 in-ground cremain sites, Los Angeles 249 interments using 206 gravesites, San Francisco 146 interments using 117 gravesites, and Golden Gate 396 burials using 254 in-ground cremain sites.

Although the number of potentially available garden niches at these cemeteries has not been determined, it is assured that there are capabilities to provide this service to veterans and their dependents for many years to come.

AMVETS HONORS SKINDER

DMA Director of Ceremonies and Special Activities Donald M. Skinder was selected to receive the 1984 AMVETS Silver Helmet Civil Servant of the Year Award. This honor had previously gone to Chief Benefits Director Dorothy L. Starbuck.

The presentation was made at a banquet on March 31, 1984, in Washington, D.C. According to AMVETS, General of the



Administrator Walters presents the 1984 AMVETS Silver Helmet Award to Donald Skinder

Army George C. Marshall was the first recipient. In recent years the awards have been given to recognize excellence and outstanding accomplishment in the fields of Americanism, defense, rehabilitation, Congressional service, civil service, and peace.

Nominations for the Silver Helmet Awards originate with individual AMVETS members and AMVETS posts around the country and are endorsed by the respective state AMVETS honors and awards committees prior to the national convention in August.

The National Honors and Awards Committee, composed of all Past National Commanders and the last five "AMVETS of the Year" recipients, reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the national convention, which determines the recipients.

VETERAN ENDS 3,000-MILE RUN

Vietnam veteran Chris Hayden of Montrose, Colorado, completed his cross-country "Run For Life" in Washington in July 1984. Hayden, who began his four-month run in California, said he did it to encourage veterans "to get on with their lives" and replace the trauma of the past "with goals for the future."

Chief Memorial Affairs Director Paul Bannai represented Administrator Walters at a ceremony honoring Mr. Hayden.



Paul Bannai greets Chris Hayden near the Mall in Washington, D.C.

CIVIL WAR UNKNOWN RECOGNIZED AT JOHNSON'S ISLAND

On May 9, 1984, nearly 122 years after his death while incarcerated in the Confederate Stockade on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie near Sandusky, Ohio, a Civil War veteran has had his grave properly marked.

An unknown headstone for grave # 147 was replaced with one bearing the inscription: Tobias Raines, 1st Lt., Co. C, VA Inf. 46, 12-13-1862.

Mrs. Pauline Raines Eaton, the veteran's great-granddaughter, discovered the location of her great-grandfather's grave while pursuing her family genealogy. With the assistance of DMA Monument Service, the Philadelphia National Cemetery Area Office was able to properly mark the grave.

DMA ASSISTS WITH OLYMPIC TRADITION

As the Olympic torch made its way through the United States for its planned arrival in Los Angeles, the Department of Memorial Affairs contributed to the pageantry of the event. To better impress their students with the spirit of the Olympics, teachers in an Annapolis, Maryland elementary school decided that each of the school's 350 students would line the street and wave an American flag as the Olympic torch made its way through the city.

To make this possible, the cemetery caretaker at Annapolis National Cemetery volunteered the use of grave-decorating flags for the celebration after getting quick approval from Baltimore National Cemetery Director Clark Newhouse.

Annapolis National Cemetery is an historic four-acre cemetery with approximately 3,000 veterans and dependents interred there.

NEW PANEL MEMBER

The first black woman in American military history to attain the rank of general has been appointed to the VA Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials by VA Administrator Harry Walters.

Retired U.S. Brigadier General Hazel W. Johnson-Brown joins 11 previously appointed committee members on the 12-person panel.

Established by law, the committee provides the Administrator of Veterans Affairs with advice on the administration of

national cemeteries, the adequacy of Federal burial benefits, and the selection of national cemetery sites.

"Her concern for veterans and their next-of-kin enables Gen. Johnson-Brown to make her presence known on a committee whose members represent a broad base of experience in veterans' affairs and cemetery management," Mr. Walters stated.

QUANTICO COMPLETES THIRD INTERMENT SHELTER

Quantico National Cemetery in Virginia recently built its third interment shelter, the first one to be constructed by cemetery employees.

In the past, personnel working in the gravesite area were required to cease



Cemetery employees build interment shelter at Quantico National Cemetery

operations during services because of the close proximity of the other two shelters. The new shelter will not only accommodate more people than the other two shelters, but it is in a more serene and secluded location, away from the gravesite area, allowing the interment unit to continue working while committal services are being conducted.

The first service in the new shelter was held on April 18, 1984. The shelter has generated many compliments from families, clergy, and funeral directors.

"SEABEES" COME TO CEMETERY'S AID

Chapel tents for gravesite services have been replaced with a permanent committal shelter at Barrancas National Cemetery, thanks to the help of sailors from the adjacent Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida.

"Seabees" from Construction Battalion 402 volunteered their services to build a canopied, concrete-based shelter as a per-



Committal shelters built by cemetery labor at Puerto Rico National Cemetery.

manent spot for gravesite gatherings at the cemetery.

In the past, chapel tents were set up at various sections of the cemetery for interment services. The need for the shelter surfaced after an unusually high number of mourners attended the burial of a serviceman killed in Lebanon.

The service took place in heavy rain, turning the committal service area into a quagmire. After discussing the shelter with Naval officers, the cemetery bought the materials and the construction unit offered its labor.

Cemetery Director Raymond B. Shuppert presented a VA Certificate of Appreciation to the unit commander.

COLUMBARIA AVAILABLE

While the garden niche method for interring cremated remains has helped DMA increase its interment rate, interments in columbaria continue to provide veterans with an alternative form of burial.

Although DMA policy now prohibits the construction of columbaria for the above-ground burial of cremated remains, five national cemeteries, all of them regional, have functioning columbaria. These cemeteries, which accounted for more than 500 interments during FY 1984, are Willamette National Cemetery (Portland, Oregon); Riverside National Cemetery (Riverside, California); Massachusetts National Cemetery (Bourne, Massachusetts); Calverton National Cemetery (Calverton, New York); and the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Honolulu, Hawaii).

The only other columbarium in the system is at the Los Angeles National Cemetery; however, it is closed to new interments.



Vietnam Veterans of the Year: David Dechant, Frank Lumpkin, Wayne Miller, and Hank Berkowitz



Ileen Isaacson and her new computer terminal



VA employees learning how to use their modern Information Technology Center



LEADERSHIP

To serve as the leader within the Federal Government on all matters directly affecting veterans and their families and to be their advocate in representing their just needs.

HUMAN

To ensure that the people of the Veterans Administration receive quality leadership, adequate compensation, decent working conditions, necessary training and education, equal opportunity, and earned recognition.

MANAGEMENT

To provide timely, high quality health care, benefits, and services to veterans and their families as efficiently as possible.



In addition to providing medical care, benefits, and memorial affairs services to our Nation's veterans and their dependents, the Veterans Administration also has a much broader goal: to serve as the government's official spokesman for the veteran.

In March 1865, one month before his death, Abraham Lincoln recognized society's obligation to the Nation's veterans as he called on Congress and the American people "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." The VA continues to grant Mr. Lincoln's request

that women and minorities are treated fairly, to award employees who merit special recognition, and to enhance the abilities and skills of all.

The VA's innovative and imaginative management techniques also help to ensure that the Agency's many employees are using their talents in the most efficient and creative manner. The VA is recognized as a leader in government management innovations: it combines the experience of more than 50 years of managing the Nation's largest medical system and veterans' benefits totaling billions of dollars, with manage-

LEADERSHIP/HUMAN/MANAGEMENT

as the Agency articulates the needs of our Nation's veterans for the Congress, the President, and the American public.

The VA is the largest of all independent Federal agencies: the VA is run by more than 242,000 employees who represent varied backgrounds, needs, and goals.

The Agency develops, adapts, and administers progressive personnel policies to ensure that the talents of these employees are used, to accommodate handicapped employees, to make cer-

tain that women and minorities are treated fairly, to award employees who merit special recognition, and to enhance the abilities and skills of all.

ment training programs that incorporate the latest methods from government, business, and the Nation's universities. The very size of the VA requires that the Agency be managed with the utmost efficiency. For example, in FY 1984 the VA issued more than 2.4 million checks worth over \$2.7 billion to 300,000 vendors for supplies and services. Also, some \$440 million was paid on over 1,400 construction contracts, and total payroll costs for the more than 242,000 employees were \$5.7 billion for the year.

POW/MIA COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION

A VA employee has designed the POW/MIA commemorative medallion that will be presented to 2,490 relatives of American service members listed as prisoners of war or missing in action in Southeast Asia. Mr. Thomas Nielsen, who served in the Navy during the Vietnam era, designed the three-inch bronze medal. Mr. Nielsen, an artist and design professional at Central Office in Washington, designed the medal at his home as a voluntary project.

The original idea to design the medal came from Mr. Jerry Yates, a VA employee who during 1984 was detailed to ACTION. In 1983 he had asked Mr. Nielsen to come up with a possible design for the medal. Mr. Yates showed the resulting design to members of Congress and his efforts were successful: the medal was approved as a FY 84 Defense Authorization Act amendment introduced by Senator Robert C. Byrd.

"Last year, as I looked over the long list of the names of the missing, I became convinced that Congress should reaffirm its commitment to them," Senator Byrd said. "I could think of no more fitting way to do this than by striking a commemorative medal. This medal will be an enduring symbol of America's recognition of the distinguished service and sacrifice of those missing in Vietnam."

On July 21 Senator Byrd presented the first medal to Col. Earl P. Hopper, USA, Retired, who was then the chairman of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. Col. Hopper's son, Lt. Col. Earl Hopper, Jr., USAF, was listed as missing in action after his F-4 fighter plane was shot down over Vietnam on January 10, 1968.

The front design of the medallion depicts an eagle surrounded by the bamboo of Southeast Asia. Although a captive, the eagle retains a sense of dignity and pride and a spirit of freedom. The back design is inscribed with the slogan, "You are not forgotten." Under these words is a depiction of the Vietnam Service Medal lying on a mantel, issued, but not yet claimed by its owner.

VIETNAM VETS SEMINAR

Although the Vietnam era technically ended in May 1975, "Vietnam is still very much with us," according to a veteran in a panel discussion held as



Dr. Arthur Blank addresses a seminar on post-traumatic stress and the Vietnam veteran

part of a seminar on "Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and the Vietnam Veteran." The seminar, which was held in VA Central Office in August, made VA personnel more aware of the psychological problems that are still frequently faced by Vietnam veterans.

The role of the Vet Centers in helping veterans deal with these and related problems was also discussed. Vet Centers, which are run by the VA's Readjustment Counseling Service, were established as the result of a 1979 public law which was enacted to assist veterans who served in the military from 1964-75. The law mandated that facilities be created for readjustment counseling under the administration of the VA.

The seven panelists provided ample evidence that the need for the Vet Centers definitely still exists. They gave moving personal testimonies about a whole range of problems facing Vietnam theater veterans, including alcohol and drug abuse, employment difficulties, marital problems, and chronic identity crises. A particular problem stressed by several of the panelists is a complete loss of emotion, including lack of feeling for family members. A black veteran said that many black soldiers fighting in Vietnam felt a sense of identity with the enemy and that these black veterans are still suffering from guilt, confusion, and other painful repercussions of this identity conflict.

Although these or similar problems are sometimes faced by people in the general population, Vietnam veterans say that the complexity and the horrors of their experience in Vietnam, as well as the alienation they felt upon returning to the United States, are directly responsible for the intense problems that they still must deal with today. The

Vet Centers provide a place for these veterans to get together and discuss their common difficulties and to receive assistance from professional counselors.

The members of the panel, which included a female nurse as well as the wife of a Vietnam veteran, agreed that the Vet Centers have helped them enormously. One panelist said that since his return from Vietnam, he had repressed all emotions and was just now, with the help of his local Vet Center, beginning to experience a whole range of normal feelings. "But," he claimed, "it's hell being a 40-year-old teenager." Another panelist, who was not contradicted, added, "All of us here would say that the Vet Center is the most important thing that has happened in our lives since Vietnam."

Dr. Arthur S. Blank, Jr., the Director of the VA Readjustment Counseling Service, added that "Vet Centers and the VA are leading the way in healing the wounds of war." However, according to the panelists, many of their own painful but invisible wounds, as well as those of other Vietnam theater veterans whom they know, still remain, waiting to be healed. All the other panelists nodded in agreement when one veteran claimed, "It's not over yet for any of us."

NEW VA HEAD CHAPLAIN

Rabbi Simeon Kobrinetz, Deputy Director of the VA's Chaplain Service, has been appointed by VA Administrator Walters to be the new Director of



Rabbi Simeon Kobrinetz
Director of the VA Chaplain Service

Chaplain Service for the Agency. He succeeds Father James B. Martin, who retired.

Chaplain Kobrinetz, a 54-year-old New York City native, brings a wealth of experience in pastoral ministry to his new position. Ordained as a rabbi in 1954 at Yeshiva University in New York City,

Rabbi Kobrinetz was later commissioned in the U.S. Air Force chaplain service.

A graduate of Yeshiva and Columbia University, Rabbi Kobrinetz received his Doctor of Divinity degree in 1982 from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

He has served as national chaplain of AMVETS and the Jewish War Veterans, and from 1976 to 1978 was national president of the Military Chaplains' Association. He currently serves as commissioner of the B'nai B'rith Commission on Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs and as volunteer chaplain of the Washington, D.C., Police and Fire Departments.

He also serves as a chaplain in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains in the U.S. Air Force, where he recently was promoted to Brigadier General USAFR.

Rabbi Kobrinetz assumed his new position of Director, VA Chaplain Service on January 1, 1984. He is the tenth chaplain chosen for that position and the second Jewish rabbi since the VA Chaplaincy Service was established August 1, 1945. He leads 506 full-time chaplains and 503 less than full-time chaplains, as well as 222 contract or fee basis chaplains.

VIETNAM VET OF THE YEAR

In ceremonies held last November, the Washington branch of the Vietnam Veterans Civic Council presented its Vietnam Veteran of the Year Award to Mr. Wayne L. Miller of Silver Spring, Maryland. Mr. Miller served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam, and in 1969 he was awarded the Purple Heart for having received a serious wound which required the amputation of a leg.

Mr. Miller received the Vietnam Veteran of the Year Award for having put forth "tremendous personal efforts in behalf of handicapped children, adults, and the community." Mr. Miller is a coach and physical education instructor for handicapped children at the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute in Washington. In addition to performing other volunteer services for handicapped children, Mr. Miller works with the Special Olympics program and is a volunteer skiing instructor with the National Handicapped Sports and Recreation Service. He is a life member of DAV, the American Legion, and other veterans organizations.

The award was presented by Mrs. Essie Morgan, Director of the Washington, D.C., VA Regional Office, and by Mr.

Carlos Garza, Chairperson of the Vietnam Veterans Civic Council. Also receiving Honorable Mention Awards were Messrs. J. David Dechant, Frank W. Lumpkin, and Hank D. Berkowitz, all of the Washington metropolitan area.

The Vietnam Veterans Civic Council is an advisory committee of the Washington VA Regional Office Director. Its purpose is to promote the concerns of Vietnam era veterans in areas of employment, education, health, and welfare. Representation on the council is drawn from various Federal, state, and local agencies, educational institutions, private enterprise, and civic and social service organizations.

EMPLOYMENT SEMINAR

In April in Washington, D.C., Disabled American Veterans sponsored a day-long seminar designed to assist veterans seeking employment. Participating were representatives of the Veterans Administration, Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management, Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, ACTION, and local and state employment services.

The seminar put members of these and other groups into one building to assist veterans who were seeking employment and job assistance. Testing, counseling, and instruction in techniques for interviewing and for writing resumes were provided to the several hundred veterans who attended. They were also provided job referrals, and follow-up services were arranged based on the individual needs of the veterans.

In many cases, more intensive counseling was scheduled through the VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Division, a branch of the Agency that is committed to helping veterans find the employment that is best suited to their needs and abilities.



Veteran being assisted at the DAV Employment Seminar

VA RECOGNIZES SENIOR FEMALE VETERAN

A woman believed to be the oldest female veteran in the United States celebrated her 102nd birthday in late



Louella Luhrman, at 102 the oldest living female veteran

1983 at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Palto Alto, California (Menlo Park Division).

Miss Louella Luhrman, a World War I veteran, entered the U.S. Army in 1918 as a registered nurse. On her birthday, December 8, she was guest of honor at a party given by staff and patients at the medical center's nursing home care unit. In a message to Miss Luhrman, Administrator Walters sent congratulations and best wishes "on behalf of a grateful Nation."

VA records at the end of the fiscal year indicate the oldest male veteran is 110-year-old Harry Chaloner of Florida. Mr. Chaloner is a veteran of the Spanish-American War and also fought in World War I.

VETERANS APPEALS

The Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), located at Central Office in Washington, gives veterans and other claimants a second chance on their claims for benefits. Responsible for reviewing claims of veterans who have been turned down at the regional office level, the board processed nearly 43,000 appeals in 1984--a record since the peak years following World War II and the Korean conflict. In the same period, regional offices resolved another 28,000 appeals. At the end of FY 1984, there were about 61,000 appeals in process. For the first time in a decade, the number of appeals pending at the end of a year

was lower than at the start of that year.

Along with the reduction in the backlog of pending appeals, there was an associated drop in response time. Actual time for the average appeal--from notice of disagreement to BVA decision--was below 450 days. This was about the level in 1981, and down more than 50 days from the peak of 499 days in 1983.

Allowances--final decisions whereby veterans prevailed in their claims for benefits after initial denial by field offices--rose to about 17 percent at the BVA during 1984. At the regional office level the allowance rate in final determinations was steady at slightly less than 29 percent. Combining final determinations of field offices with those of the board shows that more than 22 percent of all appeals ended with favorable results for veterans.

As special categories of appeals emerge, the board assigns jurisdiction over them to one or two sections. In this way the staff is able to gather research material, participate in seminars and other professional meetings, and develop expertise in reviewing and resolving such appeals. Presently the BVA treats appeals involving former prisoners of war (ExPOW), Agent Orange, radiation, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as special category cases. In fiscal year 1984 the board saw a leveling off of new appeals in these areas. There were approximately 750 ExPOW appeals, 530 PTSD, 330 Agent Orange, and 200 radiation cases. These numbers were nearly the same as for 1983.

By adding two sections--numbers 20 and 21--during 1984 the BVA was able to reduce the total number of appeals in process by about 5,000. At year's end there were approximately 46,000 appeals in process in field stations and 15,000 at the board. With an apparent leveling of new appeals, the BVA expects to cut into its backlog of appeals even further in 1985.

50 YEARS IN THE VA

In the fall of 1984, Ileen Isaacson, a management analyst in the Office of Information Management and Statistics, observed her 50th anniversary of working for the Veterans Administration. Miss Isaacson, who has spent all 50 years working in the Central Office in downtown Washington, began working as a stenographer for the VA in November 1934.

Miss Isaacson says that life in Washington was very different in those days. She lived for several years with a

family on Capitol Hill, and she says, "They never locked their doors day or night. No one needed to then." She once met President Franklin Roosevelt when he gave a garden party at the White House for VA employees and shook hands with all those who attended.

For the past several years Miss Isaacson has been reviewing and processing education regulations before they are sent to the Administrator for his approval. "The regulations are very interesting," she says, "but there are so many of them, and they move so fast these days. But," she continued, "I must be interested in what I have been doing, or I would not have stayed here all these years."

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

In April President Reagan signed a proclamation declaring the week of May 5, 1984, as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. In the proclamation, he called upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The VA did its part to observe the contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans to the richness of contemporary American society. During the noon hour throughout the week, the Central Office



Dr. and Mrs. A.J. Singh celebrate at Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week

presented a program with the theme, "Asian-Pacific Americans Serving Our Nation's Veterans." Administrator Harry Walters delivered the keynote speech at the opening ceremony. During the week there were demonstrations of Hawaiian folk dances and Korean martial arts. Also films were shown on the history and culture of various countries including India, Bangladesh, China, the Philippines, Korea, and Micronesia.

During the closing ceremony all the participating VA employees, representing many cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, gathered together to sing "God Bless America."

BUILDING DEDICATIONS

During FY 1984, a number of dedication ceremonies were held upon the completion of construction projects. These events frequently are significant



Dedication of the Little Rock VA Medical Center

milestones for the local community, including participation on the part of the facility staff, veterans organizations, VA Central Office, and local and national leaders.

Included were dedications of a 505-bed hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas; a clinical improvement research and education wing in Gainesville, Florida; a clinical addition in Biloxi, Mississippi; a clinical addition in Fayetteville, Arkansas; a 120-bed nursing home in Coatesville, Pennsylvania; modernization of and addition to the 60-bed nursing home care unit in Wichita, Kansas; a 120-bed nursing home care unit in Ann Arbor, Michigan; and a 677-bed replacement hospital in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Vice President George Bush was a participant in the dedication of the new Little Rock VA Medical Center.

TEAGUE AWARD

Dr. Gustav Rubin, chief of the Special Prosthetic Clinic Team, VA Prosthetic Evaluation Testing and Information Center, New York City, received the 1984 Olin E. Teague Award. The award was presented by Administrator Walters



Dr. Gustav Rubin, Mrs. Olin E. Teague, and Mrs. Rubin

in a ceremony in Central Office.

Dr. Rubin was chosen from nominations received from VA facilities around the country in recognition of his talent in solving difficult prosthetic and orthotic fitting problems, including the design of new devices when standard approaches are not satisfactory.

The award is named for the late U.S. Representative from Texas who was Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for 18 years. It recognizes outstanding achievements that have been extraordinarily beneficial to the rehabilitation of war-injured veterans.

Dr. Rubin, who has published widely, lectures at New York University Postgraduate Medical School and the New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Dr. Rubin was also honored as The Physician of the Year by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

QUALITY OF VA DESIGN CITED

The VA has one of the largest inventories of historic properties of any Federal agency. Some are former military posts, such as Fort Harrison, Montana (VAMC Ft. Harrison), and Fort Whipple, Arizona (VAMC Prescott), whereas some are of outstanding architectural quality, such as the VAMC's at Mountain Home, Tennessee; Bay Pines, Florida; and Canandaigua, New York.

Historic preservation laws require Federal agencies to be sensitive to the qualities that make a property historic in all planning and design. The VA's Office of Construction is meeting this requirement; its architects have received public recognition for the sensitivity of their designs to historic values.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in a recent report to the President and the Congress cited the Office of Construction's design for an ambulatory care addition at VAMC Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The VA was commended for the successful integration of contemporary architecture with the historic buildings.

Other projects receiving high marks in preservation design include the recently dedicated ambulatory care addition at VAMC Bath, New York, and the nursing home proposed for VAMC Alexandria, Louisiana.

VA SPACE SHUTTLE CANDIDATE HONORED

Citing her VA research as helping to pave the way for a possible seat aboard the January 1986 space shuttle, Administrator Walters presented a "great



Dr. Millie Hughes-Fulford addresses the VA's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

expectation" award to Dr. Millie Hughes-Fulford on February 8 when she was in Washington to brief the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans on her specialty.

A research chemist at the San Francisco VA Medical Center, Dr. Hughes-Fulford was recently named by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as one of four scientists who will vie for two payload specialist seats aboard the first space flight of an orbiting laboratory dedicated to life sciences investigation. Once the final selection is made, two of the four candidates will fly, and the other two will serve as flight alternates and as members of a mission management and science team on the ground.

The 38-year-old native of Mineral Wells, Texas, joined the San Francisco VA Medical Center as a research chemist in 1973. She is a specialist in cholesterol and prostaglandins—the fatty acids important to human muscle contraction. The Spacelab is planning to study 20 major projects, among which are cardiovascular changes in space and mineral loss in bones. Animals to be used on board the Spacelab include rats, primates, and frogs.

Dr. Hughes-Fulford, who received her doctorate from Texas Woman's University, first applied for the Spacelab position in 1979, and she has dreamed of being an astronaut since she was eight years old. When she was asked if she thought she was chosen because she is a woman, she remarked: "I don't consider it odd or different at all...I think I'm a good scientist!"

CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Robert H. Kline, a management analyst in the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation at the Central Office, has completed a 9-month Congressional Fellowship with the 98th Congress. Nominated for the program by the VA Administrator, Mr. Kline was one of 15 Federal Fellows selected by the American Political Science Association to participate in the program during the 1983-84 fellowship year. Mr. Kline was the first VA employee to be selected for the program.

During the fellowship, Mr. Kline served initially as a professional staff assistant to Senator David Pryor of Arkansas and then served in a similar capacity with Congressman Vin Webber of Minnesota. Mr. Kline's assignments primarily included legislative research and constituent services. He also chaired an exchange program that provided young Canadian leaders with an opportunity to visit the U.S. Congress.

PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM

Carolyn Wong, an analyst in the Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, was selected to represent the Veterans Administration as an instructor in the Presidential Classroom for Young Americans, an intensive educational program held annually in Washington, D.C. The program attracts senior high school students who are high scholastic achievers and who share an intellectual curiosity about the United States Government and its political system. The selected students represent their schools and communities across the Nation and abroad.

The student participants meet leaders of the three branches of government, the news media, the diplomatic corps, and public interest groups. The opportunity allows the participants to observe leadership styles and to assess the knowledge and opinions of these leaders. The seminars cover national



Robert Kline and Carolyn Wong

issues concerning arms control, defense strategies, American education, diplomacy, labor trends, business outlook, foreign policy, judicial review, wealth, poverty, and the media.

Faced with regional differences and similarities, the participants discuss how the national issues affect themselves or their communities. Instructors facilitate small group discussions by integrating their knowledge of government along with the knowledge and opinions of seminar speakers and student participants. The instructors also assist the groups in reaching a consensus on the definitions of the issues and solutions.

The program also exposes instructors to a diverse group of their peers and provides the opportunity for increasing their knowledge of the government and its political system. The instructors are Civil Service or U.S. military personnel, or Presidential Classroom alumni.

VA OPENS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER

In January 1984, the VA Central Office opened an Information Technology Center (ITC) to teach VA employees how to use personal computing technology to improve their efficiency and effectiveness. The VA's ITC, one of the first in government, differs from other information centers because it offers a "full-service" approach, providing a complete range of personal computing facilities and services.

In addition to attending training sessions and demonstrations, employees receive valuable hands-on experience with microcomputers, computer graphics, office automation, and other basic time-sharing services at the center. The ITC provides computer literacy training geared to the needs of various employee groups, including executives, professionals, managers, and clerical support staff. In addition to training the computer novice, the ITC also offers advanced classes and technical support in specialized computer applications and software packages.

Other services provided by the ITC include consultation, technical assistance, and a library. ITC staff members can help VA offices select computer equipment and programs best suited for their needs, and assist with ordering, installing, and maintaining the equipment. The ITC's library contains current publications in the personal computing, office automation, and software fields, as well as information on new products available.

Employee response to the ITC has been

overwhelmingly positive. ITC services are used by an average of over 800 employees each month.

According to a recent survey, 78 percent of respondents used the ITC to complete projects, on the average, in half the time previously required. These significant time-savings result because employees are using the ITC's automated resources to accomplish tasks previously done by hand.

For example, a Department of Veterans Benefits employee previously needed two to three days to manually prepare a monthly report on veterans' educational benefits. By using the spreadsheet software available in the ITC, the same project now takes two hours. Using a microcomputer for this task can also eliminate the need for typing the final report figures.

In addition to time-saving benefits, the ITC offers new technology to improve the VA's visual presentation of data. VA employees are using the color graphics systems to produce a variety of maps, charts, and graphs in color. The visual presentation of data makes complicated data easier to understand, and simplifies the comparative analysis process. Staff members in the Office of Information Management and Statistics routinely use the color graphics equipment to produce a variety of reports, including veterans' employment statistics, for the VA, Congress, and the public.

The ITC's main objective is to encourage and enable VA employees to use the new technology to its fullest capabilities. Through the ITC, VA employees are applying the benefits of modern technology to the workplace, using their newly acquired skills to improve their efficiency and effectiveness on-the-job.

MIDDLETON AWARD

The 1983 Middleton Award--the VA's highest honor for biomedical research--was awarded on May 4, 1984, jointly to Dr. Norman Bell, of the VA Medical Center, Charleston, South Carolina, and Dr. Sydney Finegold, of the Wadsworth VA Medical Center, Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Bell is recognized for his work on vitamin D metabolism in health and disease. His discovery that the abnormal calcium regulation underlying a number of diseases was related to disordered vitamin D metabolism has contributed much to the understanding and treatment of such conditions as sarcoidosis, hypopara-



Dr. Norman Bell and Dr. Sydney Finegold receive the Middleton Award

thyroidism, pseudo-hypoparathyroidism, and vitamin D resistant rickets II.

The award to Dr. Finegold is in recognition of his numerous and important contributions to the field of anaerobic infections. He is considered by many to be the leading international authority on anaerobic bacteria--tiny organisms that can live only in the absence of atmospheric oxygen--and their role in human health and disease.

The Middleton Award is the highest honor given by the VA in recognition of outstanding achievement in biomedical research. It is named for the late William S. Middleton, M.D., who served as the VA's Chief Medical Director from 1955 to 1963. Although the award has been shared by co-researchers on three occasions, this is the first time, since its inception in 1960, that the award has been shared by two non-collaborative researchers.

FLEMMING AWARDS

Dr. Marguerite Kay, Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development at the Olin E. Teague VA Medical Center, Temple, Texas, and Dwight Wilson III, Nursing Home Care Unit Supervisor at



Arthur Flemming, Dr. Marguerite Kay, and Deputy Administrator Alvarez

the Palo Alto, California, VA Medical Center, were among the 10 outstanding Federal employees honored at the 36th annual Arthur S. Flemming Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The awards, sponsored by the



Dwight Wilson III

Downtown Jaycees of Washington, D.C., recognize young men and women in administrative or scientific positions who have performed outstanding and meritorious work for the Federal Government. The awards are named after Arthur Flemming, who served in the government under 6 U.S. Presidents and whose duties included those of Secretary of HEW, 1958-1961, and Chairmanship of the U.S. Commission on Civil rights, 1974-1981.

Dr. Kay was recognized for her achievements as a research scientist in the area of the aging process at the cellular level. Her extraordinary abilities in research design have led to the discovery of previously unknown facts concerning mechanisms of aging. These discoveries may result in treatment of many of the degenerative aging diseases.

She has published widely, both nationally and internationally, and her work is well respected worldwide. In addition to research accomplishments, Dr. Kay is a fully trained internist and has completed a two-year fellowship in geriatrics. She is also Associate Professor of Medicine and Head, Division of Geriatrics, at Texas A&M University College of Medicine.

Mr. Wilson was recognized for his leadership in assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating the quality health care delivered to a very challenging VA patient population. He has been the driving force of a large multidisciplinary team in improving the quality of life for the aging patient.

Among his outstanding achievements are the establishments of the Hospice and Respite Units at the Nursing Home Care Unit and a day care center for the older patients and their families. He is the author of a number of publications and has greatly expanded the educational programs of VA employees to improve the delivery of care to the aging veteran.

VADATS

The VA assumed management and operational responsibility for the General Services Administration's Advanced Record System on January 1, 1984. The VA renamed the system VADATS (VA Data Transmission System). This system is the VA's primary means of transmitting administrative messages and data communications. The VADATS network also supports twenty-eight other governmental agencies.

With VA facilities located in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, an efficient and cost-effective data communications network is essential to carry out the Agency's mission. To satisfy the expanding communication needs of VA departments and staff offices, an enhancement of the VADATS network is planned. Now that the VA operates its own communications system, it is possible to tailor the network to best meet Agency needs. The VADATS enhancement plans will be implemented in stages. The enhancements are designed to improve the speed and quality of VA communications as well as to take full advantage of VADATS' potential.

The VADATS network now provides direct message service covering thirteen time zones, from Manila to San Juan, and from Anchorage to Austin. For the first time ever, the Manila VA Regional Office (VARO) now has a direct VADATS connection. Prior to this, messages from the Manila VARO had to be relayed through a State Department Communications Center in Manila, and the San Francisco VARO.

The VA also succeeded in providing the Anchorage, Alaska VARO with its first direct connection to the VADATS network. A direct connection to VADATS significantly speeded response time to inquiries from these two regional offices, resulting in faster service for veterans and their families.

By the end of 1984, upgraded message communications terminal systems will be operating at all 250 VADATS sites. In addition to speeding message traffic, these replacement systems are flexible and can be configured to meet individual field station as well as Agency needs.

During fiscal years 1985 and 1986, the VA plans to further enhance VADATS to provide interactive real time data communications. At present, most data communications between VA stations and the Austin Data Processing Center are sent to the VADATS Message Switching Center, which stores and later forwards the data. In this computer age, the VA

needs a packet type telecommunication network which allows VA computers and terminals to "talk" to one another directly. The VA's present and future needs demand this type of network to enable departments and staff offices to share and exchange information contained in the Agency's various databases.

VADATS will eventually support most of the VA's near-term data communications needs. VADATS enhancement plans are designed to meet these needs. The ultimate goal for VADATS is to provide an efficient, high-quality, and cost-effective communications network for the Agency. Efforts to identify other uses of the VADATS network, to fully exploit its capabilities and reduce costs, will continue.

FEMALE VETERANS SURVEYED

In an effort to find the needs of the rapidly increasing female veteran population, in March 1984 the VA awarded a \$790,000 contract to Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., of New York to conduct a survey of female veterans.

The survey, which will be completed in early 1985, will poll an estimated



Dr. Nora Kinzer speaks at the VA Central Office Federal Women's Equality Day, August 27, 1984

3,000 female veterans nationwide to determine future needs. At present there are about 1.15 million female veterans, and that number is expected to grow to 1.26 million by the year 2000.

Information obtained from the survey will be used to plan for the future care of women veterans. The survey will focus on the specific needs and demographic projections of this particular group.

VA Administrator Walters, in announcing the contract, said the purpose of the survey is to provide information to the

VA which can be used to establish baseline data for the current population of female veterans — their knowledge of, attitudes towards, and usage of VA programs — and to estimate the future support needed for this expanding group of veterans.

The survey will consist of a random sample of personal interviews with women veterans. "Data from the survey will aid the VA in making policy decisions relating to current programs and for designing future ones," Mr. Walters said.

The survey will attempt to provide answers concerning the impact of increased demands of VA programs and benefits for female veterans.

A separate study of post-traumatic stress disorder and other readjustment problems among Vietnam era veterans will include female as well as male veterans. Study findings will assist the VA in planning for the future needs in this area.

Mr. Walters also indicated his support for a study, which is being considered by the Centers for Disease Control, on the possible effects of exposure to herbicides on women who served in the Armed Forces in Vietnam. This study has been proposed by the VA's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

PROCUREMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES STUDIED

The VA has contracted for a study comparing private sector practices with the VA's procedures for procuring and distributing approximately \$1.5 billion annually in medical supplies and non-perishable subsistence items.

A contract for the study has been awarded, and completion is scheduled for September 1985. The study will provide information and recommendations to the VA which can be used to:

- Determine and validate cost savings in the present system.
- Evaluate and compare the VA's system to methods in the private sector.
- Explore practical alternatives to the current system.

Currently, the VA centrally procures medical supplies, including pharmaceuticals, and distributes them to its 172 medical centers through three depots serving specific regions of the country.

Additionally, Federal supply schedule

contracts provide an alternative source for a wider selection of products. Under these contracts, VA medical centers place delivery orders directly to suppliers and delivery is made via established commercial distribution systems.

REDUCING FACILITY COSTS

A private architectural and engineering firm has been hired to evaluate architectural and engineering requirements for designing and constructing VA facilities. The emphasis of this major cost reduction study will be on changing present construction standards, specifications, and related requirements to reduce construction costs wherever these requirements are found to be unnecessary or excessive. All proposed changes will be screened to make certain that the recommendations will not reduce the current level of patient care and personal services. The study is expected to be completed in 1985.

COMMUNICATING WITH SIGN

A new employee hired in the cataloging division at the VA supply depot, Hines, Illinois, has a hearing and speech impairment which made communication with his co-workers difficult. The division chief consulted the experts at the VA Medical Center in Hines, Speech Pathology and Audiology Service, to find a solution to their communications problem.



Talking in sign language with deaf cataloger Robert Motyka (right) is co-worker Tom Faucher (left) while supervisor Charlene Vlach and co-worker Pat Miller (center) look on

As a result of the discussions, seven cataloging employees have been attending language classes to erase the communication gap. They have learned finger spelling, numbers, and different signs to enable them to communicate with the deaf cataloger, who enjoys helping his co-workers learn the "new" language. He has also been creating new signs to refer to the specific tools and terms used in cataloging.

Periodically, during the day and lunch periods, it is a very heartwarming sight to see the employees practicing the "new" language. This training has also served to emphasize the importance of communications in everyday life.

CPR SAVES A LIFE

"They saved my life!" That's how VA Central Office computer systems analyst John D. Smith describes the efforts of fellow analysts Richard McKay and Allan Bland. Mr. Smith suffered a



Allan Bland and John Smith practicing their life-saving skills on a dummy

massive heart attack and cardiac arrest in his office on December 28, 1983. Immediately recognizing the need for intervention, Mr. Bland and Mr. McKay began CPR, continuing this procedure until paramedics arrived and relieved them.

Mr. McKay called the successful resuscitation a "real team effort." He cited colleagues who called an ambulance, directed the paramedics to Mr. Smith, and drove his wife to the hospital. Mr. McKay attributed his co-workers' fast, unruffled response to the VA's active CPR training program.

Hospital physicians later advised Mr. Smith's wife that the combination of cardiac arrest and fibrillation is almost impossible to handle in a non-medical setting. They praised the efforts of the VA staffers, stating that CPR "made the difference" for Mr. Smith.

The VA actively promotes its CPR training program. Both Mr. McKay, an accredited instructor, and Mr. Bland

received their certification from VA CPR training programs.

Mr. Smith is now back at work in the Office of Data Management and Telecommunications, VA Central Office. Owing his life to CPR, Mr. Smith is a staunch supporter of the VA's CPR training program.

In recognition of their lifesaving efforts, Mr. McKay and Mr. Bland were awarded the Administrator's Commendation.

The American Heart Association also gave special recognition to these two skillful men who saved the life of their fellow employee.

SHARED PROCUREMENT

Shared procurement is a program initiated by the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense to combine the buying power of these two large agencies to purchase drugs and other medical supplies. The program has also been expanded to include Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

It is anticipated that this action will increase the volume of shared procurement contracts from the current level of \$337 million to approximately \$400 million.

The shared procurement contracts enable these agencies to purchase merchandise used in their effective central distribution programs.

A PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION

Under the auspices of the President's Partnership in Education program, the VA Central Office formalized its partnership with Washington, D.C.'s Eastern High School in a ceremony on May 3, 1984. Administrator Walters made a formal visit to the school to tour the facilities, meet some of the staff, and talk informally with students in the classrooms.

The VA task force for this program has expanded to more than two dozen members representing most departments in the Agency. Working with school staff to make sure that efforts meet real needs, the VA developed plans which provide a number of specific services to Eastern, including the provision of mentors, tutors, and academic coaches for gifted students, shadowing (employees hosting student observers), career development clubs, a toastmasters unit to prepare students for scholarship competition, teacher training in specialized areas, and tours of VA facilities.



Administrator Walters stands in front of Eastern High School

The school has a specialized magnet program for students throughout the area interested in health care professions.

Because the VA operates the country's largest medical care system, there is a natural relationship that can be developed for this program at Eastern High School. In the summer the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center provided training for Eastern students in pre-professional health care, and the school recruited volunteers for the hospital from among the student athletes in the summer tutoring program. The VA prepared a directory of educational opportunities from which Eastern High School staff could select those in which students are interested.

A number of VA facilities in the field (regional benefits offices, VA medical centers, and national cemeteries) have entered into partnerships at the local level across the country.

THE PRINCESS AND THE PRISONERS

Many regional offices hosted programs on July 20, proclaimed as POW/MIA Recognition Day for 1984. The Buffalo, New York, Regional Office coordinated impressive ceremonies aboard the U.S.S. *Little Rock* at the Buffalo Naval Servicemen's Park, attended by a number of Congressional, state, county, and city officials. At the Rock Island National Cemetery in Illinois, a touching wreath-laying ceremony by the family of a serviceman missing in Southeast Asia honored all MIA's. Many former

prisoners of war and their families were in attendance. And at Nashville, Tennessee, the services featured Princess Catherine Caradja of Romania, who in 1944 helped plan the release of 14,000 Americans from World War II prison camps in her country.

"We would have stayed in prison until the end of the war if it hadn't been for her," said veteran Roy Hooper of Nashville, one of the beneficiaries of her action.

Miss Caradja, who was an energetic 90 years old in 1984, has been closely linked to American veterans groups ever since she engineered the prisoner release after Romania ceased its alliance with Germany and joined the Allied forces in 1944.

She was able to get the prisoners released not through any official position she held, for she was not related to the ruling family of Romania, even though her aristocratic heritage dates back to the 15th century. She managed the feat of releasing the prisoners, she said, "through the strength of my tongue."

After the war Miss Caradja moved to Kansas City and has worked to see more than 300 of the American prisoners held in Romania reunited in a veterans association which sponsors get-togethers every year.

"Princess is an honorary title--it means nothing," according to Miss Caradja. But according to one former POW whom she assisted in getting out of Romania, she has an even more esteemed title. "She is the godmother of our POW association," said the grateful veteran.

FOREIGN BENEFITS TRAINING

The Washington, D.C., Regional Office conducted training for foreign service post employees from May 29-31, 1984. The training included presentations on compensation, pension, burial benefits, insurance and education



Foreign nationals at a training session at the Washington Regional Office

benefits. Also covered were claims processing and the proper completion of applications. The trainees are employees of the posts which provide assistance on all Federal benefits to those residing in their jurisdiction.

Although foreign beneficiaries account for a small percentage of the VA's total clientele, they have a much higher ratio of problems because of the greater degree of difficulty in communication. With no VA employees in Europe to provide assistance, Federal benefits units in the U.S. consulates bear much of the responsibility of providing information on VA benefits. The VA makes every possible effort to provide support to the consulate employees in this endeavor. These training sessions are one of the ways in which the VA tries to keep the Federal benefits employees up to date on VA programs and regulations.

In March a training session was also conducted in Frankfurt, Germany for Federal benefits personnel representing 23 foreign posts in Western Europe. Mr. Al Gavazzi, Director of the VAMC, Washington, D.C., represented the Department of Medicine and Surgery. Mr. Jim Fischl, Veterans Services Officer, Washington Regional Office, represented the Department of Veterans Benefits. The two-day sessions consisted of discussions on veterans benefits available to overseas beneficiaries and specific problems encountered in obtaining these benefits. Later that month, the same type of program was presented at the American Embassy in Athens, Greece.

BALTIMORE VBC GOLDEN EXAMPLE

Since breaking a high school record in the 440-yard run in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1959, Judy Smith has valued athletic competition and the sense of personal accomplishment it provides. During the intervening years, a period that included tours of duty in the Navy and a service-connected injury eventually resulting in wheelchair confinement, she lost neither her appreciation of sports nor her desire to participate.

This year, taking time off from her employment as a veterans benefits counselor at the Baltimore VA Regional Office, Judy journeyed to the VA Medical Center in Brockton, Massachusetts, to compete in the fourth annual National Veterans' Wheelchair Games. Limited to entering a maximum of seven competitions, she swept seven gold medals in events ranging from the discus to table tennis to freestyle swimming.



Judy Smith and her medals

After assisting veterans and dependents with the benefits and services offered by the VA, Judy returns home and spends two to three hours in physical training. She plans to devote even more time to swimming.

Judy Smith shares her doctor's opinion that athletics play a prominent role in rehabilitative medicine. Her performances in the Wheelchair Games reflect the achievement of other invaluable rewards that stem from desire, dedication, and accomplishment.

NEW VA OFFICES

The Office of Congressional Affairs was created by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs on September 24, 1981. Two years later the staff was enlarged to encompass intergovernmental affairs.

The Associate Deputy Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs serves as advisor to and functional manager for the Administrator and the Deputy Administrator on policies, plans, and operations related to the Agency's Congressional and intergovernmental programs.

Staff offices are located in Central Office, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) provides service to the Agency and to both Houses of Congress in matters concerning VA policies, programs, and legislative issues. It is the OCA's mission to develop and maintain a

cooperative and positive working relationship between the VA and the Congress.

The Senate and House Congressional Liaison Services provide veteran constituent casework assistance to members of Congress. Veterans frequently solicit the assistance of their elected officials regarding problems they may have with the VA.

Through caseworkers familiar with Agency programs and the veterans benefits delivery system, Congressional members and their staffs are personally assisted in resolving these problems.

The mission of the Intergovernmental Affairs staff is to develop, manage, and coordinate intergovernmental affairs activities for the VA. Liaison is maintained with Federal, state, and local officials, and interested outside organizations concerning VA programs and activities.

Also in 1984 the Office of Public and Consumer Affairs (OPCA) was reorganized in order to provide enhanced Agency ability to communicate with the variety of publics served by, and involved in, VA programs and services.

One major thrust of the reorganization was the consolidation of the OPCA field area offices into five new regional offices, the establishment of a field director in the VA Central Office, and realignment of staff to provide more efficient channels of communications and work flow.

One of the primary missions of the Office of Public and Consumer Affairs is to support the delivery of VA benefits and health care with a total communications concept. This involves dealing with mass and specialty media, Agency employees, veterans service organizations, educational institutions, professional societies, and other entities with a direct interest in the Agency or which have the ability to represent the VA to others.

The office also administers various Agency functions that provide for consumer contact and manages certain statutory responsibilities of the VA's 30 Federal advisory committees.

During FY 1984 efforts were made to increase the flow of public information on two major health concerns—the possible aftereffects of exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange, used in Vietnam, and the consequences, if any, for veterans who participated in nuclear weapons tests and in the aftermath of the World War II atomic bombing of Japan.



THE CHANGING VETERAN POPULATION

In 1980, the veteran population reached a historic high of slightly under 29 million; however, since then it has declined. In the past four and a half years, the veteran population has dropped by more than 600,000 to 28.0 million. This steady decline is expected to continue, so that by the turn of the century the total number of living veterans will be around 24.3 million.

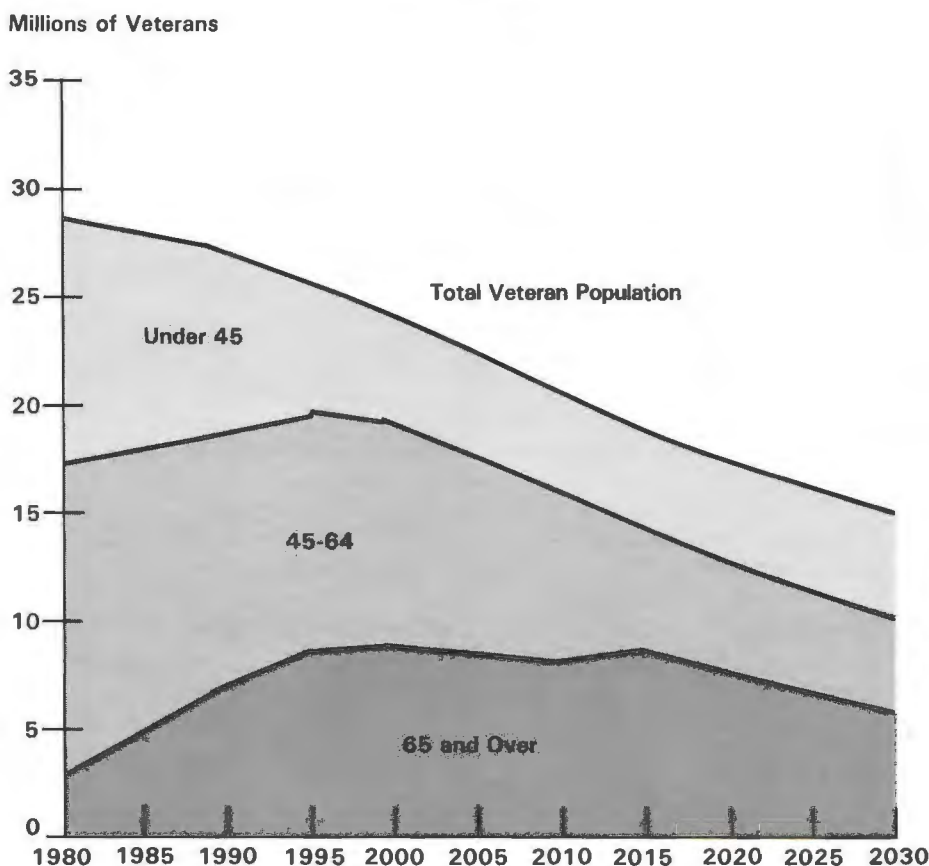
The declining veteran population, along with the associated changes in the age distribution, will impact significantly on the manner in which the VA addresses its missions and goals.

According to current VA studies and projections:

- One of every five males under 45 is a veteran.
- Veterans 65 years old or over number about 4.6 million, or 16.4 percent of the total veteran count. Those at least 75 years old now number over one million.
- The Nation's 10.7 million World War II veterans, representing 38 percent of the total veteran population, are expected to decrease to 5.4 million by the beginning of the 21st century.
- Through the year 2010 California is expected to remain the state with the largest veteran population and it will be the only state with a veteran population in excess of 2 million.
- Although the overall veteran population is on the decline, the female veteran population is slowly increasing. Female veterans, who currently number 1,163,000, are expected to increase to the 1.3 million mark by the year 2015.

The Nation is faced with a veteran population that is growing smaller but older. Although comprising only 4.1 percent of all veterans, the number of female veterans is on the rise.

THE AGING VETERAN POPULATION (1980 - 2030)



AGING VETERANS

The aging of the veteran population presents the VA with one of its greatest challenges. Addressing and meeting the special needs of this increasing group of veterans is already well underway. To better handle the task, the VA and the American public must fully understand the scope of the problem. Demographic information on the veteran population is a vital component of this process.

Veterans 65 years old and over now number 4.6 million; this number has in-

creased by 424,000 during the past year. The number of veterans 65 years old and older is expected to increase rapidly during the next 15 years and peak at 9 million by the turn of the century. This growth is a direct reflection of the advancement of World War II veterans into the older age groups.

As a group, veterans 75 years old or over are in the greatest need of medical care. Veterans in this age range now number over one million, and this number will

increase steadily until 2005 when it peak at 4.5 million.

Caring for our elderly female veterans is another special concern of the VA. Female veterans age 65 and over presently account for 22 percent of the total female veteran population. This proportion is expected to grow to one in three by 1995 when the number of female veterans 65 years old and over will amount to around 400,000.

SURVEY OF AGING VETERANS

In order to collect data to assist in planning for the large increase in aging veterans during the next 15 years, the Veterans Administration commissioned a national survey of aging veterans. Extensive and detailed data were collected on the health characteristics, socioeconomic status, and demographics of this population. The survey was conducted by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., using a nationally representative sample of about 3,000 veterans aged 55 and over.

According to the Harris report, the sampled veterans exhibit the following characteristics:

- Some 97 percent were men; 90 percent were white.
- Around 13 percent (1.5 million) said they must cut back on medical care because of cost.
- About 60 percent reported their health was good or excellent.
- However, one-third of those who cannot afford proper medical care reported they were in poor health.
- Surprisingly, younger veterans (55-64) exhibited a higher rate of incidence for many serious illnesses than the corresponding older cohorts (65 and over) did when they were younger.
- Some 46 percent (5.3 million) expect to apply for VA health care benefits in the next decade.
- VA hospital care is rated highly by a majority of veterans and is rated more highly than non-VA hospital care.
- Over half (52 percent) expect to have their burial site identified by a VA-supplied headstone or marker.
- Veterans have an advantage over nonveterans in the standard socioeconomic indicators such as education, income, and occupational status.

AMERICA'S WARS

(Veterans Administration Data Through September 30, 1984)

TOTALS

War Participants*
38,290,000

Deaths in Service
1,081,000

Living War Veterans
22,782,000

Living Ex-Servicemembers
28,027,000



AMERICAN REVOLUTION (1775-1784)
Participants 290,000
Deaths in Service 4,000
Last Veteran, Daniel F. Blakeman,
died 4/5/1869, age 109

WAR OF 1812 (1812-1815)
Participants 287,000
Deaths in Service 2,000
Last Veteran, Hiram Cronk, died
5/13/05, age 105

MEXICAN WAR (1846-1848)
Participants 79,000
Deaths in Service 13,000
Last Veteran, Owen Thomas Edgar,
died 9/3/29, age 98

INDIAN WARS (Approx. 1817-1898)
Participants 106,000
Deaths in Service 1,000
Last Veteran, Fredrak Fraske, died
6/18/73, age 101

CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)
Participants(Union) 2,213,000
Deaths in Service(Union) 364,000
Participants
(Confederate) 1,000,000**
Deaths in Service
(Confederate) 133,821**
Last Union Veteran, Albert Woolson,
died 8/2/56, age 109
Last Confederate Veteran, John Salling,
died 3/16/58, age 112

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898-1902)
Participants 392,000
Deaths in Service 11,000
Living Veterans 22

WORLD WAR I (1917-1918)
Participants 4,744,000
Deaths in Service 116,000
Living Veterans 250,000

WORLD WAR II (9/16/40 thru 7/25/47)
Participants 16,535,000^a
Deaths in Service 406,000
Living Veterans 10,700,000^b

KOREAN CONFLICT (6/27/50 thru 1/31/55)
Participants 6,807,000^{a, c}
Deaths in Service 55,000
Living Veterans 5,237,000^{b, d}

VIETNAM ERA (8/5/64 thru 5/7/75)
Participants 9,200,000^c
Deaths in Service 109,000
Living Veterans 8,263,000^d

FOOTNOTES:

- *Persons who served in more than one war period are counted only once.
- ^a1,476,000 served in WW II and Korean conflict.
- ^b1,022,000 served in WW II and Korean conflict.
- ^c887,000 served in Korean conflict and Vietnam era.
- ^d647,000 served in Korean conflict and Vietnam era.
- **Authoritative statistics for Confederate Forces not available. An estimated 28,000 Confederate personnel died in Union prisons.





Participants in America's Indian Wars

CHARACTERISTICS OF VETERANS

As a result of the 1980 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Bureau of the Census, the VA obtained a wealth of statistical information on the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the veteran population.

The 1980 Census yielded a great deal more data on individuals than just their veteran status. Much of this information cannot be secured through any other source, making the census an extremely valuable data base. Among the many items available from the 1980 Census were marital status, race and ethnicity, labor force status, income, as well as age, sex, and period of service. This section will discuss only a small amount of the vast body of information that is available.

Marital Status of Veterans by Sex

On March 31, 1980, almost 4 out of 5 male veterans were married. Less than 3 out of 5 female veterans were mar-

ried. While a female was only 75 percent as likely as her male counterpart to be married, she was 5 times more likely to be widowed.

The larger proportion of single female veterans must be kept in mind by VA planners as they anticipate future needs for medical care and benefits services. In the years to come, many of these women will more likely look to the VA for medical care and for various other types of assistance.

Labor Force Status of Veterans by Sex

The same percentage, 3.8 percent, of both male and female veterans found themselves unemployed on March 31, 1980. This, however, is where the similarity ends as regards employment and labor force status by sex. Whereas more than three-fourths of the male veterans were employed at that time, only about half of the female veterans

were employed. The remaining men and women were not in the labor force, i.e., students, housewives, retired workers, disabled persons, and others. Female veterans are about two and one-half times more likely to be in this category than are male veterans (46.4 percent vs. 19.1 percent).

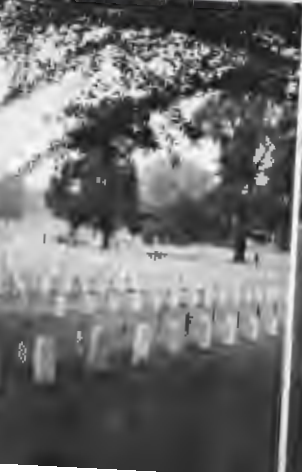
Educational Attainment of the Veteran Population by Sex

In comparison with male veterans, slightly more female veterans had completed high school (77.3 percent vs. 73.4 percent). However, more male than female veterans had graduated from college (9.6 percent vs. 8.3 percent), and male veterans were almost one and one-half times more likely than female veterans to have attended graduate school (9.2 percent vs. 6.5 percent).





VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER
DU PONT BY ADDISON
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA





Veterans Administration
Washington DC 20420

The Year in Brief
The VA in 1984
January 1985

Bomb

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 28, 1984

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
HONORING VIETNAM UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Arlington National Cemetery

2:15 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: My fellow Americans, Memorial Day is a day of ceremonies and speeches. Throughout America today, we honor the dead of our wars. We recall their valor and their sacrifices. We remember they gave their lives so that others might live.

We're also gathered here for a special event; the national funeral for an unknown soldier who will today join the heroes of three other wars.

When he spoke at a ceremony at Gettysburg in 1863, President Lincoln reminded us that through their deeds, the dead had spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, and that we living could only honor them by re-dedicating ourselves to the cause for which they so willingly gave a last full measure of devotion.

Well, this is especially so today, for in our minds and hearts is the memory of Vietnam and all that that conflict meant for those who sacrificed on the field of battle and for their loved ones who suffered here at home.

Not long ago when a memorial was dedicated here in Washington to our Vietnam veterans, the events surrounding that dedication were a stirring reminder of America's resilience, of how our nation could learn and grow and transcend the tragedies of the past.

During the dedication ceremonies, the rolls of those who died and are still missing were read for three days in a candle-light ceremony at the National Cathedral. And the veterans of Vietnam who were never welcomed home with speeches and bands, but who were never defeated in battle and were heroes as surely as any who have ever fought in a noble cause, staged their own parade on Constitution Avenue. As America watched them, some in wheelchairs, all of them proud, there was a feeling that this nation, as a nation, we were coming together again and that we had, at long last, welcomed the boys home.

"A lot of healing went on", said one combat veteran who helped organize support for the memorial.

MORE

And, then, there was this newspaper account that appeared after the ceremonies. I'd like to read it to you. "Yesterday, crowds returned to the Memorial. Among them was Herbie Petit a machinist and former Marine from New Orleans. 'Last night,' he said, standing near the wall, 'I went out to dinner with some other ex-Marines. There was also a group of college students in the restaurant. We started talking to each other. And before we left, they stood up and cheered us. The whole week,' Petit said, his eyes red, 'it was worth it just for that.'"

It has been worth it. We Americans have learned to listen to each other and to trust each other again. We've learned that government owes the people an explanation and needs their support for its actions at home and abroad. And we have learned, and I pray this time for good, the most valuable lesson of all -- the preciousness of human freedom.

It has been a lesson relearned not just by Americans but by all the people of the world. Yet, while the experience of Vietnam has given us a stark lesson that ultimately must move the conscience of the world, we must remember that we cannot today, as much as some might want to, close this chapter in our history, for the war in Southeast Asia still haunts a small but brave group of Americans -- the families of those still missing in the Vietnam conflict.

They live day and night with uncertainty, with an emptiness, with a void that we cannot fathom. Today, some sit among you. Their feelings are a mixture of pride and fear. They're proud of their sons or husbands, fathers or brothers who bravely and nobly answered the call of their country. But some of them fear that this ceremony writes a final chapter, leaving those they love forgotten.

Well, today, then, one way to honor those who served or may still be serving in Vietnam is to gather here and rededicate ourselves to securing the answers for the families of those missing in action. I ask the members of Congress, the leaders of veterans' groups and the citizens of an entire nation present or listening to give these families your help and your support, for they still sacrifice and suffer.

Vietnam is not over for them. They cannot rest until they know the fate of those they loved and watched march off to serve their country. Our dedication to their cause must be strengthened with these events today. We write no last chapters. We close no books. We put away no final memories. An end to America's involvement in Vietnam cannot come before we've achieved the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action. (Applause.)

This can only happen when their families know with certainty that this nation discharged her duty to those who served nobly and well. Today, a united people call upon Hanoi with one voice: Heal the sorest wound of this conflict, return our sons to America, end the grief of those who are innocent and undeserving of any retribution. The Unknown Soldier who is returned to us today and whom we lay to rest is symbolic of all our missing sons.

MORE

and we will present him with the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration that we can bestow.

About him we may well wonder, as others have. As a child, did he play on some street in a great American city? Or did he work beside his father on a farm out in America's heartland? Did he marry? Did he have children? Did he look expectantly to return to a bride?

We'll never know the answer to these questions about his life. We do know, though, why he died. He saw the horrors of war, but bravely faced them -- certain his cause, and his country's cause was a noble one: That he was fighting for human dignity, for free men everywhere. Today we pause to embrace him and all who served us so well in a war whose end offered no parades, no flags, and so little thanks.

We can be worthy of the values and ideals for which our sons sacrificed -- worthy of their courage in the face of a fear that few of us will ever experience -- by honoring their commitment and devotion to duty and country. Many veterans of Vietnam still serve in the armed forces, work in our offices, on our farms, and in our factories. Most have kept their experiences private. But most have been strengthened by their call to duty.

A grateful nation opens her heart today in gratitude for their sacrifice, for their courage, and for their noble service. Let us, if we must, debate the lessons learned at some other time. Today, we simply say with pride, thank you dear son. May God cradle you in His loving arms.

We present to you our nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for service above and beyond the call of duty -- in action with the enemy during the Vietnam era.

Thank you.

END

2:25 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 25, 1984

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT CEREMONY FOR VIETNAM UNKNOWN SOLDIER

The Rotunda
The Capitol

Washington, D.C.

3:07 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: An American hero has returned home.
God bless him.

We may not know of this man's life, but we know of his character. We may not know his name, but we know his courage. He is the heart, the spirit, and the soul of America.

Today, a grateful nation mourns the death of an unknown serviceman of the Vietnam conflict. This young American understood that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. He may not have wanted to be a hero, but there is a need -- in the Iron Triangle, off Yankee Station, at Khe Sanh, over the Red River Valley.

He accepted his mission and did his duty. And his honest patriotism overwhelms us. We understand the meaning of his sacrifice and those of his comrades yet to return.

This American hero may not need us, but surely we need him. In Longfellow's words:

So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

We must not be blind to the light that he left behind. Our path must be worthy of his trust. And we must not betray his love of country. It's up to us to protect the proud heritage now in our hands, and to live in peace as bravely as he died in war.

On this day, as we honor our unknown serviceman, we pray to Almighty God for his mercy. And we pray for the wisdom that this hero be America's last unknown.

END

3:10 P.M. EDT

THE
UNKNOWN
SERVICEMAN
OF THE
VIETNAM
ERA

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THE UNKNOWN
SERVICEMAN
OF THE
VIETNAM ERA

by
William M. Hammond



Center of Military History
United States Army
Washington, D.C., 1985




On Memorial Day, 28 May 1984, the remains of the Vietnam Unknown were laid to rest beside the Unknowns of World War I and II and Korea at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Foreword

On Memorial Day 1984, the Unknown American who lost his life in the service of his country during the war in Vietnam joined the Unknowns from World War I, World War II, and the Korean War in Arlington National Cemetery. Representing the more than 57,000 servicemen and women who died or are still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, the hero was accorded a state funeral befitting the Nation's Great and presented the Medal of Honor by the President of the United States.

The following word-and-picture history depicts the planning and execution of the Vietnam Unknown's final journey. All branches of the military cooperated in the preparations with the Department of the Army as the executive agent for the Department of Defense. The arrangements for the interment ceremonies at Arlington were handled by the Military District of Washington.

It is my hope that these honors have brought solace to all those Americans who have lost loved ones, killed or missing, in Vietnam, and that these honors will renew the spirit of dedication that has always been a mark of the American character.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Caspar W. Weinberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'C'.

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SECTION I



HISTORICAL REVIEW



Precedents

On 28 May 1984, the remains of an unknown American serviceman of the Vietnam War were laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Entombed beside the Unknowns of World Wars I and II and the Korean War, the serviceman became the representative of all who had died or were still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia and a symbol of his nation's sorrow and gratitude.

The practice of honoring the dead and missing in battle goes back to ancient times. The Greek historian Thucydides relates that during the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta the people of Athens honored their dead, as had their ancestors, with a great funeral procession at which they reserved one empty bier to symbolize those of the fallen who were missing. The custom revived in Europe at the end of World War I. On the second anniversary of the armistice ending that conflict, 11 November 1920, England and France dedicated tombs to the memory of their missing and unidentified dead. Although other Allied nations followed with similar ceremonies, the United States held back until the U.S. Army's Graves Registration Service identified most of the American dead. On 4 March 1921 Congress approved the construction of a simple tomb in Arlington Cemetery and the return for suitable honors of an unknown American serviceman killed in France. The ceremonies consecrating the memorial took place on 11 November of that year. President Warren G. Harding presented the Medal of Honor to the Unknown and delivered a eulogy.

Congress approved the designation of an Unknown Soldier for World War II on 24 June 1946. Leaving five years for the Graves Registration Service to do its work thoroughly, the lawmakers prescribed 30 May 1951 as the date for the burial. Planning began immediately for an expansion of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, but when the Korean War broke out in November 1950, President Harry S. Truman postponed the interment. The project lay dormant

until 1955, when Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, at the urging of the American Veterans of World War II, directed the Army to proceed. As planning for the project progressed, Congress passed a bill on 3 August 1956 providing for the selection and simultaneous burial of an Unknown Soldier for the Korean War.

The ceremony marking the interment of the two Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery occurred on Memorial Day, 30 May 1958. Both had lain in state since 28 May in the Rotunda of the Capitol at Washington before traveling by caisson to Arlington Cemetery, where President Dwight D. Eisenhower awarded each the Medal of Honor. After a solemn military service both were laid to rest beside the Unknown Soldier of World War I.



The Directive

On 18 June 1973, shortly after the last American troops withdrew from South Vietnam, Congress directed the Secretary of Defense to select the remains of an unidentified American serviceman killed in the war for burial in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington. It seemed reasonable that among all the casualties of the war the military services would find an Unknown, but scientists at the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory at Honolulu had managed to name all but a few of the American dead and remained confident that they would ultimately identify the rest.

Complicating the process of selection was the fact that the government of Vietnam had failed to render a full accounting of the hundreds of American servicemen who were known to have fallen into its hands during the war. Over the years, the families of those servicemen had pressed for some official word of their relatives' fate, and they objected to the declaration of an Unknown for the Vietnam War on the grounds that the act would almost certainly diminish

official efforts to recover the missing — in effect, symbolizing to all concerned that the war was over and that the issue was no longer important. In addition, they understandably sought assurances that the individual to be interred was truly unidentifiable. In 1982, those families convinced the administration of President Ronald Reagan to postpone selection of an Unknown on grounds that the few bodies that remained unnamed might still be identified. By 1984, however, with all possibilities exhausted, the Central Identification Laboratory concluded that one of the two sets of remains still in its possession would never be identified. After close consultation with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, President Reagan decided to go ahead with the designation and interment of an Unknown. He assured the families that the ceremony would not close the book on the POW/MIA issue.

On 13 April 1984, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger announced the decision to proceed, stressing that the Reagan administration would continue its efforts to gain the fullest possible accounting for those still missing to end the uncertainty for their families. Although the occasion would be of great significance to Americans, especially to those who had served in Vietnam, he said, "We must remember, there are almost 2,500 Americans still missing in Southeast Asia. For their families, the uncertainty and the pain continues. Our duty to them should be strengthened by this ceremony. The resolution of the fate of those gallant men still missing is, as the President has stated, a matter of highest national priority."



Resumption of the Project

In announcing resumption of the project, Secretary Weinberger set Memorial Day, 28 May 1984, as the date of interment for the Unknown and desig-

nated the Department of the Army as his executive agent. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, William R. Gianelli, provided oversight for the Secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh, Jr., while the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, Maj. Gen. John L. Ballantyne, made the necessary arrangements. Serving as point of contact for all the agencies involved in the funeral, Ballantyne's Director of Ceremonies, Paul C. Miller, assisted by Lt. Col. Thomas L. Groppe and James L. Albright, prepared the plans and supervised the conduct of the services.

Beginning in Hawaii, proceeding to California, and culminating in Washington, D.C., the funeral was to draw upon the resources of each of the United States' military services. After formal designation in Hawaii on 17 May, the Unknown would travel from Honolulu to San Francisco aboard the U.S. Navy frigate U.S.S. *Brewton*, which had been named for a hero of the Vietnam War, Lt. (jg.) John C. Brewton. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Storis* would serve as escort during the first fifty miles of the journey; the cutter *Midget* would take up position beside the *Brewton* fifty miles off the coast of California. Arriving at Alameda Naval Air Station in Alameda, California on 24 May, the *Brewton* would transfer the remains to shore units, which would convey them by cortege to the chapel at Travis Air Force Base. After a brief period of public viewing, they would travel by air to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. The Unknown would then lie in state for three days in the Capitol at Washington before interment at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Unparalleled since the funeral of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, the observances required extensive preparations. Before the formal announcement, the Military District of Washington received advance word that the Department of Defense might shortly designate an Unknown for the Vietnam War. Preparations began immediately, especially within the command's Directorate of Ceremonies and Special Events, where James Albright drafted a plan for the interment, and its office of communications, which had responsibility for providing radio and telephone circuits to support the operation. In January 1984, the command's Office of Resources Management set aside \$30,000 as a contingency fund to cover initial expenses.

Shortly after Secretary Weinberger announced plans for the funeral, the Defense Department decided to give the national commanders of the major American veterans organizations the opportunity to take the place of the fam-

ily of the deceased in the services, a very great honor. The Veterans Administration received the task of assuring that veterans organizations were properly represented. It delegated the effort to the President's Veterans Day National Committee, a group composed of the national commanders of all the major veterans organizations in the United States. The committee decided to invite the members of its executive board to participate. They represented the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, the Blinded Veterans Association, the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I of the USA, the Marine Corps League, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Legion of Valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, the Disabled American Veterans, and the American Ex-Prisoners of War. In addition, representatives from five national organizations whose membership had been intimately involved in the Vietnam War were invited. They were the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, the American Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Wives of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the United Vietnam Veterans Organization. The National League of Families declined to participate officially but allowed its members to join in the observances if they wished. Many did attend.

Preparations began in earnest shortly after Secretary Weinberger's formal announcement. During the first week of May, the House and Senate issued legislation authorizing the Military District of Washington to use the Capitol Rotunda for the lying in state. At the request of the secretaries of the military departments, they also approved the award of the Medal of Honor to the Unknown in honor of the unrecognized heroism of all the missing and dead. Workmen at Arlington Cemetery meanwhile refurbished the tombs of the earlier Unknowns and erected scaffolding at the Memorial Amphitheater for a press stand. Planting more than 5,000 bedding flowers around the amphitheater, the cemetery's gardeners manicured lawns, planted extra shrubs, and trimmed trees. Since space in the amphitheater was limited to invited guests and since no more than 3,000 persons could view the ceremony from the mall adjacent to the Tomb of the Unknowns, the cemetery's staff attempted to accommodate any overflow that occurred by awarding a contract for live video coverage of the event and for the erection of a twenty-by-thirty-foot viewing screen at the cemetery's visitors center. On 23 May, a stonecutter inscribed the date 1958-1975 on a marble cover that had already been prepared to mark the grave of the Unknown.

The Military District of Washington's Public Affairs Office meanwhile reserved space at the cemetery's old administration building to serve as a temporary center for processing the credentials of the press. In the weeks that followed, command public affairs officers traveled to California and Hawaii to coordinate with their counterparts in those areas, provided for comprehensive photographic coverage, assembled a press kit for civilian newsmen containing extensive background information, designed and printed a program, disseminated twenty-two press releases, and answered more than a thousand queries from newsmen. As a result, on the day of the interment, 800 reporters and cameramen covered the event in all of its phases without complications.

With many members of the public interested in attending the ceremonies but with seating in the amphitheater limited to public officials, Medal of Honor winners, representatives of the Military services, and the families of those still missing in Vietnam, only seventy-seven tickets were available for general distribution. On 14 May, the Office of the Adjutant General of the Military District of Washington set up a clearinghouse to process requests for those seats. Over the next eleven days, the facility responded to 253 calls and letters, awarding tickets first to the families of the missing, then to widows with husbands buried in Arlington National Cemetery, and finally to Vietnam veterans.

By the third week in May, rehearsals had commenced and preparations for the ceremonies in Hawaii, California, and Washington were well advanced. Technicians had augmented telephone service wherever necessary within the Military District of Washington and they were prepared to put eighteen radio nets totaling 159 stations on the air in support of security operations, medical emergency teams, the funeral cortege, the ushers at the amphitheater, and the officials coordinating the services. The command's transportation unit had meanwhile leased fifty-three buses to shuttle visitors between the Pentagon parking lot and the Tomb of the Unknowns, nine vans to accommodate the handicapped, and eighty sedans for the funeral cortege. To meet possible medical emergencies, first aid teams manning twenty-five ambulances had meanwhile selected stations at the U.S. Capitol and along the line of procession. In all, the Military District of Washington spent \$85,000 on preparations, most of it for vehicle leases, supplies, construction, and travel. Much of the rest of the funding for the event came from the normal operating budgets of the military services.



Designation Ceremonies

The ceremonies honoring the Vietnam Unknown began in Hawaii on 17 May 1984 with the arrival of the remains by hearse at Bravo Pier 25, Pearl Harbor Naval Base. One hundred and eighty members of the military services stood at attention to receive the casket, all in duty uniform except for a platoon of U.S. Army troops from Schofield Barracks in full combat gear. The vessels in the harbor nearby wore full dress ship, a rainbow of signal flags flying fore and aft the length of each. Several hundred visitors were in attendance.

A joint service team of pallbearers carried the flag-draped casket to its resting place at the head of the assembly. After an invocation by a Jewish chaplain and a rendition of the National Anthem by the Fleet Marine Force Pacific Band, the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral S. R. Foley, Jr., delivered a brief eulogy. "Our unknown hero . . . represents the finest of that generation who went to a far off land to fight for the ideals of freedom and human dignity," Foley said, "because it was not in their make up to say, 'No, we won't go.'" At the end of Foley's remarks, after a prayer by a Catholic chaplain, Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt. Maj. Allan J. Kellogg, Jr., of Marine Barracks Hawaii, placed near the casket a white carnation wreath inset with yellow, red, and green flowers in the design of the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. The Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces, Gen. Jerome F. O'Malley, then placed the Purple Heart on a black pedestal near the coffin. Musical honors, a 21-gun salute and a flyover by Hawaii Air National Guard F-4C aircraft in "missing man formation" followed, along with a final benediction by a Protestant chaplain. At the conclusion of the prayer, as the assembled troops saluted and the band played Chopin's mournful "Funeral March," the

pallbearers carried the casket up a ramp to the *Brewton*. Six minutes later, while the band played "America the Beautiful" and all the ships in Pearl Harbor rendered passing honors — each crewman standing at attention and holding a hand salute — the *Brewton* cast off for San Francisco in the company of the Coast Guard cutter *Storis*.



The Trip to Washington

Seven days later, at noon on 24 May, escorted by the Coast Guard cutter *Midget*, the *Brewton* docked at the Alameda Naval Air Station. While a military band played a hymn and a 21-gun salute fired, a joint service team of pallbearers, preceded by the American flag and members of the clergy, carried the casket to a waiting hearse for the trip to Travis Air Force Base outside Sacramento. At Travis, the pallbearers transferred the remains in solemn procession to the base chapel, where it lay in repose all night. Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic chaplains offered short prayers, with the Jewish chaplain, Navy Lt. Norman L. Auerback, observing in the place of the Unknown that, "My death is not mine, it is ours. It will mean what you make of it." A guard of honor then took up station around the casket, which remained on public view until the next morning, when, after a simple ceremony, it was transferred to a U.S. Air Force C-141B aircraft for the trip to Washington.

The body of the Unknown serviceman arrived at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington at 2 P.M. on 25 May, where it was greeted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the national commanders of various U.S. veterans organizations, and the former U.S. Commander in Vietnam, General William C. Westmoreland. To the accompaniment of four "Ruffles and Flourishes" and a hymn played by the U.S. Air Force Band, with a 21-gun salute in the background, pallbearers carried the casket to a hearse for the trip to Washington. Arriving at the Capitol

Plaza at 3 P.M., the party moved solemnly up the East Capitol steps into the Rotunda, where President Ronald Reagan waited along with members of the cabinet, Congress, and other dignitaries. A brief wreath-laying ceremony followed, during which the president delivered a eulogy. Observing that the Unknown symbolized "the heart, soul, and spirit of America," he said that, "We may not know of this man's life, but we know of his character. We may not know his name, but we know his courage. He accepted his mission and did his duty. And his honest patriotism overwhelms us." The body lay in state in the Rotunda for the next three days, to be viewed by tens of thousands of visitors.



The Funeral

The vigil at the Rotunda lasted until noon on Memorial Day, Monday, 28 May. As the national commanders of the veterans organizations, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other mourners waited in the East Capitol Plaza under cloudy skies, pallbearers carried the casket down the Capitol steps to a caisson drawn by six matched white horses. Troops at Fort McNair began firing a 21-gun salute at one minute intervals. The U.S. Coast Guard Band played four "Ruffles and Flourishes" and the hymns "Yigdaleh Eloheem Chahi" (Great Is Our Living God) and "Ah-dohn Oh-lom" (Lord of the World).

The main funeral procession was composed of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force Bands; units from all of the services and service academies; and elements from the National Guard and Reserves. A cordon of honor composed of 1,750 men and women representing, once again, all of the military services lined both sides of the route to Arlington National Cemetery. Its members came to "present arms" when the color guard bearing the American flag reached their positions, returning to "order arms" once the caisson bearing the Unknown had passed. When the cortege reached the Vietnam Veterans

Memorial on Bacon Drive, it stopped for an instant to receive the homage of fifty-six veterans of the war bearing the flags of all the states and territories of the United States. Rounding the Lincoln Memorial and crossing Memorial Bridge, the procession then entered Arlington Cemetery, where the president and other dignitaries waited at the Memorial Amphitheater. Although veterans of the war were represented in every aspect of the program — Medal of Honor recipients from the Vietnam War, for example, served as honorary pallbearers — a group of 300 veterans insisted on falling in behind the procession. Dressed in combat fatigues and marching to the accompaniment of a bagpiper playing the hymn “Amazing Grace,” they became a reminder, however subdued, of the protests that had once seemed as much a part of the Vietnam War as the effort to defeat the enemy.

The cortege arrived at the west entrance of the Amphitheater at 2 P.M. After the funeral party had been seated, the Army Band played four “Ruffles and Flourishes,” the signal for the pallbearers to carry the casket into the Apse of the building. The National Anthem followed, along with an invocation by the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Army, Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hessian. A marine trumpeter then sounded the call “Attention.” After a moment of silence and a rendition of “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” sung by everyone in the Amphitheater, Secretary Weinberger introduced President Reagan.

Observing that the Unknown Soldier was a symbol of all the American servicemen still missing in Vietnam, President Reagan reminded his listeners in the Amphitheater, across the United States, and around the world that “We close no books. We put away no final memories. An end to America’s involvement in Vietnam cannot come before we’ve achieved the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action.” Turning to the Unknown, the president continued that the man* had died fighting for human dignity and for free men everywhere and that “Today we embrace him and all who served us so well in a war whose end offered no parades, no flags, and so little thanks.” President Reagan then presented the Unknown with the Medal of Honor “for service above and beyond the call of duty — in action with the enemy during the Vietnam era.”

*All the women who served in Vietnam were accounted for.

The funeral service continued with an a capella rendition of the hymn "On Bended Knee" by the U.S. Army Chorus; a reading of Psalm 91 — "O Thou that dwellest in the covert of the Most High . . ." — by the Director, Chaplains Service, Veterans Administration, Rabbi Simeon Kobunetz; and the singing of Randall Thompson's "The Last Words of David" by U.S. Army Chorus soloist M. Sgt. Michael Miller. The Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy, Rear Admiral Neil M. Stevenson, followed with a reading from the New Testament, John 14, "Let not your hearts be troubled . . ." The service ended with the singing of Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd . . ." by the U.S. Army Chorus and a brief blessing by Capt. Robert M. Radasky of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps.



The Interment

At the conclusion of the blessing, the president, the honorary pallbearers, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a number of dignitaries and guests proceeded into the Display Room until invited guests moved from the Amphitheater to the East Steps. The pallbearers then began moving the casket to the plaza east of the Amphitheater where the Tomb of the Unknowns is located. When the casket reached the second landing leading to the plaza, the pallbearers paused while Col. Robert G. Krause, the commander of the honor guard, brought his troops to "present arms" and the U.S. Army Band played four "Ruffles and Flourishes" and the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy." Upon completion of the music, the procession moved forward into the plaza, where the pallbearers placed the casket on the lowering device above the crypt. After chaplains representing the Jewish, Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant religions read the graveside prayers customary to their faiths, the president placed a wreath at the head of the casket. A 21-gun salute followed, fired by the Saluting Battery of the 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard).

The Chaplain, U.S. Coast Guard, Capt. Eddy B. Moran, gave the blessing. "Lord," he prayed, "we ask Your final benediction upon our comrade, known but to You. As we have honored him, we also honor all men and women who have served their country with loyalty and devotion." At the conclusion of the prayer, three rifle volleys and the bugle call "Taps" sounded. While the band played "America the Beautiful," the pallbearers folded the flag that had covered the casket from the beginning of its journey in Hawaii. The escort commander, Major General Ballantyne, then presented the flag to the president, who stood in the place of the Unknown's next of kin. He passed it to Raymond J. Costanzo, the superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, for safekeeping.

With that the ceremonies ended. Members of the public who wished to pay their respects to the Unknown filed past the crypt until evening, when the cemetery closed. At 8:30 P.M., the superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, accompanied by the commanding general of the Military District of Washington, lowered the casket into the crypt. Shortly thereafter workmen set the vault cap and crypt cover in place. By 11:30 P.M. all work was done. The Unknown was at rest.

SECTION II



PICTORIAL REVIEW



On 17 May 1984 at Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Honolulu, Hawaii, Gen. Jerome F. O'Malley, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces, and Sgt. Maj. Allan J. Kellogg, Jr., of Marine Barracks Hawaii and a holder of the Medal of Honor, salute the casket of the Vietnam Unknown during designation ceremonies.



F-4C Aircraft from the 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard, pass in review in, "missing man formation", during designation ceremonies in Hawaii.



Joint Service Pallbearers carry the flag-draped casket aboard the frigate U.S.S. Brewton for the voyage to San Francisco. Crewmen stand at attention in salute.

With the casket of the Unknown aboard and the frigate's crewmen lining its deck, the Brewton departs Hawaii for Alameda Naval Air Station in San Francisco, the first leg of its trip to Washington, D.C.





A crewman keeps watch beside the casket of the Unknown as the Brewton nears San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.



Upon arrival at Alameda Naval Air Station on 24 May, the Unknown is borne from the Brewton to a funeral hearse for the trip to Travis Air Force Base, California.



At the end of arrival ceremonies at Andrews, the Unknown's casket is transferred by pallbearers to a waiting funeral hearse for the trip to Washington. The Air Force Band plays and other military members "present arms" and salute.



Hon. Harry N. Walters, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Administration; Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the former U.S. Commander in Vietnam (front row, 2d and 3d from the right); and the national commanders of various U.S. veterans organizations, flanked by members of the military, greet the Unknown when the casket arrives at the Capitol.



A special honor guard comprised of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and led by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr. approaches the East Capitol steps.



In the Capitol Rotunda where the body would lie in state until Memorial Day, 28 May 1984, officials witness the ceremonies in honor of the Unknown



President Ronald Reagan, Congressman John P. Murtha of Pennsylvania, and many other civilian and military dignitaries pay their respects to the Unknown during wreath-laying ceremonies in the Rotunda.

Surrounded by the Guard Of Honor the body of the Unknown lies in state in the Rotunda.





Memorial Day, 28 May 1984. The caisson bearing the casket of the Unknown begins the trip to Arlington National Cemetery. Thousands of spectators line the streets of Washington.

Veterans Of Vietnam dip the flags of all the states and territories of the United States in salute to the Vietnam Unknown during a pause in the funeral procession at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.





Crossing Memorial Bridge, the procession nears the gate of Arlington National Cemetery.

Vietnam Veterans, dressed in combat fatigues and marching to the music of a bagpiper, fall in behind the funeral procession.





The funeral procession arrives at the West Entrance to the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington Cemetery where President Reagan and many other dignitaries await the arrival of the Unknown.

The Amphitheater at the beginning of the ceremonies honoring the Unknown.





President Reagan presents the Medal of Honor to the Unknown. Pallbearers then transferred the casket to the Tomb of the Unknowns on the plaza to the east of the Amphitheater.

Pallbearers fold the flag covering the casket of the Unknown following a wreath-laying ceremony and a 21-gun salute.



Maj. Gen. John L. Ballantyne, the commanding general of the Military District of Washington, presents the flag from the casket to President Reagan, who stood in place of the Unknown's next of kin.



"Here rests in honored glory an American soldier, known but to God."



SECTION III



APPENDIX

The Proclamation



Return and Final Interment of Unknown American Killed in Vietnam

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On this Memorial Day, the remains of an unknown American who gave his life in service overseas in Vietnam will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

The casket of this unknown American will arrive in the City of Washington on May 25, 1984, to lie in state in the rotunda of the United States Capitol until final interment.

The individual who finds his last resting place at Arlington on this occasion will be nameless to the entire world. But to the generations of Americans who left their homes and families to fight and defend the freedom and independence of our Nation, he will be known well by his embodiment of that most noble of all sentiments — patriotism.

There will be families from across the land who will come to view this place. To them it will mean that their son, husband, or father rests before them. And, in spirit, it will be true. For they, as we, know him well as one who, as Lincoln said at Gettysburg, gave his "last full measure of devotion."

As we work to preserve that for which he struggled, let us equally dedicate ourselves to the peace we yearn for in our hearts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby direct that the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions, when customarily flown, on May 25, May 26, May 27, and May 28, 1984. I also direct that the flag be flown at half-staff for the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

As a sign of our national gratitude and concern, I also urge my fellow citizens to display our country's flag at half-staff at their homes and other appropriate places during this period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

Ronald Reagan

The Directive



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13 APRIL 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam Era

In 1973, Congress directed the Secretary of Defense to inter the remains of an Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam era in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. We have attempted to identify all remains from the Vietnam era and to the good fortune of many families we have been very successful.

Following an exhaustive effort to identify the few unidentified remains, we now have a remains which is qualified for the Vietnam Unknown. I am pleased to inform you that we intend to proceed with the interment of the Vietnam Unknown on Memorial Day, May 28, 1984.

The Army is to continue as the lead Service for this matter with the involvement of all the Armed Services. Please give the Army your fullest cooperation for this extremely important event.

In our public relations on this matter we should assure the public that the interment of a Vietnam Unknown will not result in a diminution of efforts to resolve the fate of those Americans still missing in Southeast Asia.

Caspar W. Weinberger

Some Participants



VETERANS DAY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS IN VIETNAM UNKNOWN CEREMONIES - MAY 25-28, 1984

Honorable Harry N. Walters, Administrator of Veterans Affairs; Chairman,
Veterans Day National Committee

Mr. E. Earl Derrington, Jr., National Commander, American Ex-Prisoners
of War

Mr. Keith A. Kreul, National Commander, The American Legion

Mr. Robert L. Wilbraham, National Commander, AMVETS

Mr. Thomas H. Miller, National President, Blinded Veterans Association

Lt. Col. Ronald E. Ray, USA (Ret.), National President, Congressional Medal
of Honor Society

Mr. Dennis A. Joyner, National Commander, Disabled American Veterans

Mr. George E. Day, CMH, National Commander, Legion of Valor of the USA, Inc.

Mr. James C. Kelly, National Commandant, Marine Corps League

OFFICIAL ESCORTS:

Mr. Donald M. Skinder, Executive Director, Veterans Day National
Committee

Mr. Richard N. Bain, Deputy Executive Director, Veterans Day National
Commander

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Lt. Col. Walter J. Marm, United States Army

M. Sgt. Jon R. Cavaiani, United States Army

Col. Jay R. Vargas, United States Marine Corps

Sgt. Maj. Allan J. Kellogg, Jr., United States Marine Corps

Lt. Col. James P. Fleming, United States Air Force

Mr. John Levitow, United States Air Force

BMC James Williams, United States Navy

CPO Michael E. Thornton, United States Navy

Mr. Evertt Alvarez, Ex-Prisoner of War

Mr. Fred V. Cherry (Col. Ret.), Ex-Prisoner of War

APPENDIX 4
The Invitation



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

*The Secretary of Defense
on behalf of the Armed Forces
of the United States
announces the burial of
The Unknown American
who died in defense of freedom
during the Vietnam Conflict
Memorial Amphitheater
Arlington National Cemetery
Monday, the twenty-eighth of May
at two o'clock p.m.*

Memorial Day Program



FUNERAL SERVICE

The National Anthem **Francis Scott Key**
The U.S. Marine Band, Colonel John R. Bourgeois, Director

The Invocation..... **Chaplain (Major General) Patrick J. Hessian**
Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army

Trumpet Call..... "Attention"

One Minute Of Silence.....

My Country, 'Tis of Thee..... **Audience participating**
Henry Carey — Samuel F. Smith (Words)

Introduction..... **Caspar W. Weinberger**
Secretary of Defense

Presentation of Medal of Honor **Ronald Reagan**
The President of the United States

On Bended Knee..... **The U.S. Army Chorus**
arranged by Samuel R. Loboda, Major L. Bryan Shelburne, Director

Psalm of the Day (Psalm 91)..... **Chaplain Simeon Kobrinetz**
Director, Chaplain Service, Veteran's Administration

The Last Words of David **Randall Thompson**
Samuel (Words)

The New Testament Lesson..... **John 14:1-7, 15-17, 27**
Rear Admiral Neil M. Stevenson
Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy

The Twenty-Third Psalm..... **J.S. Irvine**
arranged by Master Sergeant James Kessler
King David (Words)

The Benediction **Captain Robert M. Radasky**
Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy

The Postlude..... **The U.S. Marine Band**
The U.S. Army Band, "Pershings Own"

INTERMENT

Jewish Prayer of Committal.....Chaplain (Colonel) Israel Drazin
U.S. Army Reserve

Orthodox Prayer of Committal.....Captain Robert M. Radasky
Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy

Catholic Prayer of Committal Chaplain (Major General) John A. Collins
Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Air Force

Protestant Prayer of Committal Rear Admiral Neil M. Stevenson
Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy

Placing Of The Presidential Wreath.....President Ronald Reagan

The Gun Salute.....3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard)
Colonel Robert G. Krause, Commander

The BenedictionCaptain Eddy B. Moran
Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy
The Chaplain, U.S. Coast Guard

The Firing of the Volleys.....

Taps.....Sergeant Major Patrick Mastroleo

Folding of the Flag.....

America The BeautifulThe U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own"
Colonel Eugene W. Allen, Leader and Commander

Presentation Of The FlagMajor General John L. Ballantyne, III
Commanding General, U.S. Army Military District of Washington
Raymond J. Costanzo
Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery

Services Participants



VETERANS DAY NATIONAL COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS IN
VIETNAM UNKNOWN CEREMONIES AT
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, MAY 28, 1984

- Mr. John Breeden, National Commander, Army and Navy Union
- Mr. Edward R. Ross, National Commander, Catholic War Veterans
- Mr. Daniel L. Spalding, National President, Fleet Reserve Association
- Mr. Joseph Zoldan, National Commander, Jewish War Veterans of the USA
- Chaplain (Col.) Simon H. Scott, Jr., National President, Military Chaplains Association
- Col. Adrian L. Hoebeke, USA (Ret), Commander-in-Chief, Military Order of the World Wars
- Mr. Franklin A. Lister, National President, Non-Commissioned Officers Association
- Mr. Dale E. Speelman, National President, Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Inc.
- Mr. Norman A. Lelo, National Commander, Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA
- Mr. Wendell Lowe, National Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Mr. Paul Cheremeta, National President, Paralyzed Veterans Association of America
- Mr. S. Leroy Mendel, Commander-in-Chief, United Spanish War Veterans
- Mr. Clifford G. Olson, Jr., Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Mr. John W. Stover, National Commander, Veterans of World War I
- Mrs. June Everett, National President, American Gold Star Mothers
- Ms. Rachel A. Bunn, National President, Gold Star Wives of America

Col. Earl P. Hooper, AUS (Ret), Chairman of the Board, National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia

Mr. Robert O. Muller, President, Vietnam Veterans of America

Mr. Dan Jordan, National Commander, United Vietnam Veterans Organization

Mr. Wallace Sheppard, National Commander, Regular Veterans Association

OTHER VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PARTICIPATED IN
VIETNAM UNKNOWN CEREMONIES AT
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, MAY 28, 1984

Italian American War Veterans of the United States

U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II

American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor

American G.I. Forum of the U.S.

American Veterans Committee

National Amputation Foundation

Swords to Plowshares: Veterans Rights Organization

Air Force Association

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Association of Minority Veterans

American War Mothers

Association of the U.S. Army

Blue Star Mothers, Inc.

Flower of the Dragon, Inc..

Mexican Border Veterans, Inc.

National Association for Uniformed Services

National Association of Atomic Veterans

National Association of Concerned Veterans

National Association of Military Widows

National Congress of Puerto Rican Veterans

National Yeoman F

Naval Reserve Association

Past National Commanders Organization

Reserve Officers Association of the United States

Society of Military Widows

The Retired Officers Association

United States Army Warrant Officers Association

Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Foundation

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Women's Air Force Service Pilots

Women's Army Corps Veterans Association

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