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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 12, 1983

Mr. David J. Passamaneck
National Legislative Director
American Veterans of World War II
Korea - Vietnam
4647 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, Maryland 20706

Dear Mr. Passamaneck:

Thank you for your letter of May 17, 1983, informing me of your concerns about the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Controls (PPSSCC) manner of conducting its task force review of the Veterans Administration and the Federal Hospital Management reports.

I share your concern on how these reports and their recommendations are being received by veterans groups and the general public. This Administration is committed to improving services for all veterans and the Veterans Administration, with its comprehensive benefits and medical care programs, is essential to achieving this goal. There is no plan to eliminate or otherwise reduce the effectiveness of the Veterans Administration with its tradition of service to our Nation's veterans.

As you may know, there are 36 task forces studying a wide range of issues to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations without adversely affecting services. The magnitude and interrelationship of the issues studied resulted in serious logistical problems such as those you cited. I apologize for the lack of availability of reports and the short timeframe in which to respond to specific reports. You should also know that every effort is being made to be responsive to your constructive criticism and that the PPSSCC has been made aware of your concerns..

I want to assure you that the task force reports on the Veterans Administration will in no way impair the operation of that Agency nor diminish the provision of benefits and services to veterans. This Administration has gone on record many times in the past as being a strong advocate of veterans affairs and will continue to ensure that the Veterans Administration provides the level and quality of service that veterans organizations and the American people have come to expect.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance to you in resolving future problems that may occur. I appreciate your concerns and look forward to working with the AMVETS to strengthen veterans programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Morton C. Blackwell".

MORTON C. BLACKWELL
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

ID # 153647

FC276

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

PLBlac

Name of Correspondent: Stanley J. Passamanick

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: re Grace report and the alleged elimination of the VA

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>✓ PL/BLAC</u>	ORIGINATED	<u>8310707</u>			<u>1 1</u>
<u>✓ 99 VA</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>8310712</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8310728</u>
	Referral Note: <u>for NCR sig</u>	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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153647



AMVETS

American Veterans of World War II Korea-Vietnam
National Headquarters
4647 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706 (301) 459-9600



DAVID J. PASSAMANECK
Lt. Col., USA, Ret.
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

May 17, 1983

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
on Veterans Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mort:

I am enclosing a copy of my letter of 16 May 1983, to Mr. J. Peter Grace, with enclosures. The letter speaks for itself.

The task force reports apparently contain some very worthy recommendations, consistent with good supply side economic sense. The reports also contain several very destructive proposals from the point of view of veterans.

It is too bad that, because of the arrogant procedure being followed in connection with the public consideration of the reports, their substantive merit, if any, will be buried beneath the legitimate outrage of veterans and other interested groups. Once again, we see a vulnerability of the Administration which will be blown out of all necessary proportion because of just plain bad public relations.

The misgivings of the veterans regarding the "Grace" reports are serious and justified. Do we also have to have this fancy footwork by the subcommittee to rub salt into our wounds?

Sincerely,

DAVID J. PASSAMANECK
National Legislative Director

Enclosures



AMVETS

American Veterans of World War II Korea-Vietnam
National Headquarters
4647 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706 (301) 459-9600



DAVID J. PASSAMANECK
Lt. Col., USA, Ret.
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

May 16, 1983

Mr. J. Peter Grace
Chairman, Executive Committee
President's Private Sector Survey
on Cost Control in the Federal Government
1850 K Street, N.W., Suite 1150
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Grace:

On or about 9 May 1983, photo copies of the Task Force Reports on the Veterans Administration and Federal Hospital Management of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control were delivered to this office through informal channels. On the face of each report was the statement, "submitted to the subcommittee for consideration at its meeting on May 17, 1983." On page 2 of the Preface to the VA report it is stated that "all of the task force reports will be considered and acted upon in meetings open to the public by a subcommittee of the Executive Committee of PPSSCC...." We understand that the actual notice of the public meeting was published on 2 May 1983, in the Federal Register by the Department of Commerce, where one would hardly expect to find information relating to veterans, unless forewarned. According to the Federal Register notice, the reports were to be available at the Department of Commerce on 6 May 1983. In any event, sufficient time to respond to the reports, after they were made available, is not being provided.

The draft reports, including an appendix to the VA report are over six inches thick and, naturally, contain reams of highly technical data, as well as some extremely controversial recommendations.

AMVETS, after an initial review of the highlights of both reports responded by Mailgram to the President (copy attached) on 11 May 1983. Obviously, because of the extremely short period of time between the unofficial availability of the reports and the open meeting of the subcommittee, any meaningful participation by interested public groups is impossible, thus rendering the

Mr. J. Peter Grace

so-called "open" and "public" character of the meeting a complete sham. The substantive objections which AMVETS may have to the particular findings and recommendations of the task forces, aside from the general observations in the attached Mailgram, must await a responsible study of the reports.

If the motivational thrust of the Survey is reflected by the fast shuffle being given to the veterans organizations and the general public in connection with these "open" meetings, AMVETS can only be confirmed in our initial belief that the bottom line of the reports is the ultimate elimination of the VA.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. PASSAMANECK
Lt. Col., USA, Ret.
National Legislative Director

Attachment

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA. 22645
11AM

Western
Union Mailgram

4-043621S131002 05/11/83 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP RDVD
1 3014599600 MGM TDMT LANHAM MD 05-11 0357P EST

AMVETS D PASSAMANECK
4647 FORBES BLVD
LANHAM MD 20706

THIS MAILGRAM IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

3014599600 MGM TDMT LANHAM MD 471 05-11 0357P EST
ZIP
PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

THE AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II, KOREA AND VIETNAM (AMVETS) COMPLETED AN INITIAL STUDY OF THE TASK FORCE REPORTS ON THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND FEDERAL HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT OF YOUR PRIVATE SECTOR SURVEY ON COST CONTROL.

AMVETS IS, THEREFORE, NOT UNDULY SURPRISED ABOUT THE SINCE WITHDRAWN INITIAL DRAFT RECOMMENDATION OF THE VA TASK FORCE IN WHICH IT WAS STATED, "WE FEEL IN THE LONG RUN...SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ELIMINATING THE VA." ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOTH REPORTS HAVE CONSIDERABLE MERIT, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE ULTIMATE RESULT, IF NOT THE CONSCIOUS PURPOSE OF THESE REPORTS, IF THE BULK OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EFFECTUATED, WILL BE THE ELIMINATION OF THE VA. THE CONSEQUENT RESULT OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE VA WILL BE A RETURN TO THE "GOOD OLE" APPLE SELLING DAYS BEFORE 1930 WHEN OUR VETERANS WERE CAST OUT ON THE STREETS TO SHIFT FOR THEMSELVES BECAUSE THE WARS WERE OVER AND NO MORE BATTLES HAD TO BE WON (OR AT LEAST SOME OF US SO THOUGHT).

THE PRINCIPLE THRUST OF THE VA TASK FORCE REPORT CAN BE READILY UNDERSTOOD FROM ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO, IN EFFECT, DECIMATE THE VA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS BENEFITS AND GIVE FUTURE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO ELIMINATING ALL BUT DIRECTLY COMBAT RELATED DISABLED VETERANS FROM ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION OR PENSION. OF COURSE, ONCE THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED, ALONG WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF A SEPARATE VA MEDICAL DELIVERY SYSTEM, IT MAY, IN DEED, NOT BE NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TO

IF COMPENSATION AND MEDICAL CARE ARE RESTRICTED TO ONLY DIRECT COMBAT RELATED DISABILITIES. THEN THE NEXT STEP WOULD SEEM TO BE TURNING OVER THE LOAN GUARANTEE. INSURANCE. EDUCATIONAL AND MEMORIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE VA TO OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO EFFECTIVELY DESTROY THE INDEPENDENT, SINGLE SOURCE VETERANS ENTITLEMENT SYSTEM IN THIS COUNTRY. THE CHANCES OF THE SPECIFIC ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM SURVIVING IN ANYWHERE NEAR THEIR PRESENT FORM AFTER THE FRAGMENTATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, WOULD BE VERY SLIGHT.

AMVETS BELIEVE THAT THE MERITS OF THE SYSTEM FOR CARING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY IN ITS TIMES OF MORTAL PERIL MUST BE JUDGED ON A BROADER BASIS THAN SIMPLE, ROUTINE PROFIT AND LOSS. COST EFFECTIVENESS. THE VA WAS NEVER INTENDED AS A PROFITABLE BUSINESS. WE HEARTILY ENDORSE ALL HONEST EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS EFFICIENCY. BUT WE STRENUOUSLY OPPOSE ANY PLAN WHICH CAN ONLY LEAD TO ITS DESTRUCTION. AND ELIMINATION OF THE VETERAN'S ENTITLEMENT SYSTEM FOR WHICH IT IS RESPONSIBLE.

IN AUGUST 1980, MR PRESIDENT, IN ADDRESSING THE CONVENTION IN BOSTON OF A SISTER VETERANS ORGANIZATION, YOU PLEDGED YOURSELF TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND THE VETERANS ENTITLEMENT SYSTEM, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING THE VA HOSPITALS. AMVETS HOPE THAT YOU WILL NOT RETREAT FROM THAT PLEDGE WHEN EVALUATING THESE TASK FORCE REPORTS

SINCERELY
ROBERT MARTIN NATIONAL COMMANDER, AMVETS

SPECIAL 30-DAY OFFER

GET \$1.00 OFF ON YOUR NEXT MAILGRAM ORDER

TO SEND YOUR MAILGRAM(S). CALL 800-257-2241 AND ASK FOR OPERATOR 35. WE'LL AUTOMATICALLY DEDUCT \$1.00 FROM YOUR TOTAL BILL. OFFER GOOD ON EACH ORDER PLACED DURING THE NEXT 30 DAYS.

1605 EST

MGMCOMP MGM



**Veterans
Administration**

JULY 28 1983

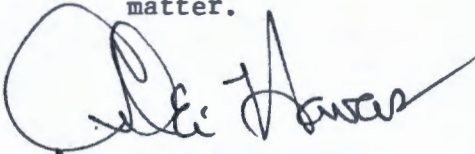
.MEMORANDUM FOR:

Sally Kelley
Director of Agency Liaison
Presidential Correspondence
The White House

I have attached a draft response to Mr. David J. Passamaneck's letter dated May 17, 1983. Mr. Passamaneck's letter concerned reports issued by the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (PPSSCC) that, to some extent, recommended elimination of the VA.

The Veterans Administration has also encountered public relations problems as a result of the PPSSCC and we recognize the sense of frustration this experience has caused among veterans organizations. Our concern is that premature and uncoordinated release of PPSSCC reports concerning the Veterans Administration will cause additional problems.

Please let us know if we are needed to provide further assistance in this matter.



for JACK D. TARRAN
Executive Secretary

Attachment

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Sally Felley
Director of Agency Liaison
Presidential Correspondence
The White House

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JACK D. TARRAN
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Mr. David J. Passamaneck
National Legislative Director
American Veterans of World War II
Korea - Vietnam
4647 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, Maryland 20706

Dear Mr. Passamaneck:

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As you may know, there are 36 task forces studying a wide range of issues to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations without adversely affecting services. The magnitude and interrelationship of the issues studied resulted in serious logistical problems such as those you cited. I apologize for the lack of availability of reports and the short timeframe in which to respond to specific reports. You should also know that every effort is being made to be responsive to your constructive criticism and that the PPSSCC has been made aware of your concerns.

Mr. David J. Passamaneck
National Legislative Director

I want to assure you that the task force reports on the Veterans Administration will in no way impair the operation of that Agency nor diminish the provision of benefits and services to veterans. This Administration has gone on record many times in the past as being a strong advocate of veterans affairs and will continue to ensure that the Veterans Administration provides the level and quality of service that veterans organizations and the American people have come to expect.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance to you in resolving future problems that may occur. I appreciate your concerns and look forward to working with the AMVETS to strengthen veterans programs.

Sincerely,

~~Honorable~~ Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
on Veterans Affairs

Robert H. Kline (073) Extension 389-3177



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 7, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM: DEBBIE HUTTON, Speakers Bureau

SUBJECT: SPEAKERS REQUEST

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION AND COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Event: Remembrance Ceremony of the POW, MIA and KIAs of the Vietnam War

Date: September 24, 1983

Location: Zanesville, OH

Background: See attached correspondence. I plan to regret for a representative on Sept. 9th unless I get an alternate recommendation from you.

RECOMMEND ACCEPT

RECOMMEND WHITE HOUSE STAFF

RECOMMEND REGRET

RECOMMEND CABINET MEMBER

RECOMMEND SUB-CABINET MEMBER

COMMENTS:

Your response is needed by: ASAP.

Not a major group.

M. Blackwell

[Handwritten scribbles and notes, including "Draft to John..."]

September 6, 1983

Dear Mr. Dicks:

On behalf of the President, I would like to thank you for inviting him to participate in the Remembrance Ceremony of the POW, MIA and KIAS of the Vietnam War on the 24th of September.

Although he would like to join you, the President's heavy schedule precludes his doing so. With regard to your request for a surrogate, I am forwarding your message to the Speakers Bureau and they will be in touch with you regarding the possibility of a representative.

In the meantime, the President has asked me to express his gratitude for your thoughtfulness in writing and sends his best wishes.

Sincerely,

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.
Director, Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling

Mr. Robert J. Dicks
Chapter 42
Vietnam Veterans of America
334 Shinnick Street
Zanesville, OH 43701

cc: w/inc copy to Judy Pond

FJR:SM:jzf
FJR-24A

23 August, 1983
9/24/83

79 R. 2 11

37
J. J. Dick

Dear President Reagan,

I am writing you this letter to inform you that we the Viet Nam Veterans of America Chapter 42 here in Zanesville Ohio are having a rememberebce Ceremony for the POW MIA and KIAS of the Viet Nam War on the 24th. of September at the Greenwood Cemetery .

We will have a Wreath Ceremony and we are planning a Rifle salute with hopefully Congressman Clarence Miller, the Mayor Cam Aggan and a few other political people we are hoping to attend.

This Ceremony hopefully will show the people of this area that We still remember these men. Sir, we have 2 MIAs from the Zanesville area that are presumed Missing in Action and we don't forget them.

There are 129 men missing from ohio and I think that we can show a great tribute to these men. I reolise that you have a very busy scheguel and I know that you probably will not be able to attend but we wish to invite you. It would be an Honor to have you here.

We would like for you to be the one that raises the Flag to half mast and do the honors of leading us in the Salute and have you Pray a small Prayre for these men. Hopefully you can attend and if you are not able to attend maybe you could have one of your representatives here. This is very Important to us and I hope to see you or at least recieve a reply from you. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Dicks

Robert J. Dicks
Office Coordinator
Viet Nam Veterans of Amer
Chapter # 42
334 Shinnick St.
Zanesville, Ohio

43701

1 (614) 455-3683

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

DATE: SEP 6 1983

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 83/09/13

SUBJECT: Veteran's Day 1983

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MORRISON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VIPOND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RIGGS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROUSSELOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TILLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BLACKWELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VILA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VILLALPANDO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCKALEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BENSCHOTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JACOBI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SHORTLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JEPSEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUNDSETH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KOJELIS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MORECI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MELOY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

RESPONSE:

O.K.
M. Blackwell
10/7/83

Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2270

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 31, 1983 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: COB: September 14, 1983

SUBJECT: VETERANS DAY, 1983

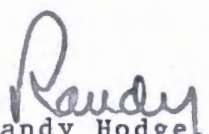
	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HERRINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCMANUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERSTANDIG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHITTLESEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GERGEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Attached for your consideration, the proposed draft proclamation designating November 11, 1983 as Veterans Day.

The document was slightly edited in the Special Messages Office.

Many thanks.

RESPONSE:


 Randy Hodge, by
 direction from
 Dodie Livingston
 (for) Richard G. Darman
 Assistant to the President
 Ext. 2941



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

August 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: MICHAEL J. HOROWITZ ^{JFC}_{JMH}
COUNSEL TO THE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: VETERANS DAY, 1983

Enclosed is the annual proposed proclamation for Veterans Day, 1983.

Although there is no statute which specifically calls for a Veterans Day proclamation, one has been issued each year since 1954.

The Administrator, Veterans Administration, in his capacity as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee, requests issuance of this proclamation in early September in order to permit timely distribution of materials to schools, State Chairpersons, etc., who are arranging this year's observance.

The proposed proclamation, which was submitted at our request by the Veterans Administration, has been retyped in this office to reflect minor editorial changes and as to format.

The proposed proclamation has the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Enclosure

VETERANS DAY, 1983

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

None among us deserve more respect than the millions of patriotic men and women who have worn our Nation's uniform to preserve America's freedom and world peace.

Our Armed Forces veterans have earned a special day in which you and I may focus on their heroic accomplishments. For their unselfish devotion to duty, Congress established Veterans Day as a national expression of gratitude. On this historic occasion, our hearts and minds should be with our living veterans and their deceased comrades who have contributed so much to the defense of our country's ideals.

From the freezing cold of Valley Forge when our Nation was in its infancy, to the Vietnam conflict where our soldiers fought and died for the human rights of others, through war and peace, these valiant citizens have answered the call to service with honor and dignity. They are indeed worthy of a formal tribute from a grateful nation. Special consideration is due to those veterans who are sick and disabled. There is no better tangible expression of our affection than by remembering to visit them at home or in our hospitals.

In order that we pay meaningful tribute to the efforts of these valiant men and women of our Armed Forces, Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 shall be set aside each year as a national holiday to honor America's veterans.

NOW THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby declare Friday, November 11, 1983, as Veterans Day. In recognition of their valor, I urge all Americans to join with me in a fitting salute to our veterans, and I call upon Federal, State and local government officials to mark Veterans Day by displaying the flag of the United States, and I ask those Government

officials to support fully and personally its observance by appropriate ceremonies throughout the country.

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

file
↓

BRAVO

Brotherhood Rally of American Veterans Organization

37



TOM TULLY
TONY DIAMOND
FOUNDERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TONY DIAMOND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HENRY BECKMAN
SECRETARY

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TREASURER

KENNETH STEELE
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SERGEANT MAJOR

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BARRY LEE LEVIN, ESQ.
HENRY HAN

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JOSEPH DI SANTIS

Jan memo

July 7, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President, United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

My Dear Mr. President,

As you may have noticed, I only write to you with "Good News". The love of country we all seek is still here. Hopefully you have been informed of the "California Vietnam Veterans Vigil" - fourteen of Californias finest. We did you proud, sir. Not only in our effectiveness on post at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Vigil, but also through the Halls of Congress to your own offices, representing the California Veteran on issues of extreme importance to the American people and our missing brothers.

Your special assistants Mr. Morton Blackwell, Mr. Richard Childress, the offices of Mr. Harry Walters (fine choice for the VA Administrator) and his staff and the many others who gave of their services and wisdom will always have our gratitude for their courtesy.

Our vigil strengthened us in our mission and purpose. BRAVO is fast expanding to become the missing link in the veterans community, the communications media vehicle for veteran related activities, events and opportunities.

I have enclosed additional materials to update you on our activities and successes and while in Santa Barbara you can see BRAVO Veterans Forum on Cox Cable or on Metro Cable in Arlington, Virginia and throughout the good old USA.

Our best wishes to you and The First Lady.....

Respectfully,

Tony Diamond
Tony Diamond
Executive Director

Enclosures

IN MEMORIAM
FOUNDING FATHERS

TOM TULLY
NATIONAL COMMANDER

DANIEL J. ZAPALSKI
CHIEF OF STAFF

CHARLES GRANT
EXECUTIVE BOARD

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BRAVO

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Brotherhood Rally of American Veterans Organization

PRESS RELEASE

Dateline LOS ANGELES June 5, 1983

BRAVO — is a California based veteran's organization which will celebrate its 12th birthday in the third week of November - 1983. The organization promotes membership in all veteran's groups, holding that veterans who are organized have the political power necessary to protect veteran's interests — while the individual veteran has a voice which is seldom heard — unless he or she is a member of an organized group. BRAVO'S — Directors and Advisors are a cross-section of the membership of all the organized veteran's groups, from the American Legion, through the several Vietnam Veteran's associations.

BRAVO — advocates the concept that ONLY VETERANS really relate to other veterans. Especially in matters which concern veteran status, ie: the veteran with problems; the veteran with service connected injuries; the veteran with family problems; and the veteran who needs counseling as to his available government funded benefits. Toward filling these needs, BRAVO is active in referrals to veteran service organizations, counseling centers, veteran's aid and job placement offices. Further, BRAVO is aware of the special problems of those veterans who might need to seek medical and/or psychiatric help, and sensitive to the way it handles those "SPECIAL NEED" referrals. BRAVO also finds volunteer legal counselors for the needy veteran with legal problems.

BRAVO — seeks to educate both the veteran and the public in regards to veteran related issues, activities, and opportunities. To achieve that goal, BRAVO publishes a national newspaper, "THE VETERAN'S OBSERVER" and produces a television program "THE VETERAN'S FORUM" which is now being shown in more than fifty broadcast areas across the United States.

Tony Diamond, BRAVO'S Executive Director, and moderator of the "VETERAN'S FORUM" is active in keeping the POW/MIA issue before the public. A recent edition of "THE VETERAN'S OBSERVER" contained an in-depth study of the subject, while each succeeding issue has an update column of POW/MIA matters. Mr. Diamond recently videotaped an exclusive interview with Lt. Col. James G. (BO) Gritz, the retired Green Beret officer who early in 1983, led a privately funded POW rescue mission into Communist Laos.

In April of 1983, Mr. Diamond, together with Canadian veteran, Henry Beckman, who is producer-director of the "VETERAN'S FORUM," explained the criteria for the program, ie:

"There are no taboos - if it relates to the veteran, or is important to the veteran, or of interest to the veteran. . . and within the bounds of decency, we will air it on the program."

TOM TULLY
TONY DIAMOND
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WOODY REUTHER

On April 9, 1983, the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOTION PICTURE COUNCIL awarded the "VETERAN'S FORUM" — its' coveted "GOLDEN HALO" award for the best public service program. This would seem to indicate that the current criteria for the television program has validity and merit.

Tony Diamond is a Korean War Veteran. He has been an actor, comedian, and a writer. He is also a veteran of four tours in S.E. Asia as an entertainer. Three of those tours were in Vietnam. Out of his Vietnam experiences he came to realize that the Vietnam Veterans, for reasons never quite clear, were being treated as if they had committed a crime by serving their country. Perhaps it was because the Vietnam veteran was returning from a war that nobody seemed to support. As a result, many of these returning veterans turned their backs to the society which their presence seemed to make uncomfortable. Many became withdrawn, uncommunicative, they were clannish other Vietnam Veterans, but "loners" when left to their own devices. Many seemed unaware that they had problems. Some were addicted to drugs, or were alcoholic. Most were uninformed about veteran's benefits, or of programs designed to help them adjust to civilian life. Out of this need BRAVO emerged as an organization.

BRAVO — was founded by the late Tom Tully and Tony Diamond, assisted by others, such as the late Charles Grant, Past Commander of the Birmingham Hospital Chapter 73, Disabled American Veterans. On August 31, 1972, Mr. Grant stated:

"The new veterans are not being made aware of the aid and assistance available to them through veteran service organizations. Nor are they aware of the feeling of comradeship and belonging which can be found in the company of other veterans. We all have common experiences. We can relate because we do understand."

Thus the organization was founded. It was nursed through those early days by an uncommon group of men, ie: the late Tom Tully; the late Daniel J. Zapalski; the late Joseph Zahblauskis; the late Frank (C.T.) Smith; the late Woody Reuther; and the late, Mr. Grant. They are now gone — but not forgotten. They gave of themselves in response to a need in others.

BRAVO — has grown and increased its activities as a direct result of the dedication, involvement and support of its' ten directors and twenty-seven advisors.

BRAVO — has seen many problems manifest themselves since its' early days, ie: Stress Syndrome (P.T.D.S.); Agent Orange disability claims; the POW/MIA issue; controversy over V.A. Benefits; suicide and suicide prevention efforts; a place for a homeless veteran to sleep; the establishment of counseling centers; dedication of memorials; programs for incarcerated veterans. Everything involving the veteran has been a part of BRAVO'S activities for the past twelve years.

BRAVO — stresses unity between all veterans. Recently Tony Diamond stated:

“It is time to end the bickering, the petty factionalism, and accentuation of differences between the WW2, the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War veterans. We may have served at different times, used different weaponry, worn different colored uniforms, but we do share a common bond: we served our country! As brother veterans we should stand united.”

Mr. Diamond went on to say:

“Why not unite and support issues which are important to us not just as veterans, but as Americans? United we can bring realization to those who would have our vote —that with that vote goes the requirement that our collective voice be heard and heeded. We are after all, the largest voting bloc in the nation. In the future, we should let no politician take our vote for granted.”

BRAVO has recently moved to larger offices — where in addition to referral services, publication of the newspaper, and production of the television program, BRAVO will produce a syndicated radio show. This is in keeping with BRAVO'S purposes — to help the individual veteran, and promote the awareness of the public and the veteran about issues which are of concern to the American Veteran.

In addition to his duties with BRAVO, Tony Diamond has in the past few years also, served as Commander (Jumpmaster) of V.F. W. POST 8515 (All Airborne), and as Past Sr. Vice Commander — Audie Murphy Chapter 69, D.A.V. — and as Commander, BRAVO CHAPTER, U.V.V.O..

BRAVO — was a participant in the recent dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial, in Washington, D.C., where Tony Diamond read aloud —two hundred seventy six of the names engraved on that memorial. His account of that experience appeared in the March-April issue of the “VETERAN'S OBSERVER” and ended fittingly:

“WARRIORS ALL . . . AMERICA'S FINEST . . . THEY SHALL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.”

(Amen, Tony!)

Membership in BRAVO is available to any veteran without charge. (Veterans have already paid their dues by serving their nation). Non-Veterans pay a one time-life membership fee of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars.



HOME, AT LAST

No bands played when our soldiers returned from Vietnam. But last November, with the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., the nation opened its heart to its ostracized warriors. There are 57,939 names inscribed on the Memorial's black marble. The dead finally got their monument. And the living were finally able to come marching home. On the Monday before the Memorial Day weekend (the 23rd at 10:30 P.M.), the documentary *Welcome Home* records the pain and hope of this long overdue tribute. On page 19, one Vietnam veteran shares what he felt and witnessed at the Memorial's dedication.

The Memorial Remembered

A compassionate look at a group of Vietnam veterans attending the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., *Welcome Home*, hosted by Gary Gilson, airs Monday the 23rd at 10:30 P.M. Veteran Tony Diamond of Sherman Oaks, a co-founder of the Brotherhood Rally of American Veterans Organization (BRAVO) and the executive producer of the nationally-syndicated public access cable TV program, *BRAVO Veterans Forum*, was there. Here he shares his own experiences:



Having lived through the Vietnam era during four tours as a USO entertainer throughout the Far East and Southeast Asia between 1968 and 1969, I had no choice but to go to Washington, D.C. for the long-awaited dedication of what some Viet vets were calling "The Great Wall of America." I had been chosen to read in the Bethlehem Chapel of the National Cathedral the names of two hundred and seventy-six of my brothers who had not returned or were missing. I choke up recalling that evening, when I read alphabetically from Captain Arnold W. Luke to Corporal U'luis J. Malmanis. Those honored will stay with me forever.

The deep camaraderie during the Memorial Week was greater than anticipated. The press reported that 20,000 paraded. But it felt and looked like 100,000. I'll never forget the applause along the parade route. Vietnam vets wandered through the huge crowd, looking for a familiar face, a face they'd last seen in the jungle ten, twelve, fifteen years ago. Buddies hugged and cried together. I saw a mother, wearing a Gold Star (awarded posthumously to her slain son), meet the helicopter pilot who had gone in under heavy fire to retrieve her son's body. I saw a soldier from Vermont reunited with a combat medic from California, who,

in their last encounter, had patched up the wounded soldier. Most of all, I recall the togetherness. If a soldier needed funds or a place to stay, many came to his aid. Once again, we were taking care of each other.

When the dedication was drawing to a close, I was standing on the grassy area above the monument, watching people disperse. Something, I felt, seemed to be missing. Then the silence was broken with what the Memorial Committee had missed. At the point of the monument, a single veteran played "Taps" for the fallen soldiers. The trumpet signalled the end of an event filled with much joy and sorrow.

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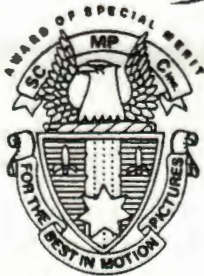
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April 6, 1983
Date

Veteran invasion

Tulare sought as site for gigantic festival

By David Watson
A-R staff reporter

A veterans festival with an expected 150,000 participants is seeking a place to call home Labor Day weekend, and one of the first choices for its organizers is the International Agri-Center site in Tulare.

Six organizations have banded together to sponsor the event, but the lead agency is BRAVO, Brotherhood Rally of American Veterans Organization. Other groups participating in the self-proclaimed "four-day festival of unity" are the American GI Forum, Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, California Veterans Memorial Trust Fund, the Veterans Association of Tulare County and the Spirit of Allensworth Big Brothers Association.

Tony Diamond, executive director of BRAVO, met recently with veterans officials, Mayor Phil Vandegrift and Supervisor John Conway to discuss the feasibility of such an event in Tulare Sept. 1-4.

Diamond could not be reached for comment Friday, but in literature he has distributed through the city, the project is immense in scope.

"We anticipate an attendance of 100,000 to 150,000 participants. A plan is being arranged to form an exercise for the California National Guard and U.S. military forces as a major disaster evacuation plan to accommodate those attending the festival," Diamond wrote. "(The) festival will be alive with a carnival atmosphere — arts and crafts, job fairs, business opportunities, games and unlimited activities."

He said a Tulare County site was chosen because of its "logistical convenience" to handle such a project. The festival committee first planned to hold the event in the Allensworth area, but after viewing the Tulare site, decided it would be better suited to their purposes.

Projected ideas, as outlined by Diamond, call for dividing the event into four specific areas. Each area would contain a fully

equipped, 24-hour mini-hospital with at least four ambulances and one helicopter.

Each section would have an exposition area, open-air theaters, arts and crafts displays, bazaars, rides, games, musicians, entertainers, banners of units, unit beer tents, concessions, restrooms, veteran information booths and telephones.

Plans call for athletic events, a jungle obstacle course, a museum of military history and noon fly-overs by Air Force jet fighters.

It is estimated that 1,100 public safety personnel will be needed for security, as well as 400 uniformed officers to protect the festival area. Campsites for 50,000 recreational vehicles are proposed.

The outline says 200 service food stands will be needed, and other food booths run by local non-profit organizations will be allowed.

The site would need 1,600 water outlets and fountains.

In addition, plans call for

three water "oasis" pools adjacent to the main stage "capable of cooling 5,000 at a time. Two water sprayers will provide a cooling mist."

The main concert stage will have audio systems and two video screens. A laser light show will begin entertainment at twilight and end the concert with fireworks. Possible performers include Buck Owens, Roy Clark and Wayne Newton.

Costs for the project are estimated at more than \$3 million. Corporations such as Budweiser and Sports Unlimited of Dallas are being asked to donate \$250,000 each as "seed" money.

Tularean Frank Hillberg, a member of AMVETS, did not want to discuss the event, saying the committee members had agreed they did not want to publicize the event until a specific site had been chosen.

He did confirm that plans for the festival were under way and the group did want to hold it in the central valley.

"We've got a committee trying to find an acceptable location. This will be a healthy thing. We're not talking about a rock deal," Hillberg said.

The festival also has been tentatively discussed by the city staff.

"I don't know how they're going to do it," said William Fishbough, city finance director and a member of the board of the Tulare Memorial District. "It's mind boggling when you get down to it. It's really doubtful."

Dan Johns, director of the agri-center, said he had not been officially contacted by representatives of BRAVO. He said they had come by his office last week, but he had been out of town.

"Anything beneficial for the community we're in favor of," he said about the festival. "Our board is going to be wise and prudent in renting out the site. We wouldn't want any wild, raucous thing out here."

Assistant City Manager Sam Racadio said such a festival would have to have City Council permission before proceeding, but so far the city had not been officially contacted about the plan.