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Memo
from the desk of COOPER T. HOLT

April 14, 1981

Commander-in-Chief Fellwock re-
quested that I forward this news
clipping to you for your information.

Cooper
COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director
VFW Washington Office

file

National VFW chief is against consolidating 52 VA centers

"The 16 pct budget increase for national defense proposed by the Reagan Administration elates the Veterans of Foreign Wars," National Commander Arthur Fellwock, of Evansville, Ind., said Monday, April 6, in a press conference.

He noted the U.S. defense establishment had been "pushed around" during recent years of drifting and indifference.

Fellwock appeared at the Dept. of Nebraska VFW headquarters, 2431 No. 48th st., in Lincoln and launched a four-day visit to 22 posts in all sections of the state, accompanied by Dept. Commander Bob Gall, of Plattsmouth, and Dept. Quartermaster-Adjutant Bob Bethel, of Lincoln.

Of U.S. policy in El Salvador, Fellwock said "We must draw the line somewhere and the National VFW firmly supports the administration." He discounted any comparison to Vietnam.

'Surge' in needs

Fellwock said the VFW is opposed to any cutbacks proposed by the Office of Management and Budget that would affect "quality of care" in the Veterans Administration hospitals.

"The surge of World War II veterans, whose average age now exceeds 60 years, and who need and are entitled to medical services, will be unprecedented. It's no time to cutback," he said.

Fellwock said the VA reduced bed capacity by five thousand and reduced hospital personnel by seven thousand in "Carter's underfunded 1981 budget."

"The diminishing concern for veterans caused the National VFW to organize a political action committee in 1979. Last year, the first time in our 80-year history, the VFW's PAC endorsed candidates.

"In fact," he said, "we endorsed Reagan for president before he was nominated. Of the endorsements we made for president, the Senate and House 89 pct were elected. We intend to intensify our political action



Fellwock... "the VFW is supportive of U.S. policy in El Salvador and reinstatement of selective service is a must." (SUN Staff Photo).

activities."

Fellwock declared the Nebraska VFW posts are doing a "good job" in the membership area and "that's one reason I'm here — to acknowledge their good work."

50,000 new members

"Nationally, so far this year we have 50 thousand new members, primarily from the Vietnam veterans ranks," the Indianan said. In part, he said, this is attributed to a "resurgence in Americanism."

In office since October, Fellwock said the all-volunteer military concept "isn't working" and a selective service system is "a must." He said improved inducements to enlistees is helping but will fall short of sufficient quality and quantity of personnel.

Fellwock said the National VFW wants the 52 regional VA offices maintained even though there is a move to consolidate. Additionally, he said the VFW is opposed to closures of the outreach centers opened during the

past several years in most urban centers.

The national VFW chief said there are rumors the regional consolidation could mean three principal centers. "I've heard mentioned Los Angeles, Chicago and an East coast point — possibly Philadelphia."

Until reaching Nebraska, he said, he hadn't heard Lincoln mentioned.

"In any event, our position is for maintaining the 52.

"The VA 'game plan' is a reduction of 1,600 employees in the VA's Dept. of Veterans Benefits in 1982 and a reduction of five thousand in the VA Dept. of Medicine and Surgery in 1982," he said.

"Those figures are unconfirmed and wholly unacceptable," he declared.

"The VFW is willing to help President Reagan establish a sound financial government," he said, "but not, so help me, at the further expense of our nation's veterans."

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

July 16, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

This will acknowledge with appreciation your acceptance of the Commander-in-Chief's invitation to attend the 82nd National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 14-20, 1981.

It is noted you plan to attend the Joint Opening Session and Annual Parade. You may pick up tickets for the Parade in the Adjutant General's Office in Plaza Room B of the Civic Center any time prior to that event.

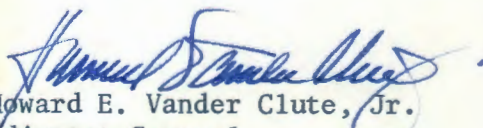
As requested, a Single room reservation is being made for you at the Franklin Plaza Hotel for arrival August 17 and departure August 18. Within a reasonable length of time you should receive confirmation of this reservation directly from the hotel.

Although you plan to arrive on Monday, August 17, we would like to point out that our Distinguished Guests Banquet will be held Sunday evening, August 16, in the Dominion Ballroom, Franklin Plaza Hotel, and we would be pleased to have you attend this function, if you can arrange your schedule to arrive one day earlier. To assist us in completing our arrangements, it would be appreciated if you could advise at your earliest convenience whether or not you can be with us at the banquet.

We look forward to greeting you at our National Convention, and it is suggested that you contact Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director, VFW Washington Office, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D. C. 20002 (phone 202 543-2239) for any additional information or assistance you may desire in completing your arrangements to be with us in Philadelphia.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,


Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

HVC:jk



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

STATEMENT OF
COOPER T. HOLT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON OFFICE
OF THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

WITH RESPECT TO THE NOMINATION OF HARRY N. WALTERS
TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECEMBER 8, 1982

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the privilege of appearing before this Committee to present the views of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States regarding the nomination of Harry N. Walters as the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

My name is Cooper T. Holt and it is my privilege to serve the more than 1.9 million men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as Executive Director of our Washington Office.

First, Mr. Chairman, permit me to thank you for holding this confirmation hearing so expeditiously. It is imperative that the Administrator-designee be confirmed at the earliest possible date so that he may take a leadership role in the final evolution of the Fiscal Year 1984 VA budget.

As the record reflects, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Walters, who is presently the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, was born July 4, 1936 in Fostoria, Ohio. He is a 1959 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York where he won honors as an All-American fullback on the Army

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★

VFW MEMORIAL BUILDING ● 200 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E. ● WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002 - 5799 ● AREA CODE 202-543-2239

team. Mr. Walters was commissioned in the infantry and attended the Airborne and Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia following which he served with the 25th Infantry Division and was separated from active duty in 1963.

In civilian life he held a number of positions including the Executive Vice Presidency of the Standard Paper Manufacturing Company in Richmond, Virginia. He was also associated with the Kimberly Clark Company in Wisconsin and New York City and the Pure Oil Company in Miami, Florida. In 1977 Mr. Walters purchased and became President and Chief Executive of the Potsdam Paper Company in Potsdam, New York. His executive ability is reflected in the fact that this particular paper mill had been idle in an area of large unemployment and by reactivating the mill, he brought employment and prosperity to hundreds of employees.

Mr. Walters makes his home in McLean, Virginia with his wife and two children.

Mr. Chairman, I have met personally with Mr. Walters as have the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States James R. Currieo and all of the Directors in our VFW Washington Office.

Mr. Walters projects strength and ability and impresses us as one who will not permit anyone to usurp his authority or prerogatives as Administrator of Veterans Affairs. We are always optimistic that the Administrator will be the true veterans' advocate within the Administration and this is what we expect of Mr. Walters. The VFW hopes he would make his first priority as VA Administrator a sincere attempt to carry out President Reagan's commitment to veterans made at the 80th VFW National Convention, i.e., hospital and medical care with adequate funding, compensation kept abreast of inflation, an increase for Vietnam veterans going to school under the GI Bill, keeping the VA hospital system separate from any national health plan, and national cemeteries located near relatives.

The priorities of the VFW with respect to veterans' benefits are to maintain the integrity of the VA hospital and medical care system for the treatment of all veterans in need of health care; to maintain the integrity of the compensation

program for the 2.2 million veterans in receipt of benefits thereunder and the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation program (DIC) for the 1.3 million survivors of veterans killed on active duty or permanently and totally disabled at the time of death; and to maintain the integrity of the pension program for the more than 800,000 veterans in need due to their nonservice-connected disabilities and their more than 900,000 survivors. We believe we have made our priorities clear to Mr. Walters.

While speaking of the position of the Administrator, Mr. Chairman, the VFW has long held that the incumbent should be elevated to Cabinet Level to provide him both the authority and stature commensurate with the vast responsibilities of directing the third-largest agency of the Federal Government. As a matter of fact, our last National Convention passed Resolution No. 613, entitled "Create Cabinet Status for Administrator of Veterans Administration," a copy of which is appended to my testimony. Accordingly the VFW recommends the introduction and passage of legislation to accomplish this.

Given the foregoing, Mr. Chairman, the Veterans of Foreign Wars endorses the nomination of Harry N. Walters to be the Administrator of Veterans Affairs. We wish Mr. Walters well and look forward to a working relationship beneficial to the veterans of all wars who have rendered a very special service to this great Nation of ours.

Thank you.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TALKING PAPER

SUBJECT: CABINET STATUS FOR VA ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: COOPER T. HOLT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VFW WASHINGTON OFFICE

STATEMENT: The VFW fully supports and will seek the introduction and passage of legislation during the 98th Congress to create a Department of Veterans Affairs and to change the title of Administrator to Secretary.

When the VA's programs and their economic impact on national affairs are considered as a whole, one cannot but conclude that this agency should enjoy full and acknowledged Cabinet status.

RATIONALE: The Veterans' Administration is the fifth largest budget entity and employs the second largest number of personnel in the Federal Government. It is noteworthy that the VA is larger than five current Cabinet departments combined.

The VA's constituency represents a more diverse cross-section of the country's population than any other department or agency. That constituency consists of 30 million veterans, and, including their dependents, directly impacts on an estimated one-half the nation's population.

The VA administers a number of programs that contribute directly to the national economy. First, it administers the nation's largest income maintenance program through the veterans compensation and pension benefit systems; second, has the largest direct loan and loan guarantee programs in the Federal Government, a good barometer of the entire housing industry; and, third, the VA administers the largest direct insurance program in the country through its various insurance programs for disabled and other veterans.

The VA also operates the largest independent hospital system in the United States. As a result, the VA hospital and medical care system exerts a direct impact on the cost of health care in the nation. Further, the system has been in the forefront of medical care and research, having produced a number of Nobel laureates in this field. It is also the primary medical backup system to the Department of Defense.

Finally, the VA administers a GI Bill education program interacting with virtually every post-secondary educational and vocational institution in the nation, resulting in a stronger national economic base.

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★

VFW MEMORIAL BUILDING ● 200 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E. ● WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002 - 5799 ● AREA CODE 202-543-2239

July 15, 1981

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend greetings and best wishes as you meet for the 82nd National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

You are to be congratulated for your individual contribution for the success of your organization's unselfish and essential programs of service to our nation during the past 82 years. The support you have shown to America's veterans and their families over the years is a cherished monument for all to behold.

I am certain that your convention will not only be enjoyable and productive, but will renew the beginning of another year of vital, valued service to our war veterans and their families by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Sincerely,

Sent to:

Mr. Cooper T. Holt
Executive Director
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Enclosure: 8x10 glossy photo

Call when signed to ave picked up: 543-2239

RR:Livingston:elb

cc: H. von Damm/M. Blackwell/D. Livingston/CF

DUE: ASAP (printing) - EVENT: Philadelphia (Aug. 14)

Draft information provided by VA,

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS) - GIK
OF THE UNITED STATES
FOUNDED 1899



OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR
NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

March 18, 1981

V. F. W. MEMORIAL BUILDING
200 MARYLAND AVENUE, N. E.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Was delighted to read in the Post that you will be on Elizabeth Dole's team as that person charged with keeping up with "veterans, fraternal organizations and Indian groups."

I'll pass on fraternal organizations and Indian groups, but (a) please note the attached roster of Ad Hoc Committee organizations and personalities; and (b) save 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 14th, for a chance to meet this group at the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), One Constitution Avenue, N. E.

Give me a ring (543-2239) and I'll fill you in on the details and arrange to escort you to this meeting.

One word of advice: four years ago, a gent called Ritchie Reiman tried to do your job for Carter. Do a 180° on everything he did, or failed to do, and you'll come out about right.

Best wishes and congratulations.

Cordially,

Phelps
Phelps Jones

PJ/mmt

file VFW

WHA009(1043)(1-008142C146)PD 05/26/81 103881 MAY 26 AM 11:50

ICS IPMNAWA WSH
10103 NFWASHINGTON DC 154 05-26 1109A EDT
PMS MR MORTON BLACKWELL SPECIAL ASST TO THE PRESIDENT
VETERANS OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON
WHITE HOUSE DC

DEAR MR BLACKWELL:

ART FELLWOCK, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE 1.9 MILLION MEMBERS OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S. WILL BE IN OUR NATIONS CAPITAL JUNE 2 AND JUNE 4. HE HAS REQUESTED THAT I TRY TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT FOR HIM TO VISIT WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN FOR THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF PRESENTING TO HIM A LLADRO PORCELANA SCULPTURE/ELEPHANTS.

I AM SURE, MORTON, YOU WILL WANT TO ADVISE THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENT SECRETARY THAT OUR ORGANIZATION IS THE ONLY VETERANS ORGANIZATION WITH A POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE-- ONE WHICH SUPPORTED HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES LAST JULY --AND ALSO THAT WE ARE THE ONE VETERANS ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTED STRONGLY THE GRAMM-LATTA AMENDMENT IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

YOUR USUAL FINE COOPERATION REGARDING THIS REQUEST WILL CERTAINLY BE APPRECIATED
PLEASE PHONE YOUR REPLY TO ME AT 543-2239.

COOPER T HOLT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
V.F.W. WASHINGTON OFFICE
200 MARYLAND AVE N.E. WASHINGTON D.C. 20002

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

*file
VFW*

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 81 1 02 18

ID # 005202
FB 276

Name of Correspondent: COOPER HOLT

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Complaining that the P has not kept his promise in consulting the Veterans of Foreign Wars re. the appointment of the Administrator of the VA. Also urges E. Dole to persuade the P. to attend their Annual Washington Conf. on March 3.

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</u>	<u>DOLE</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>81 10 21 19</u> ^{CH}	<u>YAW</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>81 10 6 11</u>
_____	_____	_____	<u>1 1</u>	_____	_____	<u>1 1</u>
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Referral Note: _____

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ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comments
- D - Draft Response
- F - Fact Sheet
- I - Info Copy
- 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: This was taken care of by phone calls & meetings. The President did attend the reception before the banquet.

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
FOUNDED 1899



February 17, 1981

OFFICE OF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON OFFICE

V. F. W. MEMORIAL BUILDING
200 MARYLAND AVENUE, N. E.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002

005202

Mrs. Elizabeth Dole
Assistant to the President
for Public Affairs
Room 45
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mrs. Dole:

Thank you for including me as a representative from the Veterans of Foreign Wars at your meeting last Saturday. I believe it was a worthwhile get together and I am hopeful we can have more such gatherings.

In case you are unaware, Elizabeth, I would like for you to know that our organization broke an 80-year tradition a year and a half ago when we organized a Political Action Committee. Incidentally, our very first endorsement made last July was to support the candidacy of Governor Reagan as President of the United States. I know the endorsement was of tremendous assistance to him--I know this because he told me so while attending our National Convention held last August in Chicago. He also told me if he was elected that our organization would be consulted regarding the appointment of the Administrator of the Veterans Administration. He has not kept his promise.

We definitely feel President Reagan should know why we are so strongly supporting former Congressman Bill Ayres for this high position. In your capacity as Assistant to the President for Public Affairs, I am most hopeful you will make certain his promise is honored.

In addition, Elizabeth, for 32 years our organization has sponsored what we call an Annual Washington Conference for our top national and state officials. This Conference culminates with a Banquet honoring Members of Congress. The Banquet, which your husband, Bob, will tell you is one of the most outstanding held in our nation's capital, will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel on Tuesday, March 3, beginning at 7 P.M. The highlight of the Banquet will be the presentation of our V.F.W. Congressional Award to Senator Paul Laxalt for outstanding service to our nation. You will recall that your husband was presented this award in 1979.

On January 23, 1981, a letter was transmitted to President Reagan inviting him to drop by our Banquet on March 3 and say a few words to the more than 2,000 who are expected to be in attendance. Last Friday I received a phone call from a lady in the Scheduling Office by the name of Tricia Rodgers expressing regrets that the President would not be able to accept our invitation, even to stop by.

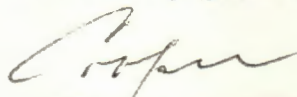
To say the least, Elizabeth, I was stunned. I simply cannot believe the President is aware of our invitation because if so, I believe he would have found time in his busy schedule to be with us. I am pleading with you to see if you can get this invitation back on track and to use your tremendous ability to persuade the President to attend our Banquet.

If the President does not stop by our Banquet you can believe me when I tell you that our organization will be the laughing stock of all those individuals who felt we made a bad mistake in endorsing President Reagan last July--our organization's prestige is at stake.

As far as I know, you are the only individual who can assist us with this problem

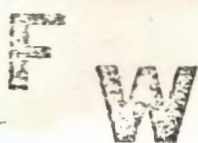
I am sorry this letter is so long but these two problems are very important to our organization. Please do what you can for us.

Sincerely yours,



COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp



January 23, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On Tuesday, March 3, 1981, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States--the only veterans organization, through our Political Action Committee, to endorse your candidacy to President--holds its annual Dinner honoring Members of Congress. Attending this function which will begin at 7 P.M., will be approximately 2,000 persons, including over 300 Members of the Congress, government and military leaders, and national and state officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

At this particular Dinner, Mr. President, the eighteenth annual V.F.W. Congressional Award will be presented to your great friend, The Honorable Paul Laxalt for "his outstanding service to our nation."

Also at this Dinner, Mr. President, the five national winners of a scriptwriting contest sponsored by our organization will be announced. The five winners will receive scholarship awards ranging from \$24,000 for the first place winner down to \$2,500 for the fifth place winner. The contest this year attracted over 500,000 contestants from our 50 states. The contest is known as the Voice of Democracy Program and is limited to students who are in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades of high school. This year's theme was "My Commitment to My Country." The 50 state winners are brought to our nation's capital at the expense of our National Organization and these young people grace the lower tier of our head table at the Dinner honoring Members of Congress.

I wish to cordially invite you to address this Dinner. Your presence would add much to this important occasion and I know our National Voice of Democracy winners and Senator Laxalt would be most pleased if you are able to attend. We will arrange our program to meet your busy schedule.

As you may know, Mr. President, before the "Carter" Administration we were most fortunate to have either the President or the Vice President attend this outstanding event.

C
O
P
Y

Looking forward to an early affirmative reply to our invitation to join us on
March 3, I am

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR J. FELLWOCK
National Commander-in-Chief

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AUG 12 1981

FROM: GAY W. SHANAHAN

TO: *D. Lorano*
M. Blackwell

Incoming mail forwarded for your handling
and disposition.

Advise if action required by EHD or RC.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
FOUNDED 1899



DL
MB
AUG 12 1981

HOWARD E. VANDER CLUTE, JR.
ADJUTANT GENERAL

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
V. F. W. BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
64111

August 10, 1981

file
VFW

Elizabeth H. Dole
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole:

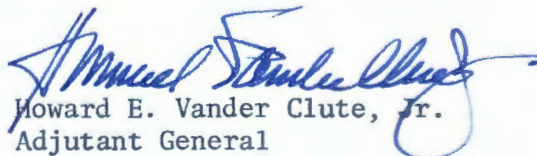
Thank you for your letter of July 30, 1981, addressed to our Commander-in-Chief Arthur J. Fellwock. I assure you that it is he who is grateful for the opportunity to meet with the President.

As you are well aware it was the Veterans of Foreign Wars that endorsed Ronald Reagan for President early in the campaign. This required setting aside an eighty year tradition within the organization of political non-partisanship.

Indeed, we are pleased with the direction of this administration relative to our national security and the common defense. We are hopeful that our established dialogue with President Reagan concerning the preservation of veterans' entitlements will continue to strengthen.

Permit me to convey Commander-in-Chief Fellwock's kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,


Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

HVC:jn

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
FOUNDED 1899



OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR
NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

V. F. W. MEMORIAL BUILDING
200 MARYLAND AVENUE, N. E.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002

July 21, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton:

I recently received a most thoughtful note from Jack Marsh indicating that a determination had been made that the position of Under Secretary of the Army should be filled by an individual with a substantial background in industry.

Accordingly, I wish to thank you with all my heart for your interest, support and counsel at that time when I was under close consideration for that position.

Please pass along to Maizelle my thanks for all her help during that time.

"Corny" as it sounds, I start from the premise that I owe this country everything and the country owes me nothing. It was an honor to have been considered.

Best personal wishes.

Cordially,


Phelps Jones

PJ/mmt



Telephone
202-543-2239

NEWS *Release*

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(Nov. 22, 82)

THE VA ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"The VFW notes with optimism the nomination by the President of Harry N. Walters, an Assistant Secretary of the Army, to be the new Administrator of Veterans Affairs," said James R. Currieo, National Commander-in-Chief.

"When the Senate confirms the nomination, the VFW hopes Mr. Walters would make his first priority as VA Administrator a sincere attempt to carry out President Reagan's commitment to veterans made at the 80th VFW National Convention, i.e., hospital and medical care with adequate funding, compensation kept abreast of inflation, an increase for Vietnam veterans going to school under the GI Bill, keeping the VA hospital system separate from any national health plan, and national cemeteries located near relatives. He also promised to keep veterans preference," said Currieo.

"We look forward to working with Mr. Walters to strengthen the programs of veterans and to provide the best medical care possible," Currieo added.

(continued)

BIOGRAPHY OF HARRY N. WALTERS

Became Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, on 8 June 1981. He is responsible for the supervision of all Army policy pertaining to manpower and personnel management of reserve affairs, to include the Army, National Guard and the U. S. Army Reserves.

Mr. Walters was born on July 4, 1936 in Fostoria, Ohio. Received BS degree from the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, in 1959. All-American honors as fullback on Army team. Commissioned to infantry, Army, Air Force and Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Served with 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, Laos and Thailand. Completed active military service in 1963--continued in Army Reserves until 1965.

Executive Vice President, Standard Paper Manufacturing Company, Richmond, Virginia 1973-76. In the past he has been Associated with Plain and Paper Company, Michigan; Kimberley Clark Corporation, Wisconsin and New York City; Pure Oil Company, Miami, Florida. In 1977 Mr. Walters purchased and became President and Chief Executive Officer of the Potsdan Paper Corporation in Potsdan, New York. This particular papermill had been idle in large unemployment area and by reactivating the mill he brought prosperity and success to hundreds of employees.

Mr. Walters makes his home in McLean, Virginia. Is married and has two children ages 14 and 19.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 4, 1983

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

To whom it may concern:

The attached correspondence was sent to our office for action. As
per instructions by Mr. Butt, we are forwarding it to your agency for any
action you deem necessary.

Sincerely,

KIM GRAHAM
Special Assistant
for Employment and Readjustment
National Veterans Service

KG/eh

Attachments

37

M. Blackwell

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file

Veterans of Foreign Wars
VFW Magazine Editorials

The Editor VFW Magazine,
Broadway at 34th St.
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Jan 14, 1983

Dear Editor:

The attached letter is self explanatory, As a vietnam Vetran I feel that I am the victim of the Sniper and the wrath of the American People. Here I serve my time to defend my country, to save the basic liberties the we all fought for and gave precious lives to preserve this particular Freedom. However the Postal Inspection Service such as they are are upholding the tactics of this one man. I and my family in Utah, have repeatedly contacted Congressional reps. in variou States only to have them in turn contact the very ones that are guilty of these Outrocities and have them respond "Its just allegation" a word that is used in So many ways that it is sickning. Yet they will ask you to vote for them so they can serve another term to protect our "Freedoms" or theirs. It is beyondme to figure out what they are afraid of. I cannot understand their reasoning.

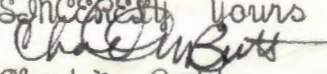
Because I refused to remove My "Silk Underwear" as referred to and due to the Fact that my Step-Father who is a D G V and a member of the V F W having served in Two wars, they The Postal Inspection Service try every which way to get me fired. However I did get reinstated and Both My Mother and My Step-Father signed Notarized Statements that they had written the letters. Also they ascertained th that I had my finger prints on the documents. Non-conclusive evidence. then they (Inspection Service refused to accapet My Step-Father and My mothers Statements and said that they were just covering it up after they had surely admitted to writing the letters. So because of that particular incident I was on October 18, 1982 Suspended from my Job as a Postal Police Officer at the Memphis In. Post Office. I was under the Impression that our basic Rights were Guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States. Is this So? It appar- ently is a farce. I have to have my Civil and Constitutional Rights violated because of my religious Beleifs??? I am dismissed because of a letter someone else wrote?? I have to suffer tyranny because I am a Mormon. I thought that went out when the Mormons went West and became a State of the Union. I wish the President of the United States who staed that he had so much respect for the Mormons would see these Letters maybe he would take a closer look at th U.S.P.S. and maybe crack down on them. So now I had applied for Unemployment and have gotten some aid, and Now on January 24, at 8:30pm I have to go to a hearing because the Postal Service doesnt want to pay what the Law requires.

I cannot figure out why the Postal Service The Postal Inspection Service is allowed to violate the Law repeatedly, and all you hear from Sena ors and and Congressmen is "Its Allegigations or Non sufficient evidence or there was not enough evidence to justify an investigation." As we all know this is a cop out and I will do all I can in my power to expose this injustice. The Teletyped Message speaks for itself, how do I know its Teletype? as I have access to the original and further more Someone had Mailed the Information to me and by all Indications the Contents of the Message tells exactly what they proposed to do since I was to incompetant and Should be reassigned. Strange as this was basically what the Inspection Service had said at a Step 3 hearing in june of

1982, when they said that Officer Butt should consider looking for another position in the Postal Service. This did not give men much chance did it? now I am still out in the street and the Postal Service wants to try and shut off my unemployment rights and benefits how would they feel if the shoe were on the other foot??.....Mad?... Perplexed?? Maybe however they would not like it.

And I dont plan on liking it. If I had half a Chance I would file a law suit however money being the king pin is what is stalemated here. I would like you to print this letter and I will have more if you wnt it, and I will be willing to give you all of the information that further exposes, the Inspection Service for what they really are. Now here s a tidbit Editor, the Inspection Service Re-instated an Officer in Miami Florida for worse and basically the same thing that I was thrown out for, fraud, falsification, and lieing. So apparently being a MORMON, and writing a letter are apparently Feloneious Criminal offenses. You will see by the attached letter, that this was the very thing that was denied befor, now it comes out and mailed to me STRANGE???Huh??

I will be glad to respond to any inquirays that is in reference to this particular issue. I am asking the UFW to help me bring this to its proper place and justice, that is due me. I have a superior Law firm who would be willing to take this to court however, it is a matter of money to do so, so I will be satisfied if the President Of the U.S would be contacted and made aware of this situation.

Sincerely yours

 Chad N. Butt
 1372 Homer Street
 Memphis, In 38122

RECEIVED

JAN 30 1983

WFM - NWS
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

K. E. FLETCHER-CHIEF INSPECTOR

U. S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

WASHINGTON D. C. 20202

DEAR SIR:

I AM WRITING TO YOU IN RETALIATION TO THE LETTER OF CHARGES THAT WAS FILED AGAINST ME BY VICE-PRESIDENT SO. REGION CHAD N. BUTT.

OFFICER BUTT, IS A PERSON OF DISPICABLE CHARACTER WHICH DOES NOT REFLECT FAVORABLY THE IMAGE OF THE U. S. POSTAL SECURITY FORCE. HE LIKE ALL OTHER MORMONS FEEL THAT HE IS ABOVE AND BEYOND REPROACH.

HIS MORAL TERPETUDE IS ONE OF GRAVE QUESTION IN MY MIND AND THAT OF HIS CO-WORKERS... HE APPEARS TO BE INCLINED TO SEXUAL APPETITE OF

THAT OF THE SAME SEXUAL GENDER. I HAVE OBTAINED SEVRAL WRITTEN AND DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE TO THIS FACT. IT IS A KNOWN FACT THAT MORMONS

ARE A DANGER TO PUBLIC MORAL CODES OF THOSE CONCERNED. I FEEL HE OFFICER BUTT, SHOULD BE REASSIGNED TO A LESSER MORE COMPATIBLE

ASSIGNMENT. HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM LOCAL OFFICERS

OF THE LOCAL ALL IN FACT HAVE STATED THAT HE IS A THREAT TO THEIR

MORAL SAFETY AND WELL BEING. I HAVE QUESTIONED ALMOST ALL OF THE SPOS

HERE AND THEY ALL ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH ME... HIS OFF DUTY ACTIVITY

IS WHERE I AM RECEIVING THE COMPLAINTS FROM. ACCORDING TO THE

SHOP STEWARD ON TOUR THREE HE HAS APPRDOACHED HIM SEVERAL TIMES TO BE

INVITED TO HIS HOUSE OR TO GO OUT AFTER DUTY HOURS. I CANNOT

TOPLERATE SUCH CONDUCT ON OR OFF DUTY. IT IS A KNOWN FACT THAT

MORMONS TEACH THESE PEOPLE TO BE THIS WAY AND IF YOU WILL REVIEW

THE HISTORY OF THE MORMON CHURCH YOU WILL FIND THAT ALL OF THEIR

SEXUAL APPETITES WERE RAVENOUS OF BOTH SEXES. I THROUGHLY AND

MOST ASSUREDLY CONCUR WITH THE UNIONS RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HE BE

TESTED FOR HIS MENTAL COMPETANCY, AS I SHOWED SEVERAL TIMES HE

DEFINATELY HAS A PROBLEM BOTH MENTAL AND SEXUAL AND NEEDS TO BE

BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSPECTION SERVICE, HIS CHURCH

1
2 AND HIS UNION THAT HE SO REPRESENTS. THE POSTAL SERVICE FROWNS
3 ON ABNORMAL SEXUAL ACTIVITIES OF ANY NATURE AND I FEEL THAT I
4 AM JUSTIFIED IN MAKING THIS RECOMMENDATION AS ALL THE SPOS ON
5 HIS TOUR HAS COMPLAINED TO ME OF HIS LOCKER ROOM ACTIVITIES.
6
7 THE LOCAL PRESIDENT AND CHIEF SHOP STEWARD HAS PLACED IN ME
8 THE CONFIDENCE THAT THEY FEEL TO RECTIFY THIS MANS INHIBITION.
9 THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THIS PROBLEM, AND UPON YOU THE IMPORTANCE
10 OF THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, BEING OF THE MORMON FAITH ONLY
11 CONCURS MY RECOMMENFDATION THAT IT IS A RELIGION THAT PRACTICES
12 THIS TYPE OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR... OFFICER BUTT HAS ADMITTED TO
13 UNION OFFICIALS AND TO SUPERVISORS THAT HE IS A MORMON AND THIS
14 IS PART OF THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEF, AS SOME OF THE SPOS HAVE
15 ALSO COMPLAINED OF THE SILK UNDERCLOTHING HE WEARS. THIS IN
16 ITSELF SHOULD PROVE THAT THE ALLEGATIONS OF THIS MAN BY SPOS
17 IS VALID AND FACTUAL. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE NECESSARY ACTION
18 IN THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I AM NOT ONE TO MENTION A
19 NAME BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND
20 I FEEL THAT THE ACTION IS NECESSARY.

21 LT. JERRY D. FOSTER
22 SSIC-MEMPHIS TN 38101
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RECEIVED
MAY 25 1968
MAY 25 1968
MAY 25 1968

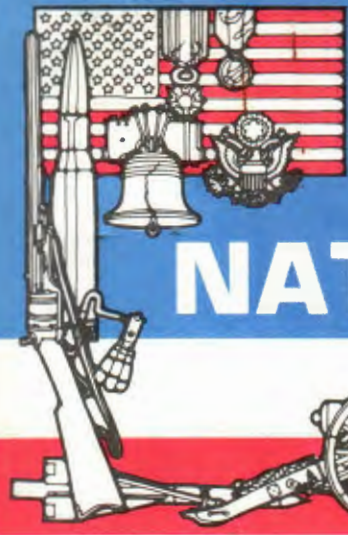
... UNION THAT HE IS ... THE ... SERVICE ...
... ABNORMAL ... ACTIVITIES ... I FEEL THAT ...
... JUSTIFIED IN MAKING THIS RECOMMENDATION ... ALL THE ...
... COMPLAINED TO ... OF HIS LOCKER ROOM ACTIVITIES ...
... LOCAL PRESIDENT AND CHIEF SHOP STEWARD HAS ...
... THE CONFERENCE THAT THEY FEEL TO RECTIFY THIS ...
... THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THIS PROBLEM, AND UPON THE ...
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... THIS TYPE OF ABNORMAL ... OFFICER THAT HAS ...
... UNION OFFICIALS AND TO SUPERVISORS THAT HE IS A ...
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... ALSO COMPLAINED OF THE ... HE HEARD, THIS ...
... ITSELF SHOULD PROVE THAT THE ALLEGATIONS ...
... IS FACT AND FACTUAL, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE ...
... IN THIS MATTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, I AM NOT ...
... WOULD YOU CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS ...
... I FEEL THAT THE ACTION IS NECESSARY.

LT. JERRY D. FOSTER
221C-REMBHS IN 28701

RECEIVED

JAN 26 1983

VFW — NVS
WASHINGTON, D. C.



36TH ANNUAL NATIONAL VETERANS DAY

in **BIRMINGHAM**
P.O. Box 642, Birmingham, Alabama 35201

NOVEMBER 11, 1982

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JOHN T. GOLDEN, Associate Director
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ELTON B. STEPHENS
ROBERT I. STEWART
DAVID VANN
JOHN W. WOODS
DR. LESLIE S. WRIGHT

February 9th, 1983

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

*Will be in
to see you
2/22*

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Attached is copy of letter of invitation to the President which is pursuant to our conversation in your office prior to our departure to Birmingham after the White House presentations by the President.

You will note in the invitation that we are aware of the unforeseen circumstances that will prevent the President at this time to give us an answer to our invitation.

I will be in Washington on February 21st and 22nd. In the meantime, I will be in touch with your office to set up an appointment at your convenience, preferably on one of the afternoons of the two days. I hope that you will be able to see me for a brief few minutes concerning a suggestion on our invitation.

Sincerely,

Raymond Weeks,
Director.





Telephone
202-543-2239

NEWS Release

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(Oct. 27, 82)

AGENT ORANGE REPORT SHOCKS VFW

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"The General Accounting Office report of the Veterans Administration's handling of complaints by Agent Orange victims should shock every veteran," said James R. Currieo, National Commander-in-Chief of the VFW.

The report by the investigative arm of the Congress pointed out inadequate physical examinations, a central register which did not contain addresses of those examined, little or no attempt to reach those who might have been exposed to herbicides and only one of 14 VA hospitals surveyed had a follow-up program for veterans with diseases which might have been caused by Agent Orange.

"This proves complaints made by Vietnam veterans and the VFW concerning the VA's Agent Orange program," said Currieo.

"The VA has had years to establish a good outreach plan and a study of the effects of exposure to many types of chemicals. It is time for the new Administrator to take charge and win the confidence of Vietnam veterans in an agency they look to for assistance," said Currieo.



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"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(Oct. 27, 82)

VFW REQUESTS QUICK ACTION ON AGENT ORANGE STUDY

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"The VFW is pleased that the Veterans Administration has designated the Centers for Disease Control to undertake the Congressionally mandated Agent Orange study. The procedure for getting the study started has taken too long; therefore, we are requesting quick action by the CDC in determining what herbicidal exposure does to veterans," said James R. Currieo.

The VFW National Commander-in-Chief pointed out that several years ago the VFW suggested this study be conducted by someone, other than the VA, who could assure a credible scientific work which would be accepted by Vietnam veterans.

"The VFW also has recommended that veterans with diseases probably caused by exposure to the defoliants used in Vietnam receive compensation now and the burden of proof be shifted from the veteran to the government when disallowing service connection for the diseases," said Currieo.

"It is vital that the CDC undertake its study at once to determine the effects of these poisons on the human body. The VFW calls for rapid, but professional, action," he said.



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202-543-2239

NEWS Release

Washington Memorial Building
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002



"THE VOICE OF TWO AND ONE HALF MILLION MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY"

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATELY
(Nov. 22, 82)

VFW REQUESTS LAW TO COMPENSATE VIETNAM AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS

(Editors note: The following is a statement by VFW Commander-in-Chief James R. Currieo, Sierra Vista, Arizona, leader of the 2.5 million VFW and Auxiliary, at a joint press conference with Representative Tom Daschle, D-S.D.)

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"The VFW is requesting that legislation be introduced in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives to authorize Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides to receive compensation for service connected diseases and disabilities.

"These infirmities must bear a causal relationship to such exposure as determined by Veterans Administration medical personnel and should be incurred by veterans who served in Vietnam in areas where herbicides were used.

"Such service in these areas should be presumptive of disability and proof of the lack of exposure and disability

(continued)

should be on the government.

"The VFW requests this legislation because Vietnam veterans have suffered enough at the hands of their government which sent them to fight, used potential disabling herbicides and has done little to assist them in treating probable disabilities and determining the effects of exposure to herbicides.

"It is clear that the VA was derelict in the early phases of its study of Agent Orange and similar herbicides. The VFW urged at the start of the research that an all-inclusive study be conducted by an independent agency. Delays and procrastination have been normal practices. Recently, the National Academy of Sciences cited design flaws in the plan to question veterans who were in Vietnam and might be studied to ascertain the effects of exposure.

"It is clear that veterans must receive compensation at this time while the study continues. Veterans cannot wait another ten years to be told that they are disabled from Agent Orange and other poisons.

"The VFW recommends that after authorization, money in addition to regular funds for compensation be appropriated to cover payments for herbicide disabilities. If a man was disabled by his government, he should be cared for by that government, it's as simple as that."



Alc
**National
Forget-Me-Not Assoc.
For POW-MIA'S Inc.**

P.O. Box #41023 • St. Petersburg, Florida 33743 • (813) 546-4962
A Non-profit, Non-political, Volunteer Group, Dedicated Toward a Full Accounting of P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s



September 1982

NEWSLETTER

Deliberately Delayed

JUST IN CASE any of you might have missed the report on the delegation that just returned from Vietnam and Laos, we thought it would be better to delay our letter for about 10 days and give you an up-date on what transpired. Just prior to their return on the 29th, there were pictures beamed via satellite showing them examining a crash site of a C-130...stepping gingerly over rusted debris from the plane. Two minute shards of skeletal remains were recovered and given to the U.S. representative with them for delivery to the Lab in Hawaii. This crash site was in Laos AND was one they had asked to see. They were also going to be taken to the caves up north but the weather turned bad so they continued with the original plan to go to Hanoi. Their trip there was to last the week, but seemed to be under a news blackout. Ron Miller of ABC was with them but, we gather, was unable to send back anything. We sure look forward to a report from him soon. (Some small facts you may not know: they were not allowed to take along their own interpreter; and Anne Keegan of the Chicago Tribune was allowed in Laos, but not Vietnam) Before returning they were taken to the caves in Sam Neua Province, Laos. Perhaps you saw the film of them slogging through the rough terrain, slithering into the caves and searching. This was not their worst physical problem. They were also the victims of bat and insect attacks. And their physical torment undoubtedly was no where near what they suffered emotionally! These were all family members on the Board of Directors of the National League of POW-MIA Families. On Sept. 30th members of the group appeared on the TODAY SHOW and CBS MORNING NEWS and in the afternoon testified before the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS. The League will be reporting to its members and guests and I don't want to take any of their thunder, but I don't think it unfair to tell you...their reaction seems UP! The Vietnamese promised to meet with the American representatives four times a year....a promise we hope they will keep...and make meaningful!! They felt the Laotians were more inclined to cooperate and that is great with us. We have had a request for a meeting with the Lao government in their hands for some time. More on that later

SINCERE THANKS

SOME DEBTS of gratitude have to be paid before I can go on and talk about plans for our BIG DAY, on Sunday, October 24th! I must begin with the Air Force Sergeants Association's International Convention in Phoenix in August. The tremendous support we received from them last year was even more gigantic this year. We arrived there with a little over 3,600 members & hoped to get to 4,000 before I left. I was pretty discouraged the day before I left as I only had 57 new members - BUT - at the Auxiliary business meeting the last morning, Victor "Bart" Bartholomew, the AFSA Kansas President stood in the room as I spoke and bemoaned my disappointment. In less than 2 minutes I found out why things were so slow for me. He presented me with a stack of 192 new applications and \$425 from AFSA and the Auxiliary began showering applications and money over my shoulder at a rate too fast to count. Another group from Michigan had the white labels on their red ribbons laminated and stitched on. NM's Chapter 1201 had 4000 bumper stickers with the POW logo and AFSA logo on each side that read: "HAVE THEY ALL REALLY BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR?? ASK YOUR CONGRESSMAN!" Kansas gave away a free chance on Budweiser scarf & hat set or beer mug...to anyone showing them a membership card from us!! There were RED RIBBONS all around and on nearly everyone not in uniform. But, the last night at dinner, someone started collecting \$1 fine from anyone not wearing a ribbon....she kept it up the next morning at breakfast, and I heard laughing complaints of being fined twice....but they paid! When I left I had 357 new members and \$1056...PLUS active help from Chapters in Alaska, Hawaii, as well as Germany and Italy. I know what its like on cloud nine! Also as a result, we have a Mid-West Coordinator in the person of Bart Bartholomew, and 2 state Coordinators: Mary Montgomery in Texas, and Charles Mank in Illinois. To everyone from AFSA, staff included, we send our heartfelt thanks.

More thanks go to; Co-State Coordinators for Connecticut...AngeLa Fabrizio and Debbie Franzione (who incidentally did a fabulous job on the Parade and program in Bristol, September 26.) For that too, our thanks. Minnesota has a State Coordinator thank you Patty Skelly, she will be remembered up there and in Washington, D.C. as one very knowledgeable lady on this subject. They'll be your local representatives to set-up statewide programs and answer your questions, but you will continue to get the NEWSLETTERS from us here. We STILL need state coordinators.....so PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US.....we'll help you, too! There are still more people to whom we must show our gratitude: To Cox Lumber Company of St. Petersburg for allowing us to use their parking lot for our garage sale; to an anonymous company in New Jersey whose employees cared enough to copy our application and individually send in 28 members. AND, our special thanks to the MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, Morris F. Dixon, Jr. Detachment, who sent \$1 for each of their \$113 members, plus a donation; and to the Young Marines of the same detachment, whose membership of 41 each signed up. (It would be the greatest thing any organized group could do....ask EACH ONE of their members to join us. The one dollar wouldn't strain a single person.....BUT, the accumulated money and the added member would be an invaluable asset to us in membership clout and working capital.) To all the above mentioned, again....WE SEND OUR THANKS.

CONGRESSMAN JOHN LeBOUTILLIER (NY) earned a special place in our hearts, when he was asked during an interview, "What is your major political concern?" He answered...."I have one thing I care about more than anything else; I am also convinced, I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT THERE ARE LIVE POW'S IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. Some of those guys have been sitting there for 14 or 15 years, abandoned by their government. I would give up anything in my life to be able to get those guys out!" WOW! Call the local office of your Congressman or woman and ask them, "What have you done in the last 6 weeks to gain the release of these men?" Better yet! . . . Read them the statement then ask the question. . . . If you don't like their answer..... . . . Ask them to request the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) briefing on the POW-MIA situation. . . . Wait a week. . . . Try again. . . . If they have been unable to get the briefing due to vacation. . . . Ask hypothetically....."Assuming the men are over there..how would you help?" If you are still not satisfied, tell him or her you shall now.... Call and ask their opponent the same hypothetical question. . . Don't wait too long as time is short. (Perhaps the press and the public would like to know just how the "people working for them" feel about the prisoners and missing!

NEW RECORD!! We really set a record this time. In August we had 3,634 members. By the time our charter was 1 year old on September 28th, we had gained 998 more members....and today, less than 2 months later our total is 4,749...IMAGINE!! A growth of 1,115 members since August 13th. You have all been terrific....but if you thought I would allow you to rest on your laurels....THINK AGAIN. It's just so EASY for each one to bring in one...just one by Veteran's Day, November 11th and we'd have 9,498.....AND.....then if each one sent one in by the New Year, we'd have 18,996 (no 19,000 cause I'd get the other 4) Imagine, the Board could go to the special 10th Anniversary Candlelight Ceremony at the White House on January 27th representing 19,000 members! Again, WOW! Please try! This special mid-winter meeting is sponsored by the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

While we're on this subject, I would like to invite anyone in the area OR able to attend to think about joining us there those 2 days. Let me know and we'll get the candles.....Boy! I'd love to see 1600 Pennsylvania Ave at 8 p.m. looking like noon! Rooms will probably be between \$40-\$50 per day to accommodate 2 to 4 persons. There will be more information of this in our November letter after I hear from the League....but for the sake of a good showing for our Missing Hostages... I wanted to tell you now so you can consider a two day trip to D.C. as a Christmas present or winter honeymoon as well as a VISIBLE SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR OUR MEN!

GOVERNOR JAMES A. RHODES OF OHIO issued a Proclamation and dedicated October 24 to the POW-MIAs and their families to draw attention to their special plight. If others of you are holding Proclamations, please send us a copy so we can properly thank the governors. Also if there are any from your cities. We have several here, but plan to list them for thanks in our November NEWSLETTER. . . . We have received another supply of RED BANNERS, (6' long x 4" wide - with a grommet. . . to fly under our country's flag until this situation is resolved)....all we ask is the request be written on the official stationery of your town. (Thanks for Proclamation to Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Post 4796, Willowick, OH, of the VFW)

REMEMBER, DRIVE WITH YOUR HEADLIGHTS ON THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 23-24 TO REMIND THIS NATION OF OUR LIVING PRISONERS & MISSING!

COMPUTER CHANGE: Ever mindful of the economy, we gathered round the table a couple of weeks ago and combined all members of a household on one label for the purpose of saving postage. Now, if your sister suddenly became your wife, or your father the husband....please, forgive us. Drop a note and we'll straighten it up. Also, if you know of anyone who is not getting their NEWSLETTER, give us the word and we'll stop their deprivation!!

WE'RE HAVING GROWING PAINS: One office with all the records, 3 desks, typewriter, files and more boxes of records and new supplies has us in a peculiar spot...stepping over each other and still short-handed. We have to parcel out jobs to be done, and sometimes we cover all but the kitchen here. We need HELP!! As I said, our growth has been terrific....AND it HAS TO continue, so if we have to choose between crowding or growing, we'll take growing.....BUT, if anyone in the St. Petersburg area has an inexpensive 2 room office, we'd like to hear from them. BETTER YET, if anyone might be looking for a tax break or write-off...we are an IRS tax deductible organization. Now, in the hope that this miracle will occur, if you have a talent for office work...plus 2 or 3 hours a day, any week day....then please, give me a call and we'll make up a roster. Sorry, but naturally this will only apply here in St. Pete and surrounding area...but hang on out there, the time will fast be arriving when our State Coordinators will welcome willing hands. PLEASE KEEP THIS PARAGRAPH IN MIND--ITS IMPORTANT TO US!

SOMETHING ELSE that is important.....is getting some of what it needs....professional care! I'm talking about finances! We have been very fortunate in securing advice & help from a terrific guy. He, like so many of our citizens today, has just realized we have live prisoners over there, and, as his contribution to the cause, has offered to conduct a fund raising program for us....at no cost, and no percentage to himself. You'll be hearing more about this real soon.

MORE CHANGES have taken place. Some time back we lost two members of our Board of Directors; Eleanore Grein and Audrey Edleman due to the demands of their job and personal lives. We were sorry they had to go, but as the saying goes, "The King is dead--long live the King!" we had to fill their places. Most of you know the first member to join us: She is Ruth Brellenthin, and our second member will be well-known in the Tampa Bay area. He is Sam McClelland, talk host on radio station WPLP and Channel 18, Vision Cable. He has already spoken out many times on our issue and plans to continue. He will be a terrific asset with publicity and Ruth has always been part of the backbone here. We're just growing so much that everyone on the Board has to be responsible for a special area now. We welcome our new members and also Eleanor Odell, who gives us at least one full day a week of secretarial work...Linda Neuman has typed the hundreds and hundreds of envelopes we've sent out to the other organizations and veterans groups, plus the churches about the plans for POW-MIA AWARENESS DAY, Sunday, Oct. 24. and Alberta Clarke sees that they all get mailed on time. Thank you....Board members and staff members.

SHORT-HANDED AND RUSHED may not sound like much of a reason for not doing the things that we should, BUT, we are doing the best we can right now. And, please don't tell me that the road to Hell is paved with good intentions....I know that, but we did have an influx of personal situations here that we out of our control. All this is my way of telling you that as soon as October 24th is over, the workers we do have here will gather and send out renewal cards. We know you have not received yours and we apologize. As long as we have been so slow....some of you who had it slip your mind will be able to renew. Thanks!

THIS MONTH'S POSTCARD has a different route to travel and a different purpose. You recall I mentioned that we had requested permission to visit Laos. We feel that the FULL support of ALL the members of our Association will add to our credibility in the eyes of the Laotians, so our request to you is to write and tell their Charge...that they should visit with these members of THIS COUNTRY'S LARGEST ORGANIZATION CONCERNED WITH THE MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHEAST. Tell them this in your own words and politely suggest that our numbers are growing daily which indicates the never ending concern the people of this nation feel. You could mention we were formed by family members, who are today, completely out-numbered by people whose only connection is devotion to their fellow men. When you write, please remember that old adage about "honey & vinegar!"

One thing I did not mention before, I shall now. It was said on Nightline and some other places and I was going to let others spread the word....BUT....to my complete mystification, it is not being given any prominence. My own feeling is that it was the most important statement coming out of the meeting. I believe you ALL are entitled to know and draw your own conclusions (which, I think, scream out!) At any rate....here goes..... and this is the gist of what was said in both VIETNAM AND LAOS....it is entirely possible, when our hostile attitude is reformed, that in some remote, out of the way village, some chieftan or villagers could be holding someone!!!

It seems to me the door is slightly opened and I'd like us...to stick a foot in to keep it that way! Soooooo the postcard takes a 13¢ stamp and the address is:

PLEASE SEND THIS ONE!!

Remember, for the guys over there, you can be sweet!

Mr. Khamtan Ratanavong, Charge Office of the Embassy 2222 S Street Washington, D.C. 20008
--

Thank them for being cordial to the League of Families!

PINELLAS, PASCO, & HILLSBOROUGH COUNTIES IN FLORIDA:

Please note that our ceremony here for the National Headquarters on Sunday, October 24th will be in LOWRY PARK IN TAMPA. We choose this as a central location for the tri-county area. The park has a bandstand--and we'll have music--there are also seats in front of the band shell and a bleachers behind them....AND a lovely, large field for relaxing on your own chairs or a blanket. We have invited VicePresident George Bush to come and tell us what has transpired since we went to Washington last October with 1½ million signatures. Also invited; Governor Graham, Senator Chiles, Senator Hawkins, plus the mayors in the outlying communities. Aside from Mayor Martinez of Tampa, the host mayor they have not been asked to speak. There will be an EX-POW, some entertainment and some surprises. We want everyone in the area to come...have a relaxing afternoon...with some speeches, a drill team, some refreshments and show the world you care for these missing men and want them home. That's what it's all about....Sam is taking care of media coverage and we need YOU there to be counted.

A caravan is leaving from J.C. Penny's Automotive area in PINELLAS SQUARE MALL at 12 noon. Perhaps you could also get a group from Clearwater. From St. Pete, go north on 275 to the Sligh Avenue exit, at the light make a left turn Sligh (west) to Boulevard Street and turn right and there's Lowry Park....which also has a great area for children...so, please join us for an OLD FASHIONED RALLY at 1 P.M. Sunday, October 24, 1982.

AMERICA RESPONDS: Ours is not the only area that has taken up the invitation to help our POW-MIAs. These are places that have already made plans for a program: On Oct. 23 at 10:30 am, in ORLANDO's Woodlawn Memorial at their MIA Tree; on Oct. 24, Columbus AFB, MS; Elgin, IL; Fairmount, MN; Bristol, CT. Vietnam Vets have plans in Willowick, OH; Newark, NJ; Seattle, WA; and Lowell, MA. Air Force Sergeants Assoc. is working in Dover, DL; Salem, OR; Belton, MO; Wichita, KS; and Derby, KS; as well as Elmendorf AFB, AK. Concerned citizens have plans in Feasterville, PA; and San Antonio, TX; and Flagler Beach, FL; along with New Bern, NC. The Hagood School in Lompoc, CA is making plans as is the American Legion Auxiliary in Bradenton, FL; the Disabled American Veterans in Sioux Falls, SD; and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Miramar, and Pembroke Pines, FL. To ALL THESE PEOPLE, I SEND OUR SINCERE THANKS....AS WELL AS TO THE 15-20 PEOPLE WHO CALLED FOR INFORMATION AND MAY ALSO BE PLANNING ACTIVITIES. Should any of you be planning a program please, get word to us. The Viet Nam Vets #28, Philadelphia planned a complete parade and couldn't get October 24 so their tentative plans are for Dec. 5th.


PLEASE won't any of you send us any news articles about AWARENESS DAY. We need all the written material we can get to deliver to President Reagan....probably in scrap book form....I don't know, but he needs to see everything that is going on.

A DEAR FRIEND IN HELETOS, TX sent me a lovely letter to send to our local churches asking them to ring their church bells on October 24th for us. She also included prayers and Scripture reading relevant to the subject and a few words in behalf of these men be spoken, as well as reading the names of the missing from that particular state. We think this would be great in any church. Perhaps you could ask your Minister, Paster or Priest and Rabbi. We will be glad to supply you with the number and names of those missing in your state.

I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN AN AWFUL LOT TO READ....BUT there was a lot to say. Now, I'll close with thanks...and ask again:

DRIVE WITH YOUR HEADLIGHTS ON THE WHOLE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 23-24 TO REMIND THIS NATION OF OUR LIVING PRISONERS AND MISSING!

Keep Faith with our men!


Executive Director



POW-MIA
POW-MIA
RETURN THEM NOW!

FOR INFORMATION:
Forget Me Not, POW-MIA, Inc.
(Prisoners of War, Missing In Action)
P. O. Box 41023
St. Petersburg, Florida 33743

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
December 30, 1983

I've reportedly bugged photo & advance offices re this. Seems the advance man was a volunteer & has screwed up. Still some hope for photos

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton:

I deeply regret having to write this letter but as you well know, I have tried unsuccessfully since last August to obtain pictures taken by the White House photographers during the President's visit to our National Convention in New Orleans. Following repeated attempts during the past four months, I have come to the conclusion it is almost an impossibility to obtain these pictures.

As I have indicated on several occasions to both you and Harry Walters, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, I was told by the Presidential advancement men that these pictures would be available to me immediately after the National Convention. I have had the privilege of working with advancement men for many years and have found most of them to be very trustworthy and sincere when making commitments of this type. However, the advance people for the President's visit to New Orleans were not very understanding with any request I made in behalf of our organization. Pictures are only a part of the story.

Our own photographers were barred from taking pictures during the President's visit and, again, I was assured by the advance people that pictures would be made available to our organization. If there is anything at all your office can do to obtain the pictures taken at that time, it would certainly be appreciated. I am especially interested in the photos taken of our national officers and Ladies Auxiliary leaders. These pictures were taken immediately after the President's speech and would probably be listed under what the advance people call "photo opportunities." Anyway, these particular pictures are, of course, sought by the individuals who had their pictures taken with the President. I can assure you, and if for no other reason than the political aspect, it would be a good idea for someone to look these photos up and get them to me as soon as possible.

Also, during the President's visit to New Orleans you will recall he signed the Veterans Job Training Bill and I have been trying to obtain two of the Presidential pens since that time. Again I have been unable to get any cooperation from White House personnel. Any assistance you can offer me in this endeavor will also be appreciated.

Sincerely your friend,

Cooper T. Holt
COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★