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Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

Withdrawer

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File Folder VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM -
ACTION: VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM JANUARY 1983 (1)

FOIA

F07-0034/01

Box Number 9089

KDB

3

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	LIST	RE VVLP TRAINING CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS - UPDATE	7	ND	B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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TALKING POINTS - VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- I want to thank you for your efforts in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. As you know, it was not my purpose to come to Washington to initiate large numbers of new programs, but VVLP is an important exception.
- This is the type of government program we can all be proud of.
- Yours is a low budget, fixed duration program which generates an enormous amount of voluntary action to help some of the truly needy in our society.
- I was pleased to learn you have recruited 1,800 volunteers and have created 1,500 job opportunities for unemployed Vietnam veterans.
- The large amount of favorable media attention your program has attracted has helped destroy a false stereotype. Vietnam veterans are not unemployable, guilt ridden dropouts from society. You are showing that Vietnam veterans have achieved great success in our society and are willing to help their less fortunate comrades in arms who now need help.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 27, 1983

MEETING WITH VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

DATE: January 28, 1983
LOCATION: Old Executive Office Building, Room 450
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
FROM: Morton Blackwell

I. PURPOSE

To recognize volunteer achievements of Vietnam veterans on behalf of their fellow veterans and to recognize the leadership role of the nation's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLV).

II. BACKGROUND

Administered by ACTION, the VVLV is an important veterans service begun by the Reagan Administration. The VVLV has established thirty-eight programs across the country and fifty will be operating by Spring of 1983. Each project director and each chairman of each program and almost all board members are Vietnam combat veterans. Three hold the Congressional Medal of Honor, approximately half the chairmen and the project directors hold at least one Purple Heart and a number are severely disabled as a result of their service to the nation. Over 1,500 non-stipend volunteers have stepped forward. These Vietnam veterans work at the highest levels of their communities and have volunteered over 75,000 hours of time to materially improve the situation of Vietnam veterans.

III. PARTICIPANTS

135 prominent Vietnam veterans and others associated with the program (list attached).

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House press corps photo opportunity.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

5:00 p.m. President arrives in OEOB, Room 450, greeting his guests and posing for pictures.
5:03 p.m. White House Press Corps photo opportunity.
5:07 p.m. President makes brief remarks and responds to questions and comments.
5:10 p.m. President departs.

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The goal of the program is to demonstrate the leadership of Vietnam Veterans by having them work at all levels in the community to improve the well-being of all Vietnam veterans through volunteerism.

The program is a success:

- Proves that Vietnam veterans have much to offer their country
- Defeats the false stereotype about Vietnam veterans
- Is a unique, creative initiative using only seed money to accomplish the following:
 - 1,800 volunteers have produced 1,500 job opportunities
 - hosted major recognition events in which Vietnam veterans were presented in a healthy light that emphasizes their continuing contribution to our society
 - focused on assisting Vietnam veterans in small business development
 - staged health education seminars
 - been working to destroy the false stereotypes of the Vietnam veteran as anything from a drug-crazed killer to a guilt-ridden victim
 - obtained approximately \$150,000 in donations from private sources
 - been affirming the pride and integrity of military service during difficult days

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RE VVLP TRAINING CONFERENCE
PARTICIPANTS - UPDATE

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"I hope that every American will follow the example of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program volunteers and reach out individually to extend a helping hand where needed to all our fine Vietnam veterans. Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

President Ronald Reagan
November 10, 1981

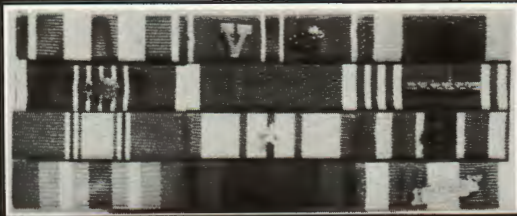
VVLP

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program



Recognizing the country's Vietnam veterans as a national leadership resource, President Ronald Reagan launched the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVL) at a White House Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, 1981. The President said, "The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful Vietnam veterans in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems." He went on to say, "Contrary to an unjust stereotype, the vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia. And many of these fine people have succeeded and excelled in their post-war endeavors."

What does America do with experience like this?



Put it to work...

Those that every American will follow the example of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program volunteers and reach out individually to extend a helping hand where needed to all our fine Vietnam veterans. Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue.

"A nation's future is only as certain as the devotion of its defenders, and the nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation."

President Ronald Reagan

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Sponsored by ACTION, the National Volunteer Agency. Write us to find out how you can help the Title I/Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program project nearest you. ACTION, Washington, DC 20525.

Design concept: George L. Skvazek

Substance Not Rhetoric

- Tennessee VVLP has located more than 200 job opportunities for qualified Vietnam veterans.
- New Mexico VVLP is presenting "Profiles in Courage" awards to recognize significant achievements by that state's Vietnam veterans since their return to civilian life.
- Chicago VVLP offers veterans vital information on subjects like "Starting a Small Business and the SBA" by sponsoring community college seminars. Mayor Byrne's dedication of a fountain to honor Chicago's Vietnam veterans is due largely to the efforts of the VVLP in that city.
- Three Houston personnel agencies have begun to help the VVLP assist local veterans—eleven jobs initially filled!
- The Hartford, Connecticut VVLP organized a pool of attorneys to provide legal services for Vietnam veterans; Greater Hartford's major employers have teamed with the VVLP to train and to hire veterans.
- St. Louis VVLP has worked with major area employers to place more than 50 veterans in jobs. The project began a food bank for those veterans and their families needing immediate assistance.
- In Seattle, the VVLP set up a telephone service to give Vietnam veterans informed answers, and timely, accurate information and referrals.

John Cummings

Vietnam: Army, two tours; wounded.

Now: Attorney, Volunteer Chairman, Northern California VVLP.

"A lot of us are now in positions where we can turn around and give a hand. The VVLP is the correct response, as far as I'm concerned, to a problem that must be solved before we, as a nation, can move forward."

What Is WLP?

In the best tradition of America, Vietnam veterans are stepping forward as volunteers to aid their fellow veterans who have problems stemming from their war experience.

Approximately nine million Americans served in the armed forces from 1964-73, the Vietnam War years. About 2.7 million—nearly one in three—served in Vietnam itself. During the war 57,698 gave their lives and 270,000 were wounded. More than 21,000 were disabled and about 5,000 lost one or more limbs.

Although 80 percent of Vietnam veterans—most now in their thirties—have integrated responsibly and successfully back into civilian life, significant problems remain to be solved—problems such as unemployment, underemployment and a negative stereotype that saps the veterans' sense of self-worth. Among the Vietnam veterans who are volunteering to participate in the WLP are attorneys, bankers, businessmen, artists, corporate executives and professors. They include three Congressional Medal of Honor winners, and virtually all are combat veterans.

Luis Sanz, M.D.

Vietnam: Combat medic

Now: Obstetrician, full-time faculty member, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

"It is important to make the distinction that the problems of that time were political but that the soldier who served was not. He was simply doing his duty. The Leadership Program is needed now."

Dennis Coll

Vietnam: Army Concept Team

Now: President, Murdoch and Coll, Inc. (commercial real estate); Volunteer Chairman, Chicago WLP.

"I got involved with the WLP because I think there comes a point in your life when it's time to give back a little you've taken."

Leo Thorsness

Vietnam: Prisoner of war in North Vietnam for six and a half years. Congressional Medal of Honor winner.

Now: Executive with Litton Industries, Los Angeles, California; Volunteer Chairman, Southern California WLP.

"I feel a debt to (other Vietnam veterans). There are still things left to be done. It's time to cough up the chicken bones. WLP will go a long way toward the final resolution."

David Szumowski

Vietnam: Tank platoon leader; blinded in service.

Now: Attorney, San Diego, California; Program Director, Southern California WLP.

"Through the WLP I am able to see that in some ways the sacrifice made by the Vietnam veterans is acknowledged. I am proud to have served. What I lost was given in the cause of the principles of freedom."

Max Patterson

Vietnam: 1st Infantry Division

Now: Police Chief, Windsor, Connecticut; Volunteer Chairman, Hartford, Connecticut WLP.

"When I heard about the WLP, it started a fire going. People have a deep interest in finishing the unfinished business of the war. It's important and it's time."

Wayne Hanby

Vietnam: Marine, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines; disabled.

Now: Former Justice of the Peace, Delaware; Program Director, Wilmington, Delaware WLP.

"I was willing to resign the two years remaining on my current appointment as a Justice of the Peace to give this a go. We have to succeed—too much is at stake. And I don't like to fall short."

WVLP

**an innovative volunteer initiative
the National Volunteer Agency**

Kip Becker, Ph.D.

Vietnam: Helicopter pilot, 119th Assault Helicopter Company.

Now: Assistant Dean, Behavioral Science, Wilmington College; Volunteer Chairman, Wilmington, Delaware WLP.

"The Leadership Program is in line with the President's attitude of moving the country forward and away from governmental control and toward individual involvement and responsibility. It's time to get away from the attitude of self-pity regarding Vietnam veterans. Now's the time to get on with it."

Dave Volk

Vietnam: 101st Airborne

Now: State Treasurer, South Dakota; Volunteer Chairman, South Dakota WLP.

"I want to give all Vietnam veterans the opportunity to know they are something, that if they haven't made it yet, they can."

Fred Tucker

Vietnam: Marine, two tours.

Now: Former General Manager, Carpet Barn, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee; Executive Director, Tennessee WLP.

"People who have never before been affiliated with veterans organizations are assisting us. A demonstration of the volunteer concept at its best..."

Jeff Wilcox

Vietnam: Rifle platoon leader and company commander, 101st Airborne

Now: Former computer executive; Program Director, Northern California WLP.

"This program is not about a few veterans leading other veterans. It's about Vietnam veterans as leaders in society."

How Does It Work?

Several years ago the mayor of Dallas, Texas held a special event to honor the Vietnam veterans in that city. Tom Pauken, a Dallas attorney, attended. He saw a large number of people he knew, successful people in a variety of professions. While he knew many of them professionally, till then he hadn't realized that they, like himself, had served in Vietnam.

"I thought to myself," said Pauken, "if you could ever pull together that caliber of people—people with so many resources and talents—to help some of our fellow veterans, we would be able to make an enormous difference."

Later, as director of **ACTION**, the national volunteer agency, Pauken was able to do just that by creating the WLP.

WLP volunteers work at senior levels in business and government in their community to build and maintain a coordinated, community-wide effort to help solve problems still faced by other Vietnam veterans.

The WLP is establishing volunteer programs in 50 communities nationwide. Each project has a volunteer chairman and a program director, both community leaders.

The WLP is not attempting to duplicate or overlap the services already provided by the Veterans Administration and its outreach centers, local community-based organizations, or the veterans' service organizations. Rather, WLP complements those programs and works to make the entire range of available services as cohesive and effective as possible. It is not a one-on-one service delivery mechanism nor is it intended as a referral service.

The cost of the program is two million dollars per year for three years or approximately \$50,000 per year for each of the 50 cities. Federal participation is scheduled to end by September, 1984, when the WLP will become privately funded and operated. It is intended to be a short term volunteer program with significant but realistic goals.

While the specific details of each program depend on the characteristics of the individual community, typical activities include liaison with local employers aimed at improving job opportunities for Vietnam veterans and opportunities for those veterans who want to start businesses of their own.

**ive sponsored by ACTION,
cy.**

How Can You Help?

You can get involved.

If you are in business, you can identify jobs for Vietnam veterans. If you are a businessman who served in Vietnam, you can be additionally helpful in counseling veterans who want to start businesses of their own.

A volunteer donation of time and commitment can be put to excellent use in a number of programs aiding veterans: from helping out at the local VA hospital to taking a role in a local veterans service organization or community-based operation.

Financial contributions to local Vietnam Veterans Leadership Programs are tax deductible.

The bottom line is ... get involved.



ACTION

Washington, DC 20525

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
TRAINING CONFERENCE AGENDA
January 26-29, 1983

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

TIME	SUBJECT	STAFF	PLACE
4:00 - 6:00	Registration	Wheeler	Hilton South American Room
6:30 - 7:30	Working Dinner	All	Hilton South American Room

Key Conference Locations:

Capital Hilton Hotel
16th and K Streets, N.W.

ACTION Headquarters
806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
(corner of Connecticut and H Streets)

Old Executive Office Building, Room 450
located on Pennsylvania Avenue northwest of
the White House. We will use the northwest
entrance at 17th and G Streets, N.W. on
Friday afternoon.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

TIME	SUBJECT	STAFF	PLACE
7:30 - 8:30	Memorial Visit (optional)		
8:30	Working Breakfast	All	Hilton Senate
9:00 - 9:45	Welcoming Remarks	Pauken, Timperlake	Senate Room
9:45 - 10:00	Break		
10:00 - 10:30	Department of Labor Veterans Employment Service	Brinker/DOL Pagano/DOL	Senate Room
10:30 - 11:30	Overview of Programs	Jayne, Moorefield	Senate Room
11:30 - 12:00	Public Service Announcements	Landau	Senate Room
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch		
1:00 - 2:00	Training Manual/Organization	Timperlake, Kreiner	Senate Room
2:00 - 5:00 Chairmen and Project Directors in Separate Session			
<u>PROJECT DIRECTORS</u>			
2:00 - 3:00	Organization/Open Forum	Kreiner	Hilton New York Room
3:00 - 5:00	Employment Panel Discussion	Jayne, Bourie, Drach, Graham	New York Room
<u>CHAIRMEN</u>			
2:00 - 2:45	Fundraising	Fauriol	Senate Room
2:45 - 3:30	Franchising/Southland Corp.	Timperlake, Gilstrap	Senate Room
3:30 - 4:00	Break		
4:00 - 5:00	Organization/Open Forum	Kreiner	Senate Room
6:00 DAV Reception -- VVLP Film Press Screening 807 Maine Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC			

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

TIME	SUBJECT	STAFF	PLACE
8:30 - 9:00	Working Breakfast	All	Senate Room
<u>VISTA PROGRAM PERSONNEL</u>			
9:00 - 10:00	VISTA	Pauken, Timperlake, Horner	California Room
<u>NON-VISTA PROGRAM PERSONNEL*</u>			
9:00 - 10:00	FAR WEST GROUP SOUTHWEST GROUP SOUTH GROUP NORTHEAST GROUP MIDWEST GROUP	Yates Moorefield Jayne Landau Chmielak	Senate Room Senate Room Senate Room Senate Room WLP Suite
10:00 VISTA personnel rejoin regional groups			
10:00 - 12:00	Continue Regional Sessions	Same as above	Same as above
11:00 - 11:30	Commandant of the Marine Corps	Selected Individuals	Arlington Hall
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch		On your own
1:30	Reconvene at Old Executive Office Building (OEOB) See Map attached		
1:30 - 1:45	Welcoming Remarks	Timperlake, Pauken	450 OEOB
1:45 - 2:15	Congressman John McCain & Congressman Thomas Ridge		
2:15 - 2:45	Donald P. Gregg, Nat. Security Advisor to Vice President		
2:45 - 3:15	Peter Braestrup, Editor The Wilson Quarterly		
3:15 - 3:45	Break		
3:45 - 4:15	Harry Walters, Administrator Veterans Administration		
4:15 - 4:45	Richard L. Armitage, Dep. Asst. Sec. of Def for East Asia		
4:45 - 5:30	Group Photo		
6:00 - 8:00	Working Dinner		ACTION 517/522

*See attached list for assignment to regional group.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

TIME	SUBJECT	STAFF	PLACE
8:30	Breakfast		Hilton South American Room
Chairmen and Project Directors in separate session			
<u>PROJECT DIRECTORS</u>			
9:00 - 10:00	Bookkeeping	McCollum Chmielak	Pan American Room
10:00 - 11:00	Regional Reports	Jayne Moorefield	Pan American Room
<u>CHAIRMEN</u>			
9:00 - 11:00	Regional Reports	Timperlake	South American Room
	Far West—Kendall, Southwest—Wanser, South—Kinard, Northeast—Treanor, Midwest—Watts		
11:00 RECONVENE FOR GENERAL SESSION			
11:00 - 12:00	Lessons Learned	All	South American Room

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
January 1983

FAR WEST

	<u>ACTION Region</u>
Seattle	X
Portland	X
Boise	X
Northern California	IX
Los Angeles	IX
San Diego	IX
Phoenix	IX
Utah	VIII
South Dakota	VIII

NORTHEAST

	<u>ACTION Region</u>
Vermont	I
Hartford	I
Boston	I
New York City	II
Philadelphia	III
Wilmington	III
Baltimore	III

SOUTHWEST

New Mexico	VI
Arkansas	VI
Dallas	VI
San Antonio	VI
Houston	VI
New Orleans	VI
St. Louis	VI

SOUTH

Tennessee	IV
Mississippi	IV
Alabama	IV
South Carolina	IV
South Florida	IV
Louisville	III
Virginia	III

MIDWEST

Minneapolis	V
Chicago	V
Northwest Indiana	V
Columbus, Ohio	III
Western Pennsylvania	III
Niagara Frontier	II

WVLP

NEWS

UPDATE

JANUARY 20, 1983

CONTACT: BILL JAYNE
202/254-8270

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is a federal initiative administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. The program encourages successful Vietnam veterans nationwide to volunteer their time, effort and creative leadership to help solve the problems still faced by some of their fellow veterans.

The program is the brainchild of Thomas W. Pauken, director of ACTION and a Vietnam veteran. It was launched in a White House Rose Garden ceremony by President Reagan on the eve of Veterans Day, 1981.

After its first 14 months the WLP points with pride to the following significant achievements:

- * Thirty-eight operational WLPs have been established. All are developed and implemented by Vietnam veterans. Each project director and each chairman of each program and almost all board members are Vietnam combat veterans. Four hold the Congressional Medal of Honor, approximately half the chairmen and project directors hold at least one Purple Heart and a number are severely disabled as a result of their service to the nation.
- * Over 1500 non-stipend volunteers have stepped forward. These individuals, for the most part, are Vietnam veterans working at the highest levels of their communities. They have volunteered over 75,000 hours

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program -MORE- A Program of ACTION
Washington, DC 20525

of time to materially improve the situation of Vietnam veterans.

* Various WLPs around the country have:

- Identified and/or placed over 1500 jobs for veterans
- hosted major recognition events in which Vietnam veterans were presented in a healthy light that emphasizes their continuing contribution to our society
- focused on assisting Vietnam veterans in small business development
- staged health education seminars
- been working to destroy the false stereotypes of the Vietnam veteran as anything from a drug-crazed killer to a guilt-ridden victim
- obtained approximately \$150,000 in donations from private sources
- been affirming the pride and integrity of military service during difficult days

REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES

* Baltimore WLP organized and directed, on behalf of the Mayor's office, a highly successful July 4 tribute to Vietnam veterans, especially the 410 citizens of Baltimore who gave their lives in the Vietnam War. Approximately 10,000 attended the day-long event which included a parade, ceremonial tribute, entertainment and presentations by both the Mayor of Baltimore and the Governor of Maryland. Press coverage of the event reported favorably on the focus of the salute: that is, the city should be proud of its Vietnam veterans and lend a hand to those still experiencing problems related to their service to the nation. Events such as this--repeated or planned by almost every WLP--are designed to reach out to veterans in the places where they live and work and encourage them to build on their pride in service to work through their problems.

* San Antonio WLP has taken the lead in raising funds to support athletic

events for wheelchair-bound Vietnam veterans.

* Tennessee WLP (a "double" program) has identified over 300 jobs for which Vietnam veterans receive head-of-the-line application privileges, enlisting the support of major employers such as WSM, Inc. (the Grand Ole Opry) and Vanderbilt University.

* Wilmington (Delaware) WLP acted as a catalyst for the development of a cooperative year-long event, "Vet Info '82." WLP volunteers and contacts played a key role in the three-phase program intended to make unemployed veterans "job ready" and then place them in productive career opportunities.

* Philadelphia WLP has focused on developmental activities including securing private funding sufficient to support an expanded program.

* Phoenix WLP staged a luncheon hosted by the majority leader of the Arizona House of Representatives at which the program was presented to members of the boards of major industries in the state and their cooperation sought for projects to aid Vietnam veterans. Through the efforts of the program a school for training refrigeration mechanics has offered scholarships for Vietnam veterans.

* Albuquerque WLP has initiated a "Profiles in Courage" public education campaign that highlights the contributions of New Mexico Vietnam veterans in civilian life. The project director was tapped by the Governor to manage New Mexico's participation in the 5-day National Salute to Vietnam veterans in Washington, D.C.

* Chicago WLP, utilizing the expertise and talent of its volunteers, developed a series of seminars in entrepreneurship that are being presented for Vietnam veterans at local junior and community colleges.

* Hartford WLP has established contact with a major employer--Aetna Life and Casualty--that ensures qualified veterans will receive competitive consideration along with other applicants having special needs. Hartford WLP is building on this success to secure similar cooperation from other employers.

- * Houston WLP has been successful in developing contacts with employers and has identified and/or placed over 400 Vietnam veterans. In addition, the program has provided information to veterans from other parts of the country who are considering moving to the Houston area.
- * Northern California WLP (a "double" program) has begun a major public education effort consisting of presentations to business and civic groups.
- * St. Louis WLP has made 236 job placements and has laid the groundwork for an emergency food distribution center to aid veterans and their families.
- * The Utah WLP has also organized a food distribution program.
- * Seattle WLP has taken the lead in the development of a telephone information service for veterans and has established a temporary employment service for needy veterans.
- * Southern California WLP (a "double" program) established a network of professionals (e.g., attorneys, accountants, a dentist, etc.) who provide limited pro bono services to veterans. Program volunteers are also focusing on job identification and placement.
- * Vermont WLP has taken the lead in coordinating existing veterans services, especially the many isolated community-based organizations seeking to aid veterans in Vermont. The program co-sponsored the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Memorial which was dedicated in October.
- * New York WLP (a "double" program) completed an extensive survey of 60 persons working in the area of veterans services to determine the greatest needs of Metropolitan New York City veterans and to gain guidance on the best methods of addressing those needs. Program volunteers are working to enhance the outreach capability of New York area VA Vet Centers.
- * Arkansas WLP has established contact with several manufacturers in the state to facilitate the employment of Vietnam veterans.

* Columbus, Ohio WLP and the Minneapolis WLP are cooperating with the U.S. Small Business Administration in the development of a Veterans Business Resource Council to hold seminars hosted by the S.B.A.

* Buffalo, New York WLP has obtained a \$22,000 grant from the state's Private Industry Council to provide an educational and job placement program for Vietnam veterans.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1982

NEWSLINE

WASHINGTON

■ In peace as in war, successful Vietnam veterans help buddies give advice on business, jobs. 4A.

USA TODAY

Vietnam vets give their buddies helping hand

By Sheila Caudle
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Tom Pauken is looking for a few good men: Vietnam veterans who have made it in the "real" world and want to give their buddies a helping hand in peace as they did in war.

That's the bottom line of his Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, which he started in the spring of 1981 as the new director of ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

When Pauken, a former military intelligence officer, an-

nounced that his agency would muster some of the 2.7 million Vietnam veterans themselves as volunteers, some on Capitol Hill told him it wouldn't work.

But today, 37 programs — with 13 more in the planning — are in operation nationwide. They are run by Vietnam veterans for Vietnam veterans. On their own time and often with their own money, they provide services the vets can't get elsewhere: helping them find jobs, telling them how to set up their own businesses, referring them to specialized programs if they need intensive help.

The program directors, paid about \$25,000 a year, answer to local chairmen and advisory board members who followed their service in Vietnam with successful careers in business and the professions.

"More than 80 percent of the veterans who came back are successful, but people don't recognize that," says Pauken.

"Our guiding principle is to give a hand to guys who need it," he says. "Once we give them the hand, they're on their own. They must do the job."

Examples of programs in effect or being developed are:

■ In New York and Delaware, directors are developing a "buddy network" in which corporate leaders who are Vietnam vets can use their clout to get other vets jobs.

■ In Houston, a group put together a comprehensive book on where and how former Vietnam veterans could find jobs.

■ In Los Angeles, a dentist was found who could provide free dental care.

"We want veterans to look up, not down," says John Fales, Pauken's special assistant who was blinded in combat.



By Tim Dillon, Special for USA TODAY
PAUKEN: Programs run by Vietnam vets, for vets.

Program helps Vietnam vets

CHICAGO (UPI) — The Vietnam War made them grow up fast — teenagers came home old men.

"I was a Mamma's boy," said Allen Lynch, 37, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. "The service changed a lot of my self-image. Vietnam made me grow up."

In a Rose Garden ceremony, President Reagan launched the nationwide Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program to help build a positive image.

"Mostly it's to change the stereotype of a veteran from a village burner, somebody that's nuts and the drug addict and a loser," said veteran Rick Eilert, 35, executive director of the program's Chicago branch.

"But there's a great majority of veterans who came home and did just like their fathers in World War II before them. They got jobs, raised families and are active in their community.

"So that although there are veterans who are having problems, you can't judge the whole veteran population on those guys," he said.

The time is right.

Wounds have healed. Vietnam veterans are willing to talk about the war and the United States is ready to accept — and honor — them as men who served their country.

"They just weren't treated the way other veterans were," said veteran Skip Smith, 40, who heads a real estate firm in Schaumburg, Ill.

"I think there's an image in a lot of people's minds that most of the Vietnam veterans are long-haired drug-crazed freaks — and they're not. And this Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program hopefully will present the right image."

Soldiers, making snap decisions daily, developed tremendous leadership qualities in the war.

"When these guys are 18, 19, 20 years old, they were leading people in life and death missions," Lynch said. He said they have the potential to succeed "if they'd quit sitting on their duff."

Some have. Attorney Charles O'Brien lost his leg, but led climbers up Mount Rainier in 1981. Max Patterson is the first black police chief in Windsor, Conn. Basketball player Leon Clements — drafted by the Cincinnati Royals and U.S. Army — is now a banking executive. David Huffman, blinded by a booby trap, earned a law degree.

William Jayne, the program's national deputy director in Washington, said the purpose is to address "lingering problems associated with their war experience in a positive and responsible way."

The three-year \$6.5 million program hopes to have branches in all 50 states, which will continue through private funding, Jayne said.

The program provides seminars, scholarships and referral services to help with employment and education. Community response has been tremendous, Smith said.

Young soldiers went to Vietnam with a sense of duty and patriotism. They came home to raging anti-war sentiment.

Eugene Connell Jr., 37, of the Chicago law firm Connell and Connell, wore his uniform on the University of Michigan campus. Two female students spit in his face.

"A crucial element for many vets seeking to solve problems related to the war is finding grounds for self-respect and past service," Jayne said.

Most veterans in the program's Chicago branch joined because they were enraged by the portrayal of the Vietnam veteran as a loser.

But the Iranian hostage homecoming was the last straw.

"The thing that just pushed me over the edge was the Iranian hostage homecoming — the 'Tie the yellow ribbon 'round the old oak tree' thing. It just enraged me," Lynch said.

build positive image

"I'm not angry at the hostages. Lord knows I wanted to have them come back. But I think we never got our yellow ribbon and that's what upset me."

Of 2.7 million Americans who fought in Vietnam, more than 80 percent who returned "made it" as responsible, hard-working members of their communities, Eilert said.

But some suffer delayed stress syndrome, still have nightmares, jump to the floor during thunder, hit the sidewalk at sudden loud noises such as backfires, or creep along at 20 mph while driving through forest preserves resembling "the bush."

"If something happens in day-to-day living that puts you under a lot of tension, you get back to feeling like you did back then — backed into a corner or there's no way to escape, you're never going to get out of this," Eilert said. "That sometimes can trigger some nightmares or something else."

8 Vietnam Vets Who Came Out Winners

They've succeeded despite great adversity—blindness, crippling wounds, deep public hostility. Now they help less fortunate war buddies make it.

No other veterans in U.S. history have endured the kind of hostility that confronted the GI's who came home from Vietnam, yet most have slipped into the mainstream of American society and today lead productive lives.

The passage has not been easy, and thousands more are still struggling to find their way. But the picture is changing significantly. What is happening is that large numbers of successful vets, those who have found their niche, are assisting in a widening effort to help others do the same.

All across the country these Vietnam veterans are banding together in a variety of groups to give aid and comfort to one another. At least 24 such organizations have sprung up, including one—the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program—launched by the federal government.

In many of the programs, vets offer practical advice about how to get jobs and start businesses. In some, disabled ex-servicemen work with others handicapped by war wounds. All are equally intent on blasting the stereotype of the Vietnam veteran as a person with deep emotional problems.

"The time has come for the public to be made aware that many of us are much more successful socially, politically and economically than the derelict so often stereotyped by the media," comments William C. Stensland, a former marine who heads a veterans' program in Texas.

"It is very important to recognize that more than 80 percent of the Vietnam veterans, even with enormous difficulties, have come home and made the successful transition to civilian life," asserts Thomas W. Pauken, an Army veteran who heads the federal ACTION program. "I have

been distressed to see veterans portrayed as losers, fools or dope addicts."

Among the hundreds of thousands of successful veterans are these eight who now are working to help their less fortunate Vietnam War comrades find their place in America—

Helping Others "Good for Me"

John D. Baines was at loose ends when he arrived home after two tours in Vietnam as an officer in the Navy Seabees. Today he is a pillar of the San Antonio establishment, owner of a real-estate-development firm with an annual business volume of more than 25 million dollars.

"People were very rude to us, very antimilitary," says Baines of his unsettling return to Texas in 1970. "There was no one to talk to about it. I was bitter. My reaction to those long-haired hippies was abrasive."

Baines, who played football at the University of Texas until sidelined by injuries, returned to college after his discharge from the Navy. He did not stay long. "I just couldn't concentrate on my studies," he says.

After picking up the pieces of his life, Vietnam veteran John D. Baines found success as a real-estate developer.



"After four years it was hard to get back in the groove again."

Baines, now 36, quit college, then worked for construction and real-estate-brokerage interests in Texas. Ten years ago he opened his own business.

He feels that the image of the Vietnam veteran as a drug addict and criminal has made it difficult for many to win acceptance in civilian life. Especially harmful, says Baines, were reports that 60,000 or more veterans wound up in state prisons.

"They are talking about Vietnam-era veterans," says Baines. "Era is the key word. Only 13,000 are Vietnam War veterans, out of 2½ million who served in Vietnam. That is less than half of 1 percent. Not much."

Baines recently began helping out in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a federal project that got under way in six cities last year and is being financed for three years with a modest 6 million dollars in federal funds. The goal is for the program to expand to 50 cities by 1984, when it is to become privately operated and financed.

So far, says Baines, his value to other veterans has been mainly as a sounding board. "We get together, and it does a lot of good for guys to get things off their chests," says the ex-Navy man. "I can immediately relate to them. It's going to do a lot of good for me, too."

"I'm Glad I Served"

John F. Nash, Jr., 35, doubts that he would have wound up as a key congressional aide if the war had not intervened in his life.

"I turned over a new leaf in the Marine Corps," says the former platoon commander. "I hadn't been living up to my family's expectations, and life had been easy—sort of Camelot. It wasn't until the Marines that I realized we have a meritocracy society. A glib tongue isn't enough. I went back to school with a vengeance."

Nash, chief counsel of the Senate's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, went to Vietnam with reservations about the war but came back convinced he had done the right thing. "I'm so glad I served," he says. "I came back, and my conscience is clean."

But his stint in Vietnam earned him heavy criticism from some quarters. At one school where Nash tried to enroll, he recalls, "an assistant dean of admissions told me, 'We are not really partial to hired killers here.'"

Nash graduated from another school, the University of California, and then entered Georgetown University's Law School. While studying in Washington, he was offered a part-time job with Senator Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.), who later



Capitol Hill staffer John F. Nash, a former Marine lieutenant, now listens to troubles of other vets.

arranged for the subcommittee job.

In his spare time, Nash counsels Washington-area veterans on their troubles. He is hopeful that enough successful veterans will catch the spirit to make a difference. "Anybody who waits for the federal government to improve his lot is going to have a long wait," says Nash.

"We Feel Estranged"

Richard Eilert, director of a veterans' project in Chicago, knows what it is to need a helping hand. Severely wounded in Vietnam, he has undergone 37 major operations in 13 years.

Eilert, 34, was a Marine enlisted man when a grenade blast ripped off most of his left leg, shattered his right one, broke both arms and caused other injuries. As he lay wounded, a North Vietnamese soldier shot him in the leg.

Once Eilert was up and about, he says, many people treated him with a puzzling indifference. "I found everything changed," says Eilert. "I couldn't get a date. Friends were not unfriendly—just cool."

He tried twice to return to college but quit because he felt out of place. "I always felt they were looking at me like I was John Wayne with cartridge belts hanging all over me," recalls Eilert. "There was no one to talk to."

Eilert eventually went to work for the Union Oil Company in California and wrote a book—soon to be published, he says—about his hospital experiences. He took over last year as director of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Chicago.

The program, he says, is vital to Vietnam vets because, for the first time, it

gives them a place where they can discuss among themselves the feelings of alienation and disappointment that many have.

"Most Vietnam veterans don't belong to any organization," explains Eilert. "We feel estranged. I got tired of going to an American Legion club, for example, and getting bawled out at the bar for losing the war and for not knowing what combat really is."

Scaling the Heights

Charles O'Brien, who lost a leg in Vietnam, was once cautioned not to try college because amputees have trouble climbing stairs. Last summer, the former Army Ranger was among eight handicapped persons who scaled the heights of Mount Rainier.

The Philadelphia lawyer's aim in the climb, hard enough for someone with both legs, was to demonstrate the worth of injured veterans and other disabled persons. It would, he

thought, help build confidence and self-esteem.

O'Brien, 35, accepts no limitations as a result of his own injury. He has even learned to ski again. "I'm an amputee, and often that troubles me," he says. "It is hard to walk on an artificial leg, and yet I had to because I couldn't ask for sympathy. I couldn't allow my disability to interfere."

O'Brien, who says his younger brother



Loss of a leg in Vietnam did not keep Charles O'Brien from a career in law—or from climbing Mount Rainier.



performed alternative service as a conscientious objector during the war, feels too many who served in Vietnam have wasted time feeling sorry for themselves. "They nurtured each other's bitterness," he says. "I hate to call it self-pity, but that's what it was."

He concedes, however, that the public failed to give Vietnam veterans the measure of understanding and gratitude they had a right to expect from their countrymen.

In his own case, says O'Brien, some friends and acquaintances ended up feeling threatened by his war experience. "There was a degree of hostility because I hadn't taken the easy way out," he recalls. "So it was kind of an embarrassment to them."

O'Brien now does volunteer counseling in a veterans' program in Philadelphia. Through such efforts, he says, "we hope to help get jobs, help them start small businesses. That's what is needed."

Straight Talk About Veterans

Street-level experience has taught Max Patterson that his fellow Vietnam veterans are no likelier to end up in jail than anyone else.

Patterson, 37, is police chief in Windsor, Conn., the only black ever to hold the post. Before that he was chief in Albion, Mich., and a campus policeman at Michigan State University.

The Vietnam veteran, says Patterson, is no special threat to society. But what is a problem, he argues, are public attitudes toward those who fought in the conflict. "People think veterans carry the guilt for the war rather than the government," says the former Army intelligence officer.

"I would be very hesitant to say the war, the year's experience in Vietnam, did anyone in," commented Patterson. "They would have been on that track before they ever went over there."

"Twelve months' negative experience in Vietnam was the final thrust that pushed them over."

In this, Patterson is supported by major studies that show little basis for the perception of Vietnam vets as troubled individuals unable to fit into society. One federal survey finds fewer than 5 percent of all state-prison inmates ever served in Indo-China. Still another survey indicates that 90 percent of vets 25 and older are employed. What's more, those who went to Vietnam are making more use of federal education benefits than have the veterans of earlier wars.



MAGGIE STEBER



Police Chief Max Patterson feels fellow vets have been wrongly stigmatized.

Patterson himself came out of Vietnam determined to improve himself. A college dropout before joining the Army, the Detroit native worked his way through Michigan State after his discharge, earning a degree in political science.

Now that he has settled into the job in Windsor, he is helping out in Vietnam veterans' groups. "I look at it from the standpoint of receiving a request to help someone like an old fraternity brother," says Patterson. "If there's something I can do, I am willing to make the effort."

Dropout With a Doctorate

There was a time, says Kip Becker, when he tried to hide from potential employers that he had piloted an Army combat helicopter in Vietnam.

Becker, 34, believes that most employers do not identify with the veterans of Vietnam the way they did with soldiers who fought in other wars. Thus, he reports, "I kept Vietnam off my résumé at first, and it kind of hurt to do that."

Now marketing-and-development director at Wilmington College in Delaware, Becker wants to see the day when all Vietnam veterans can do as he did and "get out of the closet." That is one of his goals as a volunteer worker in a veterans' group in Wilmington.

"I am not a joiner, but what I like about this program is that the people involved are able to get along," reports Becker.

He makes the point that "this organization cares about the ideas of veterans, what they have to say and what they need."

Becker, a college dropout before joining the Army, earned two master's degrees and a doctorate after his discharge from the service.

"In flight school and then Vietnam, I learned discipline," says Becker. "I learned that anyone has the intelligence to get where they want to go. I learned to persevere, and Vietnam fo-

cused me in a direction. It gave me the feeling that I could do it."

Winning Over Blindness

Blinded by a booby trap and with little formal education, David L. Huffman found life especially hard after his tour in Vietnam as a Marine rifleman.

"When I first came back I was kind of wild," relates Huffman, 33, whose youth included eight years in an orphanage. "In 1970 I was in a car accident and broke both shoulders and my spine. I was two months flat on my back and another two months in a brace. I floundered for a couple of years, looking for unskilled employment, but I couldn't nail things down."

Huffman's salvation turned out to be the source of much of his childhood misery—school. After learning Braille, he completed high school, then earned two undergraduate degrees and a law degree from the Delaware Law School. He would like to carve out a career in international law.

Once the bar examinations are behind Huffman, he intends to devote most of his spare time to helping other disabled vets—and to working toward a black belt in judo.

"I Want to Help Others"

Luis Sanz, a Cuban refugee, paid for his U.S. citizenship the hard way—with an 11-month stint as an Army combat medic in Vietnam.

Sanz, now 37, returned from Vietnam proud of what he had done for his adopted homeland. That's why he was shocked to find not all Americans were as pleased.

"Those were the years of antiwar demonstrations," says Sanz, who is today a faculty member at Georgetown University's Medical School.

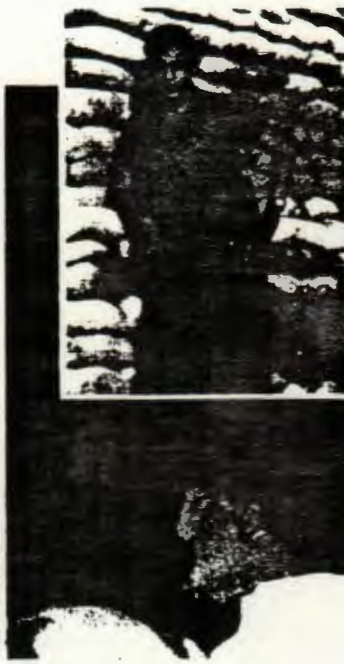
"It was very frustrating for me. I kept very quiet about my service in Vietnam," he admits.

Although Sanz knew only a smattering of English when he returned to America, he zipped through college in three years, graduating at the top of his class, and then earned a medical degree at Georgetown University.

The unrelenting grind of medical school, says Sanz, plus his determination to do well, kept him from feeling the isolation that has troubled other Vietnam vets. "All I did was read and study," he says. "I put all my energies into my books."

"I'm not in the dumps," asserts Sanz. "I never was. I need no help, but I want to help others. That is the main point, getting people together, making contact with other veterans and helping them." □

By WENDELL S. MERICK



Luis Sanz, now a medical professor, wants to help other veterans achieve their goals.

Vietnam vets: creating a more positive image

By Luther Young

Mark Treanor wouldn't have burned his draft card, even if he had had one. He knew his future included duty in Vietnam.

Accepted at the Naval Academy at 17 (draft cards came at 18), he was part of the small percentage of his class which chose the Marine Corps option at Annapolis. Four years later, in the heat of the war in Southeast Asia, he was a newly minted lieutenant leading a rifle platoon near the Laotian border.

"I don't want to come across as John Wayne. This isn't something I wear on my sleeve," says the 35-year-old Vermont native of his combat experience in 1969. "But reading about me, about somebody who went through it and is doing pretty well now . . . it may help some other vets."

He's a law partner now in the firm of Miles and Stockbridge in Baltimore, a father of two small children and an active participant in community programs sponsored by the local bar association.

He's one of the majority of Vietnam veterans who "came back and just got on with life," as Mr. Treanor puts it. An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 men and women in the Baltimore metropolitan area served in Vietnam; the total nationally was 2.7 million.

"It's taken this country 10, 12, 15 years to separate the concept of a bitter and divisive war from the 18- and 19-year-olds who fought it," Mr. Treanor says. "I think the time has come for people to look at it a little more objectively."

Recognition is coming Sunday, July 4, in a day-long Salute to Vietnam Veterans at Fort Smallwood Park in Anne Arundel county. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. there will be free entertainment including bands, jugglers and clowns, military displays and a martial arts exhibition. Refreshments will be available.

The highlight is at noon, when Mayor Schaefer and Governor Hughes will participate in a ceremony honoring Vietnam veterans, including the 410 Baltimore-area servicemen who were killed or missing in action in the war.

"We're making no political statement at all," Mr. Treanor says of the salute, which he helped organize. "It's unfortunate the recognition didn't happen earlier, but it's not too late."

He doesn't express the bitterness of some veterans at the fanfare accorded the American hostages when they returned from Iran, although he says, "An awful lot was made out of them, and nothing was made out of the vets."

He doesn't dwell on the past and can recall his Vietnam experience with humor. "I just remember, no matter how bad things get—if you've got dry

See VETS, B4, Col. 3



Sun photo—Joseph A. DiPaola

Mark Treanor is volunteer chairman of the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans' Leadership Program.

Vietnam vets are looking out

VETS, from B1

socks and nobody's shooting at you, things could be much worse."

But it affected Mark Treanor more deeply than that. "It's a tough age to see things people shouldn't have to see," he says. "I'm not sure there's ever a good age to see it."

The day after he arrived at firebase An Hoa near Laos in January, 1969, the baby-faced lieutenant was in combat. "It was sort of an unreality," Mr. Treanor says. "I remember, the left side of my body was suddenly covered with mud, before I even heard the sounds of the machine guns shooting at us. I got all 5 feet, 8 inches into my helmet in a hurry, believe me."

He earned the respect of his seasoned unit by successfully leading them through that first fire-

fight without casualties (their previous lieutenant had been killed in action). He momentarily blew it by lighting a cigarette that night outside his tent. "I never saw people hit the ground so fast," he recalls of the reaction to his open-air puff, which could have drawn enemy fire.

Under the daily pressure of "sweeping" rice paddies and bamboo forests and villages, he quickly dropped 30 pounds. Under the intense sun, he "looked like Treanor of Arabia—I always had a towel under my helmet" to protect his fair skin from scorching. "You were always wet, too. If it wasn't raining, it was 115 degrees."

There were light moments: His platoon was passing time one day while dug in on a hillside, "just a little ramshackle town of foxholes with ponchos keeping out the sun." The powerful rotor wash of a transport helicopter changed that, sending pon-

for their image

chos "like flying carpets through the air, 30 half-naked marines tearing off after them."

There were grim moments: Pausing in a Vietnamese graveyard on the way back from field action and watching several buddies "virtually disappear" in the explosion of a booby-trapped ammunition can. "The world just went apart. I ended up 8 or 10 feet away from where I was, with pieces of a couple of guys on me. I remember thinking it was me."

The camaraderie within his platoon is one of the good memories, "just some of the closeness of the guys. You rely on each other so much." But he bristles at the "misconceptions" about Vietnam veterans. "The press makes it sound like every grunt was a hophead. And the baby-killer thing ... that aggravates me tremendously. I've seen marines pick up a child during hostile action and give 'em bandages out of their own pocket."

It's part of what Mr. Treanor says is a stereotype of Vietnam veterans that has made life difficult for many of them, but especially the 15 percent who have had re-entry problems of varying degrees. "The image now is of kind of a loser, a sucker," he says. "It's a harder image to fight than the drug addict-baby killer stuff."

The July 4 Salute to Vietnam Veterans is not just belated recognition for Baltimore-area veterans of the Vietnam War—it's also an attempt to improve the image. The event is sponsored primarily by the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, Inc., of which Mr. Treanor is volunteer chairman. The full-time program director is David DeChant.

Formed last winter and funded by a \$50,000 federal grant from ACTION, the nonprofit group is part of a national effort—now operating in 17 cities—to form local networks of Vietnam veterans in business and government to help those vets who have problems, particularly in employment.

Mr. Treanor says surveys show the majority of readjustment problems suffered by Vietnam veterans "center around unemployment and underemployment. You've got guys who have been turned down for jobs just because employers didn't want to take a chance on a Vietnam vet. It's the stereotype again."

He acknowledges the real physical and mental problems that exist, and points out that VVLP recently arranged for the city health department to be briefed on the "delayed catastrophic stress syndrome," which has been identified in some survivors of the traumatic Vietnam experience.

"The Veterans Administration works with direct care services. We want to grease the skids for them [the veterans] on the other end, to change the stereotype by letting people know about neighbors who are successful vets. The salute is really the start," Mr. Treanor says.

Whether the effort will produce any jobs for Vietnam veterans is yet to be seen, but the need is definitely there. Before it was closed in March because of budget cuts, the Veterans Outreach Laboratory at Mondawmin Plaza helped upgrade discharges and find jobs for some 500 Vietnam veterans in two years.

Local resources still in place for assisting Vietnam veterans include Veterans Administration outreach centers at Mondawmin and in southeast Baltimore and programs within the Maryland State Job Service—the disabled veterans outreach program and special priority treatment for job placement.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program will be closely watched to see what it can do with its \$50,000 of precious federal funds. "It's late," says Mr. Treanor, "but it's not too late."

Vietnam veterans become 'buddies'

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Gregory Gallison spent three years in combat in Vietnam, a year trying to find work when he returned and five years behind bars after he robbed a liquor store.

Now, thanks to a "buddy program" for Vietnam veterans, Gallison has steady work and is trying to rebuild his life.

"All the psychological counseling in the world won't help you if you can't get a job," said Leo Thorsness, a former prisoner of war who developed the Sponsorship Plan, which resembles a "Big Brother" program. "The job is what you really need to feel worthwhile."

Under Thorsness' two-month-old program, veterans receive a "buddy" veteran who has contacts in the business world and can help find jobs. So far, the program has matched 22 pairs and found work for four veterans, one of them Gallison.

Thorsness is the Los Angeles chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a nationwide non-profit organization set up in 1981 to help an estimated 500,000 veterans who had not been able to readjust economically or emotionally.

But the Los Angeles VVLP office acted only as a referral service until Thorsness developed his idea, inspired by his childhood days on a Minnesota farm.

"If somebody's barn burned down, neighbors would come from all over and help rebuild the thing," said Thorsness, now director of civic affairs for Litton Industries. He also was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress from South Dakota after returning from Vietnam in the early 1970s.

"This is that sort of approach, people helping people," he said.

When Gallison returned from the war in 1970, he asked the Veterans Administration for training. He says he got forms to fill out and long lines to stand in.

"What the Army trained me to do was kill, and no one was hiring killers," he said. A year later he robbed a store.

"At the time it seemed like a perfectly good idea. I needed some money to eat and rent a place to sleep and try to get some clothes. I made a mistake," he said.

Now, after five years in Soledad Prison and seven more bumming around, Gallison, 34, a Texas native, is paired with Lucky Simone, a 36-year-old New York native who spent 16 months in Vietnam with the Marines.

Simone, who manages a Los Angeles apartment building, hired Gallison as a maintenance man two days a week and helped him get work three more days a week at an apartment building across the street.

"When vets do go to some of these counseling centers, they get a counselor who was never in 'Nam (and) he can't really understand because he never experienced it," Simone said. "I feel like we veterans are banding together like a brotherhood. For every guy that gets back into the mainstream, there's another guy to help."

"We just show them the way to their own destiny," he added. "We don't babysit these guys at all."

Gallison said he and Simone often talk about how Simone adjusted to civilian life and about Gallison's money worries and his fear that he might resort to crime again.

"It's hell out there, me being black and an ex-con," Gallison said. "But Lucky is a friend. I can come to work and be down, then we can talk for an hour and I'll feel better."

Viet Vets Aren't Just 'Losers To be Pitied'

Thomas W. Pauken
Director of ACTION

They held the picnic in Glasönbury, Conn., the first of its kind. It was organized by the volunteers who make up the board and advisory council of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLV) for the greater Hartford area. Max Patterson, Connecticut's first Black Police Chief, was a combat intelligence officer in Vietnam and serves as chairman of the greater Hartford area VVLV. Project Director Dennis Peaslee, a former combat marine is on the staff of the Hartford Veterans Hospital. Most of those on the advisory council also served in Vietnam, so it was no great problem in arranging the picnic and an air show to be put on by a nearby reserve squadron. The big question was, how many vets would show up? Would they bring their families? No one had taken a poll, but it was known that the bitterness of the wounds caused by the Jane Fonda-type treatment suffered by many of the state's 133,000 Vietnam veterans on returning home, still ran deep.

But Chief Patterson and the organizers were confident there would be a good turnout; and they were right. The attendance was large and enthusiastic -- several hundred vets, their wives and children were on hand. A sense of the old camaraderie took hold. The choppers and the planes winging over stimulated memories brought back to men who as youngsters had laid their lives on the line in the hostile jungles and paddy fields of 'Nam. They could look up not just at the aircraft hovering and wheeling, but with pride of how they had served together, endured together and had now come together again. As Chief Patterson said, "It was real good. A warm and emotional time, a gathering that was important to everyone there."

There was also an additional purpose for the picnic; to raise funds to charter enough buses for the Vietnam veterans of the Hartford area to attend the memorial service that will be held in Washington, D.C., at the unveiling of the monument honoring their comrades who did not return.

Of those who will attend the memorial service from Connecticut, Chief Patterson says that the great majority of them have made it in the civilian world with less than five percent of their number unemployed. His own story is a good case in point.

Not a "Nutmegger" by birth, he was raised in Detroit, Michigan, and by the time he returned from Vietnam in 1970, he was anxious to pick up college where he had previously left it as a dropout. His interest was in public administration, and he enrolled at Michigan State, thinking he had saved enough money to see him through. He soon learned otherwise, and in order to continue his studies, he took a job as a campus policeman. By 1976 he had his M.A. in Public Administration and was job hunting. He was not all that interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement, but friends told him about an opening for Police Chief in Albion, Michigan, and he decided to apply. Soon after he had the position, heading a force of 26, maintaining law and order in a town of 12,000.

Three years later, in April 1979, he saw an ad in a legal publication announcing the opening for Police Chief in

Windsor, Connecticut. He and his wife Debra and their two adopted children decided a move to Connecticut might not be a bad idea. Windsor is much larger than Albion and the force is double the size, so he applied and that's where he has been since.

As Chief of Police and volunteer chairman of the VVLV, Max Patterson is a busy man; Debra thinks too busy because he also officiate at the high school football games. But as he looks at it, it's all a matter of being involved, of helping where and when you can. Through his chairmanship of VVLV he has been a principal force in designing a plan with reachable goals to aid his fellow veteran in need find the high road... just as he did.

A combat veteran appraises his peers



Veterans: Mike McGarvey walks with Tom Martin as McGarvey's son Bill, 9, and dog follow on Tennessee farm.

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When a One-Armed Man Is Not a Loser

By James Webb

The day a piece of shrapnel ripped his arm away just below the shoulder, a clean swipe like a hot knife that left the arm itself intact at his feet, I cried. Mike McGarvey was my radio operator, which in a Marine rifle platoon is tantamount to shadowhood, alter ego, little brother. Everywhere I walked, he was two steps behind, carrying the PRC-25 radio that linked us to the company. Nights we

- more -

slept on the same poncho, talking for hours in the darkness about home, aspirations, love, God—our soul. McGarvey was the fifth radio operator I had lost in three months. I had lured him to the job because I liked him. He was competent. He was a friend. He was 18.

I sat next to him in the sunbake of a pocked, clay-dust hillside, waiting for the med-evac helicopter to carry him away. That large green bird had hauled dozens of young men who had trusted my judgment to the cool blue sheets of hospital beds, to scarred, uncertain futures—and I could no longer hold back the frustration and the anger. He saw my tears, fixed me in a squinting stare and shook his head.

"Knock that stuff off, Lieutenant. It's only an arm."

Within a week, McGarvey wrote the platoon a letter—left-handed. When he finally left the hospital, he went to a tattoo shop and had a ring of blue dashes inked around what remained of his arm. Just above it was inscribed "CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE."

He is a master of the coined phrase. Not long ago, he and I were riding through Nashville with Tom Martin, another platoon member. Martin had been clipped on the spinal cord by an enemy bullet a week before McGarvey lost his arm. His legs are paralyzed. Using hand controls to drive and caught in a slow lane, Martin suddenly lurched into the next lane. Brakes screeched behind us. Horns blared. McGarvey was quiet for several seconds. Finally, he drawled, "I always did say, never trust a man who won't keep one foot on the brakes."

And Martin gives it back. Later, on the set of a popular television show where we were to promote my book, *Fields of Fire*, a famous personality was on camera, complaining of the tortures of tennis elbow. Martin nodded toward McGarvey's empty sleeve. "That's your problem, McGarvey. You need to rest that elbow."

"Yeah," said Mack. "I can't hit a tennis ball worth a damn, lately."

Martin and McGarvey walked together into the teeth of the tiger, and if they came away a little chewed up, they gained insight and wisdom in the trade. About themselves. About each other. About people under stress, and about values.

Neat little story, happy ending—if one can erase the hurt of an angry decade, if one works mightily to forget the years of a nation incapable of or unwilling to ratify the experience that tore its warriors' bodies apart, leaving them to stew in the bitter juices of an effort begun nobly and ending ignominiously.

Perhaps I should not write that McGarvey was spat upon and pushed around by antiwar protesters on his first trip away from the amputee ward in Philadelphia, or tell how he and another amputee were derided for wearing their Marine Corps uniforms to a college gathering place. It is uncomfortable, in 1982, to recall that members of the same age group, men who had not seen fit to serve, could so cruelly question the morality of men whose "crime" had been to bleed for their country. This was not an unusual experience. Fred Downs, another arm amputee and author of *The Killing Zone*, was crossing a street at the University of Denver at about this same

continued

VIETNAM VETS/continued

time, having just returned to college. A man asked if he had lost his arm in Vietnam. When Fred said yes, the man told him, "It serves you right."

Perhaps it is unfair, in the rueful aftermath, to remember all the long roads and the lonely days of Tom Martin, his athletic frame bent forever into the outline of his wheelchair. Tom Martin, articulate and handsome, could have mouthed all the words to remain a student at Vanderbilt University and evade Vietnam without stigma, as did many others. Tom Martin, who later could have condemned the war and been an immediate media star, possessing all the requirements, from good looks to a wheelchair. Tom Martin, who kept a "NO AMNESTY" sticker on his mirror, not out of vengeance, but out of a principled belief that we were a nation of laws, not specially privileged people. A man who had enlisted out of conscience, the truest act of morality, and who once outlined the great, forgotten distinction of the entire war in a letter to his father after our platoon had waded ankle-deep in blood and carried out of a small hootch the bodies of Vietnamese civilians killed by Communists for gathering to hear a speech made by a South Vietnamese official who also was slain. Such murders by the Vietnamese Communists were policy, as when they had killed almost 3000 civilians in Hue, a month before My Lai. Our widely publicized "war crimes" were aberrations of policy, deservedly condemned but undeservedly elevated to symbolic events. Tom had written that to his father, in 1969.

But no one listened in 1969, nor for a long time after that, unless a veteran's perceptions fit the preconceptions. So you kept your mouth shut, unless you were with each other. Mike McGarvey invented a thousand stories about how he had lost his arm. I met a man in Nashville who was convinced that McGarvey had lost it fighting an alligator.

But the pride still burned. It was like a delicious secret among those who had served, a reservoir of strength. And for those lucky enough to stay in contact with fellow veterans, it became heady stuff, the glue of a fierce, unbending friendship.

Like the time a few years ago when McGarvey needed a job. Not a turnstile, pick-up-the-trash, dead-end job, but an occupation. Product of a hard-scrabble Southern Illinois farm, he had enlisted in the Marine Corps, hoping to gain the credentials to become a policeman. That dream had fallen into the dust with his arm, in the summer of 1969. Now he wanted to become a motorcycle mechanic.

A one-armed mechanic?

The Veterans Administration had certified McGarvey as trainable, but no one wanted to chance him. For six months he banged on door after door. The economy was down, and there was hesitation in the eyes and words of many prospective employers. *Vietnam Veteran. Drugs. My Lai. walking time-bombs.*

Enter Tom Martin. Soft-spoken and introspective. Martin had been a treasure in my platoon. His anchor was wisdom. His gift was insight. He had gone on to Vanderbilt Law School after his hospitalization, then bought a small farm near Nashville. He resolved to help McGarvey.

One afternoon, Martin wheeled into Lannie Boswell's Harley-Davidson dealership in Nashville.

He spent an hour with Boswell, quietly selling McGarvey, talking of Vietnam, dispelling the almost automatic fears about vets and instability and drug use created by media depictions. Boswell's business had grown from \$300,000 to more than \$2 million in 15 years. He brought McGarvey down from Illinois for an interview. Then he hired him.

Today, McGarvey runs Boswell's parts department. "We never babied him," says Boswell. "He's done a hundred percent of what we ask everybody else. Our customers like him, he's got a good memory, and he's loyal. I couldn't ask for more."

Because Vietnam veterans' war experience so often isolated them—within their age group only 11



As wheelchair stands in foreground, Tom Martin operates tractor-mower by use of hand controls.

percent of the draft-eligible males ever served in Vietnam—and because their service has been so misunderstood, when veterans meet, often they experience almost immediate trust and understanding. As they waited for their country to comprehend the value of their service, they began to help each other. It began with quiet advocacy, with the simple concern of people like Tom Martin for friends, men who had proven themselves on the battlefield. It has evolved into an unusual government program that relies principally on unpaid volunteers.

Tom Pauken, the director of ACTION, an umbrella agency for public service groups, was struck with the idea of formalizing the process when he attended a reception for Vietnam veterans a few years ago in his native Dallas. Many in the room were highly successful. Yet Pauken, a prominent attorney who had dealt with several of them for years, had not known they were veterans. Why, he wondered, is this part of the Vietnam veteran community so submerged, while those who are troubled are so visible? And what effect would it have on public

perceptions of Vietnam veterans if these men came together to dispel the myths and help the others?

Pauken created the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. For three years and \$6 million—less than it cost to fight one single day of the Vietnam war—the leadership program will operate from 50 sites throughout the country. At the end of this three-year period, it will go out of business.

Each site has a volunteer chairman, usually a prominent member of the community, a paid program director, and several volunteer committees designed to promote individual veterans' talents. The response among veterans has been "nothing short of astounding," says Pauken. Three Medal of Honor winners, several self-made multimillionaires who own their own businesses, key officials in large corporations, attorneys, men who have overcome severe combat injuries—including two blinded veterans who completed law school and are members of the bar—have adopted a common goal: to honor the validity of service to country.

The principal aims of the program are to aid in job-placement, and help reshape public perceptions of Vietnam vets. (If you would like more information, write the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, ACTION, Room M600, Dept. P, 806 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20525.) The programs vary with their locales. The Southern California program, under Medal of Honor winner Leo Thorsness, focuses on television and movie studios, by far the worst offenders in perpetuating negative imagery of Vietnam vets. Many groups are arranging meetings with newspaper editorial boards to present data that refutes negative myths about veterans. Some examples:

- Ninety-one percent of Vietnam veterans say they are "glad they served" and 74 percent say they enjoyed their time in the military. Two out of three state they would serve again, even knowing the outcome of the war. (Harris Survey, of July 1980).
- There is no difference in drug usage rates between veterans and nonveterans of the Vietnam age group, according to a Veterans Administration study.
- Two-thirds of the men who served in Vietnam enlisted; two-thirds of those who served in World War II were drafted.
- Membership in Vietnam Veterans Against the War never exceeded 7000, of a potential 9 million.
- Vietnam veterans are *less likely* than non-vets to be in prison, says the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
- Volunteers accounted for 77 percent of combat deaths in Vietnam.
- Eighty-six percent of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian; 12.5 percent were black; 1.2 percent were of other races.
- Ninety-seven percent of Vietnam vets were discharged under honorable conditions—the same for the 10 years prior to Vietnam.

James Webb has written "A Sense of Honor," the highly acclaimed "Fields of Fire" and is completing a third novel. He is a graduate of the Naval Academy at Annapolis and Georgetown University Law Center. He served in Vietnam as a Marine rifle platoon and company commander, was wounded twice, and decorated numerous times for heroism. He also served in Congress as minority counsel to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

What does America do with experience like this?



Put it to work...

"I hope that every American will follow the example of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program volunteers and reach out individually to extend a helping hand where needed to all our fine Vietnam veterans. Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue.

"A nation's future is only as certain as the devotion of its defenders, and the nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation."

President Ronald Reagan

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Sponsored by ACTION, the National Volunteer Agency. Write us to find out how you can help the Title I/Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program project nearest you. ACTION, Washington, DC 20525.

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Status Report, January 1983

OPERATIONAL

Albuquerque, New Mexico
Arkansas
Baltimore, Maryland
Birmingham, Alabama
Boise, Idaho
Boston, Massachusetts
Buffalo, New York
Charleston, South Carolina
Chicago, Illinois
Columbus, Ohio
Dallas, Texas
Delaware
Hartford, Connecticut
Houston, Texas
Louisville, Kentucky
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Mississippi
New Orleans, Louisiana
New York - 2
Northern California - 2
Northwest Indiana
Ogden, Utah
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Phoenix, Arizona
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Portland, Oregon
Richmond, Virginia
St. Louis, Missouri
San Antonio, Texas
Seattle, Washington
South Dakota
Southern California - 2
Tennessee - 2
Vermont

IN PROCESS

Colorado	North Carolina
Georgia	Oklahoma
Kansas	South Florida
Michigan	Washington, D.C.
Nebraska	West Virginia

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Chairmen and Program Directors
January 1983

ALABAMA

Judge Wayne Thorn, Chairman - Served with U.S. Army in Vietnam as company commander. Won Bronze Star. J.D. from Cumberland School of Law at Stamford University. Now, District Judge, Jefferson County, Alabama.

Talmadge Foster, Program Director - A veteran of Korea and Vietnam. Was Battery Commander and won Bronze Star in Vietnam. Holds rank of Major. Graduate, Tuskegee Institute. Distinguished career in higher education including work with Alabama Center for Higher Education, a consortium representing seven colleges and universities within the State.

ALBUQUERQUE

James Reichert, Chairman - Was military advisor to a Vietnamese armored cavalry units. Within two weeks of returning home was in law school. Is now an attorney in private practice.

John Garcia, Program Director - Four months after high school graduation was in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division. Ten days after his return home he was married. Successfully opened and operated a retail store that employed 20 people. Before joining the VWLP, was an account executive with an insurance firm.

ARIZONA

Jim Hartdegen, Chairman - Was a fire team leader with 25th Infantry Division. Works with the Safety Department of the Noranda Mining Company and is a representative in the Arizona State Legislature.

Pat Chorpenning, Program Director - Enlisted in Marines after graduating from college. Was infantry platoon commander in Vietnam. Lost a leg when half his company was killed in ambush. Earned Master's degree from Harvard. Was executive director of Arizona Apartment Association and coordinator of intergovernmental activities for Arizona Department of Health Services.

ARKANSAS

Leon Clements, Chairman - Drafted by Cincinnati Royals basketball team. First Team All American basketball player in 1965. Served with 1st Air Cavalry as company commander. Now, senior vice president of Simmons First National Bank, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Donald Grigg, Program Director - Was with 1st Battalion 12th Cavalry (Airborne). Lost leg in combat yet returned for a second tour as a hospital administrator. Earned M.A. in hospital administration, worked with hospitals and medical consulting firm. Was Director of Personnel at University of Arkansas.

BALTIMORE

Mark Treanor, Chairman - Naval academy graduate, served with the 1st Marine Division as rifle platoon commander. Now partner with Baltimore law firm.

David DeChant, Program Director - Spent 31 months in Vietnam as a Marine scout and liaison between military and civilian leaders. Managed restaurant before joining VVLP.

BOISE

H. Scott Brown, Chairman of the Board - Served as Commander, Red Horse Detachment I, USAF in Vietnam. Civil engineer with Morrison-Knudson Co. Advises on construction methods or solutions worldwide. Won 1982 National Governors Association award for distinguished service to state government. Won Presidential Citation for his work as chairman of the Idaho Private Industry Council.

BOSTON

Kevin Danehy, Chairman - Was a Marine pilot in Vietnam. Received B.A. from Boston College. Now, Business Manager with Interactive Data Corporation.

Richard Ducey, Program Director - Served with 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions. Holds Associate Degree with honors. Sits on Governors Advisory Commission on Veterans Affairs. Has testified and lectured extensively in the area of Vietnam veterans affairs. Established Boston office of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

CHICAGO

H. G. "Skip" Smith, Chairman - Was company commander of the 299th engineering battalion. Won two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. Earned B.S. from Southern Illinois University. President, Smith, Cantrell and Associates, a commercial real estate firm.

Al Lynch, Program Director - Served with the First Air Cavalry in Vietnam. Won Congressional Medal of Honor. Was Chief of Ambulatory Care at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, North Chicago.

COLUMBUS, OHIO

Gene Watts, Ph.D., Chairman - Army Captain with 509th radio research group in Vietnam. Now Associate Professor of History and a Research Associate for the Study of Crime and Delinquency, Ohio State University. Holds several post-doctoral awards and is a book review editor.

DALLAS

Pat Haggerty, Chairman - Was with the Mobile Riverine Force with the Navy in Vietnam. Holds M.B.A. from University of Dallas. Is industrial real estate broker.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Max Patterson, Chairman - Served in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division. Earned B.A. and Master's degrees at Michigan State University. Now police chief, Windsor, Connecticut.

Dennis Peaslee, Program Director - Was with 1st Marine Regiment as intelligence scout. Two tours. Founded and was president of Connecticut Advocates for Vietnam veterans. Counseled at vet center.

HOUSTON

Richard Kolb, Chairman - Was radio operator with the 1st Airborne in Vietnam. Works in the field of exploration in the petroleum industry. Free lance author-- numerous articles affirming the integrity of service.

Stan Horton, Program Director - Was Navy seabee and worked with 5th Marines in I Corps. After Navy he enlisted in Marines, became a pilot and earned college degree in aeronautics.

INDIANA

Ron Layer, Chairman - West Point graduate. Captain, fire support coordinator, 9th infantry division. Purple Heart. Graduated Indiana Law School, now trial lawyer.

LOUISVILLE

Ron Ray, Chairman - Served as infantry battalion advisor with the Vietnamese Marine Corps. Graduate, magna cum laude, University of Louisville School of Law. Partner in law firm. Lecturer, University of Louisville School of Law.

MINNEAPOLIS

James Main, Chairman - Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, State of Minnesota. Earned M.A. in public administration from the Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota. Served in Vietnam with the U.S. Navy.

Steven Markley, Program Director - Was a Marine infantryman with the 1st Anti-Tank Battalion and the 2nd Combined Action Group. Wounded. Owner, Markley Farms. Corporate executive with Equico Lessors, a subsidiary of Equitable Life Assurance Co.

MISSISSIPPI

Rhesa Barksdale, Chairman - West Point graduate; J.D. with distinction, University of Mississippi. Served in Vietnam. Won Purple Heart. Now, partner in law firm.

NEW ORLEANS

Bill Ryan, Chairman - Was a Marine platoon commander. Received three Purple Hearts, legally blind as a result of wounds. Is a businessman and attorney. Develops commercial real estate.

NEW YORK

William Schmick, Chairman - Joined Marines at 17 and served in Vietnam with the Combined Action Program. Decorated for valor and wounded in action. Wrote an award winning column for the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin while earning his journalism degree. Holds M.B.A. from New York University. Was Fulbright Fellow in Japan. Wrote for FORBES MAGAZINE and is now an institutional broker for Drexel, Burnham, Lambert.

Gene Gitelson, Program Director - Was support platoon leader and rifle platoon leader in Vietnam. Worked in marketing research for Joseph E. Seagrams Company. Directed drug prevention program in South Bronx. Earned M.B.A. with honors from New York University. Was second Vice President of Chase Manhattan and consultant to multi-national corporations. Is guest lecturer at N.Y.U. School of Public Administration and the American Management Association.

NIAGARA FRONTIER (BUFFALO, NY)

Joe Ryan, Chairman - Navy Lt., commanded team of professional divers. Founding partner of National Public Professional Associates, Inc. Degree in labor relations from Cornell University. Brother, Bill, is chairman of New Orleans WLP.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

John Cummings, Co-Chairman - Served first tour with Special Forces. Was commander of A Company, 4/21st Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade second tour. Wounded. Now an attorney in private practice.

Glen Kendall, Co-Chairman - Served in Vietnam with 196th Infantry Brigade as rifle company commander and battalion staff officer. Holds Master's from Dartmouth College and was White House Fellow. Was Director of Policy Planning for the Environmental Protection Agency. Now President of Terradata, Inc. and Kendall Associates, a consulting firm.

Jeff Wilcox, Program Director - West Point graduate. Was rifle platoon leader and company commander with 191st Airborne Division. Wounded in action; received Bronze Star. Worked with IBM selling computer systems to Fortune 500 corporations.

Vadon 'Mac' McIlwain, Program Director - Served with Seabee team in Vietnam. Received B.A. at California State College, Stanislaus. Early organizer of veterans support and civic action groups. Was Director of Veterans Affairs on several California college campuses assisting veterans interested in post-secondary education and worked with multi-service veterans outreach project in California.

PHILADELPHIA

Chuck O'Brien, Chairman - Was platoon leader with the 9th Infantry Division, airborne and ranger qualified. Lost part of his leg. Taught skiing to handicapped. Climbed Mt. Rainier July 1981. Is an attorney in private practice.

Doug Foster, Program Director - Enlisted in Army at 18, Retired as Major. Wounded in action. Degree in business administration.

PITTSBURGH

Don Bailey, Chairman - Was company commander with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. Awarded a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars. Served two terms in the U.S. Congress and was the most highly decorated Vietnam veteran in the House of Representatives.

PORTLAND

Charles Boardman, Chairman - Earned B.A. with honors, University of California. Received J.D., Northwestern School of Law. Editor of Law News. Practicing attorney. Enlisted, U.S. Army. Re-entered service as a Marine. Two tours. Wounded.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Jerry Wanser, Chairman - Was a MACV advisor to the 23rd Vietnamese Infantry Division. Worked with Red Cross to help relocate South Vietnamese refugees after the war. An attorney in private practice, involved in variety of civic affairs including a gubernatorial appointment to the Board of Elections Commission, City of St. Louis.

Pat Schommer, Program Director - Army combat medic in Middle East. Founded Veterans Service Center in St. Louis. Chairman of Special Task Force for Veterans Affairs, St. Louis. Was consultant to Department of Medicine and Surgery for VA. Coordinator for training VA's Southeast Regional Medical Education Center.

SAN ANTONIO

John D. Baines, Chairman - A Navy Seabee, founder and president of John D. Baines Properties, Inc., brokers and develops international commercial real estate.

Bill Stensland, Program Director - Naval Academy graduate, after 15 years of active Marine Corps service, Major Stensland retired due to wounds suffered in Vietnam.

SEATTLE

Joe Murphy, Chairman - Served with Army in Ton Son Nhut with crypto-logistics unit. Two degrees from Notre Dame; Cornell Law School. Now partner with a Seattle law firm.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Bobby Kinard, Chairman - Was a Sergeant with the 3rd TAC Fighter Wing of the Air Force in Vietnam. Graduated from the Citadel and University of South Carolina Law School. Presently in private practice of law. Serves as representative to South Carolina legislature.

SOUTH DAKOTA

David Volk, Chairman - Served as journalist and photographer with 101st Airborne. Returned to South Dakota and was elected States Treasurer. Has held that post ever since.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Leo Thorsness, Chairman - Flew 93 missions. POW six years. Ran against George McGovern for Senate seat in South Dakota. Earned Congressional Medal of Honor. Now corporate executive with Litton Industries.

Roland Cinciarelli, Program Director - Retired from Marine Corps as Brigadier General. Real estate investor before joining WLP. Commanding officer of maintenance company in Vietnam.

David Szumowski, Program Director, San Diego - Was tank platoon leader with 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Blinded. Graduated Denver Law School. Passed bar in Colorado and California. Was press secretary to Congressional campaign. Was veterans benefits counselor.

TENNESSEE

Sam Bartholomew, Chairman - Was with the 3rd Squadron 4th Cavalry after graduating from West Point. Was legislative assistant and campaign manager to Senator Howard Baker while earning law degree at Vanderbilt University. Is now an attorney in private practice.

Fred Tucker, Program Director - Enlisted in the Marines at 16. Served two tours of duty in Vietnam. After retiring earned Master's degree in Communications and taught college. Was general manager for Carpet Barn and managed ten stores in three states.

John Furgess, Administrative Director - Served with U.S. Army's Americal Division at Chu Lai and is member of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Holds business degree from Middle Tennessee State University and was a life insurance executive. Writes a weekly column on veterans affairs for local newspaper.

UTAH

Franklin Maughan, Chairman - Was platoon leader, 1st squadron 4th calvary, 1st Infantry Division. Now is County Commissioner of Weber County, Utah.

Bill Galbraith, Program Director - Served with Army Field Artillery as Lt. Col. in Vietnam. Started two vocational training schools in-country for ARVN. Degree in business administration. Was business manager of hospital, purchasing and personnel director of a savings and loan company and now owns a retail business.

VERMONT

Robert E. Rummel, Chairman - Machine gunner with 101st Airborne, wounded in action. President of Robert E. Rummel Construction Company and president of Green Mountain Futures, a development company.

William Fagginger-Auer, Program Director - Served in Navy as operations officer aboard "Franklin Delano Roosevelt." Was director of Project to Advance Veterans Employment (PAVE).

VIRGINIA

Phil Hough, Chairman - Was Navy operations officer and Assistant Senior Advisor and Team Leader in Vietnam. Naval Academy graduate. Master's in public administration from University of Southern California. Consultant to U.S. and European defense industries.

Stephen Brixey, Vice Chairman - Naval Academy graduate. Marine Officer. A-6 bombardier navigator in Southeast Asia. Now executive with Texas Instruments in Northern Virginia.

Carl White, Program Director - Served as advisor to Vietnamese Marines. Retired from Marines as major. Holds degree in broadcast journalism. Was magazine editor and had own publications design and editorial consulting firm.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Kip Becker, Ph.D. Chairman - Was helicopter pilot with 119th Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam. Holds two master's degrees, a doctorate and is working on a third master's degree in computer sciences. Is Assistant Dean of Behavioral Sciences and M.B.A. coordinator, Wilmington College.

Wayne Hanby, Program Director - Served with 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines. Lost an eye and a hand in combat. Was a Justice of the Peace for the State of Delaware.

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
National Advisors

ROY ADAMS

Served with 101st Airborne as infantry platoon leader and assistant operations officer. Is now Special Assistant to U.S. Senator Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.).

FRANCIS GUESS

Served with 1st Infantry Division. Received Master's from Vanderbilt University. Is Commissioner of the Department of General Services for the State of Tennessee. Past president of Tennessee Council of Urban Leagues.

GRACE-MARIE McALISTER

Air Force staff sergeant in Vietnam. Selected to crew aboard Air Force One and flew for three years. Holds Master's degree in business administration. Currently is Administrative Officer for National Security Affairs, Office of the Vice President and Staff Security Officer.

JAMES McCLOSKEY

Was an advisor in Vietnam assigned to 1st Marine Division. Now a major in Army Reserves. Wounded. Earned a Master's in finance. Teaches at LaSalle College and is economist with the Department of Commerce, City of Philadelphia.

JOCK NASH

Was a Marine platoon commander in Vietnam. Holds a law degree from Georgetown University and is chief counsel and staff director of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Senate.

LUIS SANZ, M.D.

Was medic with 29th Evacuation Hospital. Graduated college in three years and finished medical school at the top of his class. Now full-time faculty member at Georgetown University and maintains private obstetrics and gynecology practice.

GEORGE SKYPECK

Wounded several times in Vietnam after enlisting in Army. Became an officer without college degree. Later earned Master's from University of Massachusetts. Is an artist who has exhibited throughout the country.

WILLIAM VOGT

West Point graduate, M.B.A. Cornell University. Earned bronze star with Army Medical Service Corps. Defense analyst. Wrote Veterans Day editorial for WASHINGTON POST "Don't Turn Vietnam Veterans into Another Welfare Constituency."

JAMES WEBB

A Marine company commander, twice wounded in Vietnam. Earned law degree at Georgetown University and was counsel to House Veterans Affairs Committee. Taught poetry and the novel at the Naval Academy. Best selling author: FIELDS OF FIRE and A SENSE OF HONOR.

JOHN P. WHEELER III

Took leave of absence from legal practice to serve as first national director of VWLP. Graduated from West Point as Distinguished Cadet, earned M.B.A. from Harvard and graduated with honors from Yale Law School. Chairman of the Board of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Originator of THE WOUNDED GENERATION and author of numerous articles about the leadership role of the Vietnam veteran.

ACTION
VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

THOMAS PAUKEN, DIRECTOR, ACTION

Enlisted in U.S. Army and served in Vietnam as a Province Intelligence Officer and Senior Analyst for Strategic Research and Analysis. Graduated from Georgetown University and received law degree from Southern Methodist University. Was an attorney in private practice in Dallas, Texas.

EDWARD TIMPERLAKE, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, VVLP

An Annapolis graduate and Marine F-4 pilot, earned his M.B.A. at Cornell University. Timperlake headed a team under contract to the Office of the Secretary of Defense analyzing the national security balance between the Soviets and the U.S. before becoming Deputy Director of the VVLP in October 1981. Now National Director, VVLP.

WILLIAM JAYNE, NATIONAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR, VVLP

Marine rifleman wounded at Khe Sanh during Tet offensive. Received B.A. with honors from University of California at Berkeley. Was Director of Information at Associated General Contractors of America before becoming National Deputy Director of VVLP.

KENNETH MOOREFIELD, NATIONAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR, VVLP

First served as advisor to a South Vietnamese infantry battalion. Second tour as a company commander with 9th Infantry Division and aide-de-camp for 25th Infantry Division commander. Returned to Vietnam as the Special Assistant to the U.S. Ambassador and managed the evacuation of refugees from Ton Son Nhut Air Base during the fall of Saigon. Served with the Foreign Service as Science and Technology Attache at American Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela. Worked in private sector as international business consultant.

JERRY E. YATES, Associate Director for Employment (on loan to VVLP from VA)

Served with Korean Military Advisory Group in Southeast Asia. Earned Master's degree from Western Michigan University. Worked for Veterans Administration in four midwestern states before coming to Washington to work in Executive Development and Training Service. Founder of first two national weekend tributes to Vietnam veterans in West Virginia.

MARCIA LANDAU, MEDIA DIRECTOR, VVLP

Fundraising and public relations consultant for a variety of clients including Playboy, William R. Hearst II, Aerospace Education Foundation and Arizona State. Co-authored book on holistic health care.

VALERIE WHEELER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, VWLP

B.E. degree. Served with the Peace Corps in Ethiopia. Reservist for Army Civil Affairs Company in Riverdale, Maryland, for three years. Taught high school and college students in New England before coming to Washington, D.C.

DAVID HUFFMAN, PROGRAM PLANNER, VWLP

Marine rifleman in Vietnam, blinded when booby trap detonated. A high school dropout before serving in Vietnam, Huffman is the first blind student to graduate from Delaware Law School. Member of Pennsylvania Bar. He is pioneering an innovative effort to train and place severely disabled veterans in worthwhile employment.

JOHN FALES, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACTION

Served with Marines. Blinded in combat. Was employment Director at Blinded Veterans Association. Columnist.

The GOOD NEWS REPORT



ACTION
WASHINGTON, DC 20525

- FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM • YOUNG VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
- SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM • RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
- OFFICE OF VOLUNTEER LIAISON • VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
- NATIONAL CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING

Note to Editors:

Vietnam veterans in many areas can count on help from fellow vets, often because of ACTION's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLV). Ask Ted McGavock. He was out of work, out of money, but, thanks to this program, not out of luck. With VVLV's help, he and his family are getting back on their feet after nearly a year.

It is heartening to hear about this very fine program through which veterans are able to provide such urgently needed help to other veterans in need. We hope you will share this Good News Report with your readers.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Pauken
Director, ACTION

CONTACT: Pete Copp
(202) 254-7264

REPORT #52

BY: Thomas W. Pauken
Director of ACTION

The odds seemed stacked against combat Marine veteran, Ted McGavock. He'd been out of work for eleven months. The company he had worked for in St. Louis, Missouri, for eleven years had gone broke so there was no chance for re-employment as a machinist, and no matter how hard he looked for employment elsewhere he could not find any. His unemployment compensation had been terminated. Worse, he had lost the home he had been buying for six years and the furnishings with it. His wife, Marjorie, and their four children were now living with her parents in Donovan, two hundred

miles away. A friend had loaned him a truck, and he had been trying to get work hauling anything, but there wasn't anything to haul.

Ted McGavock was broke, dispirited, bewildered. He'd always prided himself on his ability to find work, even as a kid. Now he was hanging on the economic ropes, and when he walked into the VVLP office in St. Louis, the T-shirt and dungarees he wore represented his entire wardrobe.

It wasn't McGavock who had heard about ACTION's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP) and came looking for help, but rather, ACTION volunteer Everett Sedgwick of the VVLP staff who had heard about McGavock and asked him if he could help. Sedgwick had gone looking for the former Marine, and when he found him he was startled by McGavock's size. His bulk seemed as menacing as the look on his face. Sedgwick, a Marine veteran himself, explained what the VVLP was all about: helping fellow veterans in need. McGavock, a bit overwhelmed, a bit suspicious, was willing to visit the VVLP office. He did so, and when he left he knew he was no longer alone in trying to find a way to climb out of the economic and psychological pit of unemployment.

But there was more. Through a VVLP arranged food bank, he was provided with a week's supply of food to aid his family and, for himself, some badly needed clothing. Most important, he had a VVLP job-readiness interview and Sedgwick and other VVLP volunteer staffers were at work, seeking a job for him. As one observer put it, McGavock "appeared to be emotionally overwhelmed because of the assistance provided." He believed he had been abandoned by everyone. Now, suddenly, strangers were working on his behalf. Only they weren't really strangers, they were fellow veterans.

Soon thereafter, Sedgwick informed McGavock that a job interview with an aeronautical company had been set up for him. The result was a blessed offer for employment in an on-the-job training program. The interviewer at Engineered Air Systems had not only been impressed with McGavock's mechanical ability but also his manner: polite; appreciative; quick-thinking; and with an easy smile.

Today Ted McGavock is at work again. To bring his family back to St. Louis will take time, but in the meantime, Marge writes her wonderful letters. They have a poetic quality, Sedgwick says. To Ted they say, I believe in you. I believe in our future.

Ted McGavock's story is one of help given at a difficult time: a time of need and of need fulfilled by fellow Vietnam veterans who care.

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VVLP

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

