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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

VCLP
Tom Perkin.
VU + Pres.

Marcia Landau.
254 8270

Dec 1.


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

January 19, 1983

TO: WILLIAM K. SADLEIR, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE 

REQUEST: To thank a number of the Vietnam veterans serving as volunteers in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

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 (VVLP).

BACKGROUND: Administered by ACTION, the VVLP is an important veterans' service begun by the Reagan Administration. The VVLP has established thirty-three programs across the country and fifty are in operation as of January 1, 1983. Each project director and program chairman and virtually 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 1,000 non-stipend volunteers have stepped forward to help the VVLP. These Vietnam veterans work at the highest levels of their communities and have volunteered over 35,000 hours to help other Vietnam veterans.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President launched the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program on the eve of Veterans Day, 1981, with a ceremony in the Rose Garden.

DATE: Afternoon in February/March DURATION: 15 minutes

LOCATION: East Room/State Dining Room

PARTICIPANTS: 100 prominent Vietnam veterans and others associated with the program (list attached).

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President enters the East Room and offers brief remarks and greets those in attendance as he departs. This appearance will close a one-hour briefing of the group by Administration officials.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks

MEDIA: Press Pool Coverage

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Tom Pauken, Ed Hickey

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton C. Blackwell

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
Training Conference
January, 1983

Participants - White House Event

Aldstadt, Dave - Program Director, Ohio VVLP
Argetsinger, J.C. - General Counsel, ACTION
Bailey, Don (Cong) - Volunteer Chairman, Pittsburgh VVLP
Baines, John - Volunteer Chairman, San Antonio VVLP
Bartholomew, Sam - Volunteer Chairman, Tennessee VVLP
Bartron, Harry - Program Director, South Dakota VVLP
Becker, Kip - Volunteer Chairman, Wilmington VVLP
Boardman, Charles - Volunteer Chairman, Oregon VVLP
Brixey, Steve - Volunteer, Virginia VVLP
Burkett, Zack - Filmmaker, VVLP
Bucha, Paul - Volunteer advisor, New York VVLP
Caron, Barry - Assistants General Counsel, ACTION
Chorpenning, Pat - Program Director, Arizona VVLP
Chmielak, Jerry - Program Manager, VVLP
Cinciarelli, Roland - Program Director, Southern California VVLP
Clements, Leon - Volunteers Chairman, Arkansas VVLP
Coll, Dennie - Volunteer Chairman, Chicago VVLP
Cummings, John - Volunteer Co-chairman, Northern California VVLP
DeChant, David - Program Director, Baltimore VVLP
Eilert, Rick - Program Director, Chicago VVLP
Fagginger-Auer, Bill - Program Director, Vermont VVLP
Fales, John - Special Assistant to the Director, ACTION
Foster, Doug - Program Director, Philadelphia VVLP
Furgess, John - Administrative Director, Tennessee VVLP
Galbraith, Bill - Program Director, Utah VVLP
Garcia, John - Program Director, New Mexico VVLP
Gilstrap, Pat - Consultant, VVLP
Gitelson, Gene - Program Director, New York VVLP
Grigg, Don - Program Director, Arkansas VVLP
Haggerty, Pat - Volunteer Chairman, Dallas VVLP
Hanby, Wayne - Program Director, Wilmington VVLP
Hartdegen, Jim - Volunteer Chairman, Arizona VVLP
Harvey, Tom - Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
Horton, Stan - Program Director, Houston VVLP
Hough, Phil - Volunteer Chairman, Virginia VVLP
Huffman, David - Program Planner, VVLP
Jayne, Bill - Deputy Director, VVLP
Kendall, Glen - Co-chairman, Northern California VVLP
Kinard, Bob - Volunteer Chairman, South Carolina VVLP
Kolb, Rich - Volunteer Chairman, Houston VVLP
Kreiner, Ed - Consultant, VVLP
Landau, Marcia - Media Director, VVLP
Layer, Ron - Volunteer Chairman, Indiana VVLP
Lynch, Al - Board of Directors, Chicago VVLP
Main, Jim - Volunteer Chairman, Minneapolis VVLP
Markley, Steve - Program Director, Minneapolis VVLP
Martin, Terry - Program Director, Buffalo VVLP
Maughan, Frank - Volunteer Chairman, Utah VVLP
McDermott, Mike - Program Director, South Carolina VVLP
McIlwain, Vadon - Program Director, Northern California VVLP
McWatters, Mike - Program Director, Seattle VVLP

Participants for White House Event continued
January 1983
Page 2

Moorefield, Ken - Deputy Director, VVLP
Murphy, Joe - Volunteer Chairman, Seattle VVLP
Nash, Jock - Volunteer Chairman, Seattle VVLP
O'Brien, Chuck - Volunteer Chairman, Philadelphia VVLP
Odom, Bob - Program Director, New Orleans VVLP
Patterson, Max - Volunteer Chairman, Hartford, Connecticut VVLP
Pauken, Tom - Director, ACTION
Peaslee, Dennis - Program Director, Hartford, Connecticut VVLP
Reichert, Jim - Volunteer Chairman, New Mexico VVLP
Ridge, Tom (Congressman) - Volunteer, VVLP
Rudin, John - Media Advisor, VVLP
Rummel, Bob - Volunteer Chairman, Vermont VVLP
Ryan, Bill - Volunteer Chairman, New Orleans VVLP
Ryan, Joe - Volunteer Chairman - Buffalo VVLP
Sanz, Dr. Luis - Volunteer, VVLP
Schmick, Bill - Volunteer Chairman, New York VVLP
Schommer, Pat - Program Director, St. Louis VVLP
Skypeck, George - Volunteer, VVLP
Smith, Skip - Volunteer Chairman, Chicago VVLP
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Szumowski, David - Program Director, Southern California VVLP
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Timperlake, Ed - National Director, VVLP
Treanor, Mark - Volunteer Chairman, Baltimore VVLP
Tucker, Fred - Executive Director, Tennessee VVLP
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Vogt, Bill - Volunteer, VVLP
Wamser, Jerry - Volunteer Chairman, St. Louis VVLP
Watts, Gene - Volunteer Chairman, Ohio VVLP
Webb, Jim - Volunteer, VVLP
Wheeler, Valerie - Administrative Assistant, VVLP
White, Carl - Program Director, Virginia VVLP
Wilcox, Jeff - Program Director, Northern California VVLP
Yates, Jerry - Veterans Service Organizations Liaison, VVLP

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

JANUARY 12, 1983

TO: WILLIAM K. SADLEIR, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: To meet with Vietnam Veterans serving as volunteers in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program and to receive a briefing on the volunteer activities they have been coordinating.

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 (VVLP).

BACKGROUND: Administered by ACTION, the VVLP is an important veterans service begun by the Reagan Administration. The VVLP has established thirty-three programs across the country and fifty will be operating by Jan.1, 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 1,000 non-stipend volunteers have stepped forward. These Vietnam veterans work at the highest levels of their communities and have volunteered over 35,000 hours of time to materially improve the situation of Vietnam veterans.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President launched the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program on the eve of Veterans Day, 1981, with a ceremony in the Rose Garden.

DATE: End of January DURATION: 30 minutes

LOCATION: East Room

PARTICIPANTS: 100 prominent Vietnam veterans and others associated with the program (list attached).

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President enters the East Room and listens to briefing. President makes brief remarks, greets the volunteers and poses for pictures.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks

MEDIA: Full Press coverage

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Tom Pauken, Ed Hickey

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton C. Blackwell

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
Training Conference
January, 1983

Participants - White House Event

Aldstadt, Dave - Program Director, Ohio VVLP
Argetsinger, J.C. - General Counsel, ACTION
Bailey, Don (Cong) - Volunteer Chairman, Pittsburgh VVLP
Baines, John - Volunteer Chairman, San Antonio VVLP
Bartholomew, Sam - Volunteer Chairman, Tennessee VVLP
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Brixey, Steve - Volunteer, Virginia VVLP
Burkett, Zack - Filmmaker, VVLP
Bucha, Paul - Volunteer advisor, New York VVLP
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January 1983
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Watts, Gene - Volunteer Chairman, Ohio VVLP
Webb, Jim - Volunteer, VVLP
Wheeler, Valerie - Administrative Assistant, VVLP
White, Carl - Program Director, Virginia VVLP
Wilcox, Jeff - Program Director, Northern California VVLP
Yates, Jerry - Veterans Service Organizations Liaison, VVLP

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
Training Conference
January, 1983

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January 1983
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Timperlake, Ed - National Director, VVLP
Trenor, Mark - Volunteer Chairman, Baltimore VVLP
Tucker, Fred - Executive Director, Tennessee VVLP
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Webb, Jim - Volunteer, VVLP
Wheeler, Valerie - Administrative Assistant, VVLP
White, Carl - Program Director, Virginia VVLP
Wilcox, Jeff - Program Director, Northern California VVLP
Yates, Jerry - Veterans Service Organizations Liaison, VVLP

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

JANUARY 3, 1983

TO: WILLIAM K. SADLEIR, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: To meet with ~~outstanding, successful~~ Vietnam Veterans serving as volunteers in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program and to receive a briefing on the volunteer activities they have been coordinating.

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 (VVLP).

BACKGROUND: Administered by ACTION, the VVLP is an important veterans service begun by the Reagan Administration. The VVLP has established thirty-three programs across the country and fifty will be operating by Jan. 1, 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 project directors hold at least one Purple Heart and a number are severely disabled as a result of their service to the nation. Over 1,000 non-stipend volunteers have stepped forward. These Vietnam veterans work at the highest levels of their communities and have volunteered over 35,000 hours of time to materially improve the situation of Vietnam veterans.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President launched the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program on the eve of Veterans Day, 1981, with a ceremony in the Rose Garden.

DATE: End of January DURATION: 30 minutes

LOCATION: East room

PARTICIPANTS: 100 prominent Vietnam veterans and others associated with the program (List Attached)

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President enters the East Room and listens to briefing. President makes brief remarks, greets the volunteers and poses for pictures.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks

MEDIA: Full press coverage

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Tom Pauken, Ed Healey, Harry Walters

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton C. Blackwell



ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

TO: Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

DATE: December 1, 1982

FROM: Thomas W. Pauken, Director

SUBJECT: Proposed WLP Presidential Event in January, 1983

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 by acknowledging the participants in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

BACKGROUND

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program has established thirty-three programs across the country and fifty will be operating by 1 January 1983. All are developed and implemented by Vietnam veterans and administered by ACTION. 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 project directors hold at least one Purple Heart and a number are severely disabled as a result of their service to the nation. Over 1,000 non-stipend volunteers have stepped forward. These Vietnam veterans work at the highest levels of their communities and have volunteered over 35,000 hours of time to materially improve the situation of Vietnam veterans.

PARTICIPANTS

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

PRESS PLAN

Full press coverage including TV and White House and individual photo opportunities. Leadership participants to present post-event press briefing as well.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

President joins 15 WLP chairmen at conference table in Roosevelt room while other participants are seated theatre-style. Pauken gives brief introductions and reports. President asks questions and chairmen respond. Group includes: Pauken, Fales, Timperlake, Jayne, Moorefield, Bartholomew, Patterson, Treanor, Thorsness, Cummings or Kendall, Volk, Kolb, Wamsler, Becker and O'Brien. Press in room for photo opportunity only. After briefing (15 minutes) President stands before Presidential seal and all participants go through receiving line, handshakes and photos. President reads brief statement "These individuals are doing a good job in the best of the volunteer spirit. The country can join in giving a helping hand where needed...." President exits. (Total time: 30 minutes) Pauken, Timperlake, Jayne, Moorefield, etc. available to take questions from press.



OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

December 1, 1982

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

Dear Morton:

We would like members of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program to meet with the President at the end of January for a recognition event. Attached are the proposed details.

I would appreciate anything you can do to help us set this up.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Pauken
Director

Enclosure

*Previous Participation: Pres Launched
this program on Nov 19, 1981*

*Harry Walters
Everett Alvarez
Larry de Mesa*



ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

December 17, 1982

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Old Executive Office Building, Rm. 191
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Attached is our proposed list of participants for the January Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program Training Conference.

Please let me know if you need further information for the proposed White House event.

Best regards,

Edward Timberlake
National Director
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Enclosure



ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

November 29, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Enclosed please find copies of some recent press clippings on the President's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. Of special note are the clippings from "Time," "The Ottawa (Ill.) Daily News" (a UPI story), and "Parade" magazine.

In addition to the print coverage, the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVL) and its activities have also been covered by the CBS "Sunday Morning" show (November 5) and the WNBC Nightly News (an NBC-owned station that feeds tape to NBC stations around the country) during the week of November 9. The Westinghouse Broadcasting bureau in Washington interviewed several VVL volunteers from around the country on November 12, as did several smaller broadcast bureaus.

Please let me know if you would like further information.

Sincerely,

Edward Timberlake
National Director
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Enclosures

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 derriere."

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."

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.

PAGE 14 • NOVEMBER 21, 1982 • PARADE MAGAZINE

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 -

VIETNAM VETS/continued

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

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 afterwash, 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. [E]

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.

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 VID R WEST · COLEY P WHITE · JAMES L WHITED · ELVIN J WIDEMAN · SAMMY RAY WISWEI

Inscribed on a black granite wall, in order of death, a few score of the 57,939 names of Americans lost in Viet Nam

ARTHUR GRACE

Nation

A Homecoming at Last

Viet Nam veterans converge on Washington in quest of catharsis and respect

One man knelt, cried for a minute and left behind his campaign medals: Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit. Another, like many of the veterans in olive drab, added his name to an *ad hoc* battalion sheet someone had staked in the ground; he stood back, saluted, saw his reflection in the polished black stone, then let out a kind of agonized whimper before two buddies led him away. An Illinois mother ran her fingers once, twice across the name JERRY DANAY, who was killed by a rocket. "It makes me feel closer," Helen Danay said as she remembered her son.

They came like pilgrims, bigger crowds each day, to Washington's newest and most unorthodox monument: the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial. Its long walls, inscribed with the names of 57,939 killed or missing in America's last war, are simple, elegant and dignified, everything the Viet Nam War was not. By the end of last week the adjacent ground was a fringe of private memorial icons: messages in ink and gold glitter, photographs, candles,

tiny flags and hundreds of flowers. Virginian Larry Cox, one of four survivors from a 27-man platoon, found the black granite chilling. Still, he said, "it's a first step to remind America of what we did."

Cox was one of 15,000 veterans who made their way to the capital last week for the National Salute to Viet Nam Veterans, an event organized by the ex-soldiers for themselves. The gathering sometimes seemed conventional: patriotic eulogies, American Legion caps, martial music and maudlin, affectionate reunions of old platoon chums. But the convocation had an edge, a sense of catharsis, mainly because it was large and public. In the end, with a splendidly ragtag march down Constitution Avenue and the dedication of the Veterans Memorial, the spectacle seemed like the national homecoming the country had never offered.

Until recently, acknowledging Viet Nam veterans in such showy fashion would have connoted approval of the nightmarish war. However, "within the soul of each Viet Nam veteran," says Max

Cleland, who lost both legs and a forearm in the war and headed the Veterans Administration under Jimmy Carter, "there is probably something that says, 'Bad war, good soldier.'" Their fellow Americans are only now coming to appreciate that distinction and, as Cleland says, "separate the war from the warrior." Mike Mullings of Bethany, Okla., a medic in Viet Nam, agrees that "things are changing. It might sound corny, but people have become a little more caring. It feels pretty good."

The last time so many people converged on Washington, all with Viet Nam on their minds, was to condemn the war and the U.S. Government. Then, as now, many of the visitors wore blue jeans, beards and long hair. Thirteen years ago this month at the antiwar March Against Death, the demonstrators invented a perfect piece of moral theater by reciting, one at a time, the names of 40,000 Americans who had been killed up to then. Last Wednesday morning, in a chapel at Washington's National Cathedral, the bleak recitation began again, and it

seemed all the more powerful. There was now a final tally; most of the 230 readers had friends or kin among the dead, and a complicated sadness had replaced the agitprop bitterness of November 1969. David DeChant, 35, a former Marine Corps sergeant who spent 31 months in Viet Nam, started with the A's: "David Aasen, Jose Abara, Richard Abbate..." The spare eulogy took the better part of three days, 1,000 names an hour, with only a few hours respite each morning. One reader was Caroline Baum, 26, a Quaker from Syracuse, N.Y. Said she after her 25 minutes at the altar: "Whether you believe in war or not, you should honor the dead who fought in it."

For 20 minutes, from Burd to Burris, Ronald and Nancy Reagan sat in the chapel. To the dismay of some veterans, it was the President's only participation in the week's salute, and on his way out of the chapel, he could not resist putting an ideological point on the proceedings: "We are beginning to appreciate that they were fighting for a just cause."

Indeed, for all the deliberate notes of reconciliation, politicized discord swirled around the centerpiece of the week's events: the Veterans Memorial. Three years ago, Labor Department bureaucrat Jan Scruggs, a former Army corporal, decided that he and his fellow Viet Nam veterans needed palpable, permanent recognition in Washington, their own monument in the city of monuments. His Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Fund (V.V.M.F.) persuaded Congress to assign them two acres on the Mall, got 500,000 donors to give \$7 million and managed to attract 1,421 entries to a professionally judged design competition. V.V.M.F. wanted a "reflective and contemplative" memorial with an "emphasis... on those who died"—including a display of their names—and "without political or military content." Maya Ying Lin, then a Yale architecture student, won the competition with her subtle, somber design, which looks like manicured stone ramparts: two angled walls, each 250 ft. long, sloping down into the ground from a height of 10 ft. at their junction. The carved names of the dead begin and end at the apex, arranged in the order of their deaths from 1959 to 1975.

Not everyone likes the memorial. For more than a year, some have snarled that its blackness and abstract unorthodoxy make it a humiliating antiwar mockery. "Too bad it wasn't a simple war," says Scruggs wearily. "Then we could put up a heroic statue of a couple of Marines and save it at that." (Indeed, next year, to satisfy the critics, a flag and statue of three Viet Nam foot soldiers will be implanted nearby.) Virginia Veteran Jim Borland saw the memorial on Veterans Day and found it "full of ambivalence," like the country's attitude toward the war.

Most who visited the quasi-underground memorial last week had simpler, visceral reactions. Said former Marine David Zien of Medford, Wis.: "My chest is hollow, and I was a bit limp. It just

PHOTOGRAPH BY
BRIAN W. HARRIS

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CHUCK FISHER

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ARTHUR GRACE



Nation

overwhelms you." Friends and kin looked for names, aided by roving guides carrying alphabetized directories. Minerva Peyton said she had come from Elsay, Ill., to "honor my son," dead for twelve years. She visited National Cathedral on Friday at 3 a.m. to hear William Peyton's name, and she liked the severe granite memorial. "It's not ostentatious," she said. Nearly everyone ran their hands over the carved letters of familiar names.

V.V.M.F. Chairman Jack Wheeler, a West Point graduate and Yale-educated lawyer, thinks the memorial, discomfiting or not, marks a turning point. Says he: "It exposes, and thereby ends, the denial that has characterized the country's reaction to the war. It is probably," he ventures, "the single most important step in the process of healing and redemption."

But the week in Washington was not all gravely introspective. In Georgetown restaurants and funky taverns, the war's survivors celebrated that survival. The lobby of the Sheraton Washington Hotel, for instance, was turned into a sort of nonstop cash-bar bivouac. Hundreds of vets, mainly Army, swarmed and shouted ("Airborne? Whoa!") with drinks in hand.

One room upstairs at the Sheraton was close and smoky, the emotional tone jangly. Here was a weeper, there a grinning joshier, and everywhere beer bottles and nervous wives. For the two dozen former Special Forces men jammed into the hotel suite for their reunion, many dressed in fatigues, there had clearly never been a Veterans Day quite like this. "How are the Green Berets different?" piped up former Sergeant Mark Atchison. Tougher? Smarter? No. "We believed it. We tried to win their hearts and minds. We never called 'em 'gooks.'" An instant later at the bar an argument about a shoulder patch turned into an abortive brawl. "A lot of people here," suggested Russ Lindley, a long-haired ex-paratrooper, "are letting it out for the first time."

There was a curious pastiche of a show at Constitution Hall, almost as confused as the war. Jimmy Stewart read a letter from the fatherless son of a Viet Nam casualty, Carol Lawrence recited *The Story of the Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and erstwhile Starlet Chris Noel recreated the Armed Forces Radio show she had broadcast to U.S. servicemen in Indochina during the 1960s. During intermission, retired General William Westmoreland, commander of U.S. forces in Viet Nam from 1964 to 1968, signed autographs. The hardest working star was Wayne Newton, who flew in from Las Vegas and performed gratis. For 90 minutes, he played the banjo and trumpet, sang soul songs and *Danke Schön*, danced and winked. Said one Wisconsin vet: "I wouldn't have picked Wayne Newton. But I don't know why we're here either."

Saturday's three-hour parade down

Constitution Avenue, led by Westmoreland, was the vets' own show. The 15,000, in uniforms and civvies, walked among floats, bands and baton twirlers. The flag-waving crowds even cheered.

Around the country, in fact, Viet Nam veterans sense a growing acceptance, an accommodation that owes more to plain human respect and less and less to pity. Washington's is not the only monument. Last week in downtown Chicago a commemorative fountain was dedicated, and in Vermont, Interstate 89 last month became Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Highway. On the courthouse lawn in Glasgow, Ky. (pop. 13,000), the brand new black granite marker is still awaiting the names of Barren County's two dozen Viet Nam dead.

"Viet Nam veterans," says Stan Horton, a former Marine pilot, "used to



Her flower stem points to a kinsman's name
"People have become a little more caring."

be like cops—no one was comfortable around us. People are now more willing to listen." Horton is director of the Houston chapter of the Viet Nam Veterans Leadership Program (V.V.L.P.), which was founded with a modest Government grant last year to foster self-helping voluntarism among the vets. The main goals: to get one another jobs and burnish their collective reputation. "There's a degree of enlightenment now on the part of employers," says Stewart Roth, supervisor of veterans' job programs for California. "They're coming around." Only a small fraction of the war's veterans, after all, came home with serious emotional problems, even though for a decade the Viet Nam veteran has been portrayed in films and on TV as a doped-up maniac itching to mow down strangers. More and more, says Horton, the public is "seeing vets not as baby killers but, at worst, as dupes—and, at best, as people who did their patriotic duty." Yet the veterans re-

main wary. "The shift in America's mood is a subtle one," says Steve Bailey, a Houston doctor and volunteer counselor of Viet Nam veterans. "The vets I talk to are waiting to see if the feeling endures past Armistice Day."

For many veterans, sheer good will is not good enough. Larry Hill, an unemployed former Marine from the Watts district of Los Angeles, derides last week's affair in Washington as "a pacification tactic." In New York City's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, itself a combat zone, Larry Smith is equally acid: "We don't need that statue. We need some jobs." He lost his left leg in Viet Nam, and he believes he was contaminated by the defoliant Agent Orange.

A tiny minority of Viet Nam veterans were exposed to Agent Orange. Yet the Veterans Administration's handling of the issue has ranged from indifferent to slipshod, and serves for the veterans as a vivid example of Government callousness. Dioxin, the toxic ingredient in Agent Orange, has been linked with skin diseases, birth defects and cancer. Yet, according to reports last month by both the General Accounting Office and the Office of Technology Assessment, the VA has been inexcusably reluctant to study the effects of Agent Orange and has provided only cursory, inadequate medical exams for the 95,000 men who have asked to be tested. The VA has also refused to pay any disability benefits on grounds of Agent Orange exposure.

The Reagan Administration this year proposed cutting \$328 million from Viet Nam veterans' benefit programs, including all money for Operation Outreach, under which more than 100 storefront centers have been opened to provide counseling for troubled vets. "Americans may be changing their feelings about vets," concedes Tom Liddell, a Houston attorney and former Air Force captain, "but the change in mood is not going to affect the vets until people put money where their mouths are."

Fifty years ago last summer, the "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans gathered in Washington during the Depression and vainly demanded a lump-sum payment 13 years before it was due. Like the Bonus Army, the men (and 8,000 women) who served in Viet Nam want certain concrete considerations from their Government, particularly a full Agent Orange inquiry. They also want a far more diffuse and difficult kind of recognition: national respect. If the war they were sent to fight makes it almost impossible for Viet Nam veterans to be hailed as heroes, they are at least no longer made to feel like pariahs. One of them, DeChant, is hopeful, if not jubilant. "It's like any traumatic event," he says. "In order to really deal with it, the nation had to have some distance. Now, I think, it has got it."

—By Kurt Anderson. Reported by Jay Branagan/Washington

employment weekly

This Special Classified Section
Runs Every Sunday
Exclusively in The Houston Post

The Houston Post/Sun., Oct. 31, 1982

Vietnam veterans
Houston businesses teach job-finding skills

houston post classified

Rich Lundgren's **JOB
POSTINGS**



JANUARY 20, 1981 STANDS OUT as a red letter day — or more appropriately, a yellow ribbon day — for the United States. The Air Force jet carrying its precious cargo touched down, and after 444 days in captivity, the 52 American hostages stepped onto U.S. soil — free and home at last from Iran.

And this nation erupted in celebration. The 444 days of frustration, outrage, and tragedy melted away as patriotism, pride and thanksgiving swept the country.

In fact, many foreign relations pundits saw the successful resolution of the hostage crisis as a healing process for our national psyche. When that plane landed in the U.S., the patriotic fervor it generated finally ended the Vietnam era of American history, healing the hangover of national self-doubt, guilt, and contrition from our unsuccessful war in south-east Asia.

But ironically, for Stan Horton, Rich Kolb, and a group of other combat veterans of the Vietnam War, the return of our hostages didn't heal any psychological scars; it reopened them.

"I think most Nam vets asked themselves — when they saw the flags and yellow ribbons and parades, and heard the politicians' speeches — why so much for them and so little for us," Kolb recalls.

"I'm not saying those hostages didn't have a rough time, but they were basically a group of people who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. I volunteered to serve my country in combat. Then when I got back home and went to college, the other students and the professors treated me like a criminal or a freak."

HORTON INTERJECTS, "IT'S important for people to know that we're proud. We're not victims.

"Anytime you send an army off to war, a certain

'I think most Nam vets asked, Why so much for them and so little for us?'

percentage of guys is going to come home with problems. But for Vietnam vets, most of the problems are not from combat experiences, but from the way we were treated when we got home.

"These guys were stiff-armed by society."

That smoldering resentment over their reception when they returned from war, brought to the surface by the Iranian hostage crisis, gave birth last year to a self-help, volunteer program — the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP).

Launched in 1981 under the auspices of ACTION, a federal agency, the VVLP is a non-profit confederation of 33 groups of veterans across the country. An ACTION grant breathed life into the VVLP initially, and the Houston organization got its start in February of this year.

Essentially, the organization's purpose is to enlist Vietnam veterans who have succeeded in their transition back to families and careers to assist other veterans in that transition.

Kolb serves as volunteer chairman of the group. His full-time job is in the land department at Tennessee. Horton is director of the Houston organization on a full-time, paid basis. He took a year's leave of absence from his career in computer sales to serve with VVLP.

THE CORNERSTONE OF VVLP'S attempt to aid veterans rests on the concept of improving the image of Vietnam vets — especially among employers.

Horton emphasizes, "Too many people think we're losers, and misfits, or drug-crazed mental time bombs.

"Most Nam vets are quiet about their service. They're afraid to admit they were in Vietnam. From our perspective, the only time you read or hear anything about a Nam vet is when one gets involved in some tragic, violent incident."

The VVLP aims to change all that. But wisely, the group's plan of attack does not seek to reevaluate, or dissect once again the moral, social and political issues which complicated the war in southeast Asia. Horton and Kolb stress that the root of the problem

is economic, and that means jobs. So that's where they direct their energy and resources.

TO THAT END, THE VVLP, with the support of Houston's business community, took its first step last weekend.

With the assistance of the Houston Area Association of Personnel Consultants and the American Society for Training and Development, VVLP conducted a day-long seminar on job hunting skills at the University of Houston. Exclusively designed for veterans of Vietnam, the seminar attempted to teach vets the realities of the job market in 1982 in Houston. The Department of Labor, the VA, and the Texas Employment Commission also assisted.

Participants received a comprehensive guide to finding a job. This booklet covered methods of self-assessment, goal setting, how to write a resume, how to interview for a job, as well as a resource section. Included here was information on VVLP, other veterans' organizations, state and federal agencies providing services to veterans, a breakdown of major industries in this city with a list of the occupations most in demand, a listing of companies in Houston with more than 500 employees, plus a list of personnel service firms in Houston.

Additionally, the booklet listed reference materials for job seekers as well as a compilation of recent articles and books on the process of job search.

Horton stresses, "This is a good list; there's no garbage in here. If I had to talk to three or four people at an office before I found someone who knew what their policy toward vets was, then I didn't include them."

After a morning session of instruction and discussion about resumes, goals, and interviewing, the afternoon session centered on hands-on techniques and role playing in the job search.

ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS FROM Houston's business community was the vice president of the Houston Area Association of Personnel Consultants, Neil Staley.

In addition to participating in the workshop, Staley and other members of the personnel consultants' group, as well as representatives of the society for training and development, helped to compile the booklet for veterans.

"What we tried to get across is that the job search is a selling process. It's not just a case of showing up, getting in line and hoping you get picked for a job. We wanted to change that concept," says Staley.

3

"Getting a job means you have to be able to sell yourself. You are the product and the salesman.

"The problem most of these veterans had was communicating their skills during the interview. It wasn't so much a lack of skills."

Staley also stresses the importance of the resume as a sales tool — for veterans or anyone.

"A good resume is the only factor that makes you stand out from the mass of people trying to fill a job

'We want employers to realize it might be in their self-interest to hire Vietnam veterans.'

opening. This is especially true if you're in a blue collar field. Resumes are standard fare in white collar jobs, but a good resume really gives a blue collar worker a solid advantage."

Regrettably, the turnout of Vietnam veterans was pretty slim for the seminar. At one point early on Saturday, there were more people from Houston businesses, government agencies, and the VVLP than veterans participating in the workshop.

At day's end, a total of about 25 veterans had attended all or part of the seminar.

IN HORTON'S VIEW, THE LOW turnout doesn't signify failure.

"This was a pilot project. We'll go back to the drawing board and try again after the first of the year. But the real losers were the guys we invited who didn't show up. This was good information for anyone who wanted help, and the guys who did at-

tend got practically one-on-one private instruction from the top experts in the city."

Kolb sees the participation of Houston businesses as another key ingredient in evaluating the program's success.

"We don't want to be too closely associated with the federal government. We're oriented toward the private sector. We want to change employers' attitudes about Vietnam veterans.

"We want employers to realize it might be in their self-interest to hire Vietnam vets."

The VVLP has available a statistical profile of veterans to use as reinforcement for its efforts in the job market.

For example, according to information compiled by the VVLP:

- 84 percent of employers do not consider Vietnam veterans when hiring decisions are made (in terms of giving preference).
- 67 percent of employers would not give a Vietnam vet preference over a non-vet.
- 66 percent of employers do not feel Vietnam veterans have better leadership abilities than their non-veteran peers.
- 97 percent of Vietnam veterans are honorably discharged.
- 91 percent of Vietnam veterans are proud to have served in that war, and 66 percent would go again if called.
- 90.6 percent of all Vietnam veterans were employed as of March, 1982.
- A Bureau of Justice study concluded that, 'On the whole, veterans were less likely than non-veterans to be in prison.'
- The final report of the Vietnam Era Research Project concluded that, 'Drug use is more common among non-veterans than among Vietnam veterans.'

● It is estimated that about one-fourth of Vietnam veterans exhibit varying degrees of emotional problems related to delayed stress reactions. However, a 1955 National Academy of Sciences study concluded that one-third of all World War II veterans suffered similar problems.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, KOLB emphasizes that the VVLP wants those figures considered by employers. The group's purpose is not to live in the past or to re-write any history books.

"We hope that employers will consider Vietnam veterans as people with something to offer — pride, discipline and loyalty. Plus, they have exhibited the ability to function despite peer pressure, to do an unpopular job.

"I think those are qualities a company looks for in an employee. Those are assets."

Nonetheless, Kolb doesn't necessarily endorse preferential treatment.

"I'm not saying in every case hire the Vietnam vet. We just want to get our point across to the

'We're not above anyone else, or below anyone else. We're just part of this community.'

community. We're not above anyone else in the community, and we're not below anyone else. We're just part of this community.

"Just listen to us, and then make the decision that's best for your company."

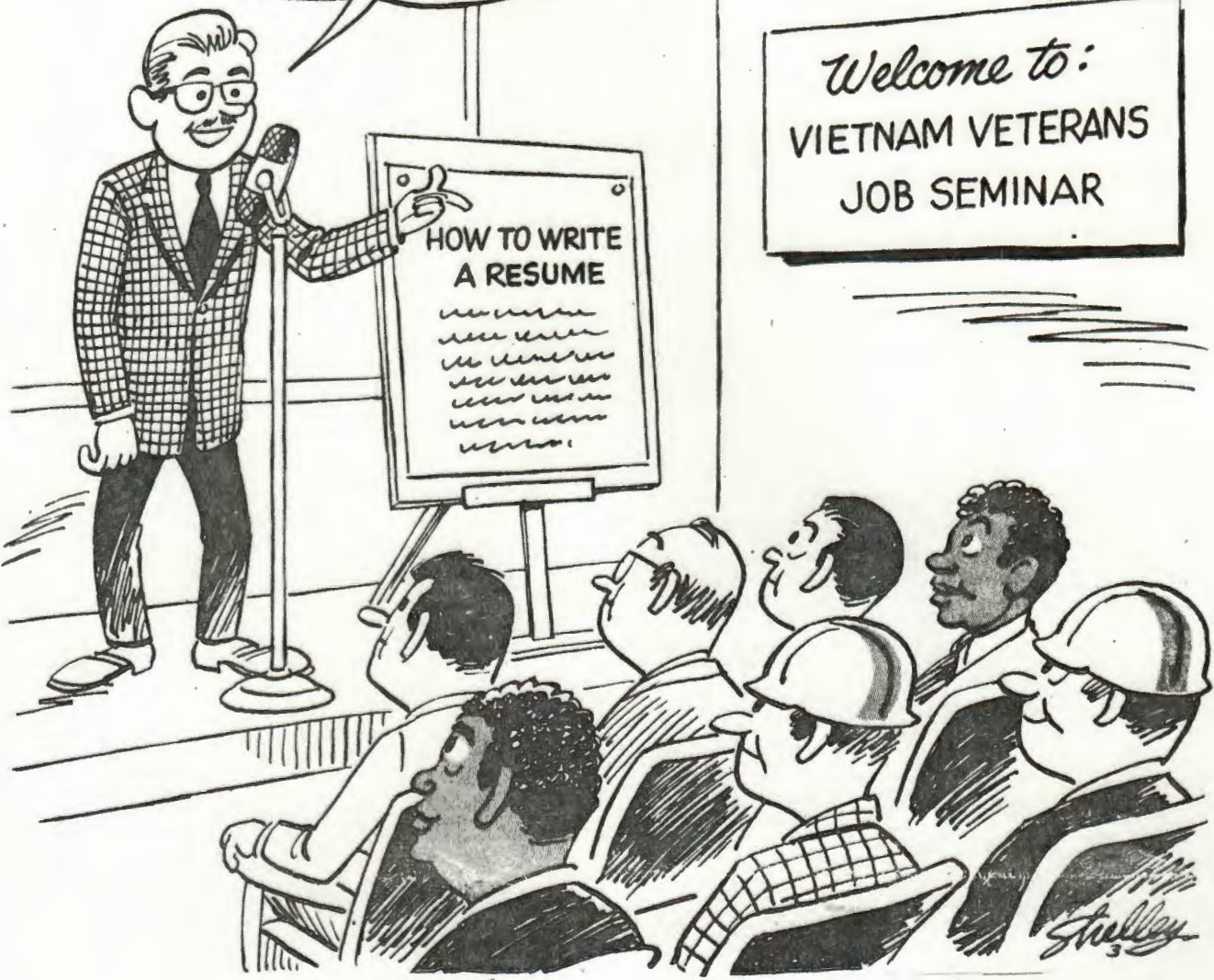
Horton adds, "The bottom line as I see it is, we want to see Nam vets reach the point where they stop thinking, 'I'm a Vietnam veteran. I better leave that off my resume.'"

WE KNOW YOU CAN DO THE JOB!

Welcome to:
VIETNAM VETERANS
JOB SEMINAR

HOW TO WRITE
A RESUME

[Handwritten scribbles representing resume content]



THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1982

CONNECTICUT JOURNAL

While many veterans of the Vietnam War still find themselves traumatized by the conflict, others have become successful in their civilian lives. Windsor's Chief of Police, Maxie L. Patterson, is currently heading an effort to capitalize upon veterans' successes.

The Greater Hartford Vietnam Veterans leadership program is one of 33 programs of its kind in the country financed by the Federal Government's Action Agency.

"We're trying to reach out and identify Vietnam veterans who in a sense have made it and have established themselves in their lives," said Chief Patterson, who is the program's chairman.

"We're asking them to come forward and volunteer some of their time and reach out and extend a helping hand to those Vietnam veterans who may not be as fortunate as some of us," he said.

Since July 9, Vista volunteers who are Vietnam War veterans have been visiting area employers, social service agencies and other veterans, under the program.

"First of all we want to improve the employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed Vietnam veterans," said Dennis Peaslee, director of the program.

"We're not looking to place Vietnam veterans into seasonal jobs or in mediocre jobs," said Mr. Peaslee. "We want to give Vietnam veterans the opportunity to go into the workplace and find meaningful employment, something where there is a future, where they can support their families, where

they can feel a certain pride in going to work every morning."

Mr. Peaslee said the program will also attempt to aid those veterans with physical and psychological difficulties.

"We want to project an image of a Vietnam veteran that is a more positive, realistic image, something to begin to change this negative attitude that has gone on in this country for a number of years," he said.

Meet The Leaders . . .

Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Samuel W. Bartholomew, Chairman, Tennessee

"Vietnam changed my career and gave me a new outlook," says Sam Bartholomew, 37, a founding partner of Donelson, Stokes and Bartholomew, a Nashville law firm.

In 1968-69, West Point grad Bartholomew was with the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, which patrolled the Cambodian border.

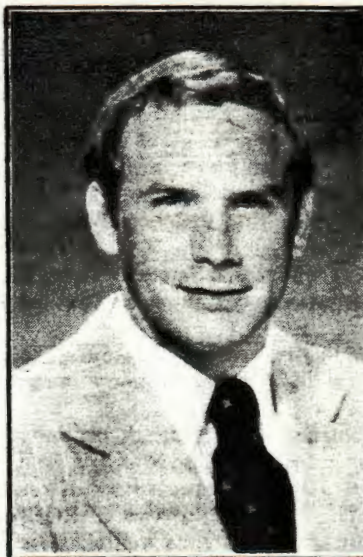
When he returned to the U.S., Sam exchanged a military career for the legal profession in which he hoped to have an impact on the political structure.

He became a legislative assistant and campaign manager to Sen. Howard Baker (R-TN) while earning a law degree at Vanderbilt Law School.

Out of a deep commitment to the political process he became active in civic, business and political affairs in his state.

"I was disturbed at the politicization of the war," Sam said. "I felt then and still do, that without a united will, we don't have much ability to accomplish the goals we've set as a nation."

Sam says, "The Leadership Program is vital to the three million veterans who served in Vietnam. It's time now for us to come out to the front, again. We form much of



Samuel W. Bartholomew

the nucleus that is the country's future leadership."

"Tennessee in particular is unusual," Sam says. "This is the 'Volunteer State.' Tennessee had the first Vietnam casualty in February 1961, and my state has an unusually large number of Vietnam veterans.

"I am honored to be part of this program in Tennessee." ★

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Meet The Leaders . . .
Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Dennis Coll, Chairman, Chicago

At 38, Dennis Coll is President and Chief Executive Officer of Murdoch and Coll, Inc., one of the most active and successful commercial real estate firms in the downtown Chicago market.

"My job in Vietnam was with the Army Concept Team detecting non-metallic land mines," says Coll, a West Point graduate.

When he came to Chicago after his service in Vietnam, Coll did some recruiting for West Point.

"In those days," he says, "on college campuses you had a 20 percent chance of being stoned by the kids, a 40 percent chance of being mugged and maybe a 2 percent chance of actually sitting down and really talking to someone. It's changing now."

Coll earned his M.B.A. at the University of Chicago, became interested in financial planning and turned a small company into a multi-million dollar corporation.

"I got involved with the Leadership Program because I think there comes a point in your life when it's time to give back a little of what you've taken," comments Coll.

"I want people to recognize that



Dennis Coll

it was a bunch of young kids that went to that war. They put their lives on the line. The war itself isn't the issue anymore. It's time to start recognizing that these kids came back and became responsible citizens who participated in family life, civic and religious activities and that they're the ones always willing to lend a hand." *

Thursday, October 28, 1962, THE STARS AND STRIPES—THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE 7

Meet The Leaders . . . Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Richard Kolb, Chairman, Houston

Rich Kolb, 31, is employed in the field of exploration in the petroleum industry. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Alaska.

In 1970-'71 Kolb was a radio operator with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam.

He is a free lance author as well and among his concerns is that "Vietnam fathers have a special stake in what their children are taught about the war. Admitting one's service in Vietnam should no longer be looked upon as a social taboo."

About his involvement in the Leadership Program he says, "This program offers the veteran an opportunity to go public in order to change the negative stereotype. "We are, each of us, a



Richard Kolb

demonstration of the true image of the Vietnam veteran." ★

Meet The Leaders . . . Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

David Volk, Chairman, South Dakota

"I feel, as a Vietnam veteran, I have a responsibility to those I served with," says Volk, 34, now State Treasurer of the State of South Dakota.

Volk was trained as a journalist by the Army Defense School and served in Vietnam as a journalist and photographer with the 101st Airborne below the DMZ.

When he returned home he was elected State Treasurer and has held that post ever since.

"I feel a kinship with other Vietnam veterans," he says. "By the nature of this war, the going and the coming, there are some unique problems.

"Nonetheless, with the publicity giving the image of the Vietnam veteran as a loser a feeling of low self-esteem has been reinforced; problems haven't been solved.

"I want to give all Vietnam veterans the opportunity to know they are something, that if they



David Volk

haven't made it yet, they can. This is one of the things the VVLP can do."★

AND IN WAR AS IN LIFE

Richard Kolb
Chairman, The Vietnam Veterans Leadership
Program of Houston, Inc.



That the Americans whose names are inscribed on the Memorial are patriots in the finest sense of the word goes without saying. For if ever there were Americans who exemplified a sense of devotion to duty it is surely these men.

When it was far easier to avoid or evade, 2.6 million men and women—almost 10 percent of an entire generation—accepted the responsibility and served in Vietnam. When it was in vogue to denigrate patriotism, these people steadfastly defined the meaning of the concept in deed rather than rhetoric. If ever actions spoke louder than words, Vietnam service was indeed a case in point.

Holding to traditional values exacted a heavy price among Vietnam veterans who, as a distinct minority within a generation, were far too often stigmatized and ostracized for their service.

Homefront society was not prepared to fully accept those it had compelled to serve in Vietnam. And sadly, as a result, some veterans felt the need to succumb to humiliation and achieve that acceptance. That this occurred will not be remembered as one of the finest hours in our history.

Perhaps the paramount issue of Vietnam is the one most often ignored, and thus denied. The issue—the very people responsible for our beliefs—educators, clergymen, communicators, elected officials and even some family members—those we put our trust in, at times seemed to contradict those beliefs and betray that trust.

To add insult to injury, our peers—at least on many college campuses—had already rejected the values to which we had adhered. Some went a step further, caricaturing the GI as the villain while bestowing near sainthood upon the enemy. Shattered values and peer alienation combined often made the aftermath more traumatic than Vietnam itself.

So for 15 years society forced many veterans to be apologetic about their service in Vietnam—to regard mention of such service as a social taboo. Public indifference, peer hostility, intellectual contempt and official effrontery have left a spiritual scar on most Vietnam veterans.

Only American society can provide the tissue needed to heal the scar. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial—as society's symbolic offering—is part of that tissue. In essence, the memorial is a reaffirmation of the values that compelled us to serve; the values we were taught to believe in.

All Americans can rest assured that their fellow countrymen who made the ultimate sacrifice in this, as in past wars,

Richard Kolb served as a PFC in the US Army in Vietnam from April, 1970 to April, 1971. He began with the 4th Infantry in the Central Highlands at An Khe and was later transferred to the 101st Airborne, where he served as a radio operator at Phu Bai.

did not do so in vain. For they fought for something deeply rooted, genuine and worthwhile; they died upholding inherent individual values that transcend the politics of war. In many instances they sacrificed their own lives for the men they served with. And in war as in life, there is no cause more noble.

A KOREAN WAR VETERAN'S SUPPORT

Ralph W. Wadson, Jr. MD



My combat experience as a battalion surgeon in the Korean War leads me to support the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans and the Vietnam War Memorial. These are positive steps and tributes by the American public to honor those who served and their families, especially those who were wounded, killed, or missing in action.

Tragically, Vietnam Veterans were not immediately honored on returning home but, in fact, were treated with hostility by parts of a divided American public that was more violently anti-war than ever in the history of this country. At times the Vietnam veteran was treated as if he were the messenger who brought bad news and was punished for doing so.

After my Korean war experience I became a psychiatrist and I have listened to a number of Vietnam veterans describe feelings of being rejected and demeaned in public after returning home from a situation in which they were forced to participate. Hopefully the National Salute and the Memorial funded by public donation will make some amends to those veterans who received such shoddy treatment.

Any person who was ever in a combat situation has seen, heard and experienced incredible trauma such as having friends killed or wounded in their presence or nearby. The intense interpersonal cohesiveness and devotion to duty and each other makes such experiences even more painful. As a battalion surgeon, I had the horrible experiences of seeing bodies mangled beyond recognition, caring for wounded men who obviously were going to lose a leg or an arm, and having men die as I took care of them despite all I could do. Such experiences result in a large amount of unresolved grief. If the grief is not acknowledged and dealt with, a person can be changed for the rest of his life.

I hope that this National Salute to Vietnam veterans will help people become aware of any unresolved grief within. Hopefully the grieving and tears can be shared not only by surviving family members, veterans, and friends but by the American public as well.

Ralph W. Wadson graduated from University of Alabama medical school and was in general practice in that state for four and a half years. On active duty with the U. S. Navy, he served as medical officer with the Fleet Marine force in The Korean War, as battalion surgeon with the Third Battalion, 5th Marines, and subsequently with Easy medical company.

Point of View

The Leadership Role Of The Vietnam Veteran In Today's Society

By John Wheeler

There is a bit of fairly recent, but unnoticed good news in American life: It is the new community leadership by the men who joined our longest war as riflemen, squad leaders, and lieutenants. Just like their counterparts from previous wars, they are a continuing source of effective leadership.

During the sixties and early seventies these men went to war, usually returning as isolated and unwelcomed individuals to start their professional and business careers, several years off the pace of their male and female peers who did not go to war.

Going could be brutal enough, but often, so was the alienation upon coming home. This hardship has lent maturity and wisdom to our Vietnam veterans, transforming them into a major national resource.

Executives and founders of major businesses in such cities as Memphis, San Antonio, Los Angeles, and San Francisco are Vietnam veterans, as are newer vice presidents and partners in banks, brokerages, and law firms in Nashville, Atlanta, Kansas City, New York, Louisville, Baltimore, Richmond, and Philadelphia.

Today's successful physicians in Washington, DC and Chicago were medics or surgeons in Vietnam.

Executives within national labor unions and interest group associations are Vietnam veterans.

Assistant secretary and deputy posts in the Pentagon, the Department of Labor, the Veterans Administration, and other Federal agencies, are filled by these men.

The chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on regulatory reform was a Marine rifle platoon commander in Vietnam.

The writer is Chairman of the Board of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. An attorney, he graduated from West Point in 1966 and served in Vietnam 1969-1970.

The Vietnam battlefield has already produced several successful novelists. And last fall, one thing was already certain about Virginia's future: the next governor of the Commonwealth would be a combat veteran of Vietnam—the common bond of the two candidates.

These men have immense strength. Accordingly, national leaders want to learn about them, meet them individually, and bring them into their ranks. Their strength comes from public respect and emotional bonding.

Nearly ten years after the war, Americans have begun to accord honor to the men who soldiered in Vietnam, as reflected in various memorial activities, official public statements, and retrospective books and newspaper articles.

There is a growing deep respect for the maturity, wisdom, and sense of public service of the men who returned from the war and because of this, many Vietnam veterans will earn and maintain roles of increasing public trust.

In earning and discharging their positions of trust, they can be particularly effective because of their strong bonding to fellow veterans in the leadership community, even if they have differing views on some specific issues.

They were young men together in the cauldron of war. Their shared experience gives them a language, memory and friendship that facilitates communication among them.

One early indicator of this strength is the rapid success in creating a national Vietnam veterans memorial on the Mall. In two years, Vietnam veterans have gone from concept to construction, including a recent amicable compromise on specific details of the design.

Old Washington, DC hands know that this is a major achievement, given the decades-long travail of many memorials.

Another indicator is the large number of successful executives who have stepped forward as volunteers in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. The Presidential initiative housed in the

ACTION agency enlists successful Vietnam veterans into community programs to address the still unmet needs of many men who fought in Vietnam. The program is underway in 30 cities en route to a target of 50 cities by the end of this year.

The best way to learn about these men is to read what they write and the literature is ample. One good beginning is *The Wounded Generation*, a recent book which presents veterans and non-veterans in a dialogue about America's future.

Of importance on any reading list are the books of Vietnam veterans Philip Caputo, Charles Figley, Tim O'Brien, and James Webb.

Their literature tells many things about these men, what they think, where they are. One recurring theme is that their wartime tour worked to deepen, not diminish, their sense of and capacity for, public service.

Another is that these men seek mature reconciliation across the divisions that fractured their generation during the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam veteran has arrived. He is a leader. ★

Vermont Remembers Vietnam

From Pg. 6



Dignitaries included (left to right) Lt. Governor Madeleine S. Kunin; Rep James M. Jeffords; Selectman of the town of Sharon, Reginald Blair; Chaplain Lt. Col. Daniel Kellin; Gold Star Mother Louise Ransom; Sen. Patrick J. Leahy; Chairman Bob Rummel; Maj Gen Donald Edwards, Commander, Vermont National Guard; and W. A. Yasicki, Director of the VA Center, White River Junction, VT.

Photograph by the Vermont State Graphic Association

any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at KCGL.—Al Grover, Salt Lake City, UT. ★

Brother Fighting Brother

The United Vietnam Veterans Organization took an uncalled-for, lousy, crack at the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in the last issue of their newspaper.

They listed the following accusations, some of which are true.

1. The ACTION Agency...has all but ignored UVVO's request to assist with a program that concerns Vietnam Veterans.
2. Millions of dollars have been targeted to this program.
3. "We are starting to feel that this is a Command and Control Ship...being flown out of Washington for a national white wash."
4. "Monies were recently transferred—\$850,000 plus dollars—to this agency from much needed job programs in Labor for Vietnam veterans."
5. "It seems that the same REMFs in Vietnam are taking control of our battles in the states."
6. "Thank God Congressman Sonny Montgomery recently stopped the requested transfer of VA monies to this same elitist group."
7. "Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report said these folks in ACTION are spending \$8 million for Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program."

"But many members of Congress are acting like Tom Pauken, ACTION Agency, (sic) by using conventional efforts to fight an unconventional war against unemployment."

I am personally appalled that Vietnam veterans, and particularly a brand new group, would attack a brand new program which promises to establish Vietnam veterans as leaders in American society.

Just to set the record straight, these are the facts:

RE item 1.—On April 19, 1962, ACTION received a letter from David Christian thanking Pauken for meeting with Christian and UVVO's officers inviting Pauken to speak at the convention and urging him "to keep up the good work."

On October 8th, Stanley Swain and representatives of ten other veterans' groups attended a morning-long roundtable discussion at ACTION headquarters to discuss VVLP with Pauken and the VVLP staff.

Swain voiced no criticism of VVLP's so-called "refusal" to accept an unknown offer of assistance. The meeting was amicable and constructive.

There has been no specific offer of assistance for VVLP to ignore and VVLP has attempted to keep UVVO, along with other VSOs informed.

RE item 2.—The total lifetime cost of this program is targeted at \$6.5 million, less than the cost of fighting the war for six hours.

The HIRE program, as another comparison, spent well over \$100 million.

RE item 3.—VVLP is criticized as a "Command and Control Ship." Who is doing the criticism? What does it amount to? Who is the unidentified writer speaking for? Christian? Does he contend that a program should have no national leadership?

Criticism is false, at any rate. Check with VVLP volunteer chairmen.

VVLP is founded on the idea that committed, intelligent leaders among the Vietnam veteran community can formulate their own plans so that differing conditions around the country are reflected in the goals and objectives of each local VVLP.

RE item 4.—VVLP was criticized because of a DoL transfer of \$850,000 from "much needed job programs in Labor." This is false. Money was transferred from Employment and Training Administration and it was money that could not have been spent for VES.

This was a case of VVLP gaining the use of funds that normally would not have been available for veterans. This is also the case with all funds VVLP has expended and agreed to expend on behalf of veterans.

Sources of funding include the following, with previous Vietnam veteran initiatives in parentheses: ACTION (approximately \$100,000 spent on VETREACH in 1974—two programs, one run by Red Cross, other by ACTION and VA).

HHS—Community Service Administration and Office of Community Services (virtually zero spent on behalf of Vietnam veterans in the history of the agency); VISTA (virtually zero spent on behalf of Vietnam veterans in the history of the program); ETA of DoL (funds spent on behalf of veterans only as a type of "program eligible" lumped with addicts, convicts, etc.).

RE item 5.—Unknown author criticizes VVLP as "REMFs... taking control of our battles." This is totally negative, divisive, unfair, reprehensible conduct. Who is making these accusations?

Again, the accusations are completely and utterly false. The ACTION VVLP leadership includes an Army intelligence officer, a Marine F-4 pilot, a two-tour West Point graduate who commanded an infantry company and was wounded twice, and three enlisted Marines (two riflemen and one forward observer), who were all wounded in action and of whom two are blind as a result of their wounds.

VVLP leadership around the country is composed almost entirely of combat veterans including three Medal of Honor winners, approximately 30 Purple Heart recipients, several men with severe disabilities including blindness and loss of limbs as a result of wounds suffered in combat.

Calling such people dirty names should be censored, violently.

RE item 6.—The UVVO publication says "Thank God Congressman Sonny Montgomery recently stopped the requested transfer of VA monies to this same elitist group." Again, irresponsible name calling.

ACTION withdrew its request for VA support when it became known that responsible veterans' service organizations considered the VA budget untouchable.

RE item 7.—U.S. News & World Report and Newsweek have never cited a cost of \$8 million. Nevertheless, the total lifetime cost of VVLP, over a three-year period, is estimated at \$6.5 million.

RE item 8.—Tom Pauken and ACTION (VVLP) are criticized for "using conventional efforts to fight an unconventional war against unemployment." This is stupid nonsense.

VVLP, relative to Federal initiatives, is nothing if not unconventional in its approach to

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solving employment problems. "Conventional" programs are those such as CETA, son of CETA, HIRE and many others that have failed to have a positive impact, despite ten years of effort and billions of dollars. Enough is enough of brothers stabbing brothers.—John P. Collins, Haymarket, VA. ★



OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

November 30, 1982

Ms. Joan DeCain
Director of Comments
and Greetings
Old Executive Office Building, Rm. 39
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. DeCain:

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is just over a year old. It was inaugurated by the President personally on November 10, 1981. We have achieved our first priority: to mobilize successful Vietnam veterans as volunteers who work to help solve some of the lingering problems of their fellow Vietnam veterans. We now have over 600 volunteers in 33 programs.

Attached is a list of names and addresses of some of those volunteers who have contributed substantial time and energy to making this administration initiative successful. We would like the White House to acknowledge them personally. It would be greatly appreciated if Christmas cards could be sent to them. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Pauken
Director

cc: Morton Blackwell

Christmas card list addresses (12/82)

Mr. Thomas W. Pauken
6420 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Mr. Edward T. Timberlake
11303 Full Cry Court
Oakton, VA 22124

G. William Jayne
11301 Gatesborough Lane
Reston, VA 22091

Kenneth P. Moorefield
5611 Lansing Drive
Camp Springs, MD 20031

Jerry Yates
4224 Glendale Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Marcia Landau
2153 California Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Valerie Wheeler
1625 Que Street, NW, #204
Washington, DC 20009

John Fales
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Silver Spring, MD 20904

Mrs. Emogene Cupp
5805 Piedmont Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310

John P. Wheeler, III
5840 Tanglewood Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

Marty McAlister
4561 Logsdon Drive
Annandale, VA 22003

Jock Nash
17 North Greenbrier Street
Arlington, VA 22203

George Skyepeck
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Wilmington, DE 19809

James A. Robb
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Hugh F. Dougherty
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James McCloskey
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Wally Nunn
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Roland Cinciarelli, Program Director
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Dennis Peaslee, Program Director
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
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Honorable Wayne R. Hanby, Program Director
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
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Ron Layer, Chairman
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
Sachs & Hess
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Hammond, Indiana 46320

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New York, NY 10004

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Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
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Rapid City, SD 57701

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