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EHD  
Red  
Diana  
Morton B.

Approx 5/30-31

THE WHITE HOUSE **REGRET**  
WASHINGTON

Date 5/5/82 APRIL 20, 1982  
FJH

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE *EHD*

REQUEST: To participate in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program's west coast training conference.

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

BACKGROUND: Administered by ACTION, the VVLP is an important veterans' service begun by the Reagan Administration. This is the second VVLP training conference. It is scheduled for the west coast because of the high population of Vietnam veterans and the recent expansion of the Program there. A Presidential appearance will increase public awareness of the emerging leadership role of the nation's Vietnam veteran, and would be scheduled to take place around Memorial Day. The conference is timed to focus press attention on Memorial Day with Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program volunteer activity as a "living memorial" stressing the leadership qualities and accomplishments of the 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, and he expressed his appreciation to the Vietnam veterans for their service during the war and their continued voluntary service as evidenced by this Program.

DATE: Around Memorial Day DURATION: 30 minutes

LOCATION: West Coast, pending the President's schedule

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 50 Vietnam veterans associated with this Program.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President meets with VVLP representatives, receives briefing, greets the volunteers, poses for pictures, makes remarks and departs.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks relating VVLP voluntary activity to Memorial Day in press announcement.

MEDIA: Full press coverage

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

PROJECT OFFICER: Monte C. Blackwell

Bill Jayne  
254-8270

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Returned to  
Maurelle by Shirley  
4/30/82

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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1982

TO: Ed Hickey

FROM: Morton Blackwell *MB*

RE: Schedule Proposal

May we add your name to this schedule  
proposal next to RECOMMENDED BY:

Thank you.

*Yes*

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON

April 5, 1982

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LOCATION: West Coast ( They would like to schedule this training conference in Los Angeles but they are flexible, pending the President's schedule on the West Coast.)

DATE: Around Memorial Day (Close to May 31st would be preferable.)

DURATION: 30 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: Approximately 50 Vietnam veterans associated with this Program.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: President meets with VVLP representatives, receives briefing, greets the volunteers, poses for pictures, makes remarks, and departs.

REMARKS: Brief remarks relating VVLP voluntary activity to Memorial Day in press announcement.

MEDIA: Full press coverage

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole, Thomas Pauken

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell



OFFICE OF  
THE DIRECTOR

# ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

March 5, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: Morton Blackwell, Special Assistant to the President  
Office of Public Liaison

FROM: Tom Pauken, Director, ACTION

SUBJECT: West Coast Presidential Briefing on  
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

On November 10, 1981, the President met with members of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VWLP) in the White House Rose Garden. This Veterans Day event reflected well on the President -- see attached clips.

The VWLP is planning a training conference for the West Coast in late May.

The conference is timed to focus press attention on Memorial Day with VWLP volunteer activity as a "living memorial" stressing the leadership qualities and accomplishments of Vietnam veterans.

Recommendation:

On West Coast, late May, President meets with VWLP representatives, receives 15-minute briefing, handshaking with volunteers (photo opportunity), relates VWLP volunteer activities to Memorial Day in brief press announcement. Out the door.

We'd like the OK to plan for this.

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**COLORADO PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE**  
 DENVER, COLORADO 80204

# U.S. prepares to remember its veterans

News wire services

WASHINGTON — President Reagan paid tribute Tuesday to the 2.7 million Vietnam veterans who fought "in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win."

In a Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, Reagan said: "Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

He participated in the christening of a program designed to help find jobs for unemployed Vietnam veterans and to promote a positive image of Vietnam veterans.

The program, known as the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, will recruit successful businessmen and others to help fellow veterans find jobs and build self-esteem. It is being administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Reagan said Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved.

"A long, dragged out tragedy, Vietnam divided our nation and damaged America's self image," the president said. "And part of that tragedy — a major part — was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought.

"Contrary to an unjust stereotype," Reagan added, "a vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia."

However, he said, "There are those who found it difficult to come to grips with problems that could be traced to their wartime experiences."

The Rose Garden ceremony preceded Wednesday commemorations when Americans will thank the nation's war veterans by attending church services, viewing parades and participating in other activities.

Banks, schools and federal, state and local government offices will be closed across the country.

The eight servicemen who died trying to



UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

President Reagan talks with John Fales Jr., employment director of the Blinded Veterans Association, after

inaugurating a self-help program for Vietnam veterans in a Rose Garden ceremony Tuesday.

rescue the former American hostages in Iran will be eulogized by Dorothy Royer, the mother of one of the hostages, at Houston National Cemetery.

Included among the marchers this year in New York City's annual parade will be members of the Red-Ribbon Red Badge of Courage Campaign, relatives of GI's still missing in Southeast Asia.

And those American servicemen still thought to be captive in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia will be honored by a special mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral being offered by Cardinal Terence Cooke, archbishop of New York.

Indiana Gov. Robert D. Orr proclaimed November as Veterans' Recognition Month, and called on Hoosiers to give the state's 230,000 Vietnam Veterans special attention because they were "never properly honored."

## Denver's Vets parade will begin at 10 a.m.

Denver's Veterans Day Parade will begin at 10 a.m. Wednesday with the caravan forming near the City and County Building.

Fourteenth, 15th and many surrounding downtown streets will be closed to traffic during the parade, which normally lasts about two hours.

Marchers will move west on 14th Street to lower downtown, then move up to 15th Street, turn right and march east on 15th Street to Broadway. There, the parade will turn right and pass before a Civic Center reviewing stand before disbanding.

# Bartholomew to head Vietnam vets program

From Banner staff and wire reports

Nashville attorney Sam Bartholomew was one of 28 persons who met with President Ronald Reagan in Washington Tuesday to kick off today's special Veterans Day salute to those who served in the Vietnam War.

Bartholomew, who will head a Vietnam veterans' leadership program in Tennessee, told Reagan that unlike veterans from other foreign wars, many Vietnam veterans have suffered emotionally from the unpopular conflict.

Bartholomew's comments were in keeping with the theme of today's Veterans Day salutes as the nation paid tribute to the often-ignored Vietnam veterans.

In Nashville, a veterans' parade from the corner of 16th Avenue and Broadway was to be led by Gov. Lamar Alexander to Centennial Park. The parade was slated to begin at 1 p.m.

Other Veterans Day activities were to include a visit to Nashville by Gen. Lew Allen Jr., chief of staff of the United States Air Force. He was scheduled to speak to a luncheon co-sponsored by the Nashville Exchange Club, the Middle Tennessee chapter of the Air Force Association and the

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

The top Air Force officer was slated to speak at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at noon.

State and federal offices were closed today in honor of Veterans Day.

Bartholomew said his White House discussion with Reagan centered on the many Vietnam veterans who were left scarred by their service in Southeast Asia.

"Three million men went to Southeast Asia," he said, "and today there are about one-half million who still have problems."

Bartholomew said he was one of three persons who spoke with the president during the meeting in the White House's Rose Garden.

"I believe the president was genuinely emotional and, being a veteran as well as commander-in-chief, he felt unusually sincere," Bartholomew said.

He said the president told the crowd, "It is the time to recognize the Vietnam veteran" and added it is also time to restore pride in the military service.

State General Services Commissioner Francis Guess also attended the meeting and will serve on the state board.



# Program to utilize Viet vets

20  
By William J. Choyke  
Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON — At a meeting of Vietnam War veterans in Dallas several years ago, lawyer Tom Pauken looked around the room and was impressed with the caliber of veterans around him.

"I thought at the time, 'If you could only marshal that talent' " to help other veterans help themselves, Pauken, a Vietnam veteran, said Tuesday.

As director of ACTION, the federal agency that coordinates volunteer programs, Pauken has done just that. He has organized a growing group called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program that is designed to tap the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans.

President Reagan, who joined Pauken and other Vietnam veterans at a brief White House ceremony, formally launched the program Tuesday on the eve of Veterans Day.

"The nation must be as loyal to these veterans as they are to the nation," Reagan said.

The ACTION-backed program, approved by the president July 16, will encourage Vietnam veterans to volunteer their services to help the estimated 500,000 veterans who still have significant problems associated with their Vietnam experience. The project also is aimed at enhancing the image of the Vietnam veteran as well as dealing with problems of unemployment and underemployment.

"More than 80 percent of the Vietnam veterans who came home have made the successful transition back to civilian life and are doing fine," said Pauken, who has been defeated twice as a congressional candidate for the 5th District in Dallas. "There are those that still do need help, but it does them no service to encourage them to wallow in self-pity to reinforce their doubts about their own self-worth."

Programs are under way in six cities, including one led by John D. Baines in San Antonio. By next October, Pauken predicted, 50 programs will be established in cities throughout the country at an average cost of about \$50,000 per year each.

ACTION has budgeted \$2 million for the veterans leadership program in each of the next three years.



United Press International

President Reagan confers with John Fales Jr., employment director of the Blinded

Veterans Association, after officially inaugurating a veterans self-help program.

## The P.M. report

# Dave Huffman's whole life has been a minefield

**Y**OU START PAINTING Dave Huffman, you wonder where to start, because there have been many Dave Huffmans — all the same admirable 34-year-old man.

There was the kid from a busted home, son of an alcoholic father, who lived in eight orphanages.

The school dropout — "I flunked kindergarten, seventh and ninth grades and quit S. du Pont High in tenth."

Dave Huffman, 19, the Marine volunteer. "A spontaneous thing. I guess there was a little patriotism involved."

Dave Huffman, less than a year later wounded by a booby-trap in Vietnam. That's the painless way to say it — for you, for me. The "wound" took away his sight, immediately.

Dave Huffman, the unwanted. He came home not only blind, but unskilled. No work for the unskilled disabled. "The most misunderstood people in the world. I felt . . . abandoned. I felt an association with the blacks and their complaints; after a while you just don't bother looking any more."

We are going to get to the happy life of Dave Huffman, but it is going to mean encountering even more tragedy.

He entered a rehab center in Chicago and sweated out his high school equivalency diploma. It was a four-month course. It took him six. He came home — "I felt uncomfortable, couldn't find work" — and 12 years ago was involved in an automobile accident that broke both shoulders and left him temporarily paralyzed from the neck down.

A beloved sister who took him in to her home was to commit suicide. A brother

## Al Cartwright

was murdered.

Adversity? Dave Huffman was making a career of it.

"You take adversity, take your mistakes, you can make them into your strength if you learn from them," he said, sitting in the living room of his pleasant home in Melanie Woods. There was female talk coming from the kitchen. His wife, Sharon Ann, or Sherrie, was having coffee with friends. She is Dave Huffman's "golden person." He met her while he was still wearing the brace from his accident. She turned his world around.

Her encouragement and the vets' rehab program helped him to resume his education. Dave Huffman, although too impatient to use either Braille or a guide dog, became the first blind student to be graduated from Wilmington College. Then he became the first blind graduate of Delaware Law School.

Today, this day, he is taking the Pennsylvania bar exams. He'll take a reader with him, and someone else will write his answers. He ruefully admits he did not pass the Delaware tests — "I botched it, but it only made me dig deeper."

He asked that there be some credit here for Wilmington College. "They accepted me at a time a lot of colleges wouldn't. I got my degree in criminal justice, but still couldn't get into law school. So I went back to Wilmington and got another degree, in

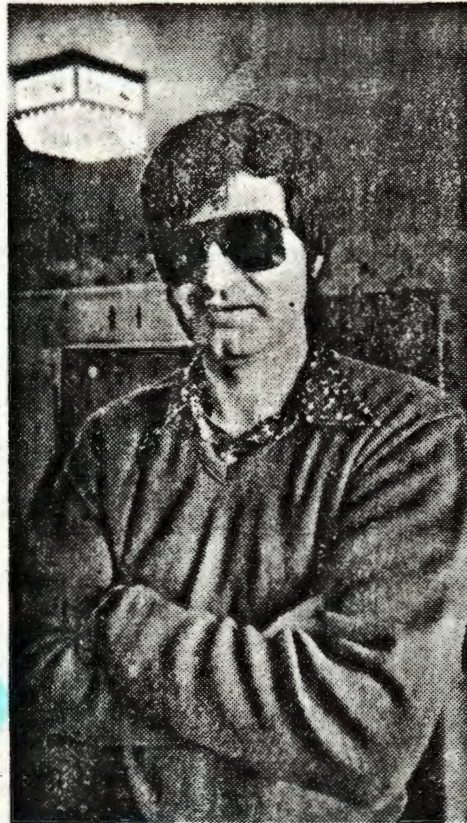
behavioral science. Now they had to take me."

He wants to specialize in private international law, and when he talks about it he does not sound like a fellow who struggled to a pale English mark of 27 at the rehab school. "What you need is a mixture of law, political science, business — how to form a subsidiary in another country, the tax consequences, the stability of the country, whether or not a joint venture is required."

**D**AVE HUFFMAN ADMITS there was a time he thought of taking his sister's way out of a tormented life. He and his wife have adopted her daughter, incidentally, and have two children of their own. But that again, was the old Dave, the one who had a jug of apple wine on his lap the night the driver of the car smashed it up in Silview — "I guess I deserved what happened."

Today's Dave Huffman leads. He is a paid program planner in the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program out of Washington, sponsored by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. He is a key in the employer contact system designed to provide aid, from veterans to veterans, and he seeks the cooperation of professional people. A Wilmington VVLP division, one of 50 to be organized, soon will be kicked off.

"I would like to stay with this program and at the same time go for a degree in business administration," Huffman said, "and enter the law field in 1984. Did you know there are enough blind lawyers, like



Dave Huffman

300, to warrant their own association?"

I asked him what he missed most, visually. "Watching women walk, I guess," he said with a laugh. "I like mountain scenery, things like that. But my theory is that

you do not miss what you cannot have. I've never been happier. To return the things, the love people gave me, that is important to me. You know, my mother went blind and she came to live with us the last few years of her life. She set an example for me when things were starting to get on my nerves. To her, everything that Sherrie and I did was right."

If anyone had an opening to be the bitter cinematic Vietnam veteran, it is Dave Huffman. "No, not bitter," he said. "Whether that war was right or wrong is unimportant to me at this time — the veteran himself is all I am concerned about."

"I am convinced people are situational. I had the right opportunity, the right people helping me. School was a long shot, but it worked. Put almost anyone in the same situation and the same would happen. The handicap itself is a motivation. And I had that lovely lady, my wife, going for me. She was even my reader in undergraduate school. I owe it to her to be the type of husband and father she deserves."

Huffman is a believer in the holistic life — the physical, the emotional, the intellectual complementing each other. He is a weight-lifting, bag-punching, judo-practicing fitness fan. "You have to satisfy all the parts. The physical, I think, helps give you faster recall — and I sure need that in the bar exams."

David Lawrence Huffman is a blind man but a whole man. He sees and leads with his heart.

Al Cartwright's column appears Tuesday and Thursday in the Evening Journal and Saturday and Sunday in The News Journal.

**Patterson at White House**

# Police Chief to Lead New Veterans Project

Chief of Police Maxie L. Patterson came back from Washington with a new role.

Called to the nation's capital by his friend, Thomas Pauken, director of ACTION, the national volunteer agency, Patterson met with federal officials who are inaugurating a new program that will use successfully returned Vietnam veterans to help solve the problems still faced by their fellow veterans.

"I need three Vietnam vets" like himself, Patterson said Monday, "who have reached responsible positions in their careers to form a board of directors" for a newly approved Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

He said that \$50,000 is available to start up the program and to hire a project director "who would then attempt a needs study in the Greater Hartford area .. to see if there is a significant number of Vietnam vets sharing a common problem."

The program "cannot duplicate what any other program does. It's not designed to do any one-to-one counseling or job placement," Patterson said.

However, the project director would be contacting area industries to encourage them "to give greater attention to Vietnam vets."

The new program is a short-term, volunteer effort; funding will be phased out by Sept. 30, 1984.

Patterson has received some positive input from other Vietnam veterans who are willing to volunteer their efforts. If others are interested, they should call or write him at the police department.

Patterson met with President Ronald Reagan during his meeting with Pauken over the new program. Reagan noted that Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

Pauken noted that "80 per cent (of the Vietnam veterans) made it back successfully" with "10 per cent or a little higher" having emotional and employment problems.

The VVLP will be established in 50 communities across the nation with programs already underway in Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Antonio, Wilmington, Phoenix, and Nashville.

The program is designed to demonstrate the leadership of Vietnam veterans and to stimulate help for the thousands of men and women who still have significant problems associated with their Vietnam experience.



President Ronald Reagan greets Police Chief Maxie Patterson at the White House during a ceremony to inaugurate a new Vietnam veterans program. The town's police chief serves in the national Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

White House Photograph

NOV-11-81

## Reagan Christens Program To Aid Vietnam Veterans

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan paid tribute Tuesday to the 2.7 million Vietnam veterans who fought "in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win."

In a Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, Mr. Reagan said, "Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

He participated in the christening of a program designed to help find jobs for unemployed Vietnam veterans and to promote

a positive image of Vietnam veterans.

The program, known as the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, will recruit successful businessmen and others to help fellow veterans find jobs and build self-esteem. It is being administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Mr. Reagan said Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

"A long, dragged out tragedy, Vietnam divided our nation and damaged America's self-image."

the president said. "And part of that tragedy — a major part — was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought."

"Contrary to an unjust stereotype," Mr. Reagan added, "a vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia."

However, he said, "There are those who found it difficult to come to grips with problems that could be traced to their wartime experiences."



—UPI Telephoto

Reagan and John Fales Jr., Blinded Veterans Association employment director.



United Press International

President Reagan talks with John Fales Jr., employment director of the Blinded Veterans Association, after inaugurating a self-help program for Vietnam veterans.

## President Pays Tribute To Vietnam Veterans

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