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VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

329 EIGHTH STREET NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20002

February 5, 1982

Dear VVA Member:

Never in VVA's more than four years of existence has there been as much excitement or attention focused on our nationwide activities as during the past few weeks following our successful mission to Vietnam.

It is not surprising that some other veteran groups--most notably the VFW--denounced our initiative. Our accomplishments have been praised, however, by opinion leaders across the country in editorials, commentaries, as well as by the general public, in literally thousands of letters which have flooded our Washington, D.C. office.

In January we were contacted by the Vietnamese government who advised us that, as a result of our trip, Vietnam will allow representatives from our State Department and Defense Department to visit Vietnam in February to renew discussions, on an official level concerning an accounting for the missing in action. VVA is most grateful to have played the crucial role in making these needed talks a reality.

Our trip to Vietnam came at a time when there were no discussions going on between Vietnam and the United States. America has never recognized Vietnam, and therefore has no diplomats there. As we found out on our trip, relations between the two governments were in a deep freeze. We approached the Vietnamese last October and expressed the desire to send the first delegation of former soldiers back to Hanoi to begin a dialogue on the issues of the missing in action and the effects of Agent Orange. The Vietnamese were impressed by the fact that VVA is the only national, exclusively Vietnam-era veteran's, organization in America and that we were formally recognized by the government in 1981 when we were accredited by the Veterans Administration. The result was four members of the National Board of Directors were invited to spend four days in Hanoi and two in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Siagon) for a series of meetings with various government representatives. The highlight of our trip was the meeting with the Foreign Minister, Nguyen Co Thach. It was there that we reached agreement on four major points.

First, the Vietnamese pledged to renew their efforts to provide an accounting for the missing in action. They said, however, that they would work directly with VVA and had no intention with working with Administration officials. We urged them to include our government in discussions that would continue between us. They virtually suspended all efforts on the MIA question last year when, after returning three sets of remains, the response was a letter of recrimination from our State Department inquiring about the circumstances of death and why the remains hadn't been returned earlier. The National League of Families much-heralded reaction of calling the return of the remains "a slap in the face" didn't help. The Vietnamese felt there was no reason to do anything more if all they could look forward to was a negative reaction. By working with VVA, they felt they could justify renewed efforts on our pledge not to exploit the MIA matter for political gain.

The second point of agreement concerned Agent Orange. In the more than three years since our first congressional hearings on Agent Orange, we have consistently been advised that to get the needed programs of assistance enacted we would need scientific proof that we would probably only get by going to the laboratory where Agent Orange was used. And that, of course, is Vietnam. We have secured the agreement by Vietnam to allow U. S. scientists and doctors to visit the country and work cooperatively with their scientists and doctors to try and get the conclusive evidence needed to realize assistance.

Our third agreement involves their willingness to receive continuing delegations of Vietnam veterans, through our organization, to continue the dialogue started on this last trip.

Fourth, they agreed to develop, as feasible, a cultural exchange program through our organization.

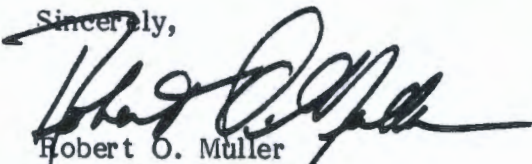
Clearly, we accomplished more than simply starting a dialogue, which was our original objective. A further, more detailed report is being prepared and will be available soon.

In general, 1981 was a turnaround year for VVA. We more than tripled our membership and realized the development of numerous successful chapters around the country, with many more in various stages of growth. The series of benefit concerts performed for us by Bruce Springsteen in Los Angeles, Pat Benatar in Detroit, and Charlie Daniels in Saratoga, New York, gives us some relief from the debts that were built up in our earlier year and has allowed us to start a membership development program. We received a list of approximately one million names and addresses of Vietnam-era veterans from the Veterans Administration, and as we realize the ability to mail to this group, our membership should increase significantly.

We have come a long way very quickly, but we still have a long way to go before we can provide the services and assistance to individual members, chapters, and others that we so desperately need to do. We need your help and your understanding as we work towards that goal. To build on the the accomplishments of the past is crucial if we are to continue to make progress. We need you to renew your national dues and get others to join VVA. Dues are still nine dollars. It is our membership support that has allowed us to survive and do our work. Also, not only do we need you as a member of VVA National, we need your active participation. If you are not a member of a chapter in your area, I urge you to join in the effort. If you are a member of a chapter and you have not been active, I urge you to pitch in and do your part.

Americans are starting to wake up and appreciate the Vietnam veteran and the unfinished business of healing the wounds and learning some lessons from our war. But, that is a slow and difficult process. We need your continued support now. The promise for VVA's future, as well as the need for our work, has never been greater.

Sincerely,



Robert O. Muller
Executive Director

Remarks by Robert O. Muller
Niagara Community College
Buffalo, New York, March 30, 1982

Transcribed by:
Dan Cragg & Peter Joannides, April 1982

I would like to ask first of all if there are some Vietnam veterans in the audience. Just raise your hands. Oh, my God, are there any students out there?

What we'll do, we have a movie to show on the Vietnam war and a documentary and it stresses a little bit the Vietnam veteran. When the movie's over I'm going to come out and bring you up to date on some of the points that are made in the film. (Unintelligible)...which is a question and answer session and I ask that the number of Vietnam vets that we have in the audience without having questions, if you just share with the rest of the people in the audience here your views and your perspectives on the war and what its like to be a veteran and how the whole process has affected you. The one thing that there is complete agreement on is that nobody has a monopoly regarding what happened in the Vietnam war and it has reflected the diversity of experiences of the veterans. This is helpful in trying to educate and share with people what that whole process meant for us.

I think the aspect of the Vietnam war that I'm finding most difficult to deal with is the silence that has followed the war. I think it reflects on us as a nation and as a people and it says something about our morality and our conscience, is when you have something like Vietnam that was America's longest and costliest war, one that cost 57,000 American soldiers their lives, 300,000 plus wounded and you got a nation that seems to pretend thought it never happened at all. If you don't look through that experience of Vietnam the real tragedy that you might, having failed to learn the lessons of history, repeat it, seems all too possible. And yet we do have to get back and examine what happened, why it happened. To fail to do that is everywhere around us. Just a couple of weeks ago there was a press conference in Washington where the President of the U. S. was asked to compare what is going on in El Salvador with what's going on in Vietnam and he went on a rambling monologue at some length recounting his view of history and the Vietnam war and talked about such things as Vietnam historically having been two separate countries, that it was Ho Chi Minh in 1956 that failed to go forward and hold the elections that were called for by the Geneva Conference, that it was Kennedy who sent the Marines into Vietnam after our people were blown up with pipe bombs. That the President, who is charged with the responsibility of making critical foreign policy decisions to demonstrate such a gross, inaccurate sense of history, is appalling.

A few weeks back there was a symposium in New York where some of the prime architects of the Vietnam war came together. It was the first time, to my knowledge, that so many of the principals came together to discuss what happened. You had Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, you had Barry Zorthian, who was their information officer for many years, you had William Bundy, who was Assistant Secretary of State for Far East Asia, you had Phil Geyelin (?) and what was amazing about the conference was that here the principal players throughout that period of history could not come to agreement about simple questions of fact of what happened.

When Bundy was given the microphone for what was to be a five-minute presentation chronicling the events that led to the Tonkin Resolution, he seized the opportunity to go on basically for a fifty-minute presentation where he ran by hour by hour the cable traffic as it was coming in to the White House in an effort to try and justify

the position taken in pushing through the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. He had been challenged by Dan Ellsberg on what that cable traffic was. And so it went throughout most of the day, not only on the episode of the Gulf of Tonkin incident, but on a lot of components of the whole war.

Is it really surprising if you can't get agreement on the simple question of what happened? That you have even less agreement on why it happened? And the analysis of History? But these are things that have got to be addressed and have got to be understood. Why did we get into Vietnam? Why did we fail in obtaining our objectives in Vietnam? Was it the military that failed to implement policy correctly? Was it the Congress that abdicated its responsibility? If you read the Constitution it says Congress is required to declare war. Was it the acceptance of the office of the Presidency? Was it the intelligence agencies that failed to assess the situation and to communicate the reports about what was going on in Indochina? Was it the media that likewise failed to give an accurate portrayal of what was going on? Was it the peace movement? Was it the peaceniks that gave a picture of a divided America to the enemy and therefore gave them the will to continue the war?

Why we failed is important to us to understand because the same institutional forces that were at play then are at work today. The machinery of government, diplomacy and of the military has got to be recognized in terms of that broad systemic failure and rehabilitated so that however meritorious an involvement might be, in the months and years ahead, that we don't suffer the fate of failed policy. Why did Vietnam happen? What are those values and interests that we as a nation are prepared to go to war for? What do you do when a lunatic takes our people hostage in Iran? What about the Soviets coming into Afghanistan or Poland? What do you do when the oil supply out in the Persian Gulf area is threatened? These are the questions that shouldn't simply be abstract esoteric matters, and the students in particular that are out here tonight, you gotta remember that the average age of a combat soldier in Vietnam was nineteen. The process of the Selective Service System as we lived through it with the equity that it yielded in terms of allowing the privileged and the rich to sell off and avoid the service have been taken out.

You had twenty-seven million men that were draft eligible during the Vietnam era. Of that twenty-seven million, nine million went to the military. A third of them wound up going to Vietnam and it was disproportionately the working class and the minorities that wind up paying the price on the battlefield. There's one thing that you don't have to know, when you get that letter, and it says "Greetings," the language that they use is not passive. The language is "you are to report." They could care less if you've got a fiancée that you're going to get married to, perhaps, or that you're about to start a job that you spent years preparing for. If push comes to shove in the months ahead or years ahead, and they go on with what they're planning to do, which is a lottery system and your date of birth gives you a number that's likely to be called first, just remember that it might be the old politicians in Washington that will declare the war, but you're the ones who have to fight it.

I have been shocked and stunned on this recent tour that I have been on, as I've talked to more than twenty campuses in the past two months, and have had contact with the nineteen-year olds today, to come to understand how little you basically know about what the generation that immediately before you went through in fighting our war. I don't blame you. The college text books, the high school text books, have very little about Vietnam, bay and large, and what they have is often inaccurate. I blame the society generally for the silence that has allowed this ignorance to be fostered.

Not only the knowledge of what we went through, but an appreciation for how profound Vietnam was for us as a people is something that I think we really didn't understand until perhaps last year, when there was a woman, twenty-three years old, and she said, "Bobby, after the hostages came back from Iran, that was the first time that I ever waved an American flag and sang a patriotic song and felt good about it; didn't feel funny, didn't feel corny, felt good about it." And when she said that, I realized, for her generation, that they had come of age and grown up in a time when they probably don't appreciate what it was like to many of us. Sure, when we grew up, in the early part of the sixties, it was a totally different time than we have today. It was a time of growth and prosperity and maybe that's what you need. Maybe you need a period of growth and prosperity so people can raise their heads beyond their own immediate circumstances in life, and what's required to hold the pieces of the puzzle together for themselves.

But it was also a time when our leadership had survived the depression, fought the Second World War, had saved the world for freedom and democracy. It was a time when we were very proud, very confident, very spirited. We felt we could do anything. We were the unchallenged power in the world. We were the bastion of freedom and democracy and when Kennedy said we were going to the moon, there were very few that doubted it. It was a time when we had leaders in America like Martin Luther King that pricked the conscience of America and started the sit-ins and freedom marches and gave rides to the civil rights movement. And where was our government and where were our political leaders of the day when the governors in many of the southern states proudly proclaimed "segregation now and segregation forever"? They were the ones who sent in the federal troops to desegregate the schools. You had the Voting Rights Act that passed. You had civil rights legislation that was passed. It was a time where our people stood for and spoke out for the values that we grew up in and believed America was all about.

After Kennedy was assassinated, Johnson rode the emotional tide in this country. He declared war on poverty and you heard things like equal opportunity, affirmative action and the rhetoric of the day was one that recognized the inequities and suffering in the land. It was a commitment to do something about it. In terms of foreign policy, it was simply more than the spirit of the Peace Corps, as altruistic as that was. Our foreign policy was something that was recognized and it was understood by the overwhelming majority of Americans. It was born out of the Second World War, where our leaders realized what a policy of appeasement could yield when we allowed Hitler to gain the strength that he did and ultimately had to fight the war that we did. They were determined never ever again to let aggression move that far down the road before we could cut it off. We had the Marshall Plan, the Truman Doctrine, we went to Korea, we had the Berlin Airlift, we stood the Soviets down over the Cuban Missile Crisis. Our foreign policy was paying the price, bearing the burden to contain the expansion of Communism anywhere in the Free World. Simplistic for sure, but understood, recognized and supported by the American people.

I was a senior in college and I remember my management professors telling me, "Bob, you'd better have military experience on your resume." It was the expected thing for us to serve. I remember the New York Times editorials that were stating the case for holding the line for Communist expansion in Indochina. We could lose Malaysia and the Philippines and Australia and ultimately Japan. There wasn't much reason to question the leadership that stood for everything that was right and the broad base of support behind those policies. And one day that senior year, being of sound body and mind, knowing the Service was somewhat inevitable, I saw a Marine on campus.

And the guy was a classic Marine. He stood around six two, wore his dress blue uniform. I said, "Hey, you look sharp! As long as I'm goin' I might as well go first class, go all the way, and do the best job I could." I signed up in the Marines. If you don't know anything about the military, let me tell you a little bit about it. For one thing, it's very seductive. Eighteen, nineteen, twenty-year old guys often-times have a question about their manliness, their manhood, their courage. You wonder, do I have what it takes to face combat? Do I have what it takes to kill another human being? Or will I, as the Hollywood movies oftentimes portray it, freeze in that critical moment? There's a little adventurism, a little excitement about goin' to war. And once you start, you start firing a weapon. You fire a machinegun. You fire rockets, a certain rush, a certain excitement, and at the same time you're being told a story of what's going on in the war, of what's going on in Vietnam, about being told how the guys who graduated just a couple of months ahead of you are already coming back in boxes and how they'd been mutilated by the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese. And about what's going on in the innocent people in Vietnam.

And you go on the parade deck and you fix your baynets and you got hundreds of guys chanting in uniform in unison, "Who do you kill? Luke the Gook!" and it starts to work on you and you get psyched up in the process. I graduated honor man in my platoon. I could have any MOS (military occupational specialty) I wanted, any job in the military. I demanded infantry and I demanded Vietnam as my duty station. And if some of you don't understand perhaps why goin' to war seems to be so important in the lives of so many veterans, and why we keep coming back to it over and over again, let me share with you one of the little components in that overall process of goin' to war and maybe you'll understand why it leaves an indelible experience in the lives of those who go through it.

When I said goodbye to my mother and my father and my fiancée, in three years we agreed that we were going to get married, until I came back from Vietnam, just in case something happened. They didn't understand why that day at the airport I was as emotional as I was. I had tears welling up in my eyes. I had told them I was a supply officer and they thought I was going to have a real easy tour of duty. I didn't tell them I was infantry for the very simple reason the statistics they gave us in training was that eighty-five percent of junior officers were casualties. Those last few weeks the question was never "Am I going to be hit?" the question that we talked about was how bad was it going to be when we were hit; how would you react if you were the one who lost an arm or lost a leg or were blinded or for God's sake, came back paralyzed? And those were the thoughts that I had in my head as I said goodbye to them. And believe me, when all of that rhetoric and all of that exciting thought about going to war reduces itself down to your personal life and affects you that way with your loved ones, that's when it becomes very real and that's also when the decisions you make are the ones you tend not to forget.

I went to Vietnam. Inside of fifteen minutes from landing at Danang, I caught a plane up north and went somewhere below the DMZ (demilitarized zone), working out of Quang Tri and Dong Ha. I went out to take over a rifle platoon and when I was going out to the LZ -- the landing zone -- (unintelligible) I said, "What's happening?" and he said, "Lieutenant, they're in contact." I couldn't believe it. They tell you in training that you got to prepare to take over the command of a unit in a combat situation, but somehow it never seems real. You never believe that could possibly really happen to you. And around forty-five minutes later he said, "We're going to try and get you in," and we went someplace just below the DMZ out in the jungles and all that and started circling around the mountain (unintelligible) and that's where the chopper landed.

And inside of being on the ground five minutes, I saw the first dead bodies I'd ever seen in my life. And I took over the rifle platoon that afternoon. It was the point element on a company-sized patrol that got ambushed and four of my guys were killed and eight of 'em wounded. And the reality of that situation as it is represented in the faces and eyes of the soldiers that lived through it is something that makes the reality of war, something you also have to forget. Before we called the med evac (medical evacuation) to get 'em out, we had some supporting arms called in and in the training you go through, that's called the "mad minute," where they open up everything they have, to show you firepower. It doesn't hold a candle to the real thing. When you take all of the safety precautions and all of the safeguards and just throw them out and you call, as we did that afternoon, for artillery strikes and the jet strikes, just a couple of hundred meters beyond your perimeter, what you have when you do that is the most awesome display of firepower that you ever dreamed imaginable. And I started to gain a whole lot of confidence. I said, "Wow! With that on our side it probably isn't going to be that bad after all. Anybody who's out there sure as hell would be out of the area by now." If they weren't, they'd be dead. And when we called in the chopper and threw the bodies on it and the wounded guys on and it got maybe fifty meters off the deck, all of a sudden, all around our perimeter, they opened up on it. And the chopper lifts off the ridgeline and starts to wobble and crashes and everybody was killed. Welcome to Vietnam.

What happened in the months ahead is an experience that was shared by guys who went to Vietnam. We fought a war in Vietnam. It wasn't a police action and it wasn't a skirmish, it was a full-tilt, rock 'em sock 'em bloody war. It was a guerrilla war, it was a war where you don't hold a piece of terrain, secure it, move on and secure additional terrain. A guerrilla war, one in which the people contain the enemy, the people were the enemy. You couldn't find the enemy. And we were used as the bait in Vietnam. We were used and dangled out there to become enough of a target of opportunity for the enemy to show himself. Eighty percent of the contact in Vietnam, four out of five times that there was contact, firefights, combat, it was initiated by the enemy. They considered us enough of a target of opportunity that they would come in and would be willing to absorb losses and hit us. Our standard procedure was to go out, dangle ourselves out there, and once we got hit, consolidate our forces, and call in our supporting arms and try and nail them as they were gettin' out of the area. When the enemy did show himself, it was considered a golden opportunity. You had places like Hamburger Hill, where they dug in and they chose to make a stand of it and we went up there and we took those casualties and when we got up the hill, what did you do after you secured it? You're told to turn around and walk down to the bottom of the hill, let them resume their positions so you could turn around and go back up the hill and then down the hill and up the hill. I believe it was five times before finally somebody said, "Stop the slaughter." But the slaughter was considered adequate because the war was continued on the basis of a kill-ratio that so long as we killed ten enemy to every one of us that bought it, the generals and the policy makers considered it adequate to continue. And we paid a price for that policy. Sixty percent of enlisted Marines in line units were casualties. Our guys were out on a patrol every single day and if you didn't go out on patrol during the day, you went out on an ambush at night.

I am sick and tired of these old-line veterans saying, "You shoulda been there for the big one." In many ways Vietnam was the big one. In the Second World War we dropped about 2½ million tons of bombs on Europe and the Pacific. In Vietnam by air alone, we dropped over seven million tons. When you add to that your artillery and naval gunfire, you have more than fourteen million tons of bombs and ordnance. The equivalent of five-hundred and seventy Hiroshima type bombs. And you're talkin' about a land where the people are basically peasants, where they're farmers and they relate

to their little rice paddies and a couple of miles around that perhaps is defined their entire universe, with their little ancestral burial grounds, and in a war that is designed to win the hearts and minds of these people, all of a sudden skies open up and that level of violence is imposed on the land? One out of thirty people in Indochina was killed; one out of twelve was wounded; and one out of five became a refugee.

I didn't fully appreciate, when I first came back and worked in populated areas, why the Vietnamese, who I expected would regard me as a liberator and as a hero, looked at me with fear and sometimes hostility and anger very evident on their face. But to realize what a program of dislocation meant to these people, to take them ten miles from Gio Linh and put them in Cam Lo, was the equivalent of taking one of us from New York to California, and you wondered why every time we operated around Cam Lo we got sniped at, and we got ambushed. To work in a refugee area and realize when we move back to a fire support base for five days and when we killed the rats that were running around in the trenches and the bunkers, and threw them in the garbage in the one-hundred degree heat, their bodies decomposed (and) when we went to dump the garbage, in the dump that was right next to the refugee village, and that whole village poured out, the kids just thrust the dead rats aside in an effort to salvage a rancid piece of meat or anything out of the garbage. That's the level of degradation that the war so often mean to these people.

You're talking about a guerrilla war in a country that's been fighting for decades. You go out into places like Ashau Valley, way out in the boonies, and you understand where Barry Goldwater was coming from in the early sixties, when he said, "If you're going to win that war, you'd better use your low-yield nuclear weapons to defoliate that triple-canopy jungle." Of course we didn't use low-yield nuclear weapons, but we used something that turned out to be just as bad it seems, for us veterans. We used Phenoxin herbicides, something now known as Agent Orange. But to get through that triple canopy jungle was to find what we found in these areas: roads, tunnel complexes, telegraph systems.

The policy makers in the rear, your Robert McNamara and the whiz kids at the Pentagon, had no idea what the reality of fighting that war in Vietnam was all about. If they did, if they ever operated around the DMZ, they would never have tried to put the McNamara Line, a technological barrier to prevent infiltration through the DMZ. Anybody who was ever there would have known on the face of it that it was absurd. And what happened to us? We'd get orders from the rear to take our units out, ten, fifteen kilometers in heavy terrain, where if you ever did get into it they could never react and get out a force to bail us out. And guys got tired of slaughtering, to just get used as cannon fodder, and they started to wake up. And how many times did guys go out two or three clicks and sit down and call in their checkpoints for the rest of the day? My favorite story was it was the priority mission in Vietnam at the time: We had to get a prisoner out of the DMZ. We had three recon (reconnaissance) teams we were sending to get a POW. Supposedly they were going to bring him to Paris, throw him on the peace table to show that the Vietnamese in fact were violating the neutrality on the DMZ. And we got briefed by more colonels than I'd ever seen before and they gave us all of the guns in northern I Corps available to support. We had the battleship New Jersey off the coast that afternoon. And after one of the recon teams got hit, I went in with a reactionary element and after getting carte blanche the way I was, I used it. I blew up the DMZ so bad that they knew all the way to Hanoi that Muller had landed that afternoon. And they had a scrambler system on the radios that we had, where you didn't have to talk in code, and at the end of the afternoon they said, "OK, we're going to extract the reactionary elements and leave the original insert in." And this kid, he was eighteen years old, nineteen years old, lance corporal, recon team leader, turned to me and said, "What, are they crazy?" Of his eight guys, three were wounded. He said, "They left me out here after you compromised our position the way you have, and

inside of a half an hour we're all gonna be dead." And I couldn't argue with him. And he got on the hook (radio) and he said, "Look. I ain't John Wayne, I ain't playin' John Wayne and I'm gettin' the hell out of here." That's what he said. And when they brought in the choppers, he came out with us and he's alive today, as are the guys from his team. Because he refused to continue to be used and abused.

As we were waking up, so was America. If you haven't seen the documentary that was aired a few weeks back on CBS about the coverup leading to the Tet Offensive, you missed something that you ought to make every effort you can to get your hands on and see. CBS spent twelve months researching the story. They interviewed the senior people in the intelligence agencies that were part of the Johnson administration and the White House and the military, and what CBS concluded after a year's worth of research, that what Tet was was nothing less than a conspiracy at the very highest level in our government to deceive the American people. That was the truth of what was going on in Vietnam.

President Johnson called back General William Westmoreland, commander, U. S. forces, in preparation for the sixty-eight presidential campaign, to give a report to the joint session of Congress. And he gave a glowing account of how victory was at hand and how the war was almost won. What he didn't say was that he had set an arbitrary ceiling on the numbers of enemy soldiers that were going to be allowed to be reported as being in Vietnam. That he literally took half the enemy we were fighting and threw them out and said they don't exist. It's one thing to lie to the Congress and to the American public, but it's another thing to set us up as they did for that Tet Offensive. And when you had that massive uprising all throughout Vietnam, you had thousands and thousands of American servicemen pay the price as casualties. Whereas if we had been given half an hour's notice in places like Hue, for example, we could have taken up defensive positions and prevented four weeks of heavy fighting and lots of casualties to regain that territory. But we were considered a bargain, we were cheap, we were expendable. In 1942 a dead GI cost the government \$10,000, thirty years later it still cost the government that same \$10,000. Based on the numbers of the enemy killed in the Tet Offensive, when they projected the additional wounded that those figures had to include, according to Westmoreland and the military projectionists, every enemy soldier in Vietnam was killed or wounded.

It was obvious that there was still a major fighting force out there. And what was the reaction? He (Westmoreland) tried to get into the memory banks of the computer to erase the figures they were using. It was a purposeful coverup to give a good picture of what was going on. What did Johnson do in response to that? He called together his senior advisers and said, "I want an assessment of what happened in Vietnam." They came back and they said, "Mr. President, the situation is hopeless and you've got to start to negotiate your way out." He dismissed the advisers and he called on Clark Clifford, one of his senior advisers, a guy who'd been a supporter of our involvement in Vietnam for years, and he charged Clark Clifford with a mandate to do a review of our status in Vietnam and Clifford came back and said, "Mr. President, it is hopeless and you've got to start to negotiate our way out of there." And shortly after that, Johnson went on national TV and withdrew from the presidential race. Then everything started unraveling real quickly after that. Bobby Kennedy picked up the gauntlet and gets assassinated, Martin Luther King gets assassinated. Washington, D. C. burns down in many parts of that city and there were machinegun emplacements set up on the steps of our nation's capitol. There was a convention in Chicago, that if you don't believe it was a police riot, you haven't read the commission report that was held and you haven't seen the footage of what happened in that city.

And what happened to us, the guys fighting over there? * Goin' up a North Vietnamese-held hill, I caught a bullet in the chest, went through both lungs and severed my spinal cord on the way out and I am alive today because of the heroism, the bravery and the sacrifice of the guys I fought in Vietnam with, the guys that ran up that hill and picked me up and carried me down, the guys that flew the dustoff (helicopter medical evacuation) missions, the medical evacuation helicopters coming in under enemy fire, and getting me and the other guys out. I had a marvelous circumstance of events that afternoon, where with my luck the hospital ship Repose was right off the coast of where I was. And they put in my medical records that had I arrived on that hospital ship one minute later, I never would have lived because of the seriousness of the injury.

And then I go through this chain to come back to the States and I go through being a Marine to becoming a veteran and I go from the military hospitals into the Veterans Administration hospitals. In my hospital, not all the hospitals in the VA system are the same, there's a lot of autonomy and some are good and some are bad. Well, I didn't get one of the better ones. Mine was Kingbridge in the Bronx, in New York City. And Life magazine came in and did a cover story exposé on the quality of care the returned Vietnam veterans were receiving. With a cover story that turned out to be the second largest selling issue that Life magazine ever put out. America was stunned, people were shocked that we were allowed to come back to the squalid conditions, the dilapidated facilities that we came back to. And oh, yes, Life magazine portrayed and showed the pictures of the overcrowded, the run-down buildings, the lack of equipment, the understaffing, but what they never could communicate in photographs was the stench of that institution or the despair that was there. That's what I witnessed too, by the fact that eight of my friends in the spinal cord injury service, including my closest personal friend, wound up committing suicide. It wasn't just the Vietnam veterans and the wounded that were shunted aside. In the discussions we will have in a little while, I'm sure you'll hear from some of the other vets that are here about their welcome home and about the inadequacies of their employment programs and their counseling efforts and so on and so forth. And that's why I want to take a break.

* * *

Because of Vietnam was brought about something called the War Powers Act that's supposed to require the President to consult with the Congress before he uses military force. Did that stop President Carter from sending a military rescue effort into Iran? With the very real probability that there was going to be an encounter? Did that prevent Clark Clifford shortly after that from declaring unilaterally on behalf of the President that the Persian Gulf was now an area of strategic and vital interest to the U. S. and any moves into that area would be considered nothing less than an act of war? You've got this administration that is making commitments and alliances all around the world. We're assuring Saudi Arabia that if there's an uprising and the monarchy is threatened, then we're not going to allow them to go the route of Iran. We just landed a thousand marines in Oman six weeks ago, but you might not know about it because no reporters or any press was allowed into Oman. You've got strategic trip wires that are now being placed all over the world. Where I don't worry about in El Salvador, which has a real slow fuze -- this film was made over a year and a half ago -- and people watch everything that goes on in El Salvador. I worry about some crazy, lunatic government, somewhere perhaps in the Middle East, be it a Khadafi, be it Lebanon which is basically in a full state of war, be it some foul up in the withdrawal from the Sinai, be it Iran or Iraq, be it Jordan that gets swept into it, be it the Sudan. I think the time has come to reject the simplistic view of the world that this administration advocates and its view of our role in it. I think the time has come to reject the kind of thinking that argues for more nuclear weapons so that we can reduce nuclear weapons. To reject the kind of diplomacy that is predicated on weapons sales.

*Robert Muller was wounded on April 29th, 1969. He arrived in Vietnam in August 1968, seven months after the Tet Offensive.

(The following is extracted from the question-and-answer session that followed the lecture and film presentation.)

- Q. When you met with the foreign minister (the North Vietnamese foreign minister in Hanoi) did you have any documents to present to him concerning the POWs or the MIAs, such as a list of names, live sightings, coordinates of downed planes, pictures of missing men? Did you have any of that? Now you would have gotten that from the National League of Families (National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia) had you really cooperated with them or talked to Ann Griffiths (Ann Mills Griffiths, executive director of the National League).
- M. We had all that.
- Q. Did you really have all that?
- M. Ma'am, I'm gonna go on. Yes, we really had all that.
- Q. When you returned to the U. S. who debriefed you? Who were you debriefed by?
- M. We debriefed all the agencies that we talked to. . . .
- Q. No, who debriefed you?
- M. . . . before we went. . . . hold on, I'm gonna stop you because it's not fair to the students that are here.
- Q. Why not? Why not? They could be missing like my brother. What do you mean, it's not important?
- Q. If there's one American in this world who wants to come home, that's not too many. we know for a fact that they're there.
- Q. We listened to you about the Vietnam people, but what about my brother? What happened to him? Why was he tortured?
- M. All I can say to you is what everybody that's dealt with these issues has said to us. Now you might choose to say, that every single branch of our government, every single agency charged with the responsibility to acquire information on these matters, is lying. You might charge to say that there's a conspiracy that's passed any conspiracies you might have had. All I can tell you is what, in an honest way, when we approached our representatives, our agencies, and anyone charged with responsibility for these areas said to us. They have been in total harmony with what they've said.* There's not validated, verified reports, as you represent, of fifty Americans being held prisoner.

* * *

With regard to the four hundred bodies that are being warehoused in Vietnam and are being retained, that is something that is being offered by various groups and various self-appointed spokesmen. That is not justified, that is not validated. It is not, as it is portrayed to be, a recognized fact. Before we went to Vietnam, we were briefed by everybody there was to be briefed by. We met with the Defense Intelligence Agency, we met with the State Department, we met with the Select

*See Mr. Muller's statement on the Tet Offensive "conspiracy" that begins on page 7 of this transcript.

Committee in the Congress on MIAs and POWs; we met with the Joint Casualty Resolution Center, we met with them again and our embassy representatives in Bangkok, just as we were going into Hanoi, and they all said the same thing. They said there is no substantiated reports of Americans being held against their will in Vietnam nor are there substantiated reports of the warehousing, as you claim, of four hundred bodies. That has continually been put forth as statements of fact. The statements are not fact and I think it does a disservice to reasonable and open argument and debate on the Vietnam issues.

* * *

I am more concerned with our government's accountability and with our government's conduct in understanding what happened and making sure that some of the things that happened in Vietnam don't happen again than I am in terms of the accountability of the North Vietnamese or the Viet Cong.

(In response to a question asking whether Muller's organization would have any further contact with the National League of Families.)

M. National League of Families? Absolutely not, because they are an irresponsible organization. You may quote me to Ann Mills Griffiths and the entire board of directors: They are irresponsible.

Q. Why are they irresponsible?

M. They have lied about their dealings with us. They have misrepresented the situations as have transpired, witness your not knowing the first damned thing about what's happening between the National League of Families and ourselves (the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., of which Robert O. Muller is the executive director).

Q. I'm going to call Ann Griffiths tomorrow and deliver that message.

* * *

Q. How in the heck can you sit there and say you represent the Vietnam veterans when you go over to Hanoi and put a wreath on Ho Chi Minh's tomb?

M. We went to Hanoi on a mission that was designed to provide information and to make progress on specifically two concerns, the MIAs and the accounting of the MIAs, and Agent Orange.

Q. All I want is a straight answer. Was it political? Was it a political gesture to get them in a more favorable mind?

M. I'm going to answer your question. That was the objective of the trip. It was one that was to be achieved by fostering some sense of good will with the Vietnamese. To try to recognize that the war is over and that we've got to start toward the process of reconciliation. And peace. When we got to Hanoi and set out the agenda (of) what we were going to do the four days we were there, the one stand-out facility, this very stand-apart facility, a building in Hanoi, is the Ho Chi Minh Masoleum. It's the main square and it's impressive. We said we wanted to visit the masoleum. The third day we were in Hanoi, on that afternoon, the guides that we were with came to us and said they needed forty dollars. We said for what? And they said for the wreath. And we said what wreath? And they said that when a group visits the masoleum, it's customary to lay a wreath. We said, okay. We talked about it and we decided not to lose the feeling of rapport we had built up and established on the trip, we would go ahead and being that we asked to visit the masoleum, that was what they considered proper protocol. We said,

because of our sensitivities, that this could be used for propaganda purposes. We asked that no pictures be taken and they said, fine. For them it was no big shakes, and we stuck to the agenda, as we'd set it out. When we went through we were escorted by another group, that as we were going through, laid down a wreath. And I think that on the basis of what we accomplished on the trip and the feelings that were engendered, that it helped greatly in allowing us to get what we got. I understand that it's sensitive, I understand that it was portrayed as being other than what I'm trying to tell you now. That is the reason the wreath was laid down.

* * *

Q. But Mr. Muller, let's have some truth from you. I've waited six months as the president of the Western New York chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America for an answer to my letter. My letter simply asked you, what did you do with the over half a million dollars your organization took in last year? There aren't any service programs that we know of, not one penny goes back to the chapters. You talk about an office on Park Avenue that's supposed to be shabby, but you just mentioned earlier that you took in over seventy thousand dollars -- you made twenty engagements at over \$3,500 a crack. Mr. Muller, you know that we have information that you own a \$200 thousand dollar home on Long Island, which the downpayment apparently came from the seed money for VVA. You have an officer of the VVA named Larry Mitchell, who lied about being a POW, who lied about being a captain. All this has been documented. But you continue to talk about the big lie, but you refuse to be pinned down about items of the truth that you cannot stand up for. What about Larry Mitchell? Isn't it true that he lied about all that? And your friend, Mr. Harbert, who went to Vietnam with you, claimed to be a member of the Red River Valley Pilots Association (an association of veterans of the air war over North Vietnam), was not. All of this has been brought out, Mr. Muller, but you refuse to answer to anything. Okay. You have also failed to file income tax returns for the last four years, either State or Federal. Why is that? (This statement was followed by a long whistle and much laughter from the audience.)

M. You've gone through quite a list and I'm not going to recall all the allegations you made. But what I'm going to ask of you is this. Number one, I'm gonna say you are dead mistaken on just about every single thing you said. I mean dead, flat-out mistaken. With regard to matters affecting our organization, and I know where you've been gettin' some of that bum scoop that's been goin' around, I'm going to ask you that we get together and I'm goin' to get together with all the guys from the chapter, and we'll hash out our organizational problems and differences and policies and all that stuff. But here, when we're talking in this forum, let's talk about the issues of Vietnam and the experiences of the Vietnam veteran. And with regard to that, you've made a lot of statements and again, I'm not goin' to be able to remember everything that you said, but they deserve a response.

* * *

(Following are general remarks made by Muller at an informal session after the lecture to the college student body.)

The National Vietnam Veterans Review is a paper that is antagonistic to us. Chuck Allen (the editor/publisher) is, just, I think, doing a great disservice to publish the shit he's been publishing, because I heard that he published Santoli's 18-page letter in its entirety. It deserves rebuttal. (Albert Santoli, author of Everything We Had (Random House, 1981), an oral history of the Vietnam war; his 18-page letter is a list of charges against the Vietnam Veterans of America.)

We are running phone bills that are close to \$5,000 a month. Our Washington, DC and New York offices are running total expenses of \$25-30,000 per month.

Muller, March 30, 1982, Niagara Community College

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It might seem unconscionable to you, I'm going to give it to you as a statement of fact, I don't deal with the chapter process, I don't deal with the membership. I deal with one thing. I'm on the road constantly, raising money. The one function that I have with the organization is to raise money.

Complete copies of the tapes from which this transcription were made are held by the National League of Families, 1608 K Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20006 (202)-223-6846 and Mr. Peter Joannides, Chantilly, VA 22021-0021 (703)-620-6262

82-114



Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation
329 Eighth Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

(202) 546-3700

July 19, 1982

Mr. Donald J. Devine
Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20415

Dear Mr. Devine:

This letter and attachments constitute an application by the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation for admission as a national voluntary agency to the Combined Federal Campaign for the 1982 solicitation periods.

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation was incorporated on May 15, 1980, in the State of Delaware and was ruled an organization described under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code by the Internal Revenue Service on August 27, 1980. A copy of our exemption letter from the IRS is attached. Our fiscal year runs from May 1 to April 30.

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation is a national organization exclusively devoted to the welfare of Vietnam era veterans. (Vietnam era veterans are those who served in the U.S. armed forces from 1964 to 1975.) It has four purposes. The first is to provide mechanisms through which Vietnam veterans can develop positive identification with their Vietnam service and with their peers who served with them. The second is to deal with the physical, psychological and economic consequences of the war for Vietnam veterans. The third is to effect basic reform in the governmental and private institutions that have major impact on the lives of veterans. Finally, VVAF is working to insure that the lessons that have been learned in the Vietnam experience are considered as future decisions in foreign and defense policies are made.

We created an organization just to focus on Vietnam veterans because of the special needs created by the extraordinary nature of the war and its aftermath. Since the Civil War, no domestic or foreign undertaking has caused such division among Americans as the Vietnam war. Most Americans have viewed serious discussion of the war and its consequences as the equivalent of opening a Pandora's box. The nation has, as a whole, yet to come to terms with a crucial decade of recent history.

Because most Americans avoid working through the war and its meaning, most Vietnam veterans also avoid it. Legacies of Vietnam: Comparative Adjustment of Veterans and their Peers, the exhaustive national study commissioned from the Center for Policy Research by the Veterans Administration, and released in March, 1981, confirms this. They state that "the majority of Vietnam veterans in our sample--about two-thirds--have not probed their experience very deeply. It is fair to say that most of the working through of this war is yet to be done."

The study also confirmed VVAF's observation that even those who have successfully readjusted to society were negatively affected by this reluctance to delve deeply into their war experiences. The researchers report that, "throughout the country, however, we find Vietnam veterans who appear at first to be untroubled, only to reveal on closer scrutiny that they are trying to avoid issues that may actually disturb them."

Some of those issues arise from the nature of the combat experience and the age of the combatants. In World War II, the average age of American combat troops was 26, and average exposure to enemy fire was 6 weeks. In Vietnam, a U.S. soldier's average age was 19, and combat exposure was fully 52 weeks.

After World War II, troops returned home in ships, accompanied by their comrades, taking two weeks or more to reach the United States. When they arrived home they were greeted literally by brass bands and cheering crowds. Those returning from military service in Vietnam often flew from battlefield to hometown in less than 48 hours, with other soldiers who were strangers to them. If they were greeted at all it was with jeers and deprecating remarks.

Of the 2,800,000 Americans who saw duty in Vietnam, over 57,000 died. Although medical care in the field was more advanced than in previous wars, over 300,000 did not completely recover from their wounds and are permanently disabled. Those are the obvious and recognizable casualties of the war.

Other physical consequences have been more difficult to establish. The most controversial issue has been the question of possible long-term health effects of the use of herbicides in Vietnam.

During the years 1962 through 1970, 12,000,000 gallons of a defoliant, referred to as "Agent Orange", were sprayed throughout South Vietnam to deny the enemy food and cover. The defoliant contained a chemical, a particular dioxin, called TCDD.

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange are now suffering from a series of symptoms that seem to be related to that exposure. The symptoms include: an acne-type rash called chloracne, liver dysfunction, cancer, sexual dysfunctioning and disorders of the nervous system. Children of those subjected to this exposure have suffered polygenetic birth defects. They most commonly include open spines, holes in the interior walls of the heart, cleft palates, and in rare instances, flipperlike arms, lack of anal openings or vaginal openings and deformed or missing penises.

There are other physical problems unique to Vietnam service. They are related to: other herbicides used in Vietnam (such as Agent Blue, having a high arsenic content); dapsone (an anti-malarial drug with adverse side effects reported in scientific literature); aflatoxin (a natural toxin that sometimes occurs in rice in Southeast Asia); Meliodosis (a sometimes life-threatening disease caused by bacteria native to Southeast Asia); as well as drug and/or alcohol use among soldiers.

Drug and alcohol abuse are, of course, also related to the negative psychological effects of the war. The Center for Policy Research study revealed that 41% of returning combat veterans were found to have persisting psychological, or drug or related problems. Other statistical surveys show that the suicide rate for Vietnam veterans is historically higher than for their non-veteran peer group. Vietnam "combat veterans have a higher arrest rate," and are "the most frequently convicted," according to the Center for Policy Research study.

Perhaps the most significant indicator of the psychological burden left by the war is that between 700,000 and 800,000 are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Dr. John Wilson, of the Department of Psychology of Cleveland State University is the pioneer researcher on the effects of Vietnam service on delayed stress syndrome. He describes PTSD in this way:

"PTSD is a dynamic survivor response to the catastrophic stressors experienced in the war and to the intense social stressors after it. The symptoms which define the PTSD syndrome among Vietnam veterans are virtually identical to those observed among the survivors of the atomic blast at Hiroshima, Korean P.O.W camps, the Nazi holocaust and the Buffalo Creek Dam disaster.

Specifically, however, the symptoms of PTSD among Vietnam veterans include such characteristics as: psychic or emotional numbing or anesthesia; depression--feelings of helplessness, apathy, dejection, withdrawal, isolation; anger--rage, hostility; anxiety--and specific fears associated with combat experiences..."

Having been in combat also has an effect on the economic well-being of Vietnam veterans. Legacies of Vietnam concluded "that military duty in Vietnam had a negative effect on post-military achievement."

In regard to education, the study found that 53% of combat veterans did not return to school following their discharge, as opposed to 31% of non-combat veterans. Comparing veterans with nonveterans of the same peer groups, nearly half of all non-veterans have graduated from college, while only slightly more than a fifth of the veterans have. One-third of the non-veterans have gone on to graduate or professional schools, but only one-tenth of their veteran peers have done so.

Unemployment and underemployment are also residual effects of the war. The unemployment rate has been historically higher for veterans than for their non-veteran peers. As to underemployment, the Legacies of Vietnam study revealed that "In the competition for high level jobs, non-veterans are markedly more successful than veterans. Among veterans, era veterans are somewhat more successful than Vietnam veterans."

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A special concern of Vietnam Veterans of America has been the fact that racial and ethnic minorities carried a disproportionately large share of the burden during the Vietnam war, and have suffered even more than other veterans the consequences of serving in that war. For instance, the Center for Policy Research report revealed that, "the unemployment rate of black veterans, however, was three times that of white veterans." Unemployment was especially high among black veterans who served in Vietnam. Legacies of Vietnam also concluded that "black veterans are much more likely than white veterans to hold secondary (undesirable and insecure) jobs or entry-level priority jobs."

The same report also found differences in the long term stress reactions to the war. The Center for Policy Research says that "blacks and Chicanos were more stressed than whites; being in Vietnam was as stressful for blacks as being in combat for whites."

One group of veterans whose needs have been almost totally ignored are the women who served in Vietnam. An example of their official invisibility is the fact that the otherwise extremely useful and authoritative study quoted above, Legacies of Vietnam: Comparative Adjustment of Veterans and their Peers, did not examine the war experiences of women at all. When a U.S. Senator requested information on the number of women who served in Vietnam, the Assistant Secretary of Defense said, "While the new numbers are substantially higher than those provided previously, no one can assure you whether this is a complete listing." Irrespective of their numbers, communication with VVA members who are women and other women veterans indicate that many of them have the same problems with readjustment, Agent Orange and post-traumatic stress disorders that trouble male veterans.

In response to these needs, we have developed a national organization with offices in Washington, D.C. and New York, N.Y. We have members and other contributors in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The members are organized into 17 chapters in 13 states.

Some examples of the services provided through those structures are:

1. Providing direct services to Vietnam veteran victims of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides through a toll-free "800" number, news articles, public service announcements, mailings, direct counseling and referrals;

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2. Stimulating the Veterans Administration to improve their service to Agent Orange victims through monitoring, litigation and research;
3. Dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders and other psychological problems affecting Vietnam veterans through helping to create and retain the system of Vet Centers, through amicus curiae briefs in court cases, direct counseling, referrals and training for mental health professionals;
4. Working with the Small Business Administration, the Labor Department, and local VVA chapters to improve the economic status of Vietnam veterans;
5. Making special efforts to deal with the needs of women and minorities who served in Vietnam;
6. Reaching out to incarcerated veterans through the formation of chapters in prisons, litigation, work with parole boards and employment counselors;
7. Stimulating coverage in major national and local media such as The New York Times, Newsweek and CBS;
8. Assisting artists and performers in creating and presenting films (such as Coming Home), plays (such as "Ten Good Men"), books (Everything We Had) and concerts (such as one by Bruce Springsteen), which open channels of communication between those who went to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war and those who did not; and
9. Using the network of VVA chapters to provide peer support to Vietnam veterans and a focus for contact with the public and institutions that affect veterans' lives.

One of the major continuing service efforts of Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation has been related to assisting veterans exposed to Agent Orange. In 1980, we began a nationwide effort to reach Vietnam veterans concerned about Agent Orange through a toll-free "800" number. Outreach is conducted through news stories, public service announcements and special mailings.

The results have been overwhelming. In the first three weeks alone, over 4,000 veterans contacted the Outreach Project. Various media provided endorsements. A major Associated Press story ran in papers across the country, including The New York Times. Major regional papers like Newsday, The Detroit Free Press and The Cleveland Plain Dealer, did special stories on the subject. Radio and television stations tested the system with blind calls, succeeded, and then carried their own Public Service Announcements describing it.

Three months before we started this program and three years after the first stories began to appear, Max Cleland, then Administrator of the Veterans Administration, appeared before the House Veterans Affairs Committee to announce that the Veterans Administration had an Agent Orange Screening Program at Veterans Administration medical centers. The program consisted mainly of a physical exam with the emphasis placed on skin disorders, liver dysfunctions and possible tumors. But in his testimony, Mr. Cleland said that less than 10,000 veterans had taken advantage of it.

In September of 1980, just five months after Vietnam Veterans of America established the hotline, Mr. Cleland once again appeared before Congress and testified that 30,000 veterans had contacted the Veterans Administration either for an Agent Orange exam or for information about Agent Orange. Because of the national outreach program of Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and statewide outreach programs, the number of people using this service dramatically increased. The figure is now well over 75,000.

VVA has also worked to increase the awareness of professional therapists of the special psychological needs of Vietnam veterans. Frequent speaking engagements, the organization of seminars and assistance in research design are among those efforts.

An illustration was our Back in the World Program in 1980. This program extended the work of an existing highly successful experimental program to achieve the following: (1) establish a direct outreach program to Vietnam veterans, (2) provide direct therapeutic services to local Vietnam veterans, (3) provide community education and involvement concerning the nature and consequences of problems faced by these individuals, (4) further the development of an effective treatment model for Vietnam veterans, and (5) educate the professional community in the analysis and therapeutic response to these problems.

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Although this program was limited to veterans in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, it has proved to be a useful model for the service programs of our local chapters, the Veterans Administration and other service providers. It has also given us some local resources for referral of Vietnam veterans who call or come into our offices. Much staff time is spent in responding to those inquiries, as many veterans feel VVA is the only sympathetic resource available. *see p. 6, atch*

In August, 1981, the Veterans Administration officially accredited Vietnam Veterans of America as a veterans service organization. This accreditation gives us official status along with other veterans groups to represent veterans in making claims and obtaining services from the Veterans Administration.

Each veterans service organization is given office space in regional facilities of the Veterans Administration. The representatives of the service organization develop expertise in such things as admission to VA hospitals, making claims for disability, appeals procedures for denied claims, and referrals to veterans service centers and private programs useful to veterans.

Having representatives of VVA performing such functions is a major boon to Vietnam veterans. In the first instance, any increase in the number of service representatives is useful to all veterans, as it will enable more of them to receive assistance more quickly. More importantly, there have been many instances in which veterans organizations not specifically focused on Vietnam veterans have failed to recognize the special needs of Vietnam veterans.

It is also very clear to us and to other service providers that many Vietnam veterans will accept service delivery only from other Vietnam veterans. The services we provide at the national level and through our local chapters are therefore often the only ones useful to those veterans.

Those local chapters have been the major vehicle we have used to address the employment needs of Vietnam veterans. The Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation first turned its attention to the federal government in attempting to deal with this issue. However, most government job programs targeted toward Vietnam veterans have had disappointing results at best. In January, 1977, it was promised that 35% of new CETA jobs would go to Vietnam veterans; the actual figure attained was 7%. A HIRE program was put into effect with the goal of creating 100,000 jobs for veterans in private industry; nearly two years after its announcement, only 136 jobs had been created. A \$20,000,000 Outreach program found jobs for only 500 of 21,000 jobless veterans who were seriously disabled.

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We have not abandoned entirely our hopes that national efforts will be useful, but given the results to date, the current economic situation and a trend toward ending or severely limiting such programs, we have turned our attention to the local level. Several local chapters, such as the one in Rochester, N.Y., have achieved a remarkable placement rate through low cost programs, or no-cost peer counseling. The networks formed through contact with other veterans who have been successful in business have also proved useful for Vietnam veteran job seekers.

One of the reasons we feel such volunteer efforts can be effective is the experience with the Targeted Technical Assistance Program (TTA). TTA was designed and strongly supported by VVA to increase veterans participation in CETA. It had a very low cost per placement relative to other CETA programs. It was more effective because most Vietnam veterans only need counseling and peer reinforcement while other targeted groups of the unemployed often need extensive (and expensive) training.

The Rochester chapter is also a good example of the wide variety of services provided at the local level through affiliates of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. In addition to employment counseling, they provide marital and family counseling for Vietnam veterans. They also work with veterans who have problems with substance abuse.

In dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other psychological problems, the Rochester chapter provides the facilities and outside professional assistance for peer counseling groups of both men and women. They are also involved in informing community professionals, the social services system, and the criminal justice system about PTSD.

With regard to incarcerated veterans, the Rochester program includes counseling inside local jails and prisons. They are also involved in job counseling with prisoners prior to their release, and work with parolees and their parole officers.

Other service activities of the Rochester chapter involve assisting Vietnam veterans in their relationships with the Veterans Administration and the military. Information assistance on Agent Orange, review of less than honorable discharges and filing benefit claims are among those services.

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Finally, the Rochester chapter has developed an excellent working relationship with community social service agencies. They make referrals and have referrals made to them where appropriate.

The Columbus, Ohio chapter has a similar rapport with the social service groups in their community. They have done extensive research on over 80% of the providers in Columbus to determine which ones are appropriate for referral.

The Columbus chapter also has a Vietnam Veterans Career Development Program. They have interview workshops, assist in resume preparation, make direct referrals and conduct other specialized training for unemployed veterans.

They also perform the pre-screening necessary to make the State of Ohio system for service to Agent Orange victims work efficiently. In addition, the Columbus chapter provides the same type of assistance with the Veterans Administration and the military as the Rochester chapter.

Their work with prisoners and parolees is also very similar to the Rochester chapter services. One additional service unique to Columbus is consumer credit counseling. This service is provided by a representative of another Columbus group working in the Columbus VVA office.

Not all chapters have the same range and depth of services as these two chapters provide to Vietnam veterans, as some are very new. But all of them provide at least some service described in Section 950.101 (a) (3). All of them are working with us to expand the range of their services. Our aim both nationally and locally is to provide as much of the service needs of Vietnam veterans as possible through our own efforts to promote self-help and reduce dependence on government funds.

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Most of the services already described would fall under Section 950.101 (a) (3) (ix). Clearly many of the veterans receive "treatment, care, rehabilitation, and counseling..." and would be described variously as "...criminals, released convicts, persons who abuse drugs or alcohol, persons who are otherwise in need of social adjustment and rehabilitation, and the families of such persons."

It is also clear that Section 950.101 (a) (3) (x) would apply, as many Vietnam veterans served by us are still members of the armed forces.

Section 950.101 (a) (xi) covers those chapters which provide marriage counseling.

Section 950.101 (a) (3) (xii) applies to the referral services provided both by the national group and the chapters.

Finally, Section 950.101 (a) (3) (xiv) covers most of our service activity as it reduces the work load of the Veterans Administration's Vet Centers.

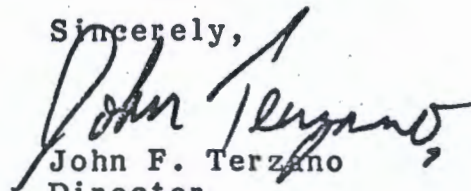
Our board of directors has met at least monthly and often more frequently since our origin. They are all actively involved in the work of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

This letter is accompanied by the following attachments:

1. IRS. exemption letter.
2. Current chapter list.
3. Board of Directors list.
4. Certification of compliance with accounting standards.
5. Statement of compliance with SCFR 950.
6. 1982 Annual Report.
7. Audited financial statement.
8. Consolidated national chapter financial report.

If additional is required, please call me immediately. We look forward to participation in the Combined Federal Campaign.

Sincerely,



John F. Terzano
Director
Washington Office

JT/lv

Attachments

Committee as duplicative of the function of the PCFOs.

OPM appreciates the concern and effort shown by those commenters who, as a result of close analysis of the proposed rules, provided detailed comments and suggestions aimed at helping OPM develop rules which would be as fair as possible to all parties and be able to be efficiently administered by the Federal Government.

E.O. 12291, Federal Regulation

OPM has determined that this is not a major rule for the purposes of E.O. 12291, Federal Regulation.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The nominal costs to voluntary agencies, which are primarily associated with developing the initial application, are essentially the same as under current procedures.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 950

Government employees, Charitable contributions.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.
Donald J. Devine,
Director.

Accordingly, the Office of Personnel Management amends 5 CFR by adding new Part 950 to read as follows:

PART 950—SOLICITATION OF FEDERAL CIVILIAN AND UNIFORMED SERVICE PERSONNEL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION

Subpart A—Administration and General Provisions

Sec.

- 950.101 Definitions.
950.103 Summary description of the program.
950.105 Federal policy on civic activity.
950.107 Preventing coercive activity.

Subpart B—Organization and Functional Responsibilities

- 950.201 Development of policy and procedures.
950.203 Program administration.
950.205 Program coordination.
950.207 Local voluntary agency representatives.
950.209 Local Federal agency heads.
950.211 Local Federal coordinating committees.
950.213 Avoidance of conflicts of interest.

Subpart C—Campaign Arrangements for Voluntary Agencies

- 950.301 Types of voluntary agencies.
950.303 Types of fund-raising methods.
950.305 Considerations in making Federal arrangements.

Sec.

- 950.307 Definition of terms used in Federal arrangements.
950.309 Federated and overseas campaigns.
950.311 Off-the-job solicitation at places of employment.
Subpart D—Eligibility Requirements for National Voluntary Agencies
950.401 Purpose.
950.403 General requirements for national agencies.
950.405 Specific requirements.
950.407 Application requirements.
950.409 Public announcement of recognized agencies and assigned periods.

Appendix A—Source of Funds and Costs Report.

Appendix B—Certificate.

Subpart E—The Local Combined Federal Campaign

- 950.501 Authorized local voluntary agencies.
950.503 Participation in Federal campaigns by local affiliated agencies.
950.505 Responsibility of local Federal coordinating committees.
950.507 Local CFC plan.
950.509 Organizing the local campaign: The Principal Combined Fund Organization.
950.511 Basic local CFC ground rules.
950.513 Contributions.
950.515 Dollar goals.
950.517 Suggested giving guides and voluntary giving.
950.519 Central receipt and accounting for contributions.
950.521 Campaign and publicity materials.
950.523 Payroll withholding.
950.525 National coordination and reporting.

Authority: E.O. 12353

Subpart A—Administration and General Provisions

§ 950.101 Definitions.

For purposes of this Part:

(a) The term "national voluntary health and welfare agencies and such other national voluntary agencies as may be appropriate" means national entities that:

(1) Meet all eligibility requirements established in this Part, except as limited hereinafter;

(2) Are not "action" organizations within the meaning of 26 CFR 1.501(c)

(3)—1(c) (3) and are eligible to receive tax deductible contributions under 26 U.S.C. 170; and

(3) Provide or substantially support one or more of the following services:

(i) Relief of needy, poor or indigent children and of orphans, including adoption services;

(ii) Relief of needy, poor or indigent adults; and of the elderly;

(iii) Delivery of health care to the needy, poor, indigent, ill or infirm;

(iv) Education and training of personnel for the delivery of health care to the needy, poor and indigent;

(v) Health research;

(vi) Education, training, care and relief of physically and mentally handicapped persons;

(vii) Delivery of legal services to the poor and indigent, and defense of human and civil rights secured by law;

(viii) Relief of victims of crime, war, casualty, famine, natural disasters, and other catastrophes;

(ix) Treatment, care, rehabilitation, and counseling of juvenile delinquents, criminals, released convicts, persons who abuse drugs or alcohol, persons who are otherwise in need of social adjustment and rehabilitation, and the families of such persons;

(x) Assistance, consistent with the mission of the Department of Defense, to members of the armed forces and their families;

(xi) Protection of families in short or long-term need of family and child care services, child and marriage counseling, foster care, and management and maintenance of the home;

(xii) Neighborhood and community-wide services which assist the needy as part of the whole community, including provision of emergency relief and shelter, recreation, safety, transportation, and the preparation or delivery of meals;

(xiii) Information and counseling with respect to the obtaining of any of the foregoing services; or

(xiv) Lessening the burdens of government with respect to the provisions of any of the foregoing services.

(b) Campaign terms:

"Director" shall mean the Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management, or his delegate;

"Employee" shall mean any person employed by the government of the United States or any branch, unit, or instrumentality thereof, including persons in the civil service and in the uniform services;

"Combined Federal Campaign" or "Campaign" or "CFC" shall mean the fund-raising program established and administered by the Director pursuant to Executive Order 12353, and any subsidiary units of such program;

"Community" shall mean a community that is defined either by generally recognized geographic bounds or by its relationship to an isolated government installation;

"Direct Contributions" shall mean gifts, in cash or in donated in-kind material, given by individuals and/or other non-governmental sources directly to the spending health and welfare organization.

"Indirect Contributions" shall mean gifts, in cash or in donated in-kind





Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation
329 Eighth Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

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VIETNAM VETERANS
OF AMERICA FOUNDATION:
AIMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JUNE 1982

Vietnam Veterans of America was created in 1978 to help a new group of immigrants find a home in America. From 1964 to 1975 they came in a steady stream from serving their country in Vietnam but often found the kind of hostile or indifferent reception that other unwelcome immigrants have found. Like their predecessors, many of these immigrants found it necessary to deny their heritage and become Americans without a past, fading into the long line of seekers after the American Dream. Many have realized that dream and many have not, but most have recognized a need to acknowledge their heritage—to come to terms with both the pride and the pain of military service for the United States in Vietnam.

Vietnam Veterans of America is a national organization exclusively devoted to the welfare of Vietnam era veterans. (Vietnam era veterans are those who served in the U. S. armed forces from 1964 to 1975.) It has four purposes. The first is to provide mechanisms through which Vietnam veterans can develop positive identification with their Vietnam service and with their peers who served with them. The second is to deal with the physical, psychological and economic consequences of the war for Vietnam veterans. The third is to effect basic reform in the governmental and private institutions that have major impact on the lives of veterans. Finally, VVA is working to insure that the lessons that have been learned in the Vietnam experience are considered as future decisions in foreign and defense policy are made. This paper will discuss the issues we feel are important to address in each category, provide examples of our work to date in dealing with those issues and our future plans.

I. COMING HOME

Since the Civil War no domestic or foreign undertaking has caused such division among Americans as the Vietnam War. Most Americans have viewed serious discussion of the war and its consequences as the equivalent of opening a Pandora's box. The nation has, as a whole, yet to come to terms with a crucial decade of recent history.

Because most Americans avoid working through the war and its meaning, most Vietnam veterans also avoid it. Legacies of Vietnam: Comparative Adjustment of Veterans and Their Peers, the exhaustive national study commissioned from the Center For Policy Research by the Veterans Administration, and released in March 1981, confirms this. They state that, "the majority of Vietnam veterans in our sample—about two-thirds—have not probed their experience very deeply. It is fair to say that most of the working through of this war is yet to be done."

The study also confirmed VVA's observation that even those who have successfully readjusted to society were negatively affected by this reluctance to delve deeply into their war experiences. The researchers report that, "throughout the country, however, we find Vietnam veterans who appear at first to be untroubled, only to reveal on closer scrutiny that they are trying to avoid issues that may actually disturb them."

Our task in addressing these problems is twofold. We must educate the public on the special needs and concerns of Vietnam veterans and stimulate them to consider the war and its consequences. We must make it possible for more Vietnam veterans to work through war experiences. Our other work greatly depends on success in these tasks.

Much of our attention has been placed on getting the media to focus some of the coverage lavished on the war to its aftermath. By any measure, of either quantity or quality, we have been quite successful and expect to continue to be. Numerous articles have appeared and will continue to appear in The New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal, Philadelphia Inquirer, Los Angeles Times,

Detroit Free Press, Chicago Tribune, Atlanta Constitution, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Houston Chronicle, and other newspapers. Time, Newsweek and U. S. News and World Report have all had major features on Vietnam veterans.

With broadcast media, VVA has had representatives on Today, Good Morning America, the Phil Donahue Show, CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, CBS Morning News, 20/20, and numerous local radio and television outlets. Mike Wallace of 60-Minutes accompanied the VVA delegation to Vietnam in May 1982 and will be producing several segments for broadcast in the fall of 1982.

Much progress in public understanding of veterans and their issues has come through our work with artists, film makers, actors, playwrights, directors, painters, photographers, writers and others. One example of this activity is the instrumental role VVA has played in the origin and success of the Veterans Ensemble Theatre Company (VETCO). VETCO is a nonprofit group of professional theatre artists, most of whom are veterans of the Vietnam War. As a repertory company, VETCO presents productions of plays, both classical and contemporary, aimed at opening channels of communication between those who went to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and those who did not.

The company also generates new works, including those of its own members. One of the most important theatrical producers in America, Joseph Papp of the New York Shakespeare Festival, has been a strong supporter of this aspect of VETCO work. Mr. Papp has demonstrated this support through supporting a VETCO production, "Ten Good Men," by John Sedlek. He also accompanied the VVA delegation to Vietnam and has indicated future support for VETCO's work.

Aside from providing much of the original funding for initiating VETCO, VVA has been directly involved in theatrical productions. We co-produced with Mr. Papp a retrospective of plays about Vietnam entitled, "From 'Hair' to Dispatches" in 1979. Terri Garr, Melba Moore, Robert Alan Ackerman, and Elizabeth Swados were among the artists participating as volunteers in this critically acclaimed performance.

VVA has also provided crucial technical assistance in the production of the general release film, Coming Home. VVA also initiated and owns the copyright to the project that resulted in the publication by Random House of an oral history of the war by 33 Vietnam veterans entitled, Everything We Had.

Musicians have also worked with Vietnam Veterans of America to place the emotional issue of Vietnam and its veterans before the American people in a way that is immediate and visceral. Bruce Springsteen, Pat Benatar and the Charlie Daniels Band have all performed benefit concerts for VVA in 1981 that have also been quite helpful in fundraising. These artists and others will probably continue to work with us in the future. At present, for instance, several hundred radio stations are broadcasting public service announcements for VVA recorded by Leon Everett and Bruce Springsteen.

The concerts also have begun the process of bridging the gap between veterans and those of their generation who did not serve in the military. An example in the report of the Springsteen concert in the October 1, 1981 issue of Rolling Stone they quote Springsteen as saying:

"It's like when you're walking down a dark street at night, and out of the corner of your eye you see somebody getting hurt in a dark alley. But you keep walking on because you think it don't have nothing to do with you and you just want to get home. Vietnam turned this whole country into that dark street, and unless we can walk down those dark alleys and look into the eyes of those men and women, we're never gonna get home."

VVA has also promoted and assisted ceremonial recognition of the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans. The impetus for Vietnam Veterans' Week in 1979 came from VVA initiatives with Congress. The presence of 400 veterans at a White House ceremony was extremely important symbolically. Those celebrations also gave birth to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, whose dedication in the fall of 1982 will be the occasion for additional public events. Many local and state VVA chapters have inspired establishment of numerous memorials and occasions for public recognition.

All of these activities help bring the war home and bring veterans home from the war. To be effective in the long term, however, they must have a solid base in the communities where veterans live. Therefore, VVA has built, and will continue to build, a system of local and statewide chapters. At present there are 58 local chapters in 21 states. Three of those states have state councils and eight more will be formed by the summer of 1982.

VVA members come from a wide spectrum of income levels, political beliefs, religions, professions and ethnic groups and often have as difficult a time as other Americans in reaching a consensus. But, in the process of organizing a successful chapter, they must find a community of interest. That process allows many members to come to terms with their Vietnam experience. Local chapters become support groups and provide the kind and quality of caring concern that cannot be found elsewhere.

II. ADDRESSING THE WAR'S CONSEQUENCES

The development of chapters is also an integral part of our efforts aimed at accomplishing our second purpose—addressing the physical, psychological and economic consequences of the war for Vietnam veterans. This is because national organizations which represent their constituencies effectively over the long term must have a coordinated national, regional, and local structure. Groups which have a large national membership often are effective in securing changes favorable to that membership through legislation, litigation, administrative or regulatory change or other actions by national governmental or private organizations. However, if there is no well established regional and local structure, those national victories become less useful over time for two reasons. First, implementation of decisions quite often occurs at the local level and if pressure is not exerted locally, the effect of the change is sometimes not felt at all, or only minimally. Secondly, efforts that are made to alter or repeal the original decision can be most effectively defended if grass roots support is quickly and easily mobilized.

Vigorous local chapters can also ensure that the national organization keeps closely in touch with its constituency. Local chapters can also sometimes achieve changes or innovation in local and state governments and private organizations that can be used as models for later national changes. Some local VVA chapters have already developed such pioneering programs. In the description of our work in addressing the consequences of the war that follow, there will be illustrations of some of those programs.

Reference will also be made to our work with Congress. Much of our success in advancing the interests of Vietnam veterans legislatively has come from our initiative in stimulating the creation of Vietnam Veterans in Congress. Formed in 1978 through the efforts of VVA, Representative David Bonior (D-MI) and Representative John Murtha (D-PA) this bipartisan caucus now has 29 members in the House and five in the Senate.

Binding the Wounds

Of the 2,800,000 Americans who saw duty in Vietnam, over 57,000 died. Although medical care in the field was more advanced than in previous wars, over 300,000 did not recover from their wounds and are permanently disabled. Those are the obvious and recognizable casualties of the war.

Other physical consequences have been more difficult to establish. The most controversial issue has been the question of possible long-term health effects of the use of herbicides in Vietnam.

During the years 1962 through 1970, 12,000,000 gallons of a defoliant, referred to as "Agent Orange" (2,4,5-T), were sprayed throughout South Vietnam to deny the enemy food and cover. The defoliant contained a chemical, a particular dioxin called TCDD.

Studies in the late 1960's and through the 1970's had found TCDD to be one of, if not the single, most toxic chemicals known to man. Its extensive use throughout Vietnam may, in the end, be the largest environmental catastrophe of the "chemical age."

Scientific research throughout the last decade has recently led the Environmental Protection Agency to use, for the first time, the Emergency Suspension Order, its most powerful remedial tool, to remove defoliants containing dioxin from the domestic market, without prior notice to manufacturers.

The dramatic EPA action gives American citizens significant new protection against future harms, but it leaves untouched the fundamental question of what to do about individuals who have been exposed to it and are now suffering from the health consequences of that exposure. Frighteningly, Agent Orange, the military defoliant, not only contained much more TCDD than the defoliant that has been recently used in America, but according to a 1978 Air Force study, it was applied in much higher concentrations than the domestic agricultural spraying.

The Veterans Administration estimates that 2.4 million veterans served in Vietnam during the years Agent Orange was used. The General Accounting Office recently concluded that nearly ten percent of a randomly selected population studies were either in the area of spraying or there within four weeks. Further, it was recently admitted that some ninety Air Force Missions, aborted for various reasons, simply dumped their lethal cargoes of Agent Orange on our own troops. The final figures on these incidents are yet to be established.

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange are now suffering from a series of symptoms that seem to be related to that exposure. The symptoms include: an acne-type rash called chloracne; liver dysfunction; cancer; sexual dysfunctioning and disorders of the nervous system. Children of men subjected to this exposure have suffered polygenetic birth defects. They most commonly include open spines, holes in the interior walls of the heart, cleft palates, and in rare instances, flipper arms, lack of anal openings or vaginal openings and deformed or missing penises.

Despite these horrible consequences, the Veterans Administration delayed recognizing the dimensions of the problem and avoided taking serious measures until forced by publicity or pressure. One example of that was VVA testifying before the House Interstate Commerce Committee in 1979 as the lead-off witness in the first major hearings on Agent Orange.

At first the VA was grudging in its admission of the scientific uncertainties of this issue and unbending in its outright dismissal of nearly all Agent Orange claims filed by individual veterans. While the VA told Congress it would give "careful and sympathetic consideration" to veterans' claims of herbicide-caused illnesses, the experience of veterans presenting Agent Orange complaints at VA facilities was almost uniformly bad.

Veterans were poorly received and told that the issue was phony. They were given less than the prescribed series of tests. Over half the Vietnam veterans questions in two separate surveys had negative or hostile attitudes toward the VA.

The Veterans Administration's attempts to deny and belittle the needs of veterans in this area forced us to devote major resources to Agent Orange programs. One area in which we have had, and will continue to have, a large impact is in outreach.

In May 1980 we began a nationwide effort to reach Vietnam veterans concerned about Agent Orange through a toll-free "800" number. Outreach was conducted through news stories, public service announcements and special mailings.

The results were overwhelming. In the first three weeks alone over 4,000 veterans contacted the Outreach Project. The various media provided various endorsements. A major AP story ran in papers across the country, including The New York Times. Major regional papers, like Newsday, The Detroit Free Press and The Cleveland Plain Dealer, did special stories on the subject. Radio and television stations tested the system with blind calls, succeeded, and then carried their own Public Service Announcements describing it.

Three months before we started this program and three years after the first stories began to appear, Max Cleland, then Administrator of the Veterans Administration, appeared before the House Veterans Affairs Committee to announce that the Veterans Administration had an Agent Orange Screening Program at Veterans Administration medical centers. The program consisted mainly of a physical exam with emphasis placed on skin disorders, liver dysfunctions and possible tumors. But, in his testimony, Mr. Cleland said that less than 10,000 veterans had taken advantage of it.

In September of 1980, just five months after Vietnam Veterans of America established the hotline, Mr. Cleland once again appeared before Congress and testified that 30,000 veterans had contacted the Veterans Administration either for an Agent Orange exam or for information about Agent Orange. Because of the national outreach program of the Vietnam Veterans of America and state-wide outreach programs such as in Minnesota, the number of people using this service more than doubled. The figure is now well over 75,000.

VVA has also continued to monitor the actions of the Veterans Administration and Congress on Agent Orange issues, encouraged additional media coverage and assisted in the litigation efforts of the National Veterans Law Center and others. These efforts have begun to bear fruit. The responsiveness of the VA to individual veterans requesting assistance for Agent Orange-related problems has improved significantly. In addition, VVA pressure has resulted in the creation of the Agent Orange Work Group of the Cabinet Council on Human Resources. They are coordinating several major studies on personnel involved in handling and spraying Agent Orange, on birth defects among veterans' children, U. S. ground troops and other issues. VVA is either participating or monitoring most of that research.

Directly related to those efforts is the remarkable agreement VVA reached with the government of Vietnam in the trip our delegation made in December 1981. That agreement, made in meetings with the Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and other government officials will allow for scientific research on the effects of Agent Orange on the Vietnamese people and environment. If such research can be accomplished it will provide a vital complement to the studies currently underway domestically. The Vietnam Science Council, under the leadership of Leslie Platt, former legal advisor to the Agent Orange Work Group, and Joan Bernstein, former General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, has been established by Vietnam Veterans of America as an independent, nonprofit scientific body to determine the feasibility of such research and to see that it is satisfactorily undertaken.

We will also continue our efforts to uncover the causes of other physical problems of Vietnam veterans. Some of these are: other herbicides used in Vietnam (such as Agent Blue with a high arsenic content); dapsone (an anti-malarial drug with adverse side effects reported in scientific literature); aflatoxin (a natural toxin that sometimes occurs in rice in Southeast Asia); melioidosis (a sometimes life-threatening disease caused by bacteria native to Southeast Asia); as well as drug and/or alcohol use among servicemen.

Mental Health

Drug and alcohol abuse are, of course, also related to the negative psychological effects of the war. The Center For Policy Research study revealed that 41% of returning combat veterans were found to have persisting psychological, drug or related problems. Other statistical surveys show that the suicide rate for Vietnam veterans is historically higher than for their nonveteran peer group. Vietnam "combat veterans have a higher arrest rate," and are "the most frequently convicted," according to the Center For Policy Research study.

Perhaps the most significant indicator of the psychological burden left by the war is that between 700,000 and 800,000 are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Dr. John P. Wilson of the Department of Psychology of Cleveland State University is the pioneer researcher on the effects of Vietnam service on delayed stress syndrome. He describes PTSD in this way:

PTSD is a dynamic survivor response to the catastrophic stressors experienced in the war and to the intense social stressors after it. The symptoms which define the PTSD syndrome among Vietnam veterans are virtually identical to those observed among the survivors of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima, Korean P.O.W. camps, the Nazi holocaust and the Buffalo Creek Dam disaster. Specifically, however, the symptoms of PTSD among Vietnam veterans include such characteristics as: psychic or emotional numbing or anesthesia; depression - feelings of helplessness, apathy, dejection, withdrawal, isolation; anger - rage, hostility; anxiety - and specific fears associated with combat experiences . . ."

As in our work on dealing with the physical consequences of Vietnam service, we have engaged in direct outreach service, stimulated government action, improved the research data base and taken legal actions to address the psychological burden borne by Vietnam veterans.

One example is the program of psychological readjustment counseling run by the Veterans Administration. This program was passed in 1979 after a long effort by VVA and others to convince Congress of the need for it. The legislation created the Vet Centers, storefront offices for counseling and referral outside the VA hospital system. VVA staff have served as members of the national core faculty for training Vet Center teams.

In 1981 VVA led the successful fight to keep open the 91 centers, which have counseled over 52,000 veterans, when the Reagan Administration attempted to eliminate them as part of the budget cutbacks.

In addition to the overwhelming victory in Congress (380-0 in the House and 98-0 in the Senate) against an Administration that in 1981 was practically invincible in that arena, we also prevailed in the courts. VVA and eleven members of Congress successfully sued to prevent David Stockman of the Office of Management and Budget from impounding funds for the Vet Centers.

VVA has also worked to increase the awareness of professional therapists of the special psychological needs of Vietnam veterans. Frequent speaking engagements, the organization of seminars and assistance in research design are among those efforts.

An illustration was our Back in the World Program in 1980. This program extended the work of an existing, highly successful experimental program to achieve the following: (1) establish a direct outreach program to Vietnam veterans; (2) provide direct therapeutic services to local Vietnam veterans; (3) provide community education and involvement concerning the nature and consequences of problems faced by these individuals; (4) further the development of an effective treatment model for Vietnam veterans; and (5) educate the professional community in the analysis and therapeutic response to these problems.

Although this program was limited to veterans in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, it has proved to be a useful model for other areas. It has also given us some local resources for referral of Vietnam veterans who call or come into our offices. Much essential staff time is spent in responding to those inquiries as many veterans feel VVA is the only sympathetic resource available.

VVA has also intervened as Amici in criminal cases involving the use of post-traumatic stress disorders as a defense. Several cases, including U.S.A. v. Peter L. Krutschewski have established significant precedents useful as guidance to the judicial system.

U. S. District Court Judge D. J. Skinner saw the need for significant changes in the parole system in his decision. He said:

"I have carefully considered the amicus brief of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. It may well be that special consideration should be given to war veterans who have made great sacrifices for their country. It seems to me that if greater 'individualization' is to be given in such cases than I have already applied in the case of Mr. Krutschewski, it should be a matter of national policy, not randomly case by case."

Reducing Educational and Economic Gaps

Having been in combat also has an effect on the economic well-being of Vietnam veterans. Legacies of Vietnam, concluded "that military duty in Vietnam had a negative effect on post-military achievement."

In regard to education, the study found that 53% of combat veterans did not return to school following their discharge, as opposed to 31% of noncombat veterans. Comparing veterans with nonveterans of the same peer groups, nearly half of all nonveterans have graduated from college, while only slightly more than a fifth of the veterans have. One-third of the nonveterans have gone on to graduate or professional schools, but only one-tenth of their veteran peers have done so.

Unemployment and underemployment is also a residual effect of the war. The unemployment rate has been historically higher for veterans than for their nonveteran peers. As to underemployment, the Legacies of Vietnam survey revealed that, "In the competition for high-level jobs, nonveterans are markedly more successful than veterans. Among veterans, era veterans are somewhat more successful than Vietnam veterans."

VVA first turned its attention to the federal government in attempting to deal with this issue. However, most government job programs targeted toward Vietnam veterans have had disappointing results at best. In January, 1977 it was promised that 35% of new CETA jobs would go to Vietnam veterans: the actual figure attained was seven percent. A HIRE program was put into effect with the goal of creating 100,000 jobs for veterans in private industry: nearly two years after its announcement, only 136 jobs had been created. A \$20,000,000 Outreach program found jobs for only 500 of 21,000 jobless veterans who were seriously disabled.

We have not abandoned entirely our hopes that national efforts will be useful, but given the results to date, the declining economy and the successful efforts of the Reagan Administration to end or severely limit such programs, we have turned our attention to the local level. Several local VVA chapters, such as the one in Rochester, New York, have achieved a remarkable placement rate through low-cost or no-cost peer counseling. The networks formed through contact with other veterans who have been successful in business have also proved useful for Vietnam veteran job seekers.

One of the reasons we feel such volunteer efforts can be effective is the experience with the Targeted Technical Assistance Program (TTA). TTA was designed and strongly supported by VVA to increase veterans' participation in CETA. It had a very low cost per placement relative to other CETA programs. It was more effective because Vietnam veterans only needed counseling and peer reinforcement while other targeted groups of the unemployed needed extensive (and expensive) training.

VVA has also been active in promoting government support of Vietnam veterans as entrepreneurs. A law passed in 1974 created the Task Force on Special Consideration for Veterans in the Small Business Administration, but it was never implemented. Because Vietnam Veterans of America has been designated by the Veterans Administration as a Veteran Service Organization, it became a Task Force member. Immediately, it asked the Small Business Administration when it intended to comply with the law, which mandated management assistance, training, loans, loan guarantees and special consideration to veterans. At a meeting of all representative groups on September 23, 1981, a Vietnam Veterans of America representative became co-chairman of the Subcommittee on Management Assistance and Training. As a result, the SBA Director has signed a directive implementing the law.

Minority and Women Veterans

A special concern of Vietnam Veterans of America has been the fact that racial and ethnic minorities carried a disproportionately large share of the burden during the Vietnam War and have suffered even more than other veterans the consequences of serving in that war. For instance, the Center For Policy Research report revealed that, "the unemployment rate of black veterans, however, was three times that of white veterans. Unemployment was especially high among black veterans who served in Vietnam." Legacies of Vietnam also concluded that, "black veterans are much more likely than white veterans to hold secondary (undesirable and insecure) jobs or entry-level priority jobs."

The same report also found differences in the long-term stress reactions to the war. The Center For Policy Research says that "blacks and Chicanos were more stressed than whites; being in Vietnam was as stressful for blacks as being in combat for whites."

Although we do not believe the types of issues and methods of addressing them are fundamentally different, VVA feels that it is important to engage in special outreach to minority Vietnam veterans to deal with the additional burden they carry in regard to education, employment, physical and mental health. We have, and will continue, to ensure that those needs are emphasized in our research, public information, organizing, and advocacy efforts.

One group of veterans whose needs have been almost totally ignored are the women who served in Vietnam. An example of their official invisibility is the fact that the otherwise extremely useful and authoritative study quoted in this paper, Legacies of Vietnam: Comparative Adjustment of Veterans and their Peers, did not examine the war experiences of women at all. When Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) requested information on VVA's behalf on the number of women who served in Vietnam, the reply came from John Beary, Assistant Secretary of Defense. He said, "While the new numbers are substantially higher than those provided previously, no one can assure you whether this is a complete listing."

Irrespective of their numbers, communication with VVA members who are women and other women veterans indicate that many of them have the same problems with readjustment, Agent Orange and post-traumatic stress disorders that trouble male veterans. Vietnam Veterans of America is now engaged in special outreach and research programs that will help give us a clearer picture of the meaning of service in Vietnam to women. We have established a National Steering Committee on Women Vietnam Veterans.

One of its central concerns will be the Veterans Administration. Informal surveys and preliminary results from a General Accounting Office study we stimulated, have convinced us that the VA does not live up to its obligation to provide medical service to women. For instance, few Veterans Administration hospitals provide gynecological services.

III. REFORM OF THE INSTITUTIONS AFFECTING VETERANS

Women are not, however, the only veterans whose needs are neglected and interests ill-served by the Veterans Administration. Reform of that bureaucracy is the major focus of the third purpose of Vietnam Veterans of America—fundamental reform of the governmental and private institutions that have a major impact on the lives of veterans.

In 1980 the National Survey of Veterans revealed that Vietnam veterans have a low opinion of and utilize, reluctantly, Veterans Administration facilities and services. Forty percent of Vietnam veterans were eligible for services at the time of the survey, but only 8.5% were hospitalized in VA institutions, just 5.3% sought outpatient treatment and 6% received treatment under joint VA and non-VA auspices. This is a total of less than half of those eligible. Further, only half of those who used the services found them satisfactory.

Such widely varying groups as the National Academy of Science, the General Accounting Office and the Heritage Foundation have found fault with both the conceptual framework and the actual performance of the Veterans Administration.

An example is the 1977 National Academy of Sciences' study of the VA health care system. When first established in 1922, there was a shortage of general health care facilities for veterans. The purpose of the system was to provide the best possible health care, not necessarily to perpetuate an exclusive and segregated health care sector. Not only has it been failing to provide the best health care, but the system is now largely devoted to nonservice related problems of progressively older patients.

Agenda for Progress, a 1981 publication of the Heritage Foundation, points out that 85% of all veterans hospitalizations take place outside the VA system. In addition, only one-sixth of the patients inside the system are there for service-connected disabilities and that the costs for treating patients are higher per case than in private hospitals. Given the clear preference of veterans for non-VA treatment and the enormous increase in budget outlays required as the majority of World War II veterans reach 65, the continuation of a massive bureaucracy of 144 general hospitals, 28 psychiatric hospitals, 16 domiciliaries, 97 nursing homes and 229 outpatient clinics must be questioned.

Other questions must be raised about compensation payments and pensions to veterans and their survivors with no service-related disability. VVA is the only veterans group that has challenged that which is considered inviolably sacred by most traditional veteran groups.

We are developing long-range strategies to address these questions. It is clear that changes will come slowly and that they must be carefully assessed and prepared for. In the interim, we are pushing for two changes which will make the system somewhat better.

First, VVA agrees with the General Accounting Office proposal to place an ombudsman in each VA hospital to monitor conditions and abuses and help correct individual problems. VVA is also urging that veterans be allowed the right to judicial review for claims denied by the Veterans Administration, a right currently denied to the detriment of justice for veterans.

We are also beginning to work on the inside to improve the functioning of the VA. In 1981 VVA was recognized as a Veterans Service Organization by the Veterans Administration. This gives us official status to place our staff, along with those of other veterans groups in VA facilities to represent veterans in their claims with VA and in referrals to other useful groups.

IV. APPLYING THE LESSONS LEARNED IN VIETNAM

VVA is already looking beyond the return and readjustment of Vietnam veterans and the reform of institutions affecting them to the more complex and difficult task of applying the lessons learned in Vietnam to future American policy. Opening the dialogue with the Government of Vietnam illustrates our willingness to take calculated risks with the support of our constituency where the issues are of overriding importance to make that goal real.

Part of the impact of Vietnam can be seen in the contrast between the energy and hope of the early 1960's and the frustration and confusion widely apparent now. The detour in the individual lives of members of the war generation was also a detour in the life of the country as a whole. Out of the ravages in their own lives, Vietnam veterans have a special stake in recapturing the sense of what the country can become. The maturity and humility which often came out of that experience are critical to an appreciation of where we are now and where we have been. The more intensely veterans were shaped by the war, the more they have been immunized against its trials and mistakes. The more selfless their motives and sacrifice, the deeper are likely to be the contributions they can make in the future. By tapping the resource of that experience, some of the momentum and spirit drowned in the quagmire may yet be restored.

Our own members disagree as to both how the United States reached this stage and what can and should be done. But we have learned much about military and foreign policy as it really impacts other countries that are the objects of that policy and as it affects Americans and America. We do not pretend to have the answer but we do know many of the questions. We shall be more and more vocal in asking them in the future and will develop with our membership specific policy analyses as appropriate.

Vietnam Veterans of America has taken on a gargantuan task in addressing our four purposes. We have had many successes and some failures. We are learning to be a new kind of veterans group—not just a trade association concerned with the narrow interests of our members, but also with the broader implications of our experiences as Vietnam veterans and American citizens. Failure to fully realize that goal would not have the impact on the United States that the Vietnam War had, but we believe that success will have meaning for many more than the 2,800,000 American immigrants from Vietnam.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

**Staff Roster
June 1982**

**Robert Muller
Executive Director**

**Greg Kane
Director of Operations**

**John F. Terzano
Director - Washington Office**

**Richard F. Weidman
Membership Services Director**

**Lynda Van Devanter
Director - Community Service Programs**

**Louise Coffey
Bookkeeper**

**Mary Lane
Administrative Assistant**

**Ken Berez
Administrative Assistant**

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

Auditors Report

To April 30, 1982

TANKLOW, HOLLENDER & COMPANY

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

490 SEVENTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

PHONE (212) 594-7520

To the Board of Directors of
Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation

We have examined the balance sheet of Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation as of April 30, 1982, and the related statements of support, revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances, of changes in financial position, and of functional expenses for the year then ended. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying statements present fairly the financial position of Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation at April 30, 1982 and the results of its operations and changes in its financial position for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Tanklow, Hollender & Company

New York, N.Y.
June 1st, 1982

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT APRIL 30, 1982

A S S E T S

Current Assets

Cash in bank	\$ 3,010
Investments - Money Market Fund	446
Advances to Affiliate	<u>77,725</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 81,181

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Current Liabilities

Loans payable	\$ 4,000
---------------	----------

Fund Balance

77,181

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

\$ 81,181

The appended letter and accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES, EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1982

Support and Revenue

Fund Raising Events	\$272,731
Contributions	20,692
Grants	35,000
Speaking engagements	3,458
Interest income	<u>446</u>

Total Support and Revenue

\$332,327

Expenses

Program services	177,952
Management and general	24,884
Fund raising	<u>58,912</u>

Total Expenses

261,748

Excess of Support and
Revenue over Expenses

70,579

Fund Balance - beginning
of Year

6,602

FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR

\$ 77,181

The appended letter and accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1982

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Manage- ment and General</u>	<u>Fund Raising</u>	<u>Total</u>
Occupancy	\$ 11,186	\$ 3,600	\$	\$ 14,786
Telephone	22,014	4,800	2,400	29,214
Travel and hotels	50,781	1,200	1,200	53,181
Equipment leasing	8,657	2,400		11,057
Specific assistance projects	7,548			7,548
Printing and publica- tions	15,724	600	2,000	18,324
Fund raising			52,112	52,112
Office and postage	15,422	2,400	1,200	19,022
Consultants fees	36,602			36,602
Professional fees		9,314		9,314
Registration fees		570		570
Film Production	<u>10,018</u>			<u>10,018</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$177,952</u>	<u>\$ 24,884</u>	<u>\$ 58,912</u>	<u>\$261,748</u>

The appended letter and accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1982

Working Capital Provided By Operations:

Excess of Support and Revenues over Expenses	<u>\$ 70,579</u>
<u>Increase in Working Capital</u>	<u>\$ 70,579</u>

Components of Changes In Working Capital
 Increase in Current Assets -

Cash	\$ 1,044
Investments - Money Market Fund	446
Advances to Affiliate	<u>73,089</u>
	<u>74,579</u>
(Increase) in Current Liabilities Loans payable	(<u>4,000</u>)
<u>Increase in Working Capital</u>	<u>\$ 70,579</u>

The appended letter and accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
APRIL 30, 1982

Note 1 - Organization and Operations

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation was incorporated May 5, 1980. The organization serves as a national clearing house for information concerning the Vietnam veteran and matters of concern to the veteran particularly as they relate to the Vietnam War experience. Such information gathering includes compiling information about books, films, plays, articles, studies, etc. relevant to the Vietnam experience. The organization disseminates this information through symposiums, conferences, lecture tours, plays, and other educational and cultural expressions including books, special publications, films, slide shows, exhibits and others.

The organization sponsors studies and research work on matters of concern and related to the socio/economic welfare and readjustment of the Vietnam-era veteran. All such research and studies is non-partisan and for educational purposes to foster greater understanding of the Vietnam veteran's experiences and needs.

The organization carries out educational activities which serve to promote recognition and appreciation by the public of the service rendered by the Vietnam-era veteran, which serve to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against the Vietnam-era veteran and which serve to promote the general welfare of the Vietnam veteran and his family.

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation
329 Eighth Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

(202) 546-3700

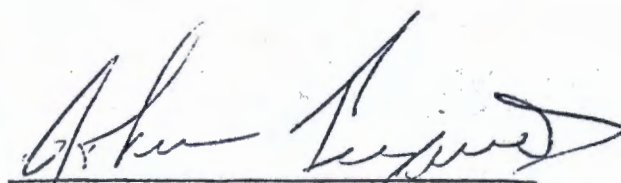
STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

WITH

5 CFR 950

This is to certify that the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation complies with 5 CFR 950.101(a)(2) and with 5 CFR 950.403 through 5 CFR 950.405.

Particularly we comply with 950.405(a)(6)(b) and all other factors concerning fund raising practice in 5 CFR 950. Specifically, we do not allow for unauthorized use of our contributor lists, do not permit payment of commission kick-backs, finders fees, percentages, bonuses or overrides for fund raisers, nor do we solicit public contributions through general telephone campaigns.



John Terzano
Director of the National
Office

TANKLOW, HOLLENDER & COMPANY

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

450 SEVENTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10001

(212) 594-7520

WILLIAM TANKLOW, CPA
ALEX HOLLENDER, CPA
JOSE FERNANDEZ, CPA
EDWARD JACOBOWITZ, CPA

July 16, 1982

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation
329 Eighth Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

I certify that the above named organization has adopted and has prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Standards of Accounting & Financial Reporting For Voluntary Health & Welfare Organizations (1974 edition) prepared and published by The National Health Council, Inc., The National Assembly of National Voluntary Health & Welfare Organizations, Inc. and The United Way of America.

Very truly yours,

Tanklow, Hollender & Company

TANKLOW, HOLLENDER & COMPANY

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Fully Accredited Chapters *

July 1, 1982

COLORADO

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter # 57
1436 Colorado Avenue #2
Grand Junction, CO 81501

FLORIDA

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #23
400 E. Prospect Road
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #25
P.O. Box 15934
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

ILLINOIS

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #52
R.R.2 Box 29
Sainte Anne, IL 60964

IOWA

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #64
1109 25th Street
Sioux City, IA 51104

MASSACHUSETTS

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #50
15 Franklin
Greenfield, MA 01301

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #65
P.O. Box 62
Housatonic, MA 01236

MASSACHUSETTS continued

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #54
P.O. Box 1515
North Adams, MA 01247

MICHIGAN

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #30
P.O. Box 12268
Lansing, MI 48901

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #31
1045 Camelot
North Muskegon, MI 49445

MINNESOTA

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #62
P. O. Box 13112
Minneapolis, MN 55414

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #6
P.O. Box 3292
Manchester, NH 03105

NEW JERSEY

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter # 12
104 Highland Avenue
Shark River, NJ 07753

NEW YORK

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter # 20
459 South Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620

OHIO

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter # 16
270 Marconi Boulevard
Columbus, Ohio 43215

PENNSYLVANIA

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter # 67
141 East Parkway Avenue
Chester, PA 19013**

WISCONSIN

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #5
Route 5, Box 83
Eau Claire, WI 54701**

* Fifty additional chapters in twelve additional states are in the process of incorporation, expected to be completed by Fall, 1982.

Internal Revenue Service
District Director

Department of the Treasury

Date:

AUG 27 1980

Employer Identification Number:

Accounting Period Ending:

April 30

Foundation Status Classification:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi) and 509(a)(1)

Advance Ruling Period Ends:

April 30, 1982

Person to Contact:

EP/EO:7202:L. Wolpert

Contact Telephone Number: M-80-EO-709

212 264 1872

Case #13017127EO

Vietnam Veterans of America
Foundation
212 Fifth Avenue Rm-703
New York, New York 10010

Dear Applicant:

Based on information supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Because you are a newly created organization, we are not now making a final determination of your foundation status under section 509(a) of the Code. However, we have determined that you can reasonably be expected to be a publicly supported organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) and 509(a)(1)

Accordingly, you will be treated as a publicly supported organization, and not as a private foundation, during an advance ruling period. This advance-ruling period begins on the date of your inception and ends on the date shown above.

Within 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period, you must submit to us information needed to determine whether you have met the requirements of the applicable support test during the advance ruling period. If you establish that you have been a publicly supported organization, you will be classified as a section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization as long as you continue to meet the requirements of the applicable support test. If you do not meet the public support requirements during the advance ruling period, you will be classified as a private foundation for future periods. Also, if you are classified as a private foundation, you will be treated as a private foundation from the date of your inception for purposes of sections 507(d) and 4940.

Grantors and donors may rely on the determination that you are not a private foundation until 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period. If you submit the required information within the 90 days, grantors and donors may continue to rely on the advance determination until the Service makes a final determination of your foundation status. However, if notice that you will no longer be treated as a section * * * organization is published in the Internal Revenue Bulletin, grantors and donors may not rely on this determination after the date of such publication. Also, a grantor or donor may not rely on this determination if he or she was in part responsible for, or was aware of, the act or failure to act that resulted in your loss of section * * * status, or acquired knowledge that the Internal Revenue Service had given notice that you would be removed from classification as a section * * * organization.

***170(b)(1)(A)(vi) and 509(a)(1)

District Director, Manhattan District

(over)

Letter 1045(DO) (6-77)

If your sources of support, or your purposes, character, or method of operation change, please let us know so we can consider the effect of the change on your exempt status and foundation status. Also, you should inform us of all changes in your name or address.

Generally, you are not liable for social security (FICA) taxes unless you file a waiver of exemption certificate as provided in the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. If you have paid FICA taxes without filing the waiver, you should call us. You are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Organizations that are not private foundations are not subject to the excise taxes under Chapter 42 of the Code. However, you are not automatically exempt from other Federal excise taxes. If you have any questions about excise, employment, or other Federal taxes, please let us know.

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

You are required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, only if your gross receipts each year are normally more than \$10,000. If a return is required, it must be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. The law imposes a penalty of \$10 a day, up to a maximum of \$5,000, when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay.

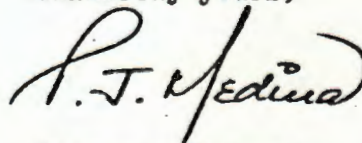
You are not required to file Federal income tax returns unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. If you are subject to this tax, you must file an income tax return on Form 990-T. In this letter, we are not determining whether any of your present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

You need an employer identification number even if you have no employees. If an employer identification number was not entered on your application, a number will be assigned to you and you will be advised of it. Please use that number on all returns you file and in all correspondence with the Internal Revenue Service.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about your exempt status and foundation status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



District Director

cc: Stephen I. Solomon, Esq.
c/o Jarblum Solomon
650 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10019

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF VIETNAM
VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION AND 17 VIETNAM
VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTERS FOR THE FISCAL
YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 1982

	AMOUNT	PERCENT TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE
PUBLIC SUPPORT		
Received Directly		
Contributions.....	\$23, 697	6.2%
Special Events.....	\$295,245	77.5%
Legacies and Bequests.....	\$182	0%
Subtotal.....	\$319, 124	83.7%
Received Indirectly		
Federated campaigns (e.g. United Way) ..	\$0	0%
Federal Service campaigns.....	\$0	0%
Other Contributions.....	\$40, 887	10.8%
Subtotal.....	\$40, 887	10.8%
Total Support from the Public	\$360, 011	94.5%
REVENUE		
Grants from Federal Government Agencies (including grants in-kind).....	\$0	0%
Grants from state or local Government Agencies (including Medicaid).....	\$0	0%
Memberships.....	\$5, 255	1.4%
Program Service Fees (including Medicare) ..	\$0	0%
Sales of Materials and Services to Member Units (net of direct expenses).....	\$0	0%
Transfers, Dues, etc. from affiliated organizations, etc.....	\$0	0%
Sales of Materials and Services to the public (net of direct expenses).....	\$10, 206	2.7%
Investment Income.....	\$446	0.1%
Gains of Investment Transactions.....	\$0	0%
Other Income.....	\$4, 977	1.3%
Total Revenue.....	\$20, 904	5.5%
Total Public Support and Revenue.....	\$380, 915	100%
EXPENSES		
Program Services.....	\$202, 322	53.1%
Subtotal.....	\$202, 322	53.1%
SUPPORTING SERVICES		
Management and General.....	\$33, 194	8.7%
Fundraising.....	\$61, 209	16.1%
Subtotal.....	\$94, 403	24.8%
Total Expenses.....	\$296, 725	77.9%
Excess (deficiency) of public support and revenue over expenses.....	\$84, 190	22.1%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

Robert O. Muller
17 Stoneyview Court
Dix Hills, N.Y. 11746

Disabled Veteran , Lawyer

Gregory Kane
844 Elda Lane
Westbury, N.Y.

Administrator

Thomas A. Bird
268 W. 91st St.
New York, N.Y.

Theater Director

John F. Terzano
922 S. Washington St.
Apt. 103
Alexandria, Va. 22314

Administrator

Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax

1981

Under section 501(c) (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation), of the Internal Revenue Code or section 4947(a)(1) trust

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

For the calendar year 1981 or for its year beginning MAY 1, 1981, and ending APRIL 30, 1982

Use IRS label. Otherwise, please print or type.
50-13-3030278-990 04 3 15 03
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
FOUNDATION
212 FIFTH AVENUE ROOM 703
NEW YORK NY 10010

A Employer identification number (see instruction I) 13-3030278
B State registration number (see instruction D) 49816
C If address changed, check here

D Check applicable box—Exempt under section 501(c) (3) (insert number), OR section 4947(a)(1) trust
E Accounting method: Cash Accrual Other (specify)
F Section 4947(a)(1) trusts filing this form in lieu of Form 1041, check here (see instruction C 10).
G Is this a group return (see instruction J) filed for affiliates? Yes No
H Is this a separate return filed by a group affiliate? Yes No If "Yes" to either, give four-digit group exemption number (GEN)

Note: You may be able to use a copy of this return to satisfy State reporting requirements. See instruction D.
Check here if gross receipts are normally not more than \$10,000. Do not complete the rest of this return (see instruction B11).
Check here if gross receipts are normally more than \$10,000 and line 12 is \$25,000 or less. Complete Parts I (except lines 13-15), III, IV, VI, and VII and only the indicated items in Parts II and V (see instruction I). If line 12 is more than \$25,000, complete the entire return.

Part I Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) trusts must also complete and attach Schedule A (Form 990).

Statement of Support, Revenue, and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

		(A) Total	These columns are optional - see instructions	
			(B) Unrestricted/Expendable	(C) Restricted/Nonexpendable
Support and Revenue	1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received:			
	(a) Direct public support			
	(b) Indirect public support			
	(c) Government grants			
	(d) Total (add lines 1(a) through 1(c)) (attach schedule—see instructions)			
	2 Program service revenue (from Part IV, line (f))	55692 3458		
	3 Membership dues and assessments	446		
	4 Interest on savings and temporary cash investments			
	5 Dividends and interest from securities			
	6 (a) Gross rents			
	(b) Minus: Rental expenses			
	(c) Net rental income (loss)			
7 Other investment income (Describe <input type="checkbox"/> Securities <input type="checkbox"/> Other)				
8 (a) Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory				
	(b) Minus: Cost or other basis and sales expenses			
	(c) Gain (loss) (attach schedule)			
	9 Special fundraising events and activities (attach schedule—see instructions):			
(a) Gross revenue (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1(a))	272,731			
(b) Minus: Direct expenses	44,357			
(c) Net income (line 9(a) minus line 9(b))	228,374			
10 (a) Gross sales minus returns and allowances				
(b) Minus: Cost of goods sold (attach schedule)				
(c) Gross profit (loss)				
11 Other revenue (from Part IV, line (e))	287970			
12 Total revenue (add lines 1(d), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6(c), 7, 8(c), 9(c), 10(c), and 11)	177952 24884 14555			
Expenses	13 Program services (from line 44(B))	217391		
	14 Management and general (from line 44(C))	70576		
	15 Fundraising (from line 44(D))	6602		
	16 Payments to affiliates (attach schedule—see instructions)			
	17 Total expenses (add lines 13, 14, 15, and 16)	77181		
Fund Balances	18 Excess (deficit) for the year (subtract line 17 from line 12)			
	19 Fund balances or net worth at beginning of year (from line 74(A))			
	20 Other changes in fund balances or net worth (attach explanation)			
21 Fund balances or net worth at end of year (add lines 18, 19, and 20)				

Part II Statement of Functional Expenses

If line 12, Part I, is \$25,000 or less, you should complete only column (A). If line 12 is more than \$25,000, complete columns (A), (B), (C), and (D).

Do not include amounts reported on line 6(b), 8(b), 9(b), 10(b), or 16 of Part I.	(A) Total	(B) Program services	(C) Management and general	(D) Fundraising
22 Grants and allocations (attach schedule)				
23 Specific assistance to individuals				
24 Benefits paid to or for members				
25 Compensation of officers, directors, etc.				
26 Other salaries and wages				
27 Pension plan contributions				
28 Other employee benefits				
29 Payroll taxes				
30 Professional fundraising fees				
31 Accounting fees	850		850	
32 Legal fees	8964		8964	
33 Supplies, OFFICE, XEROX	19023	15422	2400	1200
34 Telephone	29214	22014	4800	2400
35 Postage and shipping	(48236)			
36 Occupancy	14786	11186	3600	
37 Equipment rental and maintenance	11057	8657	2400	
38 Printing and publications	18324	15724	600	2000
39 Travel, HOTELS	53181	50781	1200	1200
40 Conferences, conventions and meetings				
41 Interest				
42 Depreciation, depletion, etc. (attach schedule)				
43 Other expenses (itemize): (a)				
(b) SPECIFIC ASSIST. PROJECTS	2548	2548		
(c) ADVERTISING & MAILINGS	7755			7755
(d) CONSULTANTS FEES	36602	36602		
(e) REGISTRATION, FILING FEES	570		570	
(f) FILM PRODUCTION	10018	10018		
44 Total functional expenses (add lines 22 through 43)	217391	177952	24884	14555

Part III Statement of Program Service Activities

Describe each significant program service activity and indicate the total expenses attributable to each. Include relevant statistical information, such as the number of clients, patients, students, or members served. Also indicate the amount of grants and allocations that are included in the total expenses reported for that program.

(a)	Expenses
SEE ATTACHMENTS	
(Grants and allocations \$ 35000)	177952
(b)	
(Grants and allocations \$)	
(c)	
(Grants and allocations \$)	
(d)	
(Grants and allocations \$)	
(e) Other program service activities (attach schedule)	(Grants and allocations \$)
(f) Total (add lines (a) through (e)) (should equal line 44(B))	177952

(1981)

IV Program Service Revenue and Other Revenue (State Nature)		Program service revenue	Other revenue
Revenues from government agencies			
FEES FROM SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS		3458	
Total program service revenue (Enter here and on line 2)		3458	
Total other revenue (Enter here and on line 11)			0

V Balance Sheets If line 12, Part I, and line 59 are \$25,000 or less, you should complete only lines 59, 66, and 74 and, if you do not use fund accounting, line 73. If line 12 or line 59 is more than \$25,000, complete the entire balance sheet. See instructions.

Note: Columns (C) and (D) are optional. Columns (A) and (B) must be completed to the extent applicable. Where required, attached schedules should be for end-of-year amounts only.

	(A) Beginning of year	End of year		
		(B) Total	(C) Unrestricted/Expendable	(D) Restricted/Nonexpendable
Assets				
Cash—non-interest bearing	1966	3010		
Savings and temporary cash investments		446		
Accounts receivable ▶				
minus allowance for doubtful accounts ▶				
Pledges receivable ▶				
minus allowance for doubtful accounts ▶				
Grants receivable				
Receivables due from officers, directors, trustees and key employees (attach schedule)				
Other notes and loans receivable ▶				
minus allowance for doubtful accounts ▶				
Inventories for sale or use				
Prepaid expenses and deferred charges				
Investments—securities (attach schedule)				
Investments—land, buildings and equipment: basis ▶				
minus accumulated depreciation ▶ (attach schedule)				
Investments—other (attach schedule)				
Land, buildings and equipment: basis ▶				
minus accumulated depreciation ▶ (attach schedule)				
Other assets: ADVANCES TO AFFILIATE	4636	27725		
Total assets (add lines 45 through 58)	6602	81181		
Liabilities				
Accounts payable and accrued expenses				
Grants payable				
Support and revenue designated for future periods (attach sched.)				
Loans from officers, directors, trustees and key employees (attach schedule)				
Mortgages and other notes payable (attach schedule)				
Other liabilities: LOANS PAYABLE		4000		
Total liabilities (add lines 60 through 65)	0	4000		
Fund Balances or Net Worth				
Organizations that use fund accounting, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 67 through 70 and lines 74 and 75.				
Current funds	6602	77181		
Land, buildings and equipment fund				
Endowment fund				
Other funds (Describe ▶)				
Organizations that do not use fund accounting, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 71 through 75.				
Capital stock or trust principal				
Paid-in or capital surplus				
Retained earnings or accumulated income				
Total fund balances or net worth (see instructions)	6602	77181		
Total liabilities and fund balances/net worth (see instructions)	6602	81181		

Part VI List of Officers, Directors, and Trustees (See Instructions)

(A) Name and address	(B) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(C) Compensation (if any)	(D) Contributions to employee benefit plans	(E) Expense account and other allowances
ROBERT O. MULLER 17 SYDENHALL CT., DIX HILLS, N.Y.	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-
GREGORY KANE 214 ELLA LANE, WESTBURY, N.Y.	SECT. TREAS. PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-
THOMAS BIRD 268 W. 91 ST. NY NY 10024	VICE-PRES. PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-
JOHN TERZANO 922 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST. Arlington, VA. 22204 apt. 103	BOARD MEMBER	-0-	-0-	-0-

Part VII Other Information

76 Has the organization engaged in any activities not previously reported to the Internal Revenue Service?
If "Yes," attach a detailed description of the activities.

77 Have any changes been made in the organizing or governing documents, but not reported to IRS?
If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes.

78 (a) Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year covered by this return? .
(b) If "Yes," have you filed a tax return on Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return, for this year? .
(c) If the organization has gross sales or receipts from business activities not reported on Form 990-T, attach a statement explaining your reason for not reporting them on Form 990-T.

79 Was there a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or substantial contraction during the year (see instructions)?
If "Yes," attach a statement as described in the instructions.

80 Is the organization related (other than by association with a statewide or nationwide organization) through common membership, governing bodies, trustees, officers, etc., to any other exempt or nonexempt organization (see instructions)? X
If "Yes," enter the name of organization VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC. and check whether it is exempt OR nonexempt.

81 (a) Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions N/A
(b) Did you file Form 1120-POL, U.S. Income Tax Return for Certain Political Organizations, for this year?

82 Did your organization receive donated services or the use of materials, equipment or facilities at no charge or at substantially less than fair rental value? X
If "Yes," you may indicate the value of these items here. Do not include this amount as support in Part I or as an expense in Part II. See instructions for reporting in Part III N/A

83 Section 501(c)(5) or (6) organizations.—Did the organization spend any amounts in attempt to influence public opinion about legislative matters or referendums (see instructions and Regulations section 1.162-20(c))?
If "Yes," enter the total amount spent for this purpose N/A

84 Section 501(c)(7) organizations.—Enter amount of:
(a) Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 12 N/A
(b) Gross receipts, included in line 12, for public use of club facilities (see instructions) N/A
(c) Does the club's governing instrument or any written policy statement provide for discrimination against any person because of race, color, or religion (see instructions)?

85 Section 501(c)(12) organizations.—Enter amount of:
(a) Gross income received from members or shareholders N/A
(b) Gross income received from other sources (do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them) N/A

86 Public interest law firms.—Attach information described in instructions.

87 List the States with which a copy of this return is filed NEW YORK

88 The books are in care of TAXPAYER AS ABOVE Telephone No. 685-3152
Located at

Please Sign Here

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Signature of officer [Signature] Date 6/2/82 Title President

Paid Preparer's Use Only

Preparer's signature Tankle, Hollender & Co. Date 6/2/82 Check if self-employed

Firm's name (or yours, if self-employed) and address TANKLE HOLLENDER & CO., CPAs
131814/44 150 7 AVE, NYC 10001 ZIP code

Name: **VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION** Employer identification number: **1313030278**

Part I Compensation of Five Highest Paid Employees
(Other than Officers, Directors, and Trustees—see specific instructions)

Name and address of employees paid more than \$30,000	Title and average hours per week devoted to position	Compensation	Contributions to employee benefit plans	Expense acc. and other allowance

Total number of other employees paid over \$30,000: **NONE**

Part II Compensation of Five Highest Paid Persons for Professional Services
(See specific instructions)

Name and address of persons paid more than \$30,000	Type of service	Compensation

Total number of others receiving over \$30,000 for professional services: **NONE**

Part III Statements About Activities

	Yes	No
1 During the year have you attempted to influence national, State or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum? If "Yes," enter the total of the expenses paid or incurred in connection with the legislative activities \$ <u>0</u> Complete Part VI of this form for organizations that made an election under section 501(h) on Form 5768 or other statement. For other organizations checking "Yes," attach a statement giving a detailed description of the legislative activities and a classified schedule of the expenses paid or incurred.		
2 During the year have you, either directly or indirectly, engaged in any of the following acts with a trustee, director, principal officer or creator of your organization, or any organization or corporation with which such person is affiliated as an officer, director, trustee, majority owner or principal beneficiary: (a) Sale, exchange, or leasing of property? (b) Lending of money or other extension of credit? (c) Furnishing of goods, services, or facilities? (d) Payment of compensation (or payment or reimbursement of expenses if more than \$1,000)? (e) Transfer of any part of your income or assets? If the answer to any question is "Yes," attach a detailed statement explaining the transactions.		
3 Attach a statement explaining how you determine that individuals or organizations receiving disbursements from you in furtherance of your charitable programs qualify to receive payments. (See specific instructions.)		
4 Do you make grants for scholarships, fellowships, student loans, etc.?		
5 During the year did you receive any qualified conservation contribution whose value was more than \$5,000? If "Yes," attach a schedule as described in the instructions.		

Part IV Reason for Non-Private Foundation Status (See instructions for definitions)

The organization is not a private foundation because it is (check applicable box; please check only ONE box):

- 6 1 A church. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).
- 7 2 A school. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii). (Also complete Part V; page 3.)
- 8 3 A hospital. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).
- 9 4 A governmental unit. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).
- 0 5 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii). Enter name and address of hospital ▶
- 1 6 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv). (Also complete Support Schedule.)
- 2 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public. Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). (Also complete Support Schedule.)
- 3 8 An organization that normally receives: (a) no more than 1/3 of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975, and (b) more than 1/3 of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its charitable, etc. functions—subject to certain exceptions. See section 509(a)(2). (Use cash receipts and disbursements method of accounting; also complete Support Schedule.)
- 4 9 An organization that is not controlled by any disqualified persons (other than foundation managers) and supports organizations described in (1) boxes 6 through 13 above or (2) section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) if they meet the test of section 509(a)(2). See section 509(a)(3).

Provide the following information about the supported organizations. (See instructions for Part IV, box 14.)

(a) Name of supported organizations	(b) Box number from above
SUPPORT FROM CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC, OTHER PUBLIC CHARITIES, GRANTS FROM PUBLIC CHARITIES, THE GENERAL PUBLIC & GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	12

- (c) Relationship of supported organizations to your organization:
- (1) Check here if the supported organizations appoint a majority of your governing board.
 - (2) Check here if a majority of your governing board belong to governing boards of the supported organizations.
 - (3) Check here if (1) or (2) above does not apply. (See Regulations 1.509(a)-4.)
- (d) If applicable, enter the number of supported organizations exempt under:
- (1) Section 501(c)(4)
 - (2) Section 501(c)(5)
 - (3) Section 501(c)(6)

(e) Check here if your organization's main function is to provide funds to the supported organizations.

5 0 An organization organized and operated to test for public safety. Section 509(a)(4). (See specific instructions.)

Support Schedule (Complete only if you checked box 11, 12, or 13 above)

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	1980	1979	1978	1977	Total
5 Gifts, grants, and contributions received. (Do not include unusual grants. See line 29 below.)	28000	INITIAL YEAR			28000
7 Membership fees received	—				—
3 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or furnishing of facilities in any activity that is not a business unrelated to the organization's charitable, etc. purpose	—	INCOMP. 5/5/80			—
2 Gross income from interest, dividends, amounts received from payments on securities loans (section 512(a)(5)), rents, royalties, and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975	—				—
1 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 19	—				—

Part IV Support Schedule (continued) (Complete only if you checked box 11, 12, or 13 on page 2)

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	1980	1979	1978	1977	Totals
1 Tax revenues levied for your benefit and either paid to you or expended on your behalf	-	INITIAL YEAR			-
2 The value of services or facilities furnished to you by a governmental unit without charge. Do not include the value of services or facilities generally furnished to the public without charge	-	INCORP. 5/5/80			-
3 Other income. Attach schedule. Do not include gain (or loss) from sale of capital assets	-				-
4 Total of lines 16 through 23	28000				28000
5 Line 4 minus line 18	28000				28000
6 Enter 1% of line 4	280				
7 Organizations described in box 11 or 12, page 2: (a) Enter 2% of amount in column (e), line 5 (b) Attach a list (not open to public inspection) showing the name of and amount contributed by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) whose total gifts for 1977 through 1980 exceeded the amount shown in 7(a). Enter the sum of all excess amounts here					560
8 Organizations described in box 13, page 2: (a) Attach a list, for amounts shown on lines 16, 17, and 18, showing the name of, and total amounts received in each year from each "disqualified person," and enter the sum of such amounts for each year: (1980)..... (1979)..... (1978)..... (1977)..... (b) Attach a list showing, for 1977 through 1980, the name and amount included in line 18 for each person (other than "disqualified persons") from whom the organization received more, during that year, than the larger of: the amount on line 6 for the year or \$5,000. Include organizations described in boxes 6 through 12 as well as individuals. Enter the sum of these excess amounts for each year: (1980)..... (1979)..... (1978)..... (1977).....		N/A			SCHEDULE ATTACHED 54956
9 For an organization described in boxes 11, 12, or 13, page 2, that received any unusual grants during 1977 through 1980, attach a list (not open to public inspection) for each year showing the name of the contributor, the date and amount of the grant, and a brief description of the nature of the grant. Do not include these grants in line 16 above. (See specific instructions.)					

Part V Private School Questionnaire To Be Completed ONLY by Schools that Checked Box 7 in Part IV

N/A

	Yes	No
30 Do you have a racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students by statement in your charter, bylaws, other governing instrument, or in a resolution of your governing body?		
31 Do you include a statement of your racially nondiscriminatory policy toward students in all your brochures, catalogues, and other written communications with the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships?		
32 Have you publicized your racially nondiscriminatory policy by newspaper or broadcast media during the period of solicitation for students or during the registration period if you have no solicitation program, in a way that makes the policy known to all parts of the general community you serve? If "Yes," please describe; if "No," please explain. (If you need more space, attach a separate statement.)		
33 Do you maintain the following: (a) Records indicating the racial composition of the student body, faculty, and administrative staff? (b) Records documenting that scholarships and other financial assistance are awarded on a racially nondiscriminatory basis? (See instructions.) (c) Copies of all catalogues, brochures, announcements, and other written communications to the public dealing with student admissions, programs, and scholarships? (d) Copies of all material used by you or on your behalf to solicit contributions? If you answered "No," to any of the above, please explain. (If you need more space, attach a separate statement.)		

Private School Questionnaire
To Be Completed ONLY by Schools that Checked Box 7 in Part IV (Continued)

N/A

Do you discriminate by race in any way with respect to:	Yes	No
a) Students' rights or privileges?		
b) Admissions policies?		
c) Employment of faculty or administrative staff?		
d) Scholarships or other financial assistance (see instructions)?		
e) Educational policies?		
f) Use of facilities?		
g) Athletic programs?		
h) Other extra-curricular activities?		

If you answered "Yes," to any of the above, please explain. (If you need more space, attach a separate statement.)

a) Do you receive any financial aid or assistance from a governmental agency?		
b) Has your right to such aid ever been revoked or suspended?		

If you answered "Yes," to either 35(a) or (b), please explain using an attached separate statement.

Do you certify that you have complied with the applicable requirements of section 4.01 through 4.05 of Rev. Proc. 75-50, 1975-2 C.B. 587, covering racial nondiscrimination? If "No," attach an explanation (see instructions for Part V).

Part VI Lobbying Expenditures By Public Charities (See instructions) (To be completed ONLY by an eligible organization that filed Form 5768.)

N/A

Check here <input type="checkbox"/> (a) If the organization belongs to an affiliated group (see instructions).	(a) Affiliated group totals	(b) To be completed for ALL electing organizations
Check here <input type="checkbox"/> (b) If you checked (a) and "limited control" provisions apply (see instructions).		
Limits on Lobbying Expenses		
Total (grassroots) lobbying expenses to influence public opinion		
Total lobbying expenses to influence legislative body		
Total lobbying expenses (add lines 37 and 38)		
Other exempt purpose expenses (see Part VI instructions)		
Total exempt purpose expenses (add lines 39 and 40) (see instructions)		
Lobbying nontaxable amount. Enter the smaller of \$1,000,000 or the amount determined under the following table—		
If the amount on line 41 is—	The lobbying nontaxable amount is—	
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 41	
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000	
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000	
Over \$1,500,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000	
Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 42)		
(Complete lines 44 and 45. File Form 4720 if either line 37 exceeds line 43 or line 39 exceeds line 42.)		
Excess of line 37 over line 43		
Excess of line 39 over line 42		

4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h). (Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of five columns below. See the instructions for lines 46-51 for details.)

The references below are to column (b) Part VI, Schedule A (Form 990) for respective tax year	Lobbying Expenses During 4-Year Averaging Period				
	(a) 1981	(b) 1980	(c) 1979	(d) 1978	(e) Total
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶					
Lobbying nontaxable amount (line 6, Sch. A (Form 990) (1978-80), line 42 (1981))					
Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 46(e))					
Total lobbying expenses (line 3, Sch. A (Form 990) (1978-80), line 39 (1981))					
Grassroots nontaxable amount (line 7, Sch. A (Form 990) (1978-80), line 43 (1981))					
Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 49(e))					
Grassroots lobbying expenses (line 1, Sch. A (Form 990) (1978-80), line 37 (1981))					

TAX SCHEDULES
FYE 4/30/82

13-303027E

FORM 990
PAGE 1, LINE 9

SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

GROSS REVENUE

SERGIO FRANCHI DINNER	40265	
CHRIS MOELLER WALK-A-THON	28770	
BEEFSTEAK CHARLIE'S DINNER	42118	
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN CONCERT	25000	
PAT BENETAR CONCERT	59971	
CHARLIE DANIELS BAND CONCERT	26507	272731

DIRECT EXPENSES

SERGIO FRANCHI DINNER	21030	
CHRIS MOELLER WALK-A-THON	2582	
BEEF-STEAK CHARLIE'S DINNER	10745	44357

NET INCOME

22839

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION
TAX SCHEDULES
FYE 4/30/82

13-3030278

IRM 990

SECTION 1, PART I, LINE 1

CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS, ETC.

LEONARD STEIN	5000
STEVEN VAN ZANDT	5000
CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS FOUNDATION	35000
R YE PRAVISON CO.	200
CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER - VVA	1013
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN	3550
SUZANNE ELIOT	150
JONATHAN GIESBERG	100
WILLIAM PENDLETON	5393
CONTRIBUTIONS - PERSONAL CONTACT	286
<u>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS, GRANTS ETC.</u>	<u>55692</u>

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

Note 1 - Organization and Operations

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation was incorporated May 5, 1980. The organization serves as a national clearing house for information concerning the Vietnam veteran and matters of concern to the veteran particularly as they relate to the Vietnam War experience. Such information gathering includes compiling information about books, films, plays, articles, studies, etc. relevant to the Vietnam experience. The organization disseminates this information through symposiums, conferences, lecture tours, plays, and other educational and cultural expressions including books, special publications, films, slide shows, exhibits and others.

The organization sponsors studies and research work on matters of concern and related to the socio/economic welfare and readjustment of the Vietnam-era veteran. All such research and studies is non-partisan and for educational purposes to foster greater understanding of the Vietnam veteran's experiences and needs.

The organization carries out educational activities which serve to promote recognition and appreciation by the public of the service rendered by the Vietnam-era veteran, which serve to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against the Vietnam-era veteran and which serve to promote the general welfare of the Vietnam veteran and his family.

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

$$\begin{array}{r} 58 \\ \hline 2 \overline{) 5255} \\ \underline{45} \\ 755 \\ \underline{72} \end{array}$$