



INCOMING



www.101namveteran.com

3003 Beason Ct., Abingdon, MD 21009-2723

Summer 2020

From the Desk of our President



President Bill Ramsey

The cancellation of this year's reunion has left me with mixed feelings, especially since so many people did so much work to help set it up. Certainly it was the right thing to do for the safety of our members and guests, but Janet and I will so miss being at Fayetteville with all of you. This year is the final year of my Presidency and what an honor it has been. Our reunion last year at Ft. Campbell was a great time and I still think of it often. The biggest surprise of my tenure as President was the number of people who contacted me requesting information about family members who served with us in Vietnam. With the help of Dave Nesbitt, Ron Long, Charles Allen and many others, we did what we could to provide that information.

I won't have the opportunity to thank our Board of Governors and Committee Chairs in person this year, but they all worked hard in your behalf and did everything they were asked to do and more. We are fortunate indeed to have such dedicated members working on behalf of our organization. Our current election by mail process will bring in new and dedicated leadership which I am certain will secure our future.

As I close, I would like to thank all of our members for your support these past two years. Whenever we needed someone to step up, they did. Finally, a special thanks to Dave Nesbitt, Ron Long and Earle Prior. Their contributions to the organization have been immeasurable.

Very best regards,

Bill

Airborne-Air Assault

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain, Wally Morrow

Friends and Comrades:

I hope this message finds you all well during these uncertain times. As most of you know by now the 2020 Reunion in N.C. has been cancelled by COVID 19. This is the first reunion I will miss since joining the organization in 1996. And I suppose it is the same for many of you out there. Hopefully next year will bring us the promise of a healthier country and we can get on with life as we've known it. I refuse to believe that this is going to be the new normal. Through the strong leadership of our President and the Grace of God our country will come through this crisis as a stronger, more vibrant nation. We as individual Americans and Veterans have been through many adverse conditions in our lifetime. By the time you are reading this I will have turned 73 and I know there are a few out there who are younger, but I also know we have some members who are nearing or have surpassed the octogenarian age. God Bless You.

I know we have some youngsters out there, kids and grandkids who will read this message. My advice to you is to take the unfortunate things that happened in your lives, like missed proms, graduations, family vacations and you name it, and embrace it as a badge of honor. There will be other hurdles in your life that you will have to endure. Use this year in a paragraph in your book of life to look back on and say we made it through this tough time, we can make it through others with the help from our families, friends and with the Grace of God.

I have pretty much given up on watching any news programs in the last several weeks. When I see people of dubious morals laying waste to our cities and towns it makes me question what has happened to us as a Christian Nation. I know that, to many of you, the Black Lives Matter protests are an important part of countries' right to assemble PEACEFULLY. What is happening now has turned into a crusade to destroy our communities, our historical markers and tear the very fabric of our society to pieces. As a country it is threatening to tear us apart. My wish is that we all pray together that All Lives Matter and that we can come together to defeat the anarchy that is threatening our Great Republic.

Until next time I ask God to protect our Troops around the world who are working to protect our Great Country and God to Bless them and you.

Wally Morrow - Chaplain



From the Desk of the Secretary

Dave Nesbitt
mdnesbitt@aol.com

Reunion 2020: CANCELED: It was with great sadness that the Board of Governors came to an agreement in early July that our 26th Annual Reunion would not be held as planned in August at Fayetteville/Fort Bragg, NC. Everything was in motion to proceed with over 100 people signed on to travel to the event. Not only were we heartbroken but the staff at Holiday Inn and Suites were saddened over the loss of revenue they expected for the new hotel; they had many cancellations with other groups as well.

Where do we go from here? It all depends on this corona virus pandemic; we hope and pray this will be a non-issue by next August. Being optimistic that things will be back to some semblance of normal, we have already contracted with the Radisson Hotel in Branson, MO for the week of August 23-29, 2021. Plans are to hold the reunion as usual with the startup day being Wednesday, August 25 with regular checkout on Sunday, August 29. Our special room rates of \$92.95 plus tax, will include two full breakfasts each day. And, this room rate will be available in full size, queen and king rooms beginning 3 days prior to and 3 days after the reunion dates. Our reunion chairman, Ed Barbour spent several days in Branson doing recon and he reports there are lots of things to do and see. We will have more details as they are made available for you in the next newsletter and on our website; www.101namveteran.com.

Raffle Prizes Awarded: As advertised, we did have two very nice weapons that were used to raise funds through our annual raffle. I am pleased to report that this is the most successful raffle we've held with over 135 people purchasing tickets. We collected nearly \$6,000 that will be used to support our day to day office operations. To ensure that the drawing was held fairly, I had Ron Long, Bill Ramsey and John Marlowe observing on a Zoom conference with Charles Cole in my office as the winning tickets were pulled. The first prize, the Beretta 9 mm pistol, was won by Mr. Wayne Beasley, a personal friend of mine, who purchased \$50 worth of tickets just the week before the drawing. He is a local businessman here in Sumter, SC, never in the military, but a strong supporter of the veterans and military in this area. The second prize went to our member Jimmy Elrod who lives in Williamston, SC. He won the AR-15 rifle that was donated to us by Ed Barbour. Mr. Leon Kubin, also one of our dedicated members, donated the Beretta Pistol. It's a coincidence that both winners were from my state but, as they say, that's the luck of the draw. My 5 year old grandson, Noah, pulled the tickets for us. I know many of you bought a lot of tickets, and like you, I would have been grateful to receive either prize but, I sure liked that AR-15. However, in all fairness, I didn't have any tickets in the box. Thanks to all who contributed, and better luck next year.

Election of Officers: I've heard much about the plan to have mail-in ballots for the upcoming national elections this November and the fear that something could go wrong. We sent out ballots and of the 300 mailed to our members, we received 97 or about 33% back without any problems. I am pleased to report, and congratulate, our new slate of officers for 2020-2022.

President: Ron Long Vice President: Dan O'Toole 4-Year Governor: Ted Bridges 2-Year Governor: James Holmes
Sgt. at Arms: John Marlowe Eagle Chapter Delegate: John Walker Treasurer: Dave Nesbitt

This list of officers will appear on the final page of this newsletter along with their phone numbers and email addresses.

Thanks to all who cast the write-in ballots and thank you to those who wrote in other candidates for consideration. The newly elected president may appoint others to various positions or committees; those interested should let your desires to serve be known.

Quartermaster Sales: The Board of Governors has for several years talked about closing our Quartermaster Store. In recent discussions it was decided that we should sell most items at 50% off to eliminate some of the excessive inventory. We have a large number of polo shirts, t-shirts and caps. We want to keep a supply of challenge coins and logo stickers but the rest is on sale. If you are interested in some items look under the heading, Quartermaster Store, on our website. Most of the items are listed there. Shipping charges will cost the same, no discount with the US Postal Service. If you have questions, call Mike Sellers, Quartermaster, at (910) 366-1426. His information is also on the website.

Voting in the November Election: I'm not about to tell anyone how to vote in the local, state and national elections that will soon be upon us. I just wanted remind everyone that we all fought for the right to vote for whomever we choose. We fought for the freedoms that everyone in this great country enjoy. I just want to encourage you to get out to vote for the issues and persons that think most like you do. I plan to vote early as an absentee voter but I'll go to the local Voter Registration Office and do that in person. Vote to keep America the land of the free and home of the brave.

From the Editor

Brothers, this has certainly been a year for the record books. Much like many of you, Kathy & I are very saddened by the cancellation of this year's reunion at Ft Bragg. Hopefully we can all make it through safe and sound until next year's reunion. In the **Odds & End** section I added some info on an estate planning guide offered by the American Red Cross. It's offered in both digital and printed formats and it's free. Kathy & I found it helpful. Hopefully some of you may be able to use it as well. Until the next time, please keep me posted on any updates on yourself or other fellow members and any other stories of interest and I'll do my best to get them in our future editions.



Earle Prior, Editor

BOOSTERS

Members and non-members who donate to help defray mailing costs, etc. Names will stay in 1 issue (an * indicates an additional donation in that time frame). (Any amount accepted) Mail to: 3570 Green View Pkwy: Sumter, SC 29150

John Sorge*, Billy Whitesell, Ted Bridges, Charles Nessler, Anna Demory, Ku Chin*, Jereld Durrance, James Schild, Roy Brown, Gene Tanner, Cheryl Tingwald, David Hannen, Richard Coon, Malcolm Craig**, William Bevins, Ron Long, Leon Kubin*, Peter Smith, Raymond Diaz, Terence Keogh, Wendy Lutz (To Memory of Thomas Lutz), David Kilborn, Gary Hise, Hector Colon Rios, Paul Console, Arthur Burton, Eugene Garcia, and (To Memory of their Cousin James Martin Duke) donations were received from Susan Randall, Stacey Herring, Malinda Hummer & his aunt, Mary Lou Hummer.

We are grateful to all who donated this quarter and a special thank you to those who purchased tremendous numbers of raffle tickets to support the day to day operations of the organization.

ODDS & ENDS

News of Interest to 101st Vietnam Veterans

Write your will and plan your future.

Get a head start with our helpful guide and workbook.

Thank you for being such a wonderful supporter of the American Red Cross. Because of your commitment to compassion, we've reserved a special FREE guide full of important information to help you easily plan or update your existing will.

The *Touching the Future* guide and workbook is an important resource for every family, whether you're just getting started with your first will, need to revise an existing will or need to ensure your will is complete and up-to-date.

The completed workbook makes it easy for family members to find important documents and other critical information. It also provides an overview of options and benefits if you're thinking about making a gift to a charitable organization.

Many people choose to leave a charity in their will because they like to support causes that have been important in their lives. There are plenty of advantages to making a gift to a charity in your will. Tax savings are one benefit, but more than that, you can help secure and support the future of causes that are close to your heart. If you have any questions about charitable gift planning, please call the Gift Planning Office at 1-800-797-8022, ext. 5 for more information.



This resource is available in two formats:

1. Get started today with our **easy-to-use electronic** file (PDF) that you can edit and save every time the need arises.
2. Receive a **48-page bound booklet** in the mail. Perforated workbook pages can be removed as needed.

Simply visit www.redcrosslegacy.org/willsoffer to download it now or return the attached reply card to receive a copy in the mail.

Your download saves you a stamp and saves the Red Cross money on materials and shipping, too

Here's the info on the planning guide from the American Red Cross. If you'd like the printed planning guide you can contact your local Red Cross office or send a request to the address below.

For the electronic file (PDF) go to www:redcrosslegacy.org/willsoffer

**American Red Cross
Gift Planning Office
PO Box 75156
Washington, DC 20013-0156**

SICK CALL

In the Spring edition of the newsletter, we told you of the ongoing battle **Johnnie Lindsey (HHC Medic 1/327)** was having with pancreatic cancer. We recently spoke to Johnnie and he reports things are getting better following chemotherapy. He also had surgery and says all the cancer has been removed. He does have an infection that is requiring treatment but he is already talking about take a lengthy cruise in a boat he and a friend have been working on. We're glad to hear of his progress. Johnnie said he has only had two calls from the 101st men during his months of treatment; he wants people to call him when they have time. His number is 903-293-5722. His mailing address is 6501 W. 7th St., Texarkana, TX 75501-8300. Johnnie was president of the organization in 1998-99.

Another member, **Richard Weiss, aka Dirty Dick, (B Btry 2/320 Arty)** has been hospitalized for nearly four months at VAMC Loma Linda, CA. The VA thought he had Covid-19 but he says it wasn't that; he did have a collapsed lung and severe arthritis in both knees that required surgery. He reports he is doing better but for a time he couldn't stand or walk and was having difficulty talking. Drop Dick a card at 16573 Iris Dr., Fontana, CA 92335-6609.

We checked on **Harlan Wilson, (E 1/501)** who had been receiving treatment for cancer and he has received chemotherapy for that but now has another issue, that being an Aortic Abdominal Aneurysm (AAA) that several in our group have experienced and like them, Harlan is scheduled to have surgery in the very near future at VAMC St. Petersburg, FL. If you would care to drop Harlan and wife Debra a card, they are at 2422 NW Eucalyptus Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266-5193.

Please keep all these friends and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

TAPS

Randolph Jesus Moreno - January 9, 1949 - April 3, 2020: Randy deployed with D 1/502 in December 1967 and served in Vietnam until December 1968. He was a friend of Ron Long, our current Vice President, who also served in the same unit. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and the Army Commendation Medal. Until his death, Randy was a resident of Paw Paw, Michigan. Another one of our brothers has met his rendezvous with destiny. May he rest peacefully with the angels in Heaven. Keep Randolph and family in your thoughts and prayers.



Roberta Greenberg - It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of Roberta Greenberg, **beloved partner of Gus Vass, past president (2006)** of this organization. Roberta was a longtime supporter of the South Florida All Airborne Chapter, where Gus serves as Color Guard Director. Gus served with C 2/327 (67-68) in Vietnam. Our deepest condolences are extended to Gus on his loss. You can email him at: gvass2327@aol.com



John J. Teuchert - USMC, WWII 1942-1945: It's rare that we report the death of a WWII veteran but this Marine was someone special to Dave Nesbitt, who knew him for 45 years. John died July 22, 2020 at the age of 96 and was cremated with burial scheduled for August 7, National Purple Heart Day, at Bushnell National Cemetery in Florida. John was born in Chester, PA in 1924 and joined the USMC shortly after Pearl Harbor was attacked. He served proudly with the 4th Marine Division. He saw action in the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, where he was wounded and was awarded the Purple Heart. After service he worked in the Department of Defense, Naval Ordinance Section. Then, after retirement from that job, he dedicated his time to aid and guide other veterans in their pursuit of VA benefits. He volunteered at the Miami VA Medical Center in the 1970-80's and that's where he met Dave Nesbitt, who was supervisor of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) office. John was one of Dave's most reliable volunteers and they developed a close friendship that lasted many years. On occasion, John would show up at the annual Melbourne (FL) Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park where they would visit for several days. John is survived by a brother, Charles in PA and his 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren as well as two on the way. Until his death, John resided in Sebastian, FL. This great American will be missed by many; Semper Fi Brother!!



Robert Ransom Tait - November 25, 1945 - February 12, 2020: Robert joined this organization on August 1, 1998 and was a faithful member. He passed away at SearStone Retirement Community in Cary, NC where he had been a resident since 2013. He was born in White Plains, NY. Robert attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI) where he was a member of the VPI Corps of Cadets, graduating in 1968 with a commission as a second lieutenant in the US Army. He served in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970, first as an infantry platoon leader with HHC & A 3/187 and later as an advisor to the South Vietnamese in MACV. He later served as Provost Marshall at Dugway Proving Grounds in Dugway, Utah until he finished his military service in 1973. Robert went on to receive a law degree from Wake Forest and then worked with the IRS and later with the Security and Exchange Commission. He retired in 2000 to Apex, NC. He was predeceased by his wife Sybil in 2010. He is survived by brother Richard Tait and sister Amelia Kamradt. May he rest in peace.

TAPS



Thomas Richard Lutz - We received a nice letter from Wendy Lutz, the widow of MSG Thomas Lutz, informing us that he died on April 26, 2019. Wendy advised that Tom had prostate cancer from Agent Orange and also had AML (Acute Myelogenous Leukemia) and his doctors felt certain it too was from Agent Orange exposure. He underwent a bone marrow transplant and at time of death, he had no AML cancer. Wendy stated, "Then God must have had need of him as he unexpectedly died of a widow maker heart issue." She goes on to say that Tom finished strong...strong in his faith and walk with the Lord. He is resting in the Marion National Cemetery in Marion, IN...like an eagle, Isaiah 40:31. MSG Tom Lutz served in Vietnam with B & E Co. 2/327 in 1968-69. He later served in the Persian Gulf War and was the recipient of the Bronze Star and the Air Medal. Thomas Lutz joined this organization on March 15, 2014. May he rest in peace.

James Martin Duke - November 27, 1947 ~ July 23, 2020: James served in the 101st Airborne from 1967-69 and was a Staff Sergeant. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart, Army Commendation and Air Medal. James' death was due to existing medical conditions and complications from Covid-19. We were unable to determine his unit in Vietnam and although he was not a member of this organization, he was still one of our brothers and we mourn his loss. His aunt, Mary Lou Hummer, contacted us to let us know he passed and to state that it was the families' wish that memorial donations be made to this organization. We received donations from Mary Lou Hummer, and cousins, Susan Randall, Stacey Herring and Malinda Hummer. Following his military service, James rejoined his parents in managing the family cow ranch for several years before earning a degree in Computer Science in 1985 and was a partner in Chelsea Software, which developed customized hardware and software for small businesses. He returned to full time ranching in the early 1990s. In 2018 he moved to the Claremore Veterans Nursing Home, needing special care for his long battle with Parkinson's and PTSD. He is buried at Fort Sill National Cemetery in Elgin, OK.



Dustan Ray Ladner - November 16, 1974 ~ June 23, 2020, age 46, of Saucier, MS passed away on June 23, 2020. Dustan was not a member of the organization but his parents, Roger and Gwen Maggard, attended our reunion last year and became fast friends with many of our members. Dustan was a graduate of Harrison Central High School and was self-employed. He is survived by his parents, Gwen Maggard (Roger), Danny Ladner; his children Desiree, Hollie, Hannah, and Juliauna Grace; his sister, Donna Ladner; his grandchildren, Jaxton O'Meara, Raelyn Ladner, To'Ray Norbert; his nephews Zachary and Joshua Ladner; and many more aunts, uncles, nephews and cousins. You can send condolences to Gwen and Roger Maggard at 20100 Box CV, Saucier, MS 39574-8700. We are sorry for their loss. We hope to see Gwen and Roger at the next reunion.

More Odds & Ends

Wally Morrow - (A 1/502) has served as our Chaplain for more years that we realized. Looking back over the old records we find that Wally served as our president from 2004-05. While in that position he realized we needed spiritual guidance so he became Chaplain the first time in 2008; he served until 2014. During his time off, Rod Green was our Chaplain for several years and then Wally came back in 2017 and is currently listed as our Chaplain. Wally has expressed a desire to take a sabbatical; we don't think he's joining the priesthood, nevertheless, we are in need of a new Chaplain. You may ask what a Chaplain does; he prays! It's about that easy so if you can deliver an invocation and a benediction, you are most qualified. The Chaplain participates in the POW/MIA ceremony at the reunion each year. If you are interested, please contact the President or Secretary of the organization.

Dan O'Toole, Vice President, was recently elected to that position with the mail-in ballots received from those who voted. Dan was born January 28, 1948 in Cincinnati, OH. He entered service at 17 years of age and took basic training at Ft. Knox, KY. He then went to Ft. Sill, OK for AIT training in Artillery. Dan then went to Ft. Benning, GA for Jump School. His first duty station was Ft. Bragg, NC with the 82nd Airborne. He deployed to Vietnam with D Co. 1/502 in December 1967. Following his military service Dan worked for the US Postal Service for 34 years. He and his wife Diana live on a farm in Northern Kentucky. They have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.

Ron Long, President, served as Vice President the past two years and based on your votes, he was promoted to the top position on August 29, 2020. He will serve a two year term, same as all elected officials of the organization. He lives in Torrance, CA with his wife, Julie. Ron deployed to Vietnam with D Co. 1/502 in December 1967; he also served with HHC 1/502 in the latter part of 1968. We know that these two members of D 1/502 are most capable and we look forward to great things in the next two years from these new leaders.



Dan and Diana O'Toole

Going for it.. Skiing gives amputee speed

Introduction to the Jon Patrick McKENZIE story, by Charles Allen, Historian:

On May 1, 1968 at approximately 10:00 a.m., Lt. John House, Sgt. James Holmes, Sp/4 Billy Alford and Sp/4 Jon McKENZIE of A Company 1/502 Infantry, were involved in the interrogation of a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) prisoner when they were felled by a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) that had been fired by another NVA feigning "Chou Hoi" (surrender). Lt. House was killed outright with the other three men suffering grievous wounds, the blast from the RPG cost McKENZIE both of his legs. This was the beginning of the end of "The Battle of Phouc Yen" which produced an en masse surrender of 95 NVA prior to A Companies departure from the battle field in the late afternoon of the 1st. With the help of our distinguished Secretary Dave Nesbitt, I was able to locate Christine McKENZIE in 2019, who informed me that her husband Jon had passed away on December 16, 2003. She further informed me that Jon had suffered pain constantly from his injuries but that he never let it get him down. She said that one of the things she most admired about Jon was that he was a fighter and never gave up all the way to the end. It kind of reminded me of a scene from Hamburger Hill where the mortally wounded medic says, "We been up this hill 10 times, they must not think we're serious!" Christine was gracious enough to provide us with the story below of some of Jon's exploits, having known him I can testify that this is a very true picture of him. The part about not having felt his foot in 14 years and too many two legged skiers on the mountain was classic Jon. The story below first appeared in The Daily Tidings newspaper of Ashland Oregon on May 4, 1982. It was written by Jody Murray, Tidings Sports Editor.

There he was, in living black and white. The guy was skiing on his head, effortlessly. He just put it into the helmet, which was attached to a ski, and zoom!

It was 1970, and Jon McKENZIE watched his television, amazed. The amazement gave way to inspiration. "I thought that if this guy can do that on his head then I could do it on artificial legs." That's how it began. How it has continued is obvious to anyone who frequents Mount Ashland. It's hard to overlook a man with one ski and two "outriggers" who roars down the mountain, trying his best to be airborne more often than not.

Exactly 14 years and three days ago in Vietnam, McKENZIE ("That's the way grandpa used to spell it.") was helping a friend to safety when a rocket-launched grenade exploded behind him. The shrapnel sliced through his lower legs.

He spent three to four days on the hospital ship USS Repose, morphine out of reality. "I woke up once and had one leg, then I woke up a second time and both legs were gone."

He was sent home to Hawthorne, Calif., with his left leg amputated 10½ inches below the knee and his right amputated 9½ inches below the knee. McKENZIE decided immediately wheelchairs weren't the way to go. Within eight weeks of the incident, he was walking unsteadily on two prostheses. It was nice, but he needed more.

"I kind of retreated into myself. I slid back and was a hermit for a couple of years." Then came that TV show, and that guy hitting the slopes with his noggin on top of a ski. McKENZIE's first attempts at the sport occurred at Timberline on Mount Hood. It wasn't far from his hand-built cabin near Lincoln City, where he was raising Appaloosa horses.

All the amputee skiers he had heard of used one ski and a pair of outriggers—mini-skis at the end of poles you held with your hands and arms. He saw no reason to try anything different. After years of honing his talent at Timberline, McKENZIE moved to Ashland four years ago. What was planned as a quick visit with some friends became a permanent shift to Southern Oregon. He became one of the permanent fixtures at Mount Ashland, and even put in three seasons as a member of the mountain's ski patrol.

Over the years, he had built a few personal quirks into his skiing style. Most outriggers pivot where the mini-ski meets the pole. His custom-made pair is solid from end to end. Consequently, if he wants to give his leg a break, he can lift the ski off the snow and ski on the outriggers. Usually, a handicapped skier removes the prosthetic from the off-ski leg. He keeps his on. He said it makes it easier to get on and off the lift chair and, if necessary, allows him to help the ski patrol with an injured skier.

That off-leg usually is adorned with a tennis shoe. He said countless people wonder if the foot ever gets cold. "I tell them I don't know — I haven't seen the foot in 14 years," he recounts with a sly, toothful grin. During the same period in which he moved to Ashland, McKENZIE began taking part in the National Handicapped Skiing Championships. The event has been in Winter Park, Colo., every time he has participated.

Last year, the television show Real People filmed the competition. McKENZIE was one of many interviewed. He made some pithy remark about skiing turning his slow-motion world into fast motion. And, he was faster than most. In his first two years at the championships, he won four gold medals in his division — two in the giant slalom and one each in slalom and downhill.



McKENZIE's gold.

Continued next page

Going for it... Skiing gives amputee speed

He came home empty-handed his third time out. Then, one month ago at this year's edition, he garnered a bronze in the giant slalom and a silver in the slalom. He was going to try the downhill, but he cracked up while free skiing on a run called, appropriately, Bradley's Bash. He dislocated his elbow.

McKENZIE thinks he has about three years of competition left inside him. He has more mobility than many other handicapped people, but his knees hurt almost constantly. The remnants of old 'football injuries', he said. Perhaps he could extend his competitive years by switching from one ski to two. But old ways die hard. Anyhow, McKENZIE enjoys the singularity of doing it on one ski. "I'd hate being one of the 'normies,'" he said half-kiddingly. "There are too many two-legged skiers on the mountain already."

Things are changing for McKENZIE right now. Ashland has given him all it can offer. Now he's thinking of going back to Mount Hood to be a ski instructor, with the added hope that handicapped beginners will come to him for guidance. "I think I'm a good enough skier that people will listen to me when they start to ski."

Years ago, McKENZIE could not have dared hope for a couple disabled students to teach. Now, thanks to him and others, that's changed. As he puts it, "It's finally become fashionable to be handicapped."



Jon Patrick McKENZIE busting the bumps on one ski – and no legs.



One of many competitors to challenge Jon McKENZIE



Let it snow...Let's go!!



Airborne...more often than not!!

The Dude that Pulled the Winning Tickets



This is Noah Scott and his mother, Angela (Rosemary's Daughter)



Noah in his Special Ops outfit

On page 3, under Raffle Prizes Awarded, I indicated that my 5 year old grandson Noah had pulled the winning tickets on Saturday, August 29th and during the excitement we failed to take a photo. He came by a few days later and wanted a redo; he was anxious to pose for a photo and brought his mom along with him to my office. He insisted that he pull another ticket to re-enact the process. And, you know how us grandpas are so excited to show everyone photos of the family, especially little grandsons who tell you they want to be Airborne. I am one proud Papa and love this boy.

—Dave Nesbitt



Live on WFRK Radio by Dave Nesbitt

It's not every day you wake up and get a call from a radio station. The station producer was calling to tell me that I won..."I won what?," I asked. He said, "you've been selected for the station's Honor A Vet program this week". "We want you on the Wake Up Carolina Show this Friday, the

show is simulcast to numerous stations in the area". I was surprised as I don't usually win anything,

Turns out my wife Rosemary nominated me after hearing about the program on her car radio. I usually listen to Fox-News on XM when I'm driving and had never heard of WFRK or the Honor A Vet program. She had the guys at the radio station believing I was either Audie Murphy or Superman. I agreed to do the show after learning it was a talk show that promotes the military and veterans. I was on with Ken Ard and Dave Baker, co-hosts on WFRK in Florence, SC. I was only given 10 minutes and the subject centered around my Vietnam service, my injuries and I was able to give a brief description of what happened in the A Shau and how I overcame my injuries. I was able to give some information about the Purple Heart organization, after all, it was August 7, National Purple Heart Day...and I talked about the 101st Airborne. It appeared that I had the attention of those in the studio; I wondered how many out there in radio land were listening, and if they really cared about what we were discussing. I filled the hosts and listeners in on the honor I had to serve my country and of the great men I was with in Vietnam. I told them how we get together each year for the reunion...they must have liked what was said, they want to have me on again.

The best part was they gave me several prizes. The one I liked the most was a Yeti camouflaged cooler. But there was more, a free night at the Hotel Florence, a free BBQ dinner for two, discount coupons for furniture and promotional items from Pepsi and a station t-shirt. You never know what the morning will bring but I can do radio. I once had a VA Rating Board Chairman tell me that he never met anyone like me, that could say so much about nothing in his life.

Agent Orange

Many of us who served in Vietnam have concerns about the chemical defoliant that was sprayed all over the country to clear areas where the enemy might hide from our high flying reconnaissance. The solution sprayed was not orange in color but the name came about based on the orange colored rings around the 55 gallon drums in which the chemical was stored. In the field, we believed they might be spraying for mosquitoes and we sure had lots of them. Over the years, the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began to recognize certain conditions that might be attributed to exposure. They even concluded that if a person was only in country for a short period of time, even for one day, it was presumed that they were exposed. Subsequently, if an individual had a diagnosis of a condition recognized by VA, disability compensation could be granted.

The list of conditions currently recognized by VA consists of 14 presumptive Agent Orange disabilities. We often hear that a person "has Agent Orange" but that term in itself is not a disability. If a person is to secure compensation from VA, he or she must be suffering from one of the following:

Chronic B-cell Leukemia Hodgkin's Disease Multiple Myeloma Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
 Prostate Cancer Respiratory Cancers Soft Tissue Sarcomas Al Amyloidosis Chloracne
 Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 Ischemic Heart Disease Parkinson's Disease Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
 Early Onset Peripheral Neuropathy

Many Vietnam Veterans have been diagnosed with one or more of these conditions, some have died as a result of exposure. Most filed with VA and received VA Compensation. Of course, that doesn't eliminate the pain and suffering of anyone affected but compensation coupled with VA Medical Care is an advantage.

For years, veterans and the major veterans organizations have argued that other conditions should be recognized as they are prevalent in many veterans who served in Vietnam. In March 2020, Senator Jon Tester (D-Mont), the ranking member of the Senate VA Committee introduced S.3444 that would add four new conditions. Another 34 Senators came onboard as co-sponsors of the bill.

The bill is to amend Title 38, United States Code, (VA Laws) to expand the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes. This Act may be cited as the "Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2020".



Senator Jon Tester

If enacted, Section 1116(a)(2) of title 38 would be amended by adding at the end of the current law, **Parkinsonism, Bladder Cancer, Hypertension (High Blood Pressure) and Hypothyroidism**. We are aware of some who are suffering from these conditions. Usually, the VA rules are only changed when the Center for Disease Control (CDC) studies the effects of the chemicals that make up Agent Orange and determine there is a probability those chemicals could cause these new conditions. These conditions have been considered in past years by VA but no positive action was taken. "Since the VA isn't willing to do its job, Congress is stepping in and requiring them to do it by law," Tester said.

We know that Congress writes laws, but they aren't doctors or scientists and the prognosticators are already betting that there is about a 3% chance of these new conditions being allowed. If you want to follow the progress of Bill S.3444 you can go online to: govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s3444.



It has been our policy to award a signet style ring, like the one in the photo to the left, to the outgoing president at the completion of his two-year term. William L. "Bill" Ramsey just completed his term and since we could not hold the reunion due to Covid-19, we mailed his ring to him. Usually, it would be presented at the reunion. Bill is a very deserving president, he did much for the organization.

He and wife Janet spent several days and many hours working to set up the reunion we had last year in Clarksville, TN. That was one of the best reunions ever. The legwork provided by Bill was responsible for the set up and the great time we all had there. His coordination with the Clarksville Visitors Bureau was what caused us to have so many tours and the event to Welcome Home all Vietnam Veterans at the hangar on Fort Campbell. Bill, Well Done My Friend!!



101st Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans Membership Application & Renewal Form

New Member/Associate (check here) Member/Associate Renewal (check here) Current Member card # _____

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Highest Rank Held in Vietnam: _____ DOB: _____ Call Sign or Nickname: _____

Applicants for new membership please attach documents to establish your service with 101st in Vietnam,
e.g., DD-214, orders, manifests, etc. & forward to address below with \$200 for 11 yrs. \$60 for 3yrs. or \$25 for 1 yr.

Company: _____ Battalion: _____ Regiment: _____ From: _____ To: _____

Company: _____ Battalion: _____ Regiment: _____ From: _____ To: _____

**Send with check or money order payable to: 101st Abn. Div. Vietnam Veterans at 16013 Blooming Rd.,
Chesterfield, VA 23832-1538. Should you have questions, call Ed Barbour at (804) 745-4065.**

Release of Information

I do I do not Authorize the release of my address, phone number or e-mail address to others
from the 101st Airborne Division who may be trying to locate me for the purpose of renewing old friend-
ships.

Date: _____ Signature: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Where to Send Correspondence

Membership applications, renewals, and change of address should be forwarded to: 101st Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans, 16013 Blooming Rd., Chesterfield, VA 23832-1538. Questions? Contact Ed Barbour at (804) 745-4065 or by email at: barboure101@gmail.com.

For general correspondence contact Dave Nesbitt, 3570 Green View Pkwy., Sumter SC 29150-7066.
Phone (803) 506-3120 or by email at: mdnesbitt@aol.com.

Check your mailing label on this copy of *Incoming*. The number next to your name in parentheses is your membership number. The number next to that is your dues expiration date. It's time to renew now if your date has expired. If you detect any discrepancy, email or call Ed Barbour. If your address is different from that shown on the label, please notify us of any corrections.

Quartermaster Sales orders should be sent to: Mike Sellers, Quartermaster, 101st Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans, 722 Minnie Hall Rd., Autryville, NC 28318. You can reach Mike by email at: mjsell09@yahoo.com or by phone at (910) 366-1426. Note that all sales items are on the webpage at: www.101namveteran.com. Due to space limitations we can no longer publish the entire list in the newsletter. Order forms are available online.

Items or inquiries for the website (www.101namvet.com) should be sent to our webmaster Rod Green at: RKgreen1502@gmail.com.

Moving? Please don't forget to send in your change of address so you won't miss the next issue of the newsletter. Let us know as soon as possible as the US Postal Service charges us for each newsletter returned. Send all address changes to: 101st Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans, 16013 Blooming Rd., Chesterfield, VA 23832-1538 or by email to: barboure101@gmail.com.

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Incoming is the official publication of the 101st Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans Organization. It is published periodically for members, associates and supporters of the organization. Any contributions or suggestions for this newsletter should be directed to the address above. We welcome your comments.

Any information you wish to place in future editions of *Incoming* should be forwarded timely as we do have deadlines. Information not published during the month it is received may appear in a future edition.

Any correspondence addressing matters other than those intended for the newsletter should be sent directly to the president or the secretary-treasurer for official response.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization or its officers.