

Interesting Veterans Statistics About the Vietnam Memorial Wall

SOMETHING to think about - Most of the surviving Parents are now Deceased.

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

Beginning at the apex on panel 1E and going out to the end of the East wall, appearing to recede into the earth (numbered 70E - May 25, 1968), then resuming at the end of the West wall, as the wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W - continuing May 25, 1968) and ending with a date in 1975. Thus the war's beginning and end meet. The war is complete, coming full circle, yet broken by the earth that bounds the angle's open side and contained within the earth itself.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

- There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.
- The largest age group, 8,283 were just 19 years old; 33,103 were 18 years old.
- 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.
- 5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.
- One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.
- 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.
- 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.
- 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.
- Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.
- 54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school.
- 8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.
- 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.
- Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.
- West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

· The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

· The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

- The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.
- The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wife's, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.



VA-HUD: Homelessness Among Veterans Declines 12% in 2011

Obama Administration on Track to End Veteran Homelessness by 2015, Announces \$100 Million to Expand Homeless Prevention Program

WASHINGTON (Dec. 13, 2011) - The Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development today announced that a new national report shows that homelessness among Veterans has been reduced by nearly 12 percent between January 2010 and January 2011. The 12 percent decline keeps the Obama Administration on track to meet the goal of ending Veteran homelessness in 2015.

"This new report is good news for the tens of thousands of Veterans we have helped find a home. Our progress in the fight against homelessness has been significant, but our work is not complete until no Veteran has to sleep on the street," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We have been successful in achieving this milestone

due to strong leadership from the President and hard work by countless community organizations and our federal, state, and local partners who are committed to helping Veterans and their families get back on their feet."

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan added, "We're absolutely headed in the right direction as we work to end homelessness amongst those who have served our nation. This significant decline tells us that the Obama Administration is on the right path, working together across agencies to target Federal resources to produce a sharp and measureable reduction in Veteran homelessness. As we put forth in the first Federal plan to prevent and end homelessness, there's plenty of work ahead to reach our goal, but these numbers validate the work done by both HUD and VA to reach our nation's homeless Veterans and get them into permanent housing."

According to the 2011 supplement to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), 67,495 Veterans were homeless in the United States on a single night in January 2011 – a significant reduction from last year's single night count of 76,329.

Since 2009, working with over 4,000 community agencies, VA and HUD have successfully housed a total of 33,597 Veterans in permanent, supportive housing with dedicated case managers and access to high-quality VA

health care. The complete 2011 Annual Homeless Assessment Report will be available in 2012.

VA also announced it will make \$100 million in grants available to community agencies across the country to prevent nearly 42,000 Veterans and their families from falling into homelessness or to quickly return them to stable housing. The funds are offered for fiscal year 2012 through VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, a homeless-prevention and rapid re-housing program.

"The problems that lead to homelessness begin long before Veterans and their families are on the streets," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "By putting more resources into prevention services for those at risk of becoming homeless, we

will continue to help more veterans and their families turn their lives around."

Last year, VA provided \$60 million through the SSVF program to community providers, which will affect nearly 22,000 people through 85 non-profit community agencies in 40 states and the District of Columbia. The program provides community organizations with funding for counseling, training, education assistance, direct time-limited financial assistance, transportation, child care, rent, utilities, and other services aimed at preventing homelessness or providing homes for participating Veterans and their family members.

The available funds we announced in a message board in the Federal Register and at VA's website, www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp. Private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives interested in the grants have until February 15, 2012 to submit completed applications.

In December 2011 and January 2012, VA will sponsor free workshops to review the grant application process. Community organizations interested in applying for funds under this program can use the website to find dates for workshops in Atlanta, Baltimore, Denver, San Francisco, and St. Louis. Community organizations seeking more information on the SSVF program can also contact VA at 1-877-737-0111 or at ssvf@va.gov.



Drew Nathan - Promoted to Major



Drew Nathan was promoted to Major during a pinning ceremony at the ND National Guard Armory which was held October 30th, 2011.

Drew deployed with Bravo Company, 3-504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division to Afghanistan in 2003 where he led a 40 man platoon on a number of Combat Foot Patrols and Air Assault Missions throughout Afghanistan. Drew assisted in the capture of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind behind the 911 attacks while conducting a Combat Airborne Assault in February 2003. He currently serves as the 1-188th Air Defense Artillery Battalion S3 Operations Officer in Grand Forks, ND.

Drew Nathan Featured Speaker at Veterans Day Ceremony November 11, 2011

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Armistice Day Proclamation. The last paragraph set the tone for future observances: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations"



The name was changed to Veteran's Day by an act of congress on May 24, 1954. In October of that year, President Eisenhower called on all citizens to observe the day by remembering the sacrifices of all those who fought so gallantly, and through rededication to the task of promoting an enduring peace. The President referred to the change of name to Veteran's Day in honor of the servicemen of all America's wars.

Major Drew Nathan, 1-188th Air Defense Artillery, Battalion S3 Operations Officer, ND Army National Guard was the featured speaker for this very special ceremony to honor the servicemen and women of all America's Wars on Veteran's Day 2011.

Major Nathan gave a very inspirational address to the crowd that came to observe this special day. His message truly came from his heart and was very well received by everyone that was in attendance. The ceremony included, advance of the colors, singing of the National Anthem, an invocation, special music, a benediction, a rifle salute and Taps. After the ceremony Major Nathan joined everyone for lunch which was served in the County Office Building, 6th Floor for a brief visit.

Drew is a Disabled Veterans Outreach Specialist in Grand Forks. Drew currently lives in Hillsboro, ND and is married to Fara Beck of Leeds, ND and has a 5 year old son, Jerod.

Link to the ceremony posted on WDAZ: http://www.wdaz.com/event/article/id/11156/publisher_ID/30/.




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