

March 2018

Vietnam Veteran



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 392



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 392 • Portland, Oregon

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."



Elections

We had our officer elections for 2018 at our February meeting. The results of our election follows.

President Steve Carr

1st Vice President Larry Cranford

2nd Vice President Dudley Redhead

Treasurer Bill Fuher

Secretary Don Curtis

Support the Center

For the last several months we have said more support is needed at the center during the week.

On Tuesdays we have Steve, Larry, Don, Dudley, and Gary in the morning. A weekly planning and operation meeting. But no one is here on Monday, Thursday, or Friday.

We are lacking in helping Vietnam vets that pass thru our doors, because we are not here for them.

People are needed here at the center during the week to help. 2 to 4 hours a week from you is all that is needed.

Lets help vets.

Steve Carr– Who is he?

Steve was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. After graduating from high school in 1964, he attended UCLA as a geology major. The transition from a small high school of 1000 students to a university with 25,000 was difficult for him, and he struggled to find his bearings socially and academically.

In 1966, Steve lost his draft deferment, and knew he had decisions to make. There was no draft lottery in those days, so he was a prime candidate to be drafted. Steve decided to take control of the situation and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force June 1966.

Steve did his basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas and technical training at Lowry AFB, Colorado. His career field was special weapons. After tech school he was assigned to the 320th Munitions Maintenance Squadron. The 320th was part of the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing and was in the U.K. at RAF Wethersfield. The wing was flying F-100's at that time, and their mission was to provide tactical air support to NATO.

Honorably discharged in 1970, Steve's goal was to go back to school. He started at Santa Monica College, where he earned A.A. degree in Electronic Engineering Technology. He then attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, where he earned a BS degree in Electrical Engineering in 1974.

After graduation, Steve went to work for Pacific Power & Light in Portland. He was part of an engineering group building coal-fired generating plants in Wyoming. When those projects were completed, he moved on to other jobs, including Alternate Energy R&D, Environmental Services, and Operations. Steve took the opportunity for early retirement in 1998 after 24 years of service.

The next step after retiring was to brush up on his programming skills and learn about the "World Wide Web", which was just getting started. After developing several web sites for friends, he started his own business, Etherjazz, which he operates to this day.

Feeling a strong bond to veterans, Steve devotes his time towards helping them, with the support of his wife of 39 years, Dede.



5th Annual Agent Orange

Town Hall

March 24th we had our 5th annual toxin/dioxin (Agent Orange) town hall at the Portland VA Medical Center. As the only chapter to have such an event at VA facility in the country, we show our commitment to helping vets along with the VA.

Don Curtis organized a phenomenal event this year. Reynolds High School provided the color guard presenting our nations colors. The hospital director gave an opening, welcome.

Attendees were shown some videos that brought our attention to the Vietnam veteran. We also had the songs for all armed forces branches played to honor all veterans.

Speakers brought to our attention the long and hard fight that we have fought. The fight to have our plight with Agent Orange affects on us, and our offspring. The fight is not over yet, we must continue to research and verify all affects from this chemical.

We are leading the way in accountability of the military to veterans. Our current service members are having their own issues, and we must support them. Our leadership will save many, the hardships we have endured.

We again had Jim Pace to speak to us on our claims, and rights. Primarily we need to have properly trained and certified VSO's working on our claims. That is going to properly submit, with documentation a claim. Claims are rejected many times because supporting documentation is not provided with the claim.

A rejected claim does not mean NO. The vet has rights to appeal the claim, and request a reevaluation of their claim.

We know the claim process is lengthy, but do not give up. Fight for your right.

In The Public Eye



Dudley Redhead is again going racing, with his partner Jim Graffy at the wheel. This will be the 38 season this duo has competed in sports car racing. With championships in several classes, in Oregon Region SCCA and International Conference of Sports Car Clubs.

This season they will compete in 2 classes, Spec Miata, and STL. Running a limited schedule of primarily Majors (events) in Oregon, Washington, and California. Culminating in the SCCA National Championships in Sonoma, California in September.

The team Wild Hare Racing proudly has the car painted in patriotic red/white/blue. Also the American flag waves above the trailer. A Vietnam Veterans of America / Chapter 392 banner over the pit area for the car.

During the course of any race weekend competitors and spectators alike stop by to talk about Vietnam veterans and veterans in general.

Putting veteran services and information to the public.

