

'THE 201 FILE'

VETERANS NEWSLETTER

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A Father's Story

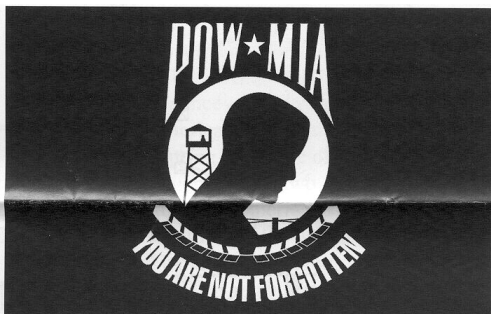
We have all watched the Mel Gibson movie. I had to live it. I couldn't sleep. I work a night shift, 2000 to 0600 hrs. I was up and dressed at 1700 hrs. My wife saw them first. She cried out "It's Cody!" I looked out the window and said "They are at the wrong house." They knocked on our door and my life changed.

The SMG and the Chaplin (MAJ) told us the words we never thought we'd hear. Our 21 year old YOUNGEST Son was no longer with us. After that everything was a blur... The CAO was there the next day, then our oldest son and his family were in our house. Then we were driven to SFO. We waited and then were moved into a hanger. There was an Army Honor Guard and the PGR. Then we saw it. A flagged covered casket carrying our Son, with an SSG with the US Army SF escorting it. I really can't remember what I saw after that. I was crying too much. It seemed like it took forever for the trip home. Our CAO forgot to fill the tank in SF and we ran out of gas and had to stop to refill. We got home after everyone else. (Thanks for waiting...) When we got there Modesto PD Motor Units, CHP Motor Units and PGR were standing by. I owe them all a debt of gratitude. Then next evening I was in my Dress uniform and stood between my Son and my Son. After the veiwing I assisted closing the casket. My thoughts are with those Fathers that have to go though what I have and am still dealing with.



David Moore

Each year on the third Friday of September-POW/MIA Recognition Day-the nation honors and remembers both prisoners of war and those missing in action who have yet to come home. As of February 2010 the Department of Defense reported 1,720 missing from Southeast Asia, 4,450 from World War I, 78,384 from World War II, 123 from the Cold War and 8,050 from Korea. Mrs Michael Hoff, a member of the National



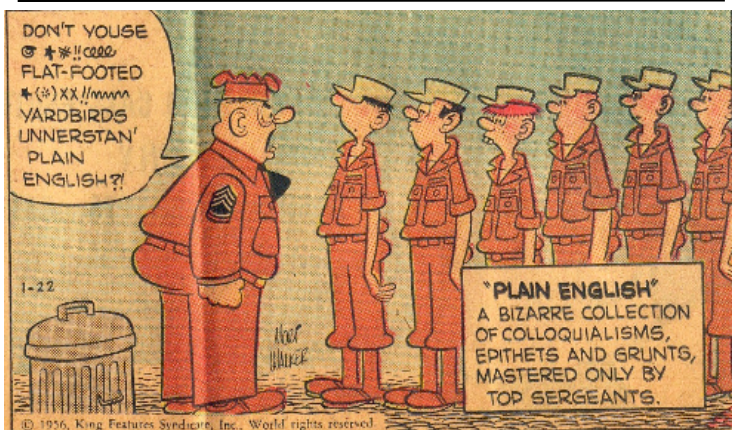
League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia realized the need for symbol to represent the League. She contacted the Annin Co. advertising agency where graphic designer Newton, "Newt" Heisley was assigned the task. Using his WW II Army Air Corps experience and the emaciated face and gaunt figure of his recently medically discharged son as inspiration for the black and white flag. In August 1990, Congress officially recognized the flag and it is flown on six congressionally mandated days, including POW/MIA Recognition Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

Reflections

Rae Wilson, 25 year old pharmacy clerk in Nebraska, spent the first four months of the early WW II years organizing and managing what would eventually be known as the USO. Between December 25th, 1941 and April 1, 1946 over six million Soldiers, Sailors and Marines aboard troop trains stopped briefly in North Platte where canteen volunteers provided them with food, coffee, magazines and words of encouragement and thanks. Rae died in 1986 at the age of 70, survived, as one author recently put it, "by millions of grateful soldiers and their families."

Legislation to enhance, expand and modernize benefits for Veterans sent to President for signature

Enhances Employment Opportunities
Reauthorizes the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program for 2010 through 2014
Ensures the welfare of veterans and their families by increasing insurance limits.
Secures compensation, pensions and other benefits.
Protects Service members called to combat in regards to re-employment rights, early contract termination for certain services and residential leases, and allows the Attorney General to bring civil suit against any violator of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.
Honors fallen service members and their families.
Strengthens education benefits.
Addresses housing needs of disabled veterans
Invests in research for Gulf War veterans.



REMEMBER!!!

Rehearsal for the Veterans choir is scheduled for November 4th at 7:00 PM downstairs in the Point. Bring your veteran friends to be a part of this. Let's make this the biggest and best one yet. For those who have not sung with us before it is a memorable experience.



City Wide Veterans Open House and Veterans Day Commemoration

Open House: November 6th, 2010, 6PM-8PM The Chapel, 12th and M Street.

Sunday, November 7th, 2010, 9AM and 10:45AM, Crosspoint Church, 12th and M Street.

Salute to all Armed Forces
Veterans Choir singing
Small gifts for all attending veterans

Tom LaBarbara will be bringing the message in the two morning services focusing on GOD's healing provisions so we can all understand better how to minister to those veterans who are hurting.

Veterans Day at The Gallo

Time: 2:00 PM

Place: Gallo Center for the Arts

Ticket Price \$6.00

Performances by:

The Gottchalk Music Concert Band

The Ripon Junior ROTC

Beyer High School Marching Band/Color Guard

Joe Rykert

Anastasis Dance Group

Guest Speaker LTC Dintcho

Michael Anderson, SR

The Veteran of the Year-Derrick McGinnis and more



The Old Sarge Says:

"Don't draw fire...it irritates the people around you"