

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU

ROLL CALL

Honoring and Serving Veterans
Vol 32, Issue 1
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Important Information About Luncheons

As we announced at the December Luncheon, **we will no longer be making phone calls to people who fail to RSVP.** We have grown so much, so quickly that it is not possible to do this anymore. The responsibility is on the veteran to contact us BEFORE the deadline to RSVP. We turn in the headcount for food on the Monday the week of the luncheon, so we **MUST** have RSVPs by the Friday before. Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to grow.
~ Kelli Martin, President

The 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

Even though the Vietnam War has long been over, as with any war, the effects of war can linger for decades. Vietnam veterans did not have “Welcome Home” parades like troops returning from WWII had. Many Vietnam veterans felt forgotten, unappreciated, and even discriminated against. For some of them the trauma of their battle experiences or their physical disabilities have shattered their lives. For even more, adjustment to civilian life was not easy. They were sent to guerrilla warfare far away from home, and they were exposed to unimaginable stress and carnage. Then they were sent back home with no help with readjustment, no deprogramming, no “welcome home” parades, no one to talk to or who understood their experiences. As they arrived back into civilization, some struggled to establish a personal identity or a place in society. They felt isolated and unappreciated for serving your country. This scenario is similar to what many Vietnam veterans felt in their transition from battle to home.

In addition to suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, which is a physiological fear response, many veterans experienced *moral injury*.¹ Some combat and operational experiences can inevitably transgress deeply held beliefs that undergird a service member’s humanity, and include having to kill another human being, seeing friends killed, bearing witness to intense human suffering or the grotesque aftermath of battle. This leads to serious inner conflict because the experience is at odds with core ethical and moral beliefs.

Fortunately, nowadays our Vietnam veterans are getting the respect and recognition they deserve! **All Vietnam War veterans who served honorably are heroes. Period.** And this truism should have been saliently evident in the 1960s and 1970s; but, sadly, many citizens in this country looked at these great heroes as symbols of a war that they were against. So, instead of receiving a hero’s welcome when these superstars returned to America, they were mistreated, vilified, and scorned.

The horrible way these heroes were treated remains one of the most disgraceful and disgusting parts of American history.

“As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans.

As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots --their names etched in black granite -- who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war, yet who returned

1 Maugen, S. & Litz, B. (2012). Moral injury in veterans of war. PTSD Quarterly, 23(1), ISSN: 1050-1835.

home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,600 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a Nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home. In the reflection of The Wall, we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful for their service, valor, and sacrifice.” Excerpt from Presidential Proclamation

We are planning a very special surprise for our Vietnam Veterans at the January luncheon, and it’s not the video. Vietnam Vets please get your service photo to Kelli ASAP. kelli@roll-call.org And RSVP!

PHOTO DIRECTORY

ALL VETERANS,

WE WILL RESUME TAKING PHOTOS AND COLLECTING SERVICE PHOTOS AT THE JANUARY LUNCHEON. PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY AND GO BACK TO THE ROOM NEXT TO THE KITCHEN TO GET YOUR PHOTO TAKEN AND PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHERS WITH A CURRENT SERVICE PHOTO THEY CAN TAKE A PICTURE OF, IF YOU HAVEN’T ALREADY.

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ROLL CALL

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Board Member Contacts

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Roll Call would like to express sincere thanks to Parker County Quilting Guild, especially **Sandra McKee** and her daughter **Becky**, for making the beautiful patriotic quilts that were donated at the December, 2017 luncheon. Although there were some snags with our new ID numbers & drawing method, the bottom line is these ladies worked tirelessly for months to make these quilts and it was an amazing gift for our veterans! Also, we would like to tell the ladies of **Heart Over Heels** what a wonderful program they delivered to help make our Christmas Luncheon extra special.

Upcoming Luncheons

MEETING LOCATION:

Birchman Baptist Church
 9100 N. Normandale St.
 Fort Worth, TX 76116
 11:30a-1:00pm

- January 26, 2018—Vietnam War *Special surprise!
- February 23, 2018—A story of Loss, Original Roll Call member Joe Simpson shares his experiences. U.S. Army Co. C; 334th Inf. 84th Div.
- March 30, 2018—A Patriotic Musical Program featuring world renowned Tommy DeHorney

PLEASE RSVP BY FRIDAY 1/19/18 to SMSgt Mary Staffeld at 817-899-0296 mary@roll-call.org or Mark Donahew at 817-528-1535 mark@roll-call.org

Donors

We received a little over \$2,000 in donations at the December Luncheon from table donations! Here are a few that listed their names:

Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Addington, Mitchell Bell, Dr. James Burnett, Bill Burrows, Anne Byers, Grady Cheek, Randy Eagleton, Wilda Evans, Don Graves, Marcia Hunter, Carroll Johnson, Vernoy Johnson, Bill Kelly, Pamela Kessler, Gregory & Brenda Kozakis, Bill Murdock, Jim Pharris, Betty Poteet, Margery Reese, Gene & Judy Richards, Marilyn Riner, Joan Sears, R. Craig Smith, P.D. Wagner, John Wilhite

We also received a \$2,500 check from **Lockheed Martin** in late December, as well as donations from Matt Nowick with Commemorative Airforce, and a donation from Robert & Tina Brackeen.

We are so appreciative of all of the support!

Special Thanks to ...

- **Trinity Valley Quilting Guild** for the quilts they donated to our Vietnam Veterans.
- **U.S. Marines at Lockheed Martin** for the \$250.00 donation to Roll Call
- **Brenda Leonhart** and her volunteers for the WONDERFUL meal!
- **New Lockheed Martin volunteers** that helped assemble giftbags and worked the luncheon.
- Kay Harmon, Erin McFatrige, Diane Walsh, Derek Kushera, Shanna Ball, Rick Irving, Joe Schneider, Ken Eastwood, Brian & Suzy Taylor, Mike Wirtzberger and the many other volunteers who made the December Program such a success.

