

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS



McHENRY COUNTY CHAPTER



"The Chapter with a Heart"

July 2008

McHenry County Chapter of ViệtNow
"THE CHAPTER WITH A HEART"

MEETING: General Meetings are open to the public and are held on the **fourth (4) Tuesday of each month** at 7:30 P. M. at the McHenry VFW – 3002 W. Route 120, McHenry.

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EDITORIAL POLICY: The Newsletter Staff will evaluate all articles submitted as to appropriateness and Relevancy. Newsletter items must be submitted to the editorial staff by the Chapter meeting each Month.

President's Ramblings for July 2008

Joe Lewis, YOUR Chapter President

Today I was watching one of my all time favorite television series, *Bonanza*. The episode was from 1967 and the title was "*Unseen Wounds*." Just from the title, I had a feeling of what the plot was going to be about.

Ben Cartwright paid a visit to one of his friends in another town. His friend was the town sheriff for the last 12-years and seven months. For the last six months, the sheriff, played by Leslie Nielson, has been having severe headaches and intense nightmares. As luck would have it, while Ben is in town the sheriff has a flashback that takes him back in time to a battle he fought during the war.

The experience started about midday and lasted through the night and into the next morning. The flashback took the sheriff to a situation where he and his men were cornered and he relived that experience.

While the sheriff held the town at bay, Ben is talking with the doctor about how his friend needs to go into a hospital that specializes in this kind of treatment. Ben talks about the despicable conditions of these hospitals and the treatment these war veterans suffer through on a daily basis. It just happens that the doctor has an article there about the new facility that has just opened and is now accepting patients.

The sheriff's son and Ben do finally talk him into walking out and surrender with little recollection of what has just transpired. The story ends with the doctor riding off to Washington DC with the sheriff to get him into the hospital for treatment.

As I watched the story line unfold, it surprised me that someone had the courage to write a show for a major television program on this illness that we commonly know today as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Yes, I am fully aware that soldiers have been suffering from this condition for many generations before the Vietnam War. While in college, our class was to read a short story titled *The Bran Burner*. Another great story about a Civil War veteran, but that is another story for another day.

The writers of this show either did good background research or had first hand experience themselves. Leslie Neilson did a wonderful job portraying how some people might experience the delayed effects of combat and their experiences of war.

Throughout the program today, I kept checking the year this show aired. Yep, there it was, the year was 1967. The height of the Vietnam War and the returning servicemembers were experience PTSD back home in "The World." The news and movie media portrayed the Vietnam Veterans as screwed up people. Little did the media know then what we know today about PTSD and its effects. Maybe they missed this episode of, *Bonanza*. I have not seen too many of these episodes recently myself. However, if I see this one is going to air again, I might take the time to watch it. It has been a while since I experienced a program that completely kept my interest from start to finish.

Hum, why the long narrative about this program? To start with there are many of our returning veterans who suffer from the beginning states of PTSD. The DoD and the VA are fine tuning programs to help these veterans and active duty servicemembers. They need the help that was not available to us when we returned home to "The World." After almost a century of the Veterans Administration, the Department of Defense and the VA are working together on veterans treatment.

Interesting! While sitting at the VA on 7/2/08, waiting to see me doctor, one of the nurses came on the intercom with an announcement. The nurse announced that one of the patients there this day had been awarded the US Distinguished Service Cross and another high medal for valor. This man was a World War Two veteran and he had received these medals in January of this year. The lady then announced that he had also been presented the French Medal of Honor by the French Ambassador in Washington DC during the ceremony. This is the highest award that is presented by the French Government and he was one of six to receive it from the United States. We were asked to offer our congratulations and come see the medal. I will admit this, I was impressed.

Stand Tall and Be Proud.

YOU are the Best of Your Generation, YOU are ViêtNow.

Cruising the Mediterranean

By Tony Bilus 07/07/2008

Disclaimer: The opinions and ideas presented below and criticisms, actual or perceived, are those of the author and in no way reflect the views of VietNow, McHenry County VietNow Chapter, their officers, or members. The author wishes to present his observations and in no way is intent on belittling, insulting, or ridiculing any one person or person's sensibilities. Please take everything presented herein with a grain of salt.

With the days experiences at Ephesus still fresh in our minds we soon were whisked to Miletus.

Miletus, at one time in the past, was a seaside city and was considered the cultural center by both the Greeks and the Romans, but once the Aegean Sea built up with silt and receded, the city lost its allure as a sea side resort and was abandoned. The city was more or less disassembled brick by brick and now there are very few signs left of its past glory. The main indicator of its importance as a cultural center and existence is the relatively intact amphitheater which we visited and learned much about the hierarchical seating system and historical details of and about Miletus.

Miletus Theater was built by the Greeks during the reign of Alexander the Great; the original theater seated 5000 people. The Greeks loved the theater and enjoyed the plays of the day. They built the theater in the side of the mountain where they got the best natural acoustics for the plays performed on the stage. When the Roman Empire occupied the region, under the rules of Emperors Claudius, Markus Aurelius and Commodus, the Romans expanded the seating capacity of the theater to 15,000 and added pits for gladiatorial combats and wild animal hunt staging; they also added a nine kilometer colonnaded and covered road leading from the sea port to the theater. Remnants of the columns and the road still exist, though the roof has, long since, collapsed and crumbled.

Looming above the theater is a towered fort, built from the Miletus bricks, that was and still is used by the Turkish military as a guard outpost. There is an ancient Mosque that was also built using the bricks from the ancient Miletus houses.

We spent some time milling about the theater compound, observing the stage entrances and theater accesses. I chanced to sit in one of the finest of the marble seats, a throne like stone chair with comfortable back support; it made me feel like royalty. We observed and viewed all items of interest that we could find and then we boarded the bus and were off to Didyma.

Didyma is an ancient fishing village built on a mountainside, it still is an active town and at the top of the mountain there is an ancient temple, dedicated to the god Apollo. The temple was our destination; it is one of the best preserved ancient temples in existence. Here we were able to view the old altars, walk the access tunnels to the temple's oracles, explore and photograph many of the temples relieves and artifacts.

We learned about the trickery and bribery of the ancient temple priests, how they would control, modify and regulate the interpretations of the oracle's forecasts. The scheming and tomfoolery used to enrich themselves and their cohorts. It must have been good to be a priest or an associate of the temple in those days.

Once we completed the tour of the temple, we were driven to a fine semi-open eatery to enjoy some of the local cuisine. There we found a salad bar with a variety of salads and fruit to accompany the day's main offering of grilled fish. The fish was tasty, but it disturbed most of us because we Americans don't like our food staring back at us. The local custom is to grill and serve the fish whole head, bones, gills, tail and fins, not something that we filet preferring Americans are accustomed too. Needless to say, many in our group did not partake in the consumption of the piscine offering.

Fortunately the salad and desert offerings were sufficient for those picky eaters to sate their hungers.

Meal accomplished, we boarded our bus and headed back to Kusedasi. Once there we were invited to view and perhaps purchase some of the finest Persian rugs available in Kusedasi.

The merchant dealing in Persian rugs provided hot tea, white or red wine and Turkish biscuits to all the tour members while displaying his finest of weaves. Reasonably priced, with shipping and taxes starting at the low \$6000.00 to whatever you are willing to pay. I enjoyed the show and the wine...

The tour ended, we did some sight seeing and returned to our ship for the next leg of our cruise. We were towed out of the port of Kusedasi and set our course to none other than the Greek island of Santorini.

To be continued...

For those who wish to view the photographs of this spectacular cruise, here is the Internet link to the albums:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/cdedriver>

Thank you, Tony B.



The Great Theater



The Great Theater



Tony sitting in Theater



Sign



Top of the Theater



More of the Theater



The Great Theater

SIGN UP NOW!
3rd Annual
THE LCPL JONATHAN W. COLLINS
5K Run/1 Mile Walk



When: Sunday, August 17th, 2008
Time: Registration 8AM/Race 9AM
Where: Lippold Park
 8597 IL-Rt. 176
 Crystal Lake, IL
Cost: \$15

The LCPL Jonathan W. Collins Memorial Fund supports the following:

- ❖ Marine Corps Toys for Tots
- ❖ LCPL Jonathan W. Collins Scholarship Award
- ❖ Crystal Lake South High School

To ensure a t-shirt please mail form and check by Sunday July 29th, 2008 to:
 LCPL Jonathan W. Collins Memorial Fund
 PO Box 1331
 Crystal Lake, IL 60039



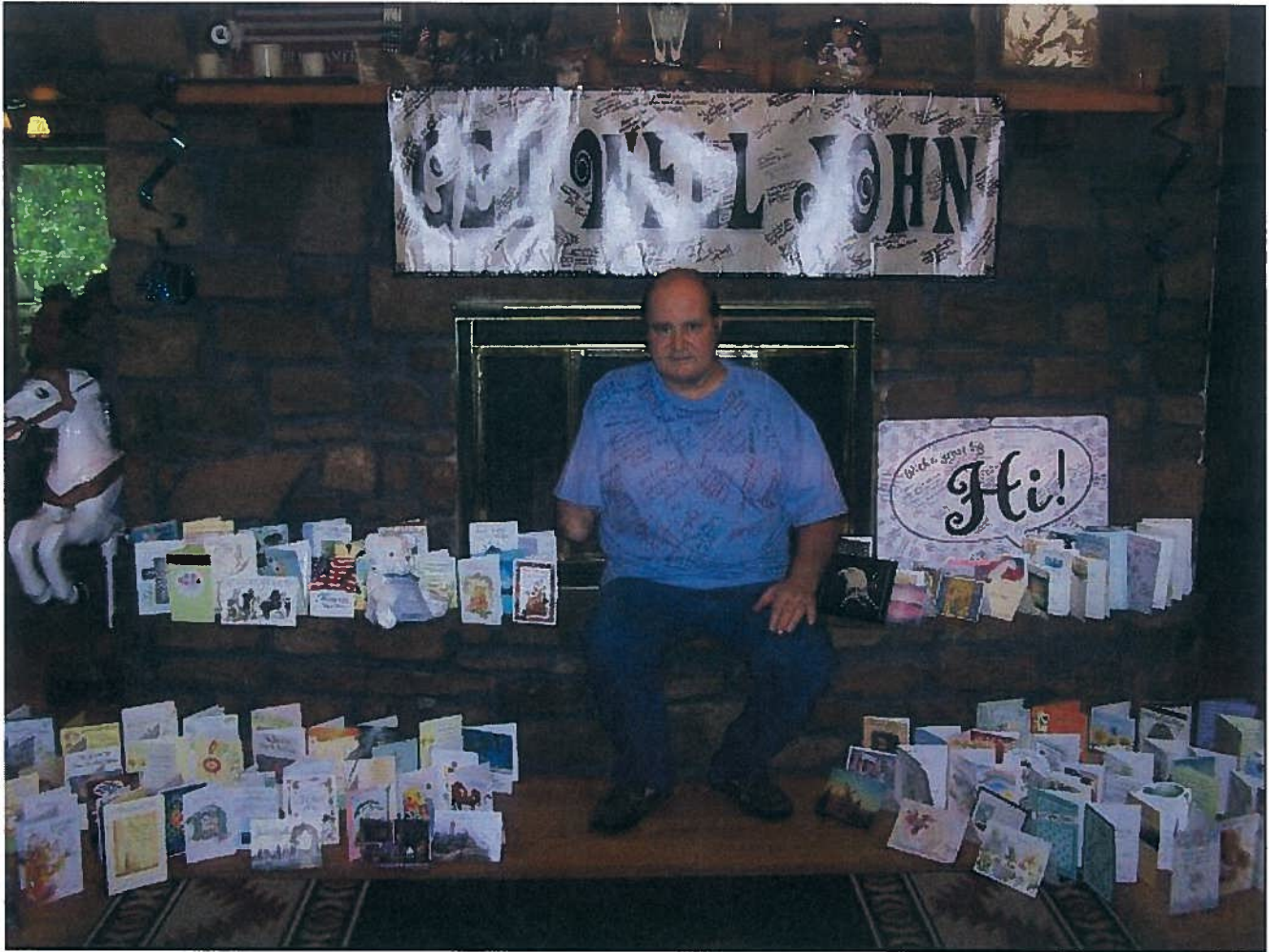
Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone/email _____

T-Shirt (please indicate size and number of shirts):
 YOUTH L____ADULT S____ ADULT M____ADULT L____ADULT XL____
 ADULT XXL____

◆ For further information regarding this event please visit www.jonathancollins.org



Hope to see Everyone there. Rose



Dear Family, Friends, and Comrades,

Thank you for all your prayers, thoughts, and support. Because of your prayers, letters, cards, and Father God's eternal mercy, I'm still with us and hopefully starting to heal. I spent about 50 days in the hospital; I was release yesterday. After the open heart surgery, I had at least four complications including fluid on my lungs and run away heart rate over 180 for three days. So, I'm a little worn out, being shocked, and then holes punched in my lungs and being hooked to hoses to relieve the fluid. I'm looking forward to recovering for a while, then back on the road to see your beautiful faces. Thank you for your continued support of prayer and offerings to our ministry, in spite of me missing two months of singing and speaking engagements. Our ministry's bills and commitments to other ministries are all current.

Thank you all for your sacrifice of love and commitment to me, my family, and our ministry.

Much true love,

John Steer

SHOCKING REVELATION: U.S. POWS STILL IN LAOS

AFP & others have said it for years; now proof emerges U.S. soldiers still held in Southeast Asian camps

By Christopher J. Petherick

There is new evidence that American GIs are being held against their will in Southeast Asia more than three decades after the Vietnam War officially ended. A letter recently received by the father of a U.S. pilot, who went missing in action in 1971, could provide a key piece of information that proves American prisoners of war are alive and imprisoned in remote areas of South Vietnam.

Over the years, historians, researchers and independent journalists have made a compelling case that, during the Cold War, thousands of U.S. POWs were moved among Soviet, Chinese and North Korean labor camps, where they toiled and died under the worst conditions.

Families of POWs and MIAs say the U.S. government has turned a blind eye to the plight of these men, even going so far as to sabotage their efforts at finding out what exactly happened to their loved ones.*

But Joe Milliner's incredible story of his son, told at the June 20 meeting of the National Alliance of POW/MIA Families in Crystal City, Va., could change all of that. Documentation compiled by Milliner could finally force the country to come to terms with the fact that thousands of Americans were abandoned by the U.S.

There is confusion over what happened to Milliner's son, U.S. Army Warrant Officer William P. Milliner, when the helicopter he was co-piloting disappeared on March 6, 1971. What is known is that William, who was 20 years old at the time, was the co-pilot on an AH1G Cobra helicopter gunship. He was returning from a combat support mission over Laos when he disappeared in cloudy weather.

The military reportedly dispatched a search-and-rescue team to locate William and the pilot of the helicopter, John F. Hummel. Tragically, the two were never located, and the Army eventually gave up looking for them. Over the years, the Milliner family has never given up hope that their son would be found. As with many families of missing soldiers, the U.S. military has been unhelpful, some would even say willfully obstructing honest inquiries into what happened to lost loved ones.

However, recent events have renewed the Milliner's faith that William is alive and is being held in Southeast Asia against his will, possibly as a slave laborer. The first occasion came as a result of a classified document, which was given to Milliner by a source inside the Pentagon who is sympathetic to MIA-POW families.

The official document was dated Oct. 4, 1989, and reports of a Thai businessman who said U.S. citizens, including a "William P. Milliner," are being held in a dangerous "no-man's land" controlled by thugs and warlords in a mountainous region in Laos.

A Thai businessman said he could secure William's release if the U.S. government were willing to pay a ransom. According to Milliner, U.S. officials shot down any discussion of a reward, effectively killing off any hopes of freeing the American.

Were it not for his friend at the Pentagon, Milliner said the classified account of the exchange between U.S. officials in Thailand and the unnamed businessman was slated to be archived for 50 years and would not be released—even to family members—until 2039.

Since that time, Milliner says that there have been sporadic sightings of his son, including another U.S. document that claims warlords were seeking only \$1,800 for the release of his son.

But the most compelling piece of evidence arrived just last year in the form of a letter from a doctor who had been working in Cambodia. According to Milliner, the physician's account proves to him that his son is still alive

somewhere in the jungle.

In September 2007, Milliner says, he received an unsigned letter from someone claiming to be a physician working in Cambodia and Laos.

The doctor wrote that, in early September 2007, he had treated an American man with certain tell-tale wounds. The doctor said that the patient was suffering from a poor amputation of his arm. He also described certain scars that matched other sightings of William that the Milliners have collected over the years.

The doctor said he was unnerved by the extent of secrecy surrounding this patient. He had been driven through the jungle for what he described as a long time, and he was allowed to bring just a few medical instruments and medicine—but no assistants.

The doctor wrote that the guards kept a close watch over this patient. However, in a free moment, the man said in perfect English, punctuated by some Vietnamese, that he is an American being held against his will.

Milliner received that letter in September of last year. Since then, Milliner says he believes the doctor now fears for his life and has gone into hiding. Over the years, he says, presumptive Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) have both undermined efforts to help Americans who are still being held against their will. McCain and Kerry have both weighed in against offering reward money for the release of U.S. citizens who may still be in captivity in Laos, Vietnam, China and North Korea, said Milliner.

*For more read **Perfidy: The Government Cabal That Knowingly Abandoned Our POWs and Left Them to Die** by Sgt. John Top Holland and Fr. Patrick Bascio. Soft cover 225 pages. Price: \$25 for one copy. \$19 per copy for active and retired U.S. military. Order from AFP, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20003. Call 1-888-699-NEWS toll free to charge. No S&H inside the U.S.

Christopher J. Petherick is AFP's founding editor. He now runs BRANDYWINE HOUSE BOOKS & MEDIA, P.O. Box 638, Cheltenham, MD 20623. Toll free: 1-866-656-7583. www.BrandywineHouse.us. (Issue # 27, July 7, 2008)

Note from the Prez - The above article was received from the **POWNetwork**. Our thanks to Chuck and Mary for their diligent work and dedication to keep the POW issue in the forefront. Visit their website for the latest information on the POW/MIA issue at www.pownetwork.org. Through their site, you can follow links to order POW Bracelets, books, hats, pins, and shirts. The **POWNetwork** has an extensive library of all the POW's from Vietnam who were released and those who remain listed as POW or MIA, Operation Desert Storm, and the current Operation's Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The **POWNetwork** has biographies on Prisoners of War and Missing in Action [POW/MIA] from the Vietnam Conflict. The list of ALL those declared POW/MIA during the Vietnam Conflict, beginning in 1952. Includes those declared Prisoner of War (POW), declared Missing In Action (MIA), Presumed Dead (PFOD), Killed in Action/Body Not Recovered (KIA/BNR), Died In Captivity (DIC), escapees, and returnees - includes civilians and foreign nationals. Based on the PMSEA used by USG officials.

Former P.O.W. Colonel Theodore "Ted" Guy, USAF RET said of this biography program, "the most comprehensive database available on MIAs."

"Tell me and I'll forget.
Show me, I may not remember.
Involve me, and I'll Understand."

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS



postage

McHenry County Chapter
P.O. Box 998 McHenry, IL 60051

Next Meeting
Tuesday, July 22, 2008
@ 7:30 pm

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES
FIESTA DAYS ARTICLE WILL BE
IN THE AUGUST ISSUE

McHenry County Chapter VietNow Membership Application

DATE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____
NAME _____ PHONE () _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
SEVICE BRANCH _____ DATES OF DUTY (1957-CURRENT) _____

_____ I am a veteran and want to be a FULL MEMBER OF VietNow

_____ I am not a veteran but want to be an ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF VietNow

Enclosed is my check for _____

Memberships are \$15 annually renewable June 30th.
Veterans must enclose a copy of their DD214 form.
Send with check payable to: McHenry County Chapter of VietNow
PO Box 998, McHenry, IL 60051

For a sum of ten (10) times the yearly dues , one can become a LIFE MEMBER