

FCS
Copies To Women's
Commission.

_____, 1998

Contact: _____
() - _____

Women who served in Vietnam to gather at national reunion

Olympia, Wash. - Women who served in the military during the Vietnam War will gather in Olympia, Wash., for a national reunion focusing on public education scheduled for November 11-13, 1999.

According to organizers, the reunion is not intended to be just a party with old friends, but rather is aimed at educating the public about the history of servicewomen in general, and specifically those who served in Vietnam.

Though the majority of American servicewomen who served in Vietnam were nurses, women also served in non-medical roles such as intelligence analysts, supply officers, personnel and payroll clerks, typists and a variety of other support roles.

Organizers are currently in the initial planning stages of the event. They say their aim is to contact more than 1,000 of the 7,500 women who served in the Vietnam War as part of military forces, almost 84 percent of which (6,250) served in medical units.

For more information about the reunion, contact Donna Lowery at (206) 501-0510.

###

1999 Reunion Planned!

Attention all active military and ex-military enlisted women and their immediate supporting officers who served in Vietnam. We are looking for you to participate in a November 1999 reunion in Olympia, WA. Please contact:

Claire Starnes
P.O. Box 9
Conowingo, MD 21918

Tel:
Email: _____

Newsletter Comment:

UPDATE: As you may already know, the reunion committee estimates that over 2,000 women (non-nurses) were in-country. As of January 6, 1999, they have found 414 so far and still have quite a way to go. At the start of their search, they had found only 116. Please continue to pass the word. Also, below is a news article by AP which was forwarded to me concerning this very special reunion:

CONOWINGO, Md. (AP) - Claire Starnes remembers the day in 1971 when she returned to America from Vietnam and was chased through a San Francisco airport by protesters because she was wearing her Army uniform.

"It's like I was ashamed of the uniform, but I wasn't," Ms. Starnes said. "It was a strange feeling."

It was a feeling that didn't sit well with Ms. Starnes.

Now, she has a goal to reunite and honor women veterans at a ceremony in Olympia, Wash., next Veterans Day. She co-founded an organization called Vietnam Women Veterans to help find women who served in Vietnam.

"You must remember how ostracized the Vietnam vets were, and even more so the women," Ms. Starnes said. "Most everyone went their different ways, not telling anyone they had been in Vietnam. A large percentage walked alone all these years, while carrying all the baggage of Vietnam with them. ..."

Ms. Starnes said many of the female veterans need help emotionally and physically.

"With the reunion a reality, we'll be able to offer that help, and it's hoped they'll receive it," she said.

Women served in many capacities in Vietnam. They were stenographers, intelligence

officers, advisers and flight controllers.

"I was a photojournalist," Ms. Starnes, a resident of Conowingo, told the Cecil Whig in an interview. "I didn't start out as that. I started out doing communications and administrative work. While I was in Vietnam, I became a photojournalist." Even though women weren't involved in the fighting, Ms. Starnes said she still considers what females went through combat. "I think everybody who was in Vietnam was in combat. There was no front nor rear," she said.

***The Vietnam Women Veterans Welcome Home Reunion* will take place from Nov. 10-13, 1999, if money permits. Ms. Starnes is planning a four-day event featuring dinners, barbecues and awards ceremonies. She is even hoping to produce a health fair and other clinics.**

"The state of Washington is very pro-veteran and they gave us the opportunity to have the reunion there," Ms. Starnes said. The ceremony won't be geared toward the nurses because they've already been recognized. Rather, it will honor the women who enlisted and those who served as staff and line officers.

Organizing the reunion will be difficult. First, finding all the women is a huge undertaking because record-keeping was scanty and the veterans are now spread across the country.

The other obstacle is money. Ms. Starnes estimates the price tag for the event might reach \$30,000.

"Right now, we're hoping to keep registration costs down to about \$20 to \$25 for each individual," Ms. Starnes said. "That will pay for food and stuff."

For Ms. Starnes, and her friend, Pricilla Wilkewitz of Louisiana, the whole process has been a labor of love. The two roomed together in Long Binh, South Vietnam, and have kept in touch over the years.

Ms. Wilkewitz and Ms. Starnes were attending a memorial dedication in Arlington, Va., to Women in Military Service to America, when the idea to hold a reunion came to them. The two exchanged information with a dozen other women who had been in Vietnam. Then Ms. Starnes and Ms. Wilkewitz thought, why not everybody? They hope to find between 1,500 and 2,000 female veterans.

***Vietnam Women Veterans* can be reached at _____).**

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AP-NY-11-25-98 1506EST

Pam Young -- *The Northwest Veterans Newsletter*

D, Claire's design for our logo!
Done deal. P.W.



green
color

yellow
color

Vietnam medal
in color



Subject: VWV Conference Agenda (detailed)

Date: Wed, 21 Jul 1999 09:58:20 -0400

From: Claire Starnes < >

Organization: Vietnam Women Veterans

To: John Lee < >, Paul Dube < >,
"Precilla Landry (Wilkewitz)" <LAVFW@aol.com>,
Donna Lowery < >, Jinx Wampach < >,
"Patricia Babcock (Schmauch)" < >,
Donna Loring < >, LTC John Taylor < >

VIETNAM WOMEN VETERANS, INC.
FIRST HOMECOMING CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 10-13, 1999
CAVANAUGHS AT CAPITOL LAKE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

PROPOSED AGENDA

NOV 10 (WED)

REGISTRATION: 9 AM (all day) STATE ROOM

In-Charge: Jinx Wampach,
CAP cadets help with registrations, as runners, help with wheelchairs,
etc.
Need 9 people for registration tables.

NEED:

3 long tables/9 chairs
*Welcome banner 4x121 VIETNAM WOMEN VETERANS
FIRST HOMECOMING CONFERENCE
WELCOME HOME

NOTE: Marty Misiewicz has volunteered to get the banner and will pay for it.

*Stapler/staples; scissors; white-out; cash box \$300 in small bills; 3
money bags; pens/pencils; calculator; typewriter; computer; 2 trash
cans; bi-electrical plug-ins; writing tablets.
*Signs: Pre-Registration; Registration; Transportation Registration
*Calendar of events on tripod (hotel should provide this)
*Sale tables: Buttons; shirts; visors; lapel pins; Memory Book (\$8 ea)
*Packets: Agenda
Badges (color-coded) w/logo (Red: VWV; Green: all others (guests)
Banquet paid. Need to decide what we'll do (tickets, something on
badge, etc.)
Return personal photos in packet
Ditty bag (with trinkets from sponsors & VWV) (Donna Lowery get
w/Nancy Hawley-Keech of Olympia VCB
---)
Memory Book \$3 ea unless paid by sponsors

Concurrent with Registration is Military Service Organizations sign-ups
in CAPITOL ROOM.

*VFW, VVA, American Legion, WIMSA, Women Vietnam Veterans Memorial, WAC
Vet Assoc, Women AF Assoc, Women Marine Assoc, WOSL, VietNow. Need to
pin this down!

*Will need ?? tables

CONFIRMED: VietNow, WOSL

Sweatshirt/T-shirt/patches/pins sale: STATE ROOM (need 2 volunteers)

Vietnam Return Trip 2000 Promotion STATE ROOM

In-Charge: Paul Dube
NEEDS: 1 table, 1 chair

Tentative: Vest order area in STATE ROOM: Phyllis Helzer,
, Zanesville, OH 43701 Tel:)

* Needs a 10x10 area everyday (she'll pay \$50/day)

NOTE: She's wondering if it will be worth her while to drive there.

ORAL HISTORY/INTERVIEWS set up in BOARD ROOM
35th Military History Detachment -- sending two people
Reporters/film producers

1 - 2 PM:

VWV representatives at Vietnam Wall. Ceremony hosted by IAPES honoring
vets. Hank Sheegog, WA State Employment Office, email:
. Asking for 5-min speech. Invite attendees to
Candlelight Memorial the following evening.

JOINT OPENING

7 - 8:30 PM FOREST BALLROOM
In-Charge: Precilla Wilkewitz

NOTE: Hotel food in CAPITOL ROOM (one floor above from the ballroom)
Fruit/veg plates, nuts, chicken for after the Joint Opening.

NEED

- *Theatre seating, podium, microphone, raised platform, 3 long tables w/skirt, water
- *Placards identifying meeting areas (Air Force; Marine Corps/Navy; Army Long Binh 1963-1966, Army LB 1967-1969, Army LB 1969-1971, Army LB 1971-1975, Army Saigon)
- *Small table near platform for POW candle
- *American and POW flags w/stands (Traci Williams)
- * Guests and participants in the event sign up in STATE ROOM (band, greeters, color guard, etc). Coffee/water available. All participants to report in NLT 6:30 PM

AGENDA

- *CALL TO ORDER: Claire Starnes & Precilla Wilkewitz
- *PRESENTATION OF COLORS: Joint Color Guard (Laura Davis, Ft. Lewis)
Remain standing until the posting of Colors
- * LIGHTING OF POW CANDLE: Teddi Gittman
- *INVOCATION: Chaplain ???? (Traci)
- *PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Joyce Harker (in uniform)
- *NATIONAL ANTHEM: I Corps Brass Combo (Laura Davis, Ft. Lewis)
- *POST COLORS: Joint Color Guard
- *WELCOME ADDRESS: Claire Starnes
- *INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS: Precilla Wilkewitz
- *REMARKS: (local official)
- GREETINGS: (governor or representative)
- INTRODUCTIONS & REMARKS BY INVITED GUESTS: Claire introduces
 - BG Sherian Cadoria VWV
 - Mayor Bob Jacobs, Olympia
 - Mayor Ralph Osgood, Tumwater
 - Mayor William Harrison, Lakewood
 - Mayor Royce Pollard, Vancouver (tentative)
 - CG Fort Lewis
 - Cmdr McChord AFB Col. Raymond Johns Jr.
 - CSM Fort Lewis Johnny Austin
 - CSMaj. McChord AFB Rodney Ellison John Lee, WA VA
 - VFW, VVA, American Legion, etc.
- *PATRIOTIC MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT: I Corps Brass Combo
- *INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER: Precilla Wilkewitz

*SPEAKER: John Gwizdak, National Senior Vice Cmdr in Chief, VFW
(Precilla) (??)
*PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS: Precilla Wilkewitz w/Donna Lowery
*ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS
*CLOSING REMARKS: Claire Starnes & Precilla Wilkewitz
BENEDICTION: Chaplain ??? (Traci)
SALUTE TO COLORS: Claire Wilkewitz
RETIRING OF COLORS: Joint Color Guard

NOV 11 (THURS)

7 AM - 9 AM Registration continues -- STATE ROOM
NEED: 9 people at registration tables. Two (2) people stay on after 9 AM
and throughout the conference.

NEED: *Order 2 wreaths & 60? red long-stemmed roses (Donna Lowery)

10 AM Depart for Veterans Day ceremonies at Capitol
*Need buses at hotels & return (working on this--Claire)

11 AM Veterans Day ceremonies
*Need to find city contact to be included in wreath laying (John Lee)

4:30 PM Depart for Vietnam Wall at State Capitol
*Need buses at hotels (maybe could use transit--Claire)

5 PM CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL (Inclement weather: FOREST BALLROOM)
In-Charge: Precilla Wilkewitz
NEED: * CAP cadets to line walk to Vietnam Wall (honor guard)
*Escorts (CAP cadets ?) and help with wheelchairs
*Candles w/bobeche (600 ordered)
*Programs (CAP cadets can hand out) (Teddi printing)
* Microphone, CD/tape player, 2 cordless mikes, chairs-maximum, etc.

* Canopy for choir (Traci)
* First aid area set up/porta potties/water available

AGENDA

MUSIC: taped
CALL TO ORDER: Precilla Wilkewitz
PRESENTATION OF COLORS: McChord AFB Color Guard
INVOCATION: Chaplain (Traci)
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Precilla Wilkewitz
NATIONAL ANTHEM: Gospel Outreach Choir (Bonnie O'Connor 360-786-0070)
WELCOME: Joanne Murphy & 1SG Ret. Marion Crawford
OFFICIAL GREETINGS: City of Olympia representative
INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISH GUESTS: Precilla Wilkewitz
ROLL CALL: Gini Griffith (AF) and Marion Crawford (USA) Sandra
Spatz-Wiszneaukas (MC)
Laying of a rose for each deceased. Choir sings iAmazing Gracei in
background
POEM READING: iWe Remember Themi Donna Lowery
PATRIOTIC MUSIC: Gospel Outreach Choir (Battle Hymn of the Republic;
The Impossible Dream)
PRESENTATION OF WREATH: 1SG Herney ?
CANDLELIGHT TRIBUTE: Precilla Wilkewitz
Four colored candles presented. Army: Marty Misiewitz; AF: Alice
Anderson; USMC: Sandra Spatz-Wiszneaukas; Navy: ??
SISTER TO SISTER FLAME: Lighting of everyone's candles. Lucki Allen
starts.
SONG: iSister Soldieri tape or live by Sarge Lintecum
VIETNAM REFLECTIONS: VFW members recall. Cordless mikes at left and
right of seating.

CLOSING REMARKS: Precilla Wilkewitz
BENEDICTION: Chaplain ?? (Traci)
FIRING OF VOLLEY: VVA Chapter 512 Rifle Honor Guard
TAPS: Elaine Claflin (The choir will sing Taps w/blugler coming in behind them)
FINAL SALUTE: by all fellow armed forces veterans and active duty.
SINGING OF iGOD BLESS AMERICAi Gospel Outreach Choir

7 PM TRIBUTE DINNER (Pot Luck Buffet) -- CAPITOL ROOM
Hosted by Churces of Olympia
In-Charge: Donna Lowery

8:30 PM HEALING SESSION iA Piece of My Hearti (2 hours, FOREST BALLROOM)
TENTATIVE (Carolyn Tidwell, College of Marin, 835 College Ave., Kentfield, CA 94904)
Theatre seating.

NOV 12 (FRI)

WOMEN HEALTH CARE FAIR & SEMINARS
9:15AM-5PM
In-Charge: John Lee w/Donna Lowery

ROUND ROBIN HEALTH SCREENING (FIR ROOM)
In-Charge: Frankie Manning/Georgia Vitense, Puget Sound Health Care System
NEED: 13 stations (10 long tables w/8 chairs at each table; electrical for 6 stations)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BOOTH (FIR ROOM OR YEW ROOM)
In-Charge: Sherri Bauch, Deputy Field Director West, Vomen Veterans Health

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE: (YEW ROOM) (Donna Loring)
Christine Northrop (ME) or Carolyn Meese (???)

VA REGISTRATION: (FIR ROOM)
AGENT ORANGE REGISTRATION: (FIR ROOM)

MOBILE MEDICAL VAN: MAMMOGRAMS, ETC. (TENTATIVE) Depends on number of attendees. All (men and women) are eligible for screening, etc. (Frankie Manning)

SEMINARS:

9:15-9:25 AM OPENING REMARKS: Joan Furey (FIR ROOM)

9:30-10:30 AM PTSD/MENTAL HEALTH/WAR & SEXUAL TRAUMA: Joan Furey (PINE ROOM)

AGENT ORANGE/DIOXINS: Melinda Knapp, NJ AO Commission (CEDAR/HEMLOCK ROOMS)

10:45-11:45 VA VETERANSi BENEFITS: (John Lee) (PINE ROOM)

RETIREEES ISSUES: TRICARE PRIME/STANDARD; MEDICARE SUBVENTION/SOCIAL SECURITY/ FEHBP: Debbie Walker (CEDAR/HEMLOCK ROOMS)

1:45-2:45 PTSD/MENTAL HEALTH/WAR & SEXUAL TRAUMA: Joan Furey (PINE ROOM)

AGENT ORANGE/DIOXINS: Melinda Knapp (CEDAR/HEMLOCK ROOMS)

3:00-4:00 WOMEN VETERANS HOMELESSNESS: Joan Furey (PINE ROOM)

HEALTH SURVEY REPORT: Dr. Kang (CEDAR/HEMLOCK ROOMS)

FOR MEN AND OTHERS: Tour of surrounding areas

In-Charge: April Willett (Convention Bureau)

NOTE: Donna Lowery: Can Ralph Bastion still be a guide is we need him?

5:30 PM (Approx) Governor's Proclamation at Rotunda (?)

In-Charge: Traci Williams

*Only a core of people/anyone who wants to go.

7 PM BBQ BUFFET (FOREST BALLROOM)

NOTE: For those on no-spice diet, BBQ sauce on the side

Theatre seating

Cash Bar

NEED: Raised platform, podium, microphone, parachute liner (Traci), sandbags,? Hotel will provide a cammi look to the room.

WELCOME AND SPEAKERS' INTRO: Claire Starnes

(Speakers have 5 minutes each)

SENIOR ARMY: BG Sherian Cadoria

SENIOR AF: BG Maralin Coffinger

SENIOR USMC: 1Sgt Bridget Connolly

SENIOR NAVY:

CADRES RECOGNITION: Joanne Murphy, Marion Crawford, Nancy Jurgevich,

Shirley Ohta

QUILT DRAWING

9PM-Midnight ENTERTAINMENT: Sarge Lintecum

NOV 13 (SAT)

9AM-6PM NW ARTISTS SHOW (CAPITOL ROOM)

In-Charge: Donna Lowery

\$50 per space (10x10) (\$25 to us)

9AM-3:30PM POWWOW (FOREST BALLROOM)

TENTATIVE

In-Charge: Donna Loring NIVA?

*Need to know what they need

6:30 PM BANQUET (FOREST BALLROOM)

THEME: WE REMEMBER

Sit-down dinner (all rounds) Max 620

Slideshow during meal (Corey)

NEED: 4x4 raised platform, microphone, podium

7.5x10 fast fold w/dress kit; rear projection w/short throw lens; slide projector w/fader; bright light moduel (Package ImageMaker (360-754-7795) \$410) Waiting on another quote.

Overhead projector (\$40)

Corey to make background decor.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Donna Loring, USA, VWV 2nd Vice President

POSTING OF COLORS: Civil Air Patrol Cadets (American, Army, AF, USMC, USN flags)

WELCOME: Shirley Ohta, USA
LIGHTING OF POW CANDLE: Teddi Gittman
INVOCATION: Bridget Connolly, 1SG Ret. USMC
DINNER
CALL TO ORDER: Donna Loring, USA
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Patricia Schmauch, VWV Secretary
PLAYING OF 4 SERVICE SONGS: American Legion Band
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST TABLE: Ruth Anderson, COL Ret. USAF
GUESTS REMARKS: Ruth Anderson, COL Ret. USAF
Evelyn P. Foote, BG Ret. USA
Wilma Vaught, BG Ret. USAF (video)
BG Coffinger, USAF Ret. Tentative
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER: Carol A. Adsit, Capt. Ret. USN
ADDRESS: TBA
AWARD CEREMONY (KAREN OFFUTT) Presented by VN government (tentative)
READING OF PROCLAMATION
PRESENTATIONS: Claire Starnes, VWV President
Precilla L. Wilkewitz, VWV Treasurer
BENEDICTION: Nancy J. Jurgevich, COL Ret. USA
RETIRE COLORS: Civil Air Patrol Cadets
WRAP-UP PATRIOTIC MUSIC: American Legion Band

- *Program (Teddi Gitman)
- *Have program at all place settings
- *Have a memento at each place setting
- *Need speakers' bios for program

MISC:

Hospitality Room (opened 24 hours a day): Check w/hotel as to where the best place would be

There will be Readjustment Counselors on-site at all times -- One at Motel 6, and three at Cavanaugh's, one on each floor (Rooms 152, 252, 351) NEED: water pitchers, coffee, tissues

Room 254 will be for Murphy and Crawford. They've requested a room to meet with the women. This will eat into our room nights. Need to find a better way of handling this.

Video (Bristol Productions--under contract) and still photographer (VA) on-site during events.

Need 9 sets two-way radios. (Claire, Precilla, Lowery, Loring, Patty, Paul, Jinx/2 spares) (Traci)

TRANSPORTATION from and to airport. Still working on this.

Vans: Recruiting Command. How many? Need to confirm. Need drivers?
Doug Jacques, Dir Corrections Clearing House 360-438-3171 (vans & buses), drivers provided
April Willett (vans & buses & money) w/drivers w/Doug Jacques
Greater Olympia VCB (buses) Working on getting free transit passes.
Buses stop in front of hotel. Nancy Hawley-Keech

Silent Auction: When will we be doing this? Throughout? (Donna Lowery)

EXTRAS:

Memory book: \$3,000
50 8-pg signatures = 400 pages 8 1/2x11

Cover: 30-lb color (buff) stock
Ink: Black
Binding: Saddle-stitch
Paper: Standard non-glossy
Photos: B&W photo-ready

Piece of My Heart play. 2 hours. Carolyn Tidwell (actress), College of Marin, 835 College Ave., Kentfield, CA 94904 ()