

ROEVER

foundation

March 2018

March 29th... Vietnam War Veterans Day

March 29th is a national holiday, the Vietnam War Veterans Day. It is an official commemoration celebrating Vietnam veterans. Last year President Trump signed into law a bill brought before the House by Pat Toomey and Joe Donnelly. Amazingly it was passed by both Houses of Congress without the addition of riders or amendments to drag this measure into the infinite black hole. Politicians recognized the plight of the returning Vietnam veterans who were brought home without a “thank you.” Many heroes were spat upon and called “baby-killers” and other disgusting names. This will be the second year to celebrate the Vietnam war veterans. So dig out that flag you normally fly on July 4th and fly it proudly as we celebrate this day. It is time that this nation gives the well-earned respect to the men and women who gave selflessly and heroically in Southeast Asia. To all Vietnam veterans, my band of brothers, I salute you for standing in the face of adversity. “Welcome Home!”

As promised in last month’s newsletter, I am reporting to you on the recent Journey Back tour to Vietnam...

The water slipped quietly by as the river boat on which we (myself along with about twenty other veterans) were traversing the bends and shallows of the river. This was the river on which I had fought and nearly died. It was the place where my life changed forever from the impact of a 7.62 caliber round from a sniper’s AK-47 machine gun. There is no marker in my honor, no plaques or monuments, nothing but an old man living on the grounds where my sacrifice was required. I struggled to confront my past without tears but failed. The vets were exceedingly kind. Some wept with me, while others looked away so as not to appear intrusive on my brokenness. Those onboard sensed the strength that their being there lent to me. This was my day of reconciliation with the past. Thankfully, I was not alone.

For me forty-eight years have passed. I am unsure if it is easier to forget or to remember. To forget disrespects the valor of the sacrifice that many military men and women made. To remember raises the prospect of restarting the dreams and night sweats which years have, to some

degree, healed. Reopening wounds that bleed tears into the pillow can be heart-wrenching.

After our trip down river to the village of Thu Thua, it was off to Hanoi where we observed the graduation of students from Global/REAP, our online university in that region of Vietnam. We celebrated with the graduating students their well-deserved and hard-earned achievement and their right to enter into ministry, equipped with sound biblical doctrine! It was there that my tears from the sad memories of the past gave way to tears of gladness!

In letters past, I have brought your attention to the fact that 59,000 Americans died in Vietnam. To reconcile their deaths, I prayed that God would help me find something that could give meaning to their sacrifice. Well, several months ago our online Bible school, Global/ REAP University surpassed the 59,000 student enrollment mark in Vietnam. The enrollment is growing by thousands annually.

In a few days I will return again to Vietnam. This time, however, I will be travelling with Matt Crouch and a camera crew from the Trinity Broadcasting Network. We will go back in time to that place on the river where my life took on new purpose... a purpose, powered by passion, which turned my tragedy into triumph.



Journey Back...

Cont

Afterward, we head to another graduation of well-deserving students entering into full time ministry. These students in celebration of their religious freedom give value and purpose to the sacrifice of young Americans who died for something greater than the misguided political ambitions of that war. The cameras will be rolling and capturing the footage that will be shared with the millions of viewers of TBN. I earnestly seek your support to bring this effort home to America and to the vets and their families who are still looking for closure for their sacrifice.

To reiterate, the government has set aside March 29th as Vietnam War Veterans Day! To commemorate that day, and days to follow, I would like to place in the hands of every Vietnam veteran my book *War and Recovery* as a gift and show of gratitude for their underrated service to our nation. I'm asking you to help me in this endeavor. There are three ways in which you can help.

1. You can purchase several of these books and give them to Vietnam veterans who are your friends.
2. Your church or civic group could purchase a quantity of these books and present them as gifts to members of your church or group as recognition of their service.
3. Or, you may send in a love gift, and I will personally present these books to Vietnam veterans whom I meet in my travels.

The book is filled with current and past warrior stories of God's deliverance and divine providence to others like themselves who gave everything required of them for the cause of freedom. Time is running out for our Vietnam veterans. Every day almost 400 Vietnam veterans pass from this life, many of which will take their pain to the grave. Help me heal the pains of war that these heroes have lived with. Please consider a sizable donation designated to this cause. A \$100 donation will allow me to provide ten books to our veterans. That's a good investment! ANY gift will make the difference in someone's life who is waiting on us to bring deliverance. Your contribution to this ministry can be your finest gift to heal a hurting veteran's heart.

Thank you for being my friend and partner to minister the love of God to the heroes of this nation. Your love gifts make it possible for me to go and do. Together we are a great team. You give. I go. WE reap the reward!

Couples Session



These wonderful couples were part of the marriage seminar at Eagles Summit Ranch in Colorado last month. This was a marvelous time of restoration and healing. If your marriage is in need of a boost and you are currently in the military, or retired from the military with disability, contact our office to register.

February Highlight...

**Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
Warrior Transition Battalion**



Chaplain Dechenne

**Gold Star wife, Catherine Ignacio
Director of Survivor Outreach Services Center Hawaii**