

Mexican American Veterans Association

PO Box 214, East Moline, IL 61244

2011 Officers

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Sergeant-at-Arms Jerry Goodwin

Web-Master Rich Glancey richierich1@mchsi.com
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Vice Commander Andy Ortiz
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Treasurer Simon Sierra cnearly1@att.net
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2nd Sergeant-at-Arms Carlos Cervantes

MAVA Web site www.mava.us.com

January 2011

Commander Gunter Terronez called the meeting to order @ 1904, Pledge of Allegiance was said and a Moment of Silence was observed for our Troops. 18 Members present: Ray Hamilton, Rich Glancey, Jerry Goodwin, Simon Sierra, Carol Near, Andy Ortiz, Paul Sierra, Pep Sandoval, Bob Bertram, Carlos Cervantes, Rocky Rasso, Robert Cervantes, Gunter Terronez, Fred Hernandez, Roseann Cervantes-Alejo, Charlie Thompson, Bob Segura, and Lynn Segura.

Here are our New Officers elected in December.

Commander: Gunter Terronez

Vice-Commander: Andy Ortiz

Treasurer: Simon Sierra

Secretary: Carol Near

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jerry Goodwin

2nd Sergeant-at-Arms: Carlos Cervantes

Secretary Report

Since we had our Christmas there was not a meeting held in December, thus there was not a newsletter sent out. 2011 Commander Gunter Terronez thanked Rich Glancey for his year as Commander. Gunter also thanked all members who participated in helping make the 25th Anniversary such a great success last August. Gunter also thanked the members who worked to make our Christmas party another successful event.

Treasurer's Report

Simon Sierra gave Treasurer's. Simon also had available the year end report/audit for all to review if requested

Motion to accept report=Pep Sandoval-2nd-Bob Bertram=Motion Passed

- Simon thanked Andy Ortiz and his crew for their hard work and effort distributing Holiday Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Old Business

- Andy Ortiz commented that MAVA gave out 67 Holiday Baskets this (Total for Thanksgiving and Christmas). There were many happy, teary-eyed and grateful

recipients of the Baskets. Andy thanked his "Basket Crew"; Paul Sierra, Charlie Thompson, Ralph Ramos, Gunter Terronez Pep Sandoval and Rich Glancey for their help distributing the baskets.

- Paul Sierra received a phone call regarding ammo for Color Guard rifles. He was told there is a new procedure to get ammo now. Gunter will check with Lolly at the National Cemetery.

New Business

- MAVA will be having a Taco Dinner on January 28th 4pm to 7pm @ VFW 8890. Andy Ortiz will be cooking the meat for us. We will need volunteers to help serve that night. Contact Gunter or Andy if you can volunteer! Andy will arrange to have a photo and announcement put in the Dispatch. Roseanne Cervantes-Alejo will ask City of East Moline to put it on the electric announcement board.
- Paul Sierra announced that the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 168 is having is having a Taco Dinner Fund Raiser on February 11th @ Moline American Legion 246.
Motion to donate \$100.00=Pep Sandoval=2nd-Fred Hernandez= Motion Passed
- Andy Ortiz announced Moline American Legion 246 will be having a Taco Dinner Fund Raiser on January 26th 4pm until 8pm. Come join them and help their fund raiser.
Motion to donate \$100.00=Paul Sierra-2nd-Rich Glancey=Motion Passed
(Editor's Note, Ladies that is 3 nights we don't have to cook!)
- Bob Segura asked about the progress of the formation of new MAVA Chapter in Arizona. Gunter has been in contact with Arizona people and also Chris Gomez (Chicago MAVA) and things are moving along. Pete Sierra is reviewing MAVA's By-Laws and will make recommendations for any changes that may be necessary. Gunter was asked if any date had been confirmed for the Arizona Chapter's formation and if our Chapter would be going out there to welcome them/celebrate with them. As it stands now it may be sometime in late May but no confirmed date as of yet. Gunter will keep us updated.
- Rich Glancey said he received a call from a man in Chicago; he asked many questions about MAVA's finances, and business, and was not real clear indentifying himself. Rich told him to submit all inquiries to our web-site. Rich warned ALL MEMBERS to be wary of any phone calls they may receive asking about MAVA.

- Ray Hamilton gave an update on VVA Chapter 299's Honor Express project. He has been in contact with Amtrak CEO and has received a call from PR office in Philadelphia. It looks like the train will be able to leave out of Moline and go through Chicago for a crew change. Details are currently being worked out. Amtrak suggested May as a good time for this trip. Ray is also working on getting many corporate sponsors. Andy Ortiz asked if this trip will be only for "In-Country Vietnam Vets" or also "Vietnam Era Vets". Ray said it would include both. Jerry Goodwin suggested more cars could be added as train travels to DC, such as Chicago, Boston, and other cities. Ray agreed and said that option is being looked into.

Color Guard

- Paul Sierra commented on funeral detail and how some funerals drag on as clergy and/or family sing various (non-religious) songs and do very long readings as MAVA Honor Guard stands at attention in the bitter cold, beating rain, or blistering heat. Members are not getting any younger and are quite uncomfortable. It is very disrespectful to the Honor Guard who brave the elements to give their final salute. Simon mentioned a funeral that MAVA did a week or so ago for an Iowa State Trooper. MAVA was told to be there at 11, the Troopers showed up at 1pm. Perhaps the funeral homes could do something?

Meeting adjourned @ 1948

New MAVA Members

Nicholas S. Hernandez of Moline and Norman Aguirre of East Moline
Welcome!

2011 Membership Dues

2011 dues are due now. Please send them in to MAVA PO Box or to Carol Near!

Pot of Gold Winner

Ray Hamilton won the Pot-of-Gold and graciously donated it back to the Holiday Basket Fund.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday February 3rd, 7pm. VFW Post 8890.

Bingo Business

- Simon Sierra expressed his thanks for all the volunteers that have been coming to help at Bingo. It is very much appreciated.
- Andy Ortiz also thanked all Bingo volunteers and reminded everyone our next Bingos are Sunday January 23rd and Thursday January 27th. We still need help. Come and join us and work a couple hours or all evening if you can.

Interesting Story from MAVA Member John Perez

The radio station America FM was doing one of its 'Is Anyone Listening?' bits this morning. The first question was, 'Ever have a celebrity come up with the 'Do you know who I am?' routine?'

A woman called in and said that a few years ago, while visiting her cattle rancher uncle in Billings, MT, she had occasion to go to dinner at a restaurant that does not take reservations. The wait was about 45 minutes; many ranchers and their wives were waiting.

Ted Turner and his ex-wife Jane Fonda came in the restaurant and wanted a table. The hostess informed them that they'd have to wait 45 minutes. Jane Fonda asked the hostess, 'Do you know who I am?' The hostess answered, 'Yes, but you'll have to wait 45 minutes.'

Then Jane asked if the manager was in. When the manager came out, he asked, 'May I help you?'

'Do you know who we are?' both Ted and Jane asked.

Yes, but these folks have been waiting, and I can't put you ahead of them.' Then Ted asked to speak to the owner. **The owner came out, and Jane again asked, 'Do you know who I am?'**

The owner answered, 'Yes, I do. Do you know who I am? I am the owner of this restaurant and I am a Vietnam Veteran. Not only will you not get a table ahead of my friends and neighbors who have been waiting here, but you also will not be eating in my restaurant tonight or any other night. Good bye.'

Only in America, is this a great country or what?

To all who received this, this is a true story and the name of the steak house is:

Sir Scott's Oasis Steakhouse, 204 W. Main, Manhattan, MT 59741, (406) 284-6929

If you ever get there, give this fellow a sharp salute, buy a steak, and tip the waitress. Keep passing this on.

We should never forget Jane Fonda, our national traitor!

News For Veterans and Families



Please give wide distribution -- Warning to All Veterans

WARNING TO ALL VETERANS

WARNING TO VETERANS

Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called **Veterans Affairs Services (VAS)** is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. **This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.**

<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Veterans' Education Benefits Expanded To Include Tuition Reimbursements For Trade Schools. [CQ Weekly](#) (12/27, Symes) reports, "Legislation to expand education benefits available under the GI Bill for veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, has been cleared by the House" and the Senate. The measure "would expand the post-Sept. 11 GI Bill...to include tuition reimbursements for vocational and trade schools and an annual book allowance for individuals in non-degree programs. It also would pay benefits for on-the-job and vocational training, as well as flight training and correspondence courses."

VA Processes First Claims for New Agent Orange Presumptives. [Investor's Business Daily](#) (12/17, 132K) reports that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) "has decided more than 28,000 claims in the first six weeks of processing disability compensation applications from Vietnam Veterans with diseases related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange. 'With new technology and ongoing improvements, we are quickly removing roadblocks to processing benefits,' said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. 'We are also conducting significant outreach to Vietnam Veterans to encourage them to submit their completed application for this long-awaited benefit.'" VA issued final regulations at the end of August making veterans who served in Vietnam presumptively eligible for disability benefits and healthcare if they have been diagnosed for Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease, or a B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia.

Quinn To Highlight Programs That Benefit Veterans. The [Chicago Tribune](#) /AP (12/19) reports that outgoing Gov. Pat Quinn (D) "is planning to highlight programs that benefit the state's veterans. Quinn has a news conference scheduled for Sunday afternoon in downtown Chicago. He's set to talk about programs including Operation Hero Miles, the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund and the Vets Cash lottery ticket." The Heroes Miles program "collects frequent flyer miles from business travelers and tourists and converts them into free airline tickets for the families of wounded servicemembers." The military relief funds provides grants to families of deployed National Guard members and reservists, while the Vets Cash lottery ticket is a scratch-off ticket benefiting veterans' services.

Criminal Investigation Looking Into Misplaced Remains At Arlington National Cemetery. In a front page story, the [Washington Post](#) (12/3, A1, Davenport, 605K) says the US Army has "launched the first criminal investigation into the misplacement of remains at Arlington National Cemetery," after "discovering eight cremated remains dumped in a single grave site there." The investigation "comes after a series of revelations that...marred the reputation of the country's most prestigious military burial ground and led to the ouster of its top two leaders." A similar article appears on the front page of [USA Today](#) (12/3, Dorell, 1.83M).

House Passes Bill Requiring Army To Account For All Graves At Arlington Cemetery. The Washington Post (12/17, Davenport, 605K) notes that on Thursday, the House "overwhelmingly passed a bill requiring the secretary of the Army to provide Congress with an accounting of all 320,000 graves at Arlington National Cemetery." The legislation, previously approved by the Senate, "comes on the heels of a growing scandal" involving "unmarked or mislabeled graves" at the "nation's most hallowed military burial ground." According to the Post, the bill passed on

Thursday would also "require a review of the contracts issued to digitize the cemetery's paper records and a study to determine whether authority over the cemetery should be transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs."

Article written by John Lavelle of VVA Chapter 776

As Vietnam veterans many of us are all too familiar with the term "landing zone" and "bunker." Today for a few of us living in Iowa these words have a new meaning, because of the efforts of three groups. The Iowa Section of the PGA, Riverside Casino, Riverside Iowa, and the Iowa VA Hospital have created a program called G.I.V.E. that now makes the landing zone an area on the fairway where you want your ball to land and the bunker is now a place where you don't want to be.

The program was the brainchild of Lou King. Mr. King was in the Navy Pre-flight training at the University of Iowa during WWII and later became the chief recruiter for Amana. Lou played football for Iowa Navy during the 1944 season. He saw golf as an opportunity to help wounded veterans that were receiving treatment at the Iowa City VA Hospital. The program is in its third year. There have been over 200 injured veterans that have learned the game of golf as a result of this program during that time. The program is free to all qualified veterans and the goal of the program is to help those veterans learn the value of golf in their lives and to help them find a personal sense of enjoyment in the game.

The program provides golf equipment and PGA instruction free of charge at the Blue Ridge GC at the Riverside Resort and Casino, Riverside, Iowa. So far about 35 PGA members and apprentices have contributed time and travel to assist with the veterans. They have come from Des Moines, Waterloo, Waverly, Cedar Rapids, Oskaloosa, Davenport, Iowa City, and Riverside. The golf instruction last for five lessons that help the individual with swing improvements that begins with the proper grip and ball position. Subsequent lessons cover chip shots and putting techniques. The final lesson takes place on the course and instructs the veteran in course management. Once the instruction is completed the veteran is provided with an ID card and a list of golf courses that will allow them to play absolutely free. The Blue Ridge Golf Course at the Riverside Casino And Resort is one of many courses that provide this opportunity for the injured veteran.

Jim Dickerson, the golf coach at Cornell College and a PGA instructor at Finkbine GC in Iowa City, Iowa is head golf instructor for the program and a retired Army Sergeant-Major as well as a Vietnam veteran. Jim enjoys working with these veterans and helping them find enjoyment in the game he loves. Many PGA instructors from across the state take part in these classes at Blue Top

Ridge. Some travel from the center of the state and from the eastern edge of the state to assist Jim in these lessons. The veteran receives individual instruction because of this effort by the Iowa Section of the PGA. Michael Nedelcoff a PGA professional from Davenport, Iowa has taken part in several of the lessons and finds a deep satisfaction in providing veterans with injuries resulting from their service to America learn the game of golf in a way that they can play regardless of that injury and find satisfaction and enjoyment out on the links.

The Iowa City VA hospital volunteer program director, Kirt Sickels, National Director for the National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament, and is also the point of contact to get veterans in the GIVE Program. He is a member of the VA's National Programs and Special Events, which provides six National events for veterans, (Winters Sports Clinic, Golden Age Games, National Veterans TEE Tournament, Wheel Chair Games, Creative Arts, and Summer Sports Clinic) all of which have been in operation for 17-30 years. The G.I.V.E. is a unique program as it combines three organizations working together to provide this opportunity. The Iowa Section of the PGA offers the instruction free of charge and the Riverside Casino and Resort offers the facilities for the program. The VA Hospital through Kirt Sickels provides the information to the injured veterans. The beneficiaries of the program are the injured veterans who take part in it.