



# The Leaflet Drop

The Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans Association  
(POVA)

*Ex Verba Victoria*

[www.usapova.com](http://www.usapova.com)

1 July 2017

Fellow Psywarriors,

In 2016, POVA committed to raise funds to support existing organizations already helping our fellow veterans in need and their families. Last month's IRS approval of our 501c3 tax exempt status will help to secure donors, sponsors, and partnerships. It is a commitment that builds on those commitments many Psywarriors have already made.

As you saw last month, POVA Life member Tim Wallace is well into his agricultural project to provide food to veterans and community members in central Pennsylvania. In this issue, we share the hard work and commitment of a Reserve PSYOP soldier who found ways to help Afghan families in need, despite the very serious risks of enemy retaliation. Need never goes away, and knows no borders.

Although it seems a long way off, our 2018 Biennial Reunion is only about 12 months away. Cleveland will be our reunion location, and the dates are now finalized: 19-22 July 2018.....we'll arrive on Thursday 19 July, and depart on Sunday 22 July. Details such as Reunion HQ, hotels, specific events, etc., are yet to be decided. **Any POVA member interested or willing to assist in the planning can contact either Chad or Rich.....all help gratefully accepted.**

Well done to all our Psywarrior sisters and brothers who make a difference in the lives of others.

**C. V. (Chad) Spawr**  
**President**

## **So, what has POVA been up to?**

POVA has worked hard for the past two years to revitalize our Association and set it up for long-term growth and future success. Since our new officers have been in place, POVA has been very busy. Here are some things we've accomplished or are in the process of accomplishing since 2015:

- rebuilt our membership base to recruit/retain younger veterans, with a total roster now approaching 400 Psywarriors, friends, and families. We also expanded our Life Member ranks from 11 in 2015 to 93 as of this writing;
- designed, acquired, and issued membership certificates for each category of POVA membership (Life, Reserve, Gold Star), and issued both Membership and Life Membership pins;
- totally redesigned and launched our new website ([www.usapova.com](http://www.usapova.com));

- designed and promoted several POVA-branded clothing items and our unique POVA Challenge Coin to raise funds for our philanthropic commitment;
- established the POVA newsletter "The Leaflet Drop" as a regular monthly publication;
- opened a POVA Facebook group that serves as an additional communication channel;
- completed POVA's incorporation as a not-for-profit corporation in Michigan AND achieved IRS approval as a 501c3 charitable and educational organization;
- rebuilding our Gold Star family program to honor the sacrifices of these families;
- gained significant membership participation from USACAPOC Commanding General and Command Sergeant Major, Commanding Officers of the 2d and 7th PSYOP Groups and their CSM's, and several Reserve Battalion Commanders;
- expanded membership in the active-duty PSYOP/MISO.....both Group Commanders are POVA Life Members, and one incoming Group Commander is already a POVA Life Member. Our membership also includes several retired 4th Group Commanding Officers and Honorary Colonels of the PSYOP Regiment;
- currently finalizing a POVA member database to consolidate member information, addresses, etc., to streamline communication, dues management, etc.;
- successfully accomplished placement of the names of "missing" Viet-Nam PSYOP KIA's on the Memorial Wall at USASOC Meadows Field, Ft. Bragg, NC;
- established recognition awards for soldiers and veterans who have made very significant lifetime contributions to the profession of military psychological operations. The first two of these "Exemplars of Military Psychological Operations" were awarded in August 2016. A new award focused on Psywarrior "operators" will be announced soon.
- Currently creating the basis for regionally-focused POVA chapters, the goal being for each chapter to become a local charitable organization raising funds to assist fellow veterans and their families in need;

These are the major initiatives on which POVA has been working in the past year, and these will continue for the foreseeable future as there is simply so much to do. There are other activities in which we're involved or plan to become involved, and we'll continue to focus on these as well.

There is room to participate for every single member of POVA.....these projects are rewarding in the sense of accomplishment and in the very reality that we are helping other veterans, soldiers, and families.

### **Do Any 4<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Group Viet-Nam Vets Remember Eric Hersh?**

Fellow POVA Life Member Eric Hersh is looking for any other POVA members who served with him in 4<sup>th</sup> Group between 1968 and 1970. Some incidents occurred that Eric needs help verifying, but records are either non-existent or incomplete.

Eric specifically mentioned some former 4<sup>th</sup> POG veterans with whom he'd like to reconnect:

**SGT Takata....Donald T. Smith....CPT Cowen**

If you are able to help Eric, or would just like to reconnect with him, his email is [emhersh@yahoo.com](mailto:emhersh@yahoo.com).

### **Reconnecting with POVA's Gold Star Families**

In the past, POVA had maintained contact with as many of our Gold Star families as we could contact, but in recent years, those contacts had diminished. Unfortunately, as the wars on the other side of the planet have continued now for 16 years (and counting?), the number of PSYOP Gold Star families has increased. The time has come for POVA to recommit to honoring our Gold Star families as a way to preserve and cherish the memories of our departed fellow Psywarriors.

POVA offers Life Member status to all Gold Star families without any membership cost. A Gold Star certificate and Life member pin are issued, and Gold Star members enjoy all the rights, benefits and privileges of POVA's Life Members. POVA is proud to welcome John Lynch's Gold Star sister Mary Alice Nice, and brother Ned Lynch; Alan Harriman's Gold Star wife Judith Harriman Kofoet and daughter Ann Harriman Turner; John Sanford Martin's Gold Star sister Annie Hilton; and Mark Stets Jr.'s parents Mark and Nancy Stets.

We will never forget our fallen Psywarriors, and we cherish their memories by honoring those who were left behind.

### **A Reserve 10th POB Soldier Making a Difference**

(Written by Joe Harris in the St. Louis Post Dispatch, shared by Psywarrior Brian Cox)

Joining the Army's psychological operations unit was the best decision Audrey Johnsey ever made. Johnsey's two grandfathers both served in World War II, her father served in Vietnam and her cousin served in the Navy, so military service was a natural fit for her and her twin sister. Her sister joined the Navy six months before she signed up. After her sister told her that she wished she had joined the Army instead, Johnsey decided that's where she was going.



**SGT Audrey Johnsey**

"A good friend of mine helped me when I enlisted," Johnsey said. "He took me to the recruiter's office and he was in psych operations and said, 'I think you'll be really great at that.' And at the time there was a bonus incentive for enlisting for that job so I

was like, 'yeah, I'll go for it.' I had no idea what it was at the time, but it was one of the best uninformed decisions I ever made." Johnsey joined as an E-1, the lowest rank. Nine years later, Johnsey, 28, is a sergeant in the reserves. She has been all over the world, primarily the Middle East through deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, as part of the 307th Psychological Operations, which is a part of the 10th Psychological Operations Battalion.

Psychological operations' motto is to persuade, change and influence. That is accomplished in a variety of ways from handing out soccer balls to children to gaining the trust and providing aid to those in need. "For me in particular, when I was deployed, I was able to engage the female population, which up until 2010 had never been engaged," Johnsey said. "So that's a war that we've been fighting essentially for 10 years and 50 percent of the

population hadn't been engaged." Johnsey and her group went on missions into the villages to speak to the Afghan women. When they visited homes, they were always offered tea and melons. Johnsey said the Afghans are a very welcoming people. "There was one instance where this man was a very influential person in the village we were going to visit and he had four wives and he said, 'If you come, I have many children. Please respect our culture,'" Johnsey said. "So we borrowed scarves from our interpreters. It wasn't a hijab, but it covered our hair. It more or less a visual symbol of respect to them."

Johnsey believes they still would have been welcomed if they had refused, but it was easier to gain their trust by being respectful. She compares it to the Catholic faith, who welcomes all to their Sunday mass, but requests non-Catholics to not take communion. On another mission, they passed out birthing kits to the women. "When women give birth, they give birth in their houses, but they don't have the utensils to cut the umbilical cord, they don't have sterile gloves to catch the baby, they don't have sterile clothes to wrap the baby in," Johnsey said "So they have an incredibly high mortality rate among children and they have a very high miscarriage rate in women because of the unsanitary conditions."

One other mission involved the Kuchi, a nomadic people who lived around the mountains. Johnsey and her unit noticed that many of their children were missing toes due to frost bite, so they were able to get thick socks and insulated boots to them. "We weren't trying to get information out of them," Johnsey said. "It was, 'what can we do to help you?' There was a situation where a kid had already lost his toes, but at least he's not going to lose the circulation to his feet next winter."

Johnsey, who works with freight in the logistics industry, spent nine years in the 307<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Company. She recently transferred to the 318<sup>th</sup> Company, where she was reunited with her mentor, Sgt. First Class Joshua Herbig, whom she credits for her success in the Army. "When I enlisted in the military, he was in charge of me essentially," Johnsey said. "I think that because of his guidance and his ability to recognize that each soldier has different needs that I was able to become the leader that I am today."

### **Viet-Nam KIA's Missing from USASOC Wall at Meadows Field.....Almost Complete**

Since April 2015, POVA has been working to add the names of four PSYOP dead from Viet-Nam to the wall of honor at Meadows Field in Ft. Bragg. With the assistance and cooperation of Dr. Jared Tracy of the USASOC Historian's Office, three of the names have been approved...John Blanco, Darrel Sills, and John Lynch. A fourth name, John Martin Sanford, has not yet been approved because, for some inexplicable reason, his military records cannot be located to confirm details surrounding his death.

1LT Martin died when the C130 he was riding in crashed into a mountain, killing all aboard. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



**1LT John Sanford Martin**  
**244<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Company**

POVA Life Member Ken Bennett has located his survivors in Florida. They have graciously assisted by providing important records supporting POVA's contention that his death in an aircraft crash in October 1967 more than justifies his posting with the other Psywarriors killed in the war. As a result of these conversations, 1LT Martin's family has accepted POVA's offer of a Lifetime Gold Star Family membership in POVA, and we are very proud that they have accepted our offer.

POVA is pleased and proud that we have succeeded in placing John Sanford Martin on the USASOC memorial wall where he belongs.

## **POVA Life Member MG Daniel R. Ammerman Accepts New Command**

On 24 June, MG Ammerman turned over command of the US Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC) to BG Richard Sele, and has taken command of the Joint Transportation Reserve Unit of the US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM). Here is the message from MG Ammerman



**MG Daniel R. Ammerman**  
**POVA Life Member**

*Chad*

*I am completing 3 years of command. It was a tremendous honor to serve with such great Soldiers. I am proud of all they have accomplished.*

*I am moving on to another 2 star command. My new assignment is command of the Joint Transportation Reserve Unit of USTRANSCOM. The timing is driven by the 3 years and USTRANSCOM desired assumption of command timing.*

*It was intended to be a change of command but the announcement of my successor is delayed in the nomination process.*

*The date is 24 June. The time is morning but TBD. Invitations have not been sent yet. BG Sele will be acting commander until the new commander is announced and assumes command.*

*Vr, Dan*

wishes, Sir, in your new command. Thanks for the tremendous support you have given to POVA and our members.

## **REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED (RED)**

POVA Associate Member Gina Miller, a great supporter and vendor providing beautiful embroidered and embossed POVA-logoed products, has taken the initiative to help raise funds in support of the R.E.D. charitable initiative. She has designed a beautiful RED t-shirt to commemorate "RED" Fridays.

As part of her ongoing commitment to POVA, Gina has offered to donate all of her profits from these sales to POVA and to another Special Operations unit in the Army.

Here is her flyer for this project. You can contact Gina directly by email to place your order. **Order direct:**

***vlhinkley85@hotmail.com***

A flyer for a red t-shirt campaign. It features four red t-shirts with different designs: one with a US flag, one with a POW/MIA symbol, one with 'RED Friday' and silhouettes of soldiers, and one with a ribbon. The text on the flyer includes the title 'RED Friday Support T-shirt', the purpose of the campaign, the cost for different sizes, and the donation information.

**RED Friday Support T-shirt**  
Purpose of RED shirt Friday is to show support to our Service Men and Women that are deployed.

**Remember Everyone Deployed**

Cost: \$18.00 (sizes S-XL)  
\$22.00 (sizes 2XL - 4XL)

Profits will be donated to US Army Psychological Operations Veterans Association (POVA) & Special Operations Units

## **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Convention**

New POVA Life Member Craig Champagne is also a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Craig is asking that any POVA member planning to attend the DAV National Convention later this summer in New Orleans contact him; he would be very happy to connect there with any POVA members who may be in attendance. Here is the convention link:

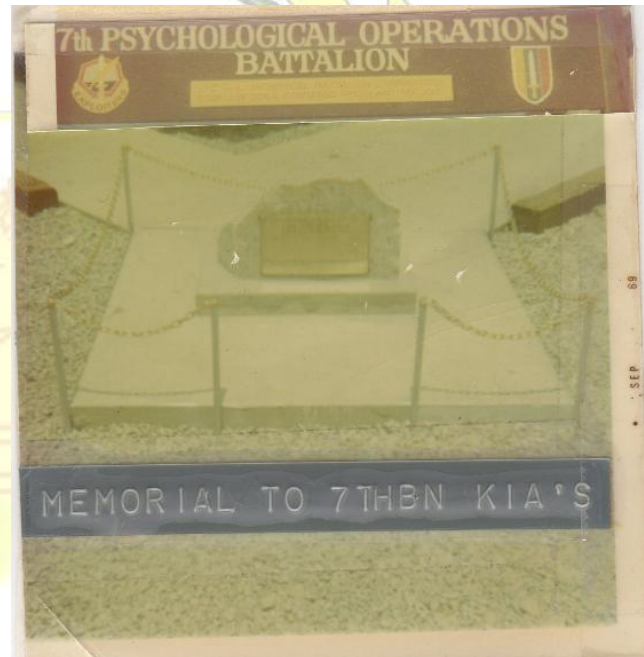
<https://www.dav.org/events/2017-national-convention/>

## **Where is the missing Memorial?**

This is an old picture of the 7<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Battalion Memorial to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions Viet-Nam KIA's. It was moved to 4<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Group HQ's Cruz Compound, but since the US left Viet-Nam, the Memorial's location has remained a mystery. If it can be located, it would seem a fitting repository for it would be the Special Warfare Museum on post at Ft. Bragg.

If you have any knowledge or information about this plaque, please contact Chad, or Stanley Michelsen ([stancd@aol.com](mailto:stancd@aol.com)). The memorial plaque itself measures approximately 30"x24" (rough estimate).

If you can help, it would be most appreciated.



## **POVA Welcomes New Reserve Unit Members from 321<sup>st</sup> PSYOP Company**

On Thursday 1 June, POVA President Chad Spawr visited the 321<sup>st</sup> PSYOP Company HQ in Walker, MI. Under command of CPT Raphael Trujillo, the 321<sup>st</sup> has accounted for 39 new POVA members since the end of March. At this meeting, the new members were presented their POVA member certificates and member pins, and shared in a selection of POVA "swag."

During the visit, CPT Trujillo and First Sergeant Jeremiah Trench chose to join POVA as Life Members. Our relations with our Reserve component soldiers are growing, and both parties seem to be quite happy about it.



***Presentation of POVA Member Certificates and Member Pins to 321<sup>st</sup> PSYOP Co Soldiers***



***I-r: Chad Spawr, 1SG Jeremiah Trench, Company Commander CPT Raphael Trujillo***

Also in attendance was CPT Nicholas Israel, currently a member of a 4<sup>th</sup> Group battalion at Ft. Bragg, but who is out-processing from active duty. Nick, who also joined POVA as a Life Member, will join the 321<sup>st</sup> later this year, so our visit was an excellent introduction for both the company and for Nick.

Please join us in welcoming the new POVA members from the 321<sup>st</sup> PSYOP Company.

### **Two Psywarriors Make Strong Distance Shooting Performance at Talladega**

POVA Life Member Tim Fitzpatrick is a veteran long-distance competition shooter. He participated recently in the EIC match at CMP Talladega last week. A highlight was meeting a young Private assigned to 310th PSYOP Co in Atlanta. PVT Sammy Richardson is his name and he just graduated 37F AIT. Tim described him as an incredible young man.



***L-R: Tim Fitzpatrick on the firing line; Tim and Sammy Richardson***

### **POVA Life Member Bob Martinez's Seminal Work on Viet-Nam: The Long Way Home Project**

There are many histories of Viet-Nam, but one can never be sure of the authenticity, truth, integrity, or honesty of those who produce these; too often, they are loaded with political assinity to support one or another interpretation, with the end result being that truth and real history are avoided or ignore. An excellent review of this project is appended to the newsletter.

Winner of the 2002 Houston Film Festival, this film interviews dozens of key contributors and participants, including many soldiers who served at various times in the war. Bob Martinez, an officer in the 4<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Group from 1969-70, is interviewed as well. Key interviews include several retired General Officers who led combat forces in the Nam, including Gen-Ret. Don Starry, with introduction by the late Gen-Ret. Norman Schwarzkopf.

One of the key features of this film is that it tells a story without also political or revisionist proselytizing. It just tells the story and lets the facts speak for themselves. The website URL for the project is [www.longwayhomeproject.com](http://www.longwayhomeproject.com) Here is a Facebook link for the series: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Vietnam-War-Lessons-The-Long-Way-Home-Project/175259559188907>

## POVA'S Life Members



POVA's Life Member ranks continue to grow, and with this newsletter, have now reached 95 "Lifers." POVA is proud to add **Frank E. Coburn, Jack Guy, Nicholas Israel, Raphael Trujillo, Jeremiah D. Trench, Joel Krall, Craig Champagne, Annie Hilton, Ann Turner, Eric Kreitz, and Mark and Nancy Stets** to the ranks of POVA's outstanding Life Members.

David Affleck \*  
Jack O'Neil \*  
N. "Tony" Newcomb\*  
David Schultz  
David Albanese  
Alfred Paddock  
John Cheney  
Arlo Despain  
William Forgey  
Eric Hersh  
Rick Hofmann  
Stanley Michelsen  
Hammond Salley  
James Osborne  
C. V. (Chad) Spawr  
Leon DeHaven  
Jim Danger Fisher  
Dennis Smiser  
Rich Hosier  
Curtis Boyd  
Carrie Spivey-Vernon  
Lawrence Dietz  
Mike Stoeckert  
Ray Ambrozak  
Roxanne M. Merritt  
Miguel Hobbs  
Ferdinand Irizarry II  
Joseph Meissner  
Floyd Turnquist  
Steven N. Collins  
Richard Caplin  
Matthew Robbins  
J. David Missavage

\*Deceased Life Member

B. Michael Paschkes  
Benjamin Tipton  
Timothy Fitzpatrick  
Kelley Jhong  
Paul Lawrence  
Robert A. B. Curris  
Thomas Sweeney  
Ramon Pangelinan  
Donald Miller  
Alan Byrne  
Daniel Ammerman  
John-Matthew Urby  
Carl Lostracco  
Kenneth Bennett  
Patrick J. Dillon  
Mary Martin  
John Yanikov  
Randall S. Cartmill  
Lucas J. W. Donnelly  
Alfred Forgacz  
Jesse C. Manning  
Raymond Knagge  
Andree Navarro  
Andrew M. Paparella  
Tristan Macauley  
Timothy Huening  
Reginald Bostick  
Bruce E. Leahy  
Denton Poe  
Dorothea Burke  
Darrell J. Weatherford  
Robert A. Martinez  
Howard R. Charbonneau

Carrell Van Deacon  
Benjamin F. Rogers  
D. Scott Lene  
John A. Hardaway  
Raymond Hackler  
Monique Guerrero  
Xavier Colon  
Jody J. Hall  
Russell B. Price  
Peter J. Running  
Harold Isom  
Ronald Deese  
Timothy Wallace  
Judith Harriman Kofeot  
Mary Alice Nice  
Ned Lynch  
Bethany C. Aragon  
Frank E. Coburn  
Jack Guy  
Joel Krall  
Nicholas Israel  
Raphael Trujillo  
Jeremiah D. Trench  
Craig Champagne  
Annie Hilton  
Ann Turner  
Eric Kreitz  
Mark Stets Sr.  
Nancy Stets

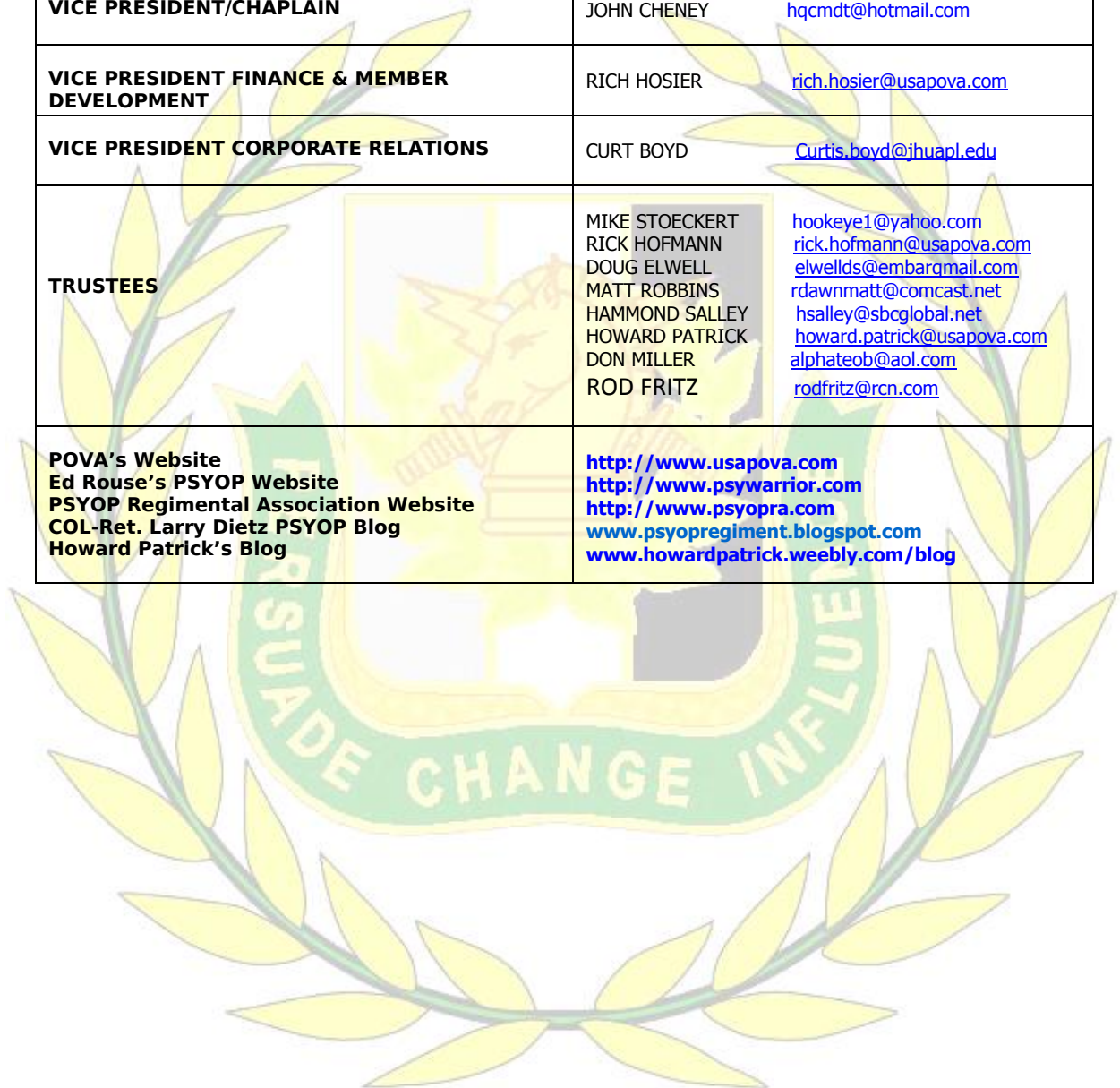
### **Sound Off!**

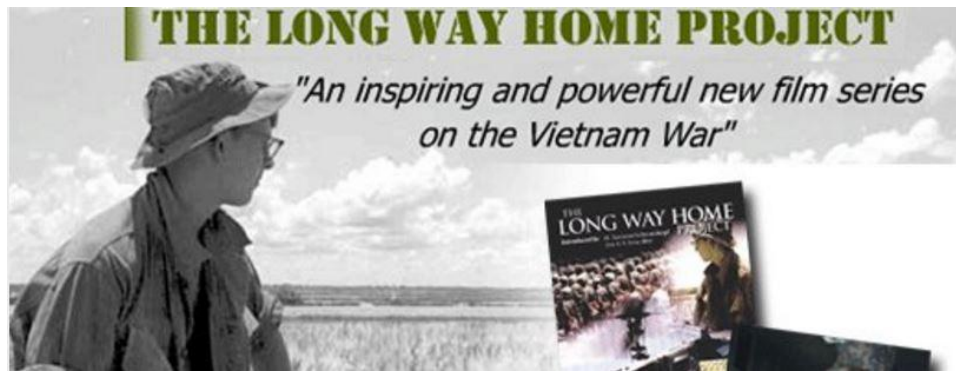
*Have questions, comments, complaints, or suggestions for your Association and/or its members? Please feel free to send any such commo to Chad Spawr. POVA will reply.*



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## THE LONG WAY HOME PROJECT

Looking at history from the vantage of 30 years time allows the beginning of historical objectivity and a reasoned analysis of events. *The Long Way Home Project* is a very well crafted attempt to analyze the U.S. involvement in Vietnam since 1940. Each episode is an excellent blend of historical images and live interviews with either participants, politicians, or historians who quite obviously have done some real thinking about the implications of the Vietnam War in terms of American and Southeast Asian civilization. An introduction by Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf repeated at the start of each episode places the series and the individual episodes in context.

*Men Versus Myth* explores the strategic location and historical interest of Vietnam to Chinese and Japanese imperialism, French colonial interests, and the spread of communism during the Cold War. It also examines assumptions about the composition of the American Forces (2.39 million served from 1964 to 1973) and domestic support.

*How We Won the War* examines early mistakes in political and military strategies and contrasts American successes during several North Vietnamese offensives with U.S. domestic perceptions of battlefield failure portrayed by the media and echoed by politicians. A credible argument is made that at some point the United States won the war but failed to recognize the victory at home and ultimately failed to provide sufficient support to the South Vietnamese military and government.

*How We Lost the War* explains how diplomacy and the failure of the United States to live up to the promises of support to the Republic of Vietnam made in conjunction with the 1974 Geneva Accords made it impossible for South Vietnam to avoid falling to a full-scale invasion from the North in 1975.

*The New Diaspora* starts from an anthropological and cultural history of the Vietnamese peoples and explores several waves of refugee emigrations during and following the reunification of Vietnam in 1975.

These videos present a reasoned, unemotional reassessment of the American involvement in Vietnam and are refreshingly devoid of particular political axes to grind or fingers to point. The production values are excellent: sound, editing, narration, titles, engineering are all of the highest quality. An adult topic handled in an adult manner but without offensive language. Very highly recommended.

Cliff Glaviano,  
Bowling Green State University

Reprinted Courtesy of Library Journal (March 1, 2003)