



# The Leaflet Drop

The Periodic Newsletter of the PSYOP Veterans  
Association  
(POVA)

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

1 March 2016

## **President's Letter**

Dear POVA Members and Friends,

Check out our new 2016 Reunion website: [www.povareunion2016.org](http://www.povareunion2016.org). This is POVA's new "one stop shop" for reunion planning, our calendar of reunion events, registration, and opportunities to purchase POVA-branded merchandise. Check in here often to see the updates as our reunion planning continues.

I am pleased to report that the ranks of POVA's Life Members continues to increase, as you will see in the roster below. As an additional distinction, POVA will issue a new "Life Member" pin to all Lifers as soon as they are finally available. Anticipate receiving your "Life" pin in the early spring.

POVA is nearing completion of our IRS 501c3 tax-exempt filing process. There is some cost associated with the filing. If you can help us out with a tax-exempt donation, that would be very helpful. Every little bit helps. Contact Rich Hosier ([hosierrich@yahoo.com](mailto:hosierrich@yahoo.com)) for details on making your donation. Thanks in advance for your help.



***New POVA Life Member  
Pin***

Now is a good time to order your POVA branded pullover golf shirt, or a new long-sleeve oxford cloth shirt. All shirts are a deep green in color, with the POVA crest on the left breast and "POVA" embroidered on the right sleeve. It is a very distinctive way to show your pride in being a POVA member. Details and ordering information are on the reunion website ([www.povareunion2016.org](http://www.povareunion2016.org)). It will be a great summer. Hope to see you in Fayetteville in August.

Mike Stoeckert  
President

## **Stunning New POVA Challenge Coin**

POVA VP and Life Member Rich Hosier has developed a brand new challenge coin for POVA. Consistent with the concept of military challenge coins, this coin symbolizes the PSYOP profession and traditions in its imagery on both sides. The front is the POVA logo, which was designed by Rick Hofmann and Chad Spawr several years ago. The reverse side features a PSYOP helicopter bearing speakers and disseminating leaflets; the outer edge of the face bears the names of the five original POVA founders, and beginning with Duane Yeager lists the first three presidents of the Association. POVA's new motto, "Ex Verba Victoria" is featured on the field under the chopper. The coin is over 2" in diameter.

The new coin will be available in limited quantities, but POVA will assure that we have sufficient to provide to all members and our special friends in the SOF communities. POVA's challenge coin became available in February 2016. Here is the gorgeous final product:



Order your POVA coin today. You can order it now on our new Reunion website ([www.povareunion2016.org](http://www.povareunion2016.org)) and pay with your credit card. Life Members who place their orders will have their credit card credited with the difference between full-price and the 15% member discount price.

### **Joint POVA-POA Family Assistance Fund**

In 2005, the Psychological Operations Association (POA) and the Psychological Operations Veterans Association (POVA) started a joint account for the purpose of assisting PSYOP soldiers who are seriously injured in service (\$100) or the families of PSYOP soldiers who die in service (\$150). The funds for that account are generously contributed by members of both organizations and administered by POVA member Doug Elwell on behalf of both POVA and POA.

Since 2005, there have been 35 donations made to PSYOP soldiers and families to provide some help at such a critical time. There were fortunately no donations made from the account during 2016. The account balance currently stands at \$1,182.80. Contributions may be made out to POVA and mailed to Doug Elwell, PO Box 36315, Fayetteville, NC 28303. Here is the 2015 year-end balance statement.

<b>Opening Fund Balance 1/1/2015</b>	<b>\$ 1,182.80</b>
<b>Fund Deposits in 2015</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Fund Payouts @ \$150 each</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Fund Balance 12/31/2015</b>	<b>\$ 1,182.80</b>

### **2016 POVA Reunion Update**

POVA's 2016 reunion is coming up quickly, so we'll update the current status of our planning activities. Here is a quick summary of the key highlights of the Reunion.

**Reunion Dates** 11-14 August 2016 (Thursday through Sunday)  
**Reunion Site** Two hotel choices:

#### **Reunion Headquarters**

Double Tree by Hilton  
 1965 Cedar Creek Road  
 Fayetteville, NC 28304  
 (910) 323-8282

Hampton Inn and Suites  
 Further details pending

- Key Reunion Events**
- **Arrival Reception:** Thursday afternoon-evening 11 August, beginning at 1700 hrs.
  - **PSYOP Demonstrations:** Friday, to be arranged at Ft. Bragg PSYOP

unit(s). Tours of Airborne & Special Operations Museum, Fayetteville, NC.

- **Museum Tours & Reunion BBQ:** Tours of Airborne & Special Operations Museum, daily hours; Friday evening Special Forces Picnic Grounds, south of Fayetteville.
- **PSYOP Regimental Association (PRA) Golf Outing:** Saturday, details to be finalized
- **POVA Business Meeting** (POVA members only): Airborne and Special Operations Museum (ASOM), Fayetteville, beginning at 1300 hrs.
- **POVA Reunion Banquet and Award Ceremony:** Doubletree Hotel, , beginning at 1830 hours.
- **Sunday Morning Departure** brunch at the DoubleTree by Hilton, beginning at 0800 hrs.

You can access the new 2016 Reunion website mentioned above ([www.povareunion2016.org](http://www.povareunion2016.org)) to find updates as they develop.

### **US Army JFK Special Warfare Museum**

The John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum is located on the corner of Ardennes St. and Marion St. on Fort Bragg, N.C. The museum concentrates on the history of the Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Regiments. The museum, one of the 64 U.S. Army museums in the country, has the mission to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret significant historical property in support of the pronencies, training and educational mission of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, making it the regimental museum for the U.S. Army Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations regiments including predecessor organizations from the American colonial period to the present.

This purpose is enhanced through its use as a training tool for all newly indoctrinated special operations Soldiers, during their qualification training, enabling them to see and hear the long heritage of the Soldiers and organizations who preceded them.

Exhibits begin with World War I and include displays on the First Special Service Force, the Office of Strategic Service, and Detachment 101 in World War II, the Korean conflict, as well as modern actions in Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. It also serves to illustrate the unique and specialized part played by all aspects of the Army special operations community both in conflict and during crucial roles in peacetime.



***USA JFK Special Warfare Museum***

The museum has also proven itself to be a valuable recruiting catalyst. It is housed in the one story Col. Arthur D. "Bull" Simons Hall, next to the John F. Kennedy Plaza on Fort Bragg. The museum is open 11 a.m. through 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free.

### **POVA's Life Members**

POVA has offered Life Memberships for several years, and will publish the names of these key veteran members in each newsletter going forward. Many thanks to each and every Life Member for your invaluable support, guidance, and brotherhood over the years.

**David Schultz**  
**David Albanese**  
**David Affleck**  
**John Henry "Jack" O'Neil**  
**Alfred Paddock**  
**John Cheney**  
**Arlo Despain**  
**William Forgey**  
**Eric Hersh**  
**Rick Hofmann**

**Stanley Michelsen**  
**James Osborne**  
**Chad Spawr**  
**Dennis Smiser**  
**Rich Hosier**  
**Curtis Boyd**  
**Carrie Spivey-Vernon**  
**Lawrence Dietz**  
**Mike Stoeckert**  
**Ray Ambrozak**

**Roxanne M. Merritt**  
**Norton "Tony" Newcomb**  
**Miguel Hobbs**  
**Ferdinand Irizarry II**  
**Joseph Meissner**  
**Floyd Turnquist**  
**Steven N. Collins**  
**Richard Caplin**

### **POVA President Mike Stoeckert**

"The Leaflet Drop" is proud to introduce POVA Life Member and President Mike Stoeckert. Mike has been POVA's president since 2008. In his capable hands, POVA has come through some difficult times. Good work, Mike! Here's Mike's story:

I was born in April, 1945, in Queen, New York. My parents eventually moved to Franklin Square, New York. I attended several schools there and in 1963 I graduated from Seawanaka High School. After graduating I was employed as printer in a small print shop.



***PFC Mike Stoeckert, Viet-Nam***

In October of 1965, I was drafted into the United States Army. I took my basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Upon completion of Basic Training I was assigned to 2D Psychological Operations Group, HHC 13<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Battalion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as an offset printing pressman. In July of 1966, I received orders for deployment to Vietnam and was assigned to 26<sup>th</sup> Psychological Detachment. The detachment arrived via troopship in August and was assigned to the 6<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Battalion, 245<sup>th</sup> Company in Nha Trang. In November of 1966, the detachment was transferred to 6<sup>th</sup> Psychological Operations Battalion Headquarters in Saigon. My job was to print and produce leaflets. I eventually was promoted the rank of Specialist Fifth Class. In August of 1967, after serving my time in the Army I was Honorably Discharged.

Upon my return to civilian life I worked at Grumman Aircraft Company, Bethpage, New York, as printer for two years. In January of 1970, I was appointed to the Suffolk County Police Department as a Police Officer. I eventually was promoted to Police Detective and retired after thirty years of service. I am still involved with law enforcement as a part time Code Enforcement Officer for a small incorporated Village. In my free time I spend time with my family, keep busy with various Law Enforcement Associations I belong to, and a member of two Harley Davidson Motorcycle Owners Group.



**POVA Life Member and President Mike Stoeckert**

I became a member of POVA in 1993 and attended my first Reunion in 1994, in St. Louis, Missouri. I am presently President of POVA. I was elected to that position in 2008, at the Reunion in Orlando, Florida. I have been a POVA Life Member since 2015.

**Passing of Dennis M. Mehan**

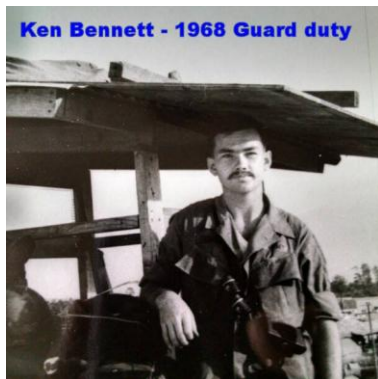


**Dennis Michael Mehan  
1947-2016**

POVA has just learned of the passing of Dennis Michael Mehan, who served for many years as a GS civilian employee with 4th PSYOP Group. Here is his obituary:

***Dennis Michael Mehan, 69, of Hope Mills died Wednesday, February 17, 2016. Mr. Mehan is survived by his wife; Mary, Sons; Quinn (Margarita) Mehan of Tulare, CA and Sean Mehan of Hope Mills, Sister; Elizabeth Mehan of Kenosha , WI, Grandchildren; Bianca and Joshua of Tulare, CA, Nieces; Catherine of IL., and Michelle of WI., and Nephew; Christopher of WI. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM Monday, February 22, 2016 at Pinecrest Funeral & Cremation Services in Hope Mills. In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorials be made to the Vietnam Veterans of America.***

**POVA Member Kenneth Bennett, 6<sup>th</sup> Psyop Bn; 4<sup>th</sup> Psyop Group April 1968 thru Jun 3 1969**



Ken Bennett went on active duty in the U.S. Army August 31, 1967. After swearing in, a year earlier, in the summer of 1966, the Army discovered I was only 16 years old so they placed me on a delayed entry program. After a long, miserable train ride, I ended up at Fort Knox Kentucky and exposed to Agony and Misery Hill. During the basic training I was approached because of testing, the Army wanted to offer me Warrant Officer. I dealt my cards and said only if Warrant Officer supply. Shortly thereafter I was sent to Fort Holabird – Baltimore, Maryland to complete the US Army Intelligence School. Towards the end of Military Intelligence training, Psychological Warfare; I was called

into a colonel's office to sign papers to become a warrant officer; when I noticed they changed my enlistment paperwork to Warrant Officer Flight!!! The officer refused to change it back to Warrant Officer Supply so I tore up the paperwork, saluted him and left. Next stop.....Ft. Bragg and the 82d, and then on to Viet-Nam.

After 21 days at sea, one stop in the Philippines, we landed in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. I wound up at the 6th PSYOP Battalion, 4th PSYOP Group, just outside Bien Hoa airport, Vietnam. I entered the compound as a private E2 and after a few weeks, they announced they needed a specialist in the (PDC) Psyop department. My LTC Ray Deitch said I can't be in the position since I wasn't an E5. I reminded him, you are the Colonel here, promote me and you won't regret because I won't let you down. I was promoted from E-2 to E-5 in a few weeks so I could do this job. Over the next 13 ½ months I helped in composing leaflets, interpreting English, French, and Vietnamese. It also required I pull all night guard duty and go back to work without sleep far more than I liked. I traveled all over Vietnam doing this job, dropping leaflets out of the back of C47 cargo planes; traveling in convoys, and at times Sargent of the guard. Also took documents to MACV and 4<sup>th</sup> Psyop Group in Saigon.

My other job was to ride in an Air Force plane, I believe an U10 single engine prop plane. We would fly near tree top level, arrive at a post battle area and I'd play tapes for the "*Chieu Ho!*" program, surrender, we won't kill you!!! It was fun for a bad situation except the first flight. We prepared the plane and speakers, got in and did our mission. When we landed back in Bien Hoa, the pilot reached under and behind his seat and began pulling out flak jackets!!! I asked what they were there for, MY BEING NAÏVE, and he stated, I'm not going to get shot in the balls or ass!!! I chewed the colonel out for not telling me to put flak jackets under my seat too!!! He liked to wrap a red neck scarf around his neck, he also enjoyed being referred to as the Red Baron. He painted "Speed Kills" on each side of the plane. He also showed me how to fly the plane and he'd sleep until we got near our destination. The panic time was when we stopped. We had to use duct tape to patch the bullet holes every time we returned to Bien Hoa. It seemed crazy, we never could hear bullets striking the plane.

After Vietnam, Ken was sent back to Ft Bragg until November 1969 when he was transferred to Ft Hood Texas. He and other enlisted and officers were used to test laser siting devices on M-1 Tanks and Huey Cobra Missile helicopters. The following spring after the Army decided we perfected the use of this new technology, when we all received orders to go back to Vietnam and test it under combat conditions. Since I had married in June 1969 and was short (under 28 days remaining), they tried



***Ken Bennett, ca. 1969***

hard to get me to reenlist but I left the Army. I didn't need or want another tour after so many close calls the first time in country. Following his time in Vietnam, Ken attended Michigan State University in E. Lansing, Michigan, Davenport University and Alpena Community College. Because I was hurt several times in Vietnam, my back and knees and hips were really bad and I had bad skin all over my body, Agent Orange related, I went to the universities in order to become successful in retail management, business careers and running the veterans employment and training program until the end of 1999. I took a medical retirement, my Vietnam injuries and PTSD made it impossible to work anymore. I worked for nearly 30 years and the VA awarded me 100% Service connected disability, permanent and total in the year 2000.

My awards and decorations include the National Defense Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (with three Oak Leaf Cluster), Air/Flight Medals, multiple Aircraft Crewman Badge, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal and others.

After years of severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Ken traveled back to Vietnam June of 2012 to try and deal with years of nightmares and flashbacks. PTSD kicked his butt when he returned, but on the good side, he met Huong in Mekong Delta area in Bac Lieu. He was married June 2013 to Huong Bennett, and currently lives in Alto, (near Grand Rapids) Michigan. He still has nightmares but Huong is really fast jumping out of bed when they occur. I look forward to meeting people again from the old unit in the future.

## **Using PSYOP in the "Outside" World**

Last month's newsletter profiled PSYOP veteran Norton "Tony" Newcomb, a PSYOP and Special Forces veteran of Viet-Nam. Tony is a POVA Life Member. In 2000, Tony learned of an effort by a local city manager in his hometown to either reduce or eliminate preference for veteran hiring by the city. Tony used his experience in combat PSYOP to "influence" a different outcome. Here is a transcription of the article from the 9 September 2000 Decatur, Illinois "Herald & Review" entitled "Net strategy worked in vets' favor:"



**POVA Life Member  
Tony Newcomb**

*The power of the Internet helped change City Manager Steve Garman's mind and possibly saved Decatur another national black eye. However, the black eye might have been just an empty threat.*

*After Garman announced his preference for pulling the plug on the widespread policy of giving veterans an extra five points on their civil service scores, vets declared cyberwar on the proposed change.*

***Tony Newcomb**, a coordinator with the Illinois Veterans Leadership Program, led the counterattack, signaling for reinforcements via two membership-only networks, an Army Special Forces net and a special operations group net.*

*Former military people from both coasts and several military branches emailed Garman. A former Air Force captain named James Long said it is a ridiculous idea to dismantle veterans preference in order to hire more minorities. Long, who said he was one of the first black B-52 pilots, said he would not consider working under an administration that "holds such prejudicial ideas."*

*A retired Marine major and Vietnam veteran wrote that veterans make the best workers because they have discipline and loyalty. One writer, who didn't say exactly where he lived, said he would no longer shop in Decatur if the veterans points were dropped.*

*But the one message carrying the largest payload was from an alleged CNN reporter to Newcomb, forwarded to him by someone with the moniker "sgtcombat."*

*"I will speak to my producer about how to cover this as possibly a feature rather than a brief news item on CNN," wrote the writer, who called him or herself "Christine." The message, which does not specify how to contact the reporter, contains an interesting misspelling. Christine thanks Tony for sending background "materiel," using a word used in the military, but not in journalism.*

*Newcomb said Friday it "very well could be" a ploy by some ex-Special Forces vet. In any case, Garman caved in and the real or imaginary threat to pain Decatur as anti-veteran town never materialized.*

There is something here about lessons learned having value long after.....well done, Tony.

## **Passing of POVA Co-Founder Richard L. Winner**

POVA as learned, and is saddened to report, that fellow POVA Co-Founder Richard Lawrence Winner died in 2007. Dick had been seriously ill for many years, and finally succumbed.

Dick was a very private person, and had maintained his life and circumstances very discretely; he did not want personal attention of any kind. I served with Dick in the 6<sup>th</sup> PSYOP Battalion in Viet-Nam; he was a good guy, a brave soldier, and a good friend. Here is Dick's obituary:

Richard Lawrence Winner of Auburn and Houston, Texas, died Jan. 31, 2007, at The Veterans' Administration Hospital in Houston of lung cancer.

He was born Nov. 30, 1946, the son of Edward and Dorris Lempert Winner of Auburn. Richard attended Auburn schools and graduated from Edward Little High School before attending Emerson College in Boston. He majored in the broadcasting course there. Before leaving for army service, Richard worked for a short time as a sportscaster at radio station WCOU in Lewiston. He continued to be an avid Red Sox fan even though he lived in Houston. He spent two years in Viet Nam as a staff sergeant in an Army Psychological Operations unit. He was awarded the Army Commendation and National Defense service medals as well as the Viet Nam Campaign and Service medals.

Following military service, Richard worked for Pioneer Plastics in Auburn, and later when that firm opened an operation in Houston, he moved there and was employed in shipping administration until the plant closed some years ago.

In recent years he became disabled and was under constant care of the Veterans' Administration. Donations in memory of Richard may be made to a charity of one's choice. Richard is survived by an aunt and uncle, Frances (Lempert) and Melvin Stone of Portland and 11 first cousins.

Donations in memory of Richard may be sent to: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Attn: Development Office 1023 15th Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, D.C. 20005.

### **Helping Vets with Mesothelioma**

POVA has been in contact with The Mesothelioma Veterans Center (MVC), an organization which works to assist all US military veterans who suffer from Mesothelioma. Here is a communication from MVC:

The Mesothelioma Veterans Center (MVC) is a veteran's advocacy organization specializing in assisting veterans who have been diagnosed with mesothelioma, an aggressive form of cancer caused by the inhalation or ingestion of asbestos fibers. As a result, veterans comprise almost 1/3 of all mesothelioma diagnoses in the US each year.

The MVC was founded by retired Navy LCDR Carl Jewett. Commander Jewett spent just under 24 years in the submarine force, primarily working in the Engine Room where asbestos use was most prevalent. Commander Jewett is a VA-accredited claims agent and has helped hundreds of veterans get approved for VA Disability Compensation and VA Pension. Disability Compensation is awarded to veterans who were primarily exposed to asbestos in the military, while Pension may be awarded to those veterans who suffered a greater exposure in their civilian jobs.



***LCDR-USN-Ret. Carl Jewett,  
Founder of MVC***

The MVC encourages any veteran with an asbestos related disease to seek assistance in determining whether they are eligible for compensation through the VA. Contact the MVC today and speak directly with Commander Jewett about your potential to receive VA benefits for your asbestos related condition. Contact MVC at the following:



[MesotheliomaVeterans.org](http://MesotheliomaVeterans.org)

192 Nandina Terrace  
Winter Springs, FL 32807  
1-877-404-9992



Mesothelioma Veterans Center  
at MesotheliomaVeterans.org

**\*\*IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS / E-MAIL ADDRESSES\*\***

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	MIKE STOECKERT <a href="mailto:hookeye1@optonline.net">hookeye1@optonline.net</a>	631-868-3068
<b>VICE PRESIDENT/ CHAPLAIN</b>	JOHN CHENEY <a href="mailto:hqcmdt@hotmail.com">hqcmdt@hotmail.com</a>	214-929-6603
<b>VICE PRESIDENT CORPORATE RELATIONS</b>	CURT BOYD <a href="mailto:Curtis.boyd@jhuapl.edu">Curtis.boyd@jhuapl.edu</a>	
<b>VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE &amp; MEMBER DEVELOPMENT</b>	RICH HOSIER <a href="mailto:hosierrich@yahoo.com">hosierrich@yahoo.com</a>	
<b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT &amp; NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	CHAD SPAWR <a href="mailto:spawrtan@wideopenwest.com">spawrtan@wideopenwest.com</a>	248-495-5974
<b>POVA WEBMASTER</b>	RICK HOFMANN <a href="mailto:rick.hofmann@usapova.com">rick.hofmann@usapova.com</a>	
<b>TRUSTEES</b>	DICK HOLZHEIMER <a href="mailto:rholzh@yahoo.com">rholzh@yahoo.com</a> PAUL WOLFGEHER <a href="mailto:paw1924@swbell.net">paw1924@swbell.net</a> ALAN BYRNE <a href="mailto:albyrne@aol.com">albyrne@aol.com</a>	813-391-2975
<b>LIAISON OFFICER</b>	DOUG ELWELL <a href="mailto:elwells@embarqmail.com">elwells@embarqmail.com</a>	910-488-1383
<b>Ed Rouse's PSYOP Website</b>	<a href="http://www.psywarrior.com">http://www.psywarrior.com</a>	
<b>POVA's WEBSITE</b>	<a href="http://www.usapova.com">http://www.usapova.com</a>	
<b>PSYOP Regimental Association Website</b>	<a href="http://www.psyopra.com">http://www.psyopra.com</a>	
<b>COL-Ret. Larry Dietz PSYOP Blog</b>	<a href="http://www.psyopregiment.blogspot.com">www.psyopregiment.blogspot.com</a>	

**In Closing** If you have a correction to previous information, or something you'd like to add to a future newsletter, send it to Chad at the email address listed below.

*In Brotherhood,*

**Chad Spawr**  
**First Vice President & Interim Editor**  
[spawrtan@wideopenwest.com](mailto:spawrtan@wideopenwest.com)