

nowhearthis

Brief news items of interest to veterans and their families.

Is All of America at War?

In a recent editorial, *USA Today* concluded: "The American public remains disconnected from the war [Iraq], even while supporting the troops with words and bumper stickers. That's because the White House has stubbornly refused to call on the American people to sacrifice. ... The sacrifices fall disproportionately on heroic volunteers."

The newspaper's position is well-stated, but it is heartening to see that certain segments of American society, as well as generous individuals, continue to pay more than lip service. For instance, an anonymous donor gave \$1.6 million—through the Los Angeles-based California Community Foundation—to the Armed Forces Relief Trust (AFRT).

AFRT, formed in 2003 to raise money for groups that help financially strapped military families, distributes its funds to the four military aid societies.

In another example, the Virginia-based *Our Military Kids* (OMK) is supporting the children of a National Guard infantry battalion. The pilot program has already received donations of \$35,000 from Boeing Co. and \$25,000 from General Dynamics.



Books of Interest to Veterans

Ecker, Richard E. *Korean Battle Chronology: Unit-by-Unit U.S. Casualty Figures and Medal of Honor Citations*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2005. This is the book historians and veterans alike have been waiting for. For the first time, a comprehensive compilation of the war's toll is readily available. Organized by phases of the Korean War, it provides a complete breakdown by division and regiment.

Leepson, Marc. *Flag: An American Biography*. N.Y.: St. Martin's Press, 2005. A comprehensive history of the Stars & Stripes replete with fascinating facts.

'Operation Welcome Home'

Over Veterans Day weekend 2005, Las Vegas is hosting a gala event dedicated to Vietnam veterans. The event has the full backing of the city's civic leaders.

The homecoming will be the central theme of the Veterans Day parade in Nevada's most famous destination. Coinciding with the welcome-home event is the world-renowned air show at nearby Nellis Air Force Base. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the city, this year it is called the Las Vegas Centennial Air Show. Combined, these events promise quite the show.

The four-day celebration between Nov. 10-13 also will include a dinner/USO-style show, a variety of unit reunions and special gatherings, as well as youth essay and photo contests.

For more information on planned activities, contact Bob Avery, Organizing Chairman, Welcome Home at: Tel. (702) 497-9885; Fax 702-442-5663; E-mail bavery@aviationnation.org; and Web site www.vietnamwelcomehome.org.

Win a Free Trip Through VFW's Las Vegas "Operation Welcome Home" Drawing

If you received a Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam, you could be one of 12* lucky vets to win VFW's trip to the Las Vegas "Operation Welcome Home," Nov. 10-14, 2005. This *Welcome and Celebrate America's Vietnam Veterans* includes participating in the Veterans Day Parade and Nellis Air Force Base Air Show. Airfare, accommodations and \$250 for expenses are included. Visit www.vietnamwelcomehome.org for more information.

Entries must be received prior to the drawing on Sept. 5, 2005. Winners will be notified by mail or e-mail in September. To claim their trip, winners must send a copy of their Purple Heart documentation to VFW National Headquarters by Oct. 5, 2005.

Note: Previous VFW-sponsored trip-winners to the Army-Navy Game, the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Return to Vietnam Trip funded through the Kahle Fund are **not** eligible.

* Three winners will be selected from each VFW Conference.

Winners will receive:

- Coach airfare from your hometown to Las Vegas for you and your spouse.
- Four nights of accommodations.
- Participation in parade and air show.
- \$250 for expenses.

SEND ENTRIES TO:
Assistant Adjutant General
—Programs
VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Fill out this form and send today!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

VFW Post No. _____ Location _____

Military Service, Unit: _____

Dates in Vietnam: _____

Non-members check to receive VFW membership information.

Yes No