

8-2015

State Governors of the United States of America

Dear Patriot:

By introduction, I am a disabled Vietnam War Veteran and would like to share with you what has been done in Louisiana by its veterans and for its veterans.

This correspondence is provided in hope that **your states** Vietnam War Vets will be acknowledged and honored as well as the recognition and designation of the 50th year anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War.

The method Louisiana Veterans utilized follows the **example** of the people of Florida in 2005, with U. S. House Resolution #500, on behalf of 27 lost naval aviators in the Bermuda Triangle (Flight #19).

The cost to the Louisiana Tax payers to honor these tens of thousands **Louisiana** Vietnam War Veterans, men and women in this fashion and at this time is negligible.

Our President describes this **support** effort as a "debt of honor and a" sacred trust" forged for those who risked their lives to protect our freedoms. "Beginning at enlistment, we must do everything in our power to support and provide them with the benefits they have earned."

The attached documents are provided as an **example** of the steps taken to accomplish the honoring of **Louisiana's** men and women armed forces Vietnam War Veterans, both in our state as well as the U. S. Congress.

Your consideration in this matter for **your states** Vietnam War Veterans would be considered an act of patriotism and empathy and coincides with the 50th year anniversary commemoration of this war.

Respectfully,



Norman F. Alkazin

Norman & Lanna Alkazin
19097 Highway 16
Amite, LA 70422-4713

985-748-6979

Attachments and Credits:

President Barack Obama - letter
Tangipahoa Parish Council - resolution
Louisiana State Representative:
Mr. John Bel Edward - resolution
Nevada Governor
Mr. Brian Sandoval - letter

Cc:

LA State Representative - John Bel Edwards
Tangipahoa Parish Council
Mr. Louis Joseph
Mr. Greg Varnado
Hammond Daily Star Editor
Ms. Lil Mirando

ENROLLED

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDWARDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize November 13, 2013, through November 11, 2025, as the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

WHEREAS, in observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, it is important as a nation and state that we reflect upon the valor of a generation that served with honor and although long and controversial in nature, this war in many ways defined an entire generation of Americans; and

WHEREAS, although American involvement in the conflict of Vietnam spanned several decades and presidencies, the ground offensive officially began in March of 1965, with the deployment of 2,500 Marines and by the end of that year, nearly 200,000 American troops were in Vietnam. The strength of the Allied Armed Forces peaked at 543,482 troops during the Vietnam war; and

WHEREAS, we draw inspiration from our Louisiana heroes who suffered unspeakable tragedies. Approximately 153,303 veterans suffered nonmortal wounding, 14 were held as Prisoners of War, and 24 remain unaccounted for; and

WHEREAS, by the official end of the Vietnam War in April of 1975, nearly three million American servicemen and women had been on the ground, in the air, on the rivers, and at sea within Vietnam's borders serving in some capacity during the conflict. As a grateful nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots who paid the ultimate sacrifice during this difficult and painful period; and

WHEREAS, of the 7,391,000 Vietnam veterans, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that roughly 106,148 reside in Louisiana. In the half century

since the official beginning of the Vietnam War, our nation has grappled with the sensitive effects of this struggle which accompanies all wars. Yet, we remain thankful to those who fought in this conflict and honor the legacy of service that they built; and

HCR NO. 43

ENROLLED

WHEREAS, the freedom and liberties we are blessed to enjoy today are a direct result of the courage, devotion, and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces. We are grateful for their brave service and draw inspiration and pride from all that they are.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby recognizes November 13, 2013, through November 11, 2025, as the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 18, 2010

Mr. Norman F. Alkazin
19097 US Highway 16
Amite, Louisiana 70422

Dear Norman:

Thank you for writing. I appreciate hearing from you.

When Americans answer the call of duty to serve in our Armed Forces, a sacred trust is forged. Our men and women who have served in the uniform of the United States of America risked their lives to protect our freedoms. Beginning at enlistment, we must do everything in our power to support and provide them with the benefits they have earned. Our Nation's first President understood this obligation—as I do—to be “a debt of honor.”

My Administration is working every day to fulfill our obligation to our heroes. Last year, I signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, creating tax incentives for businesses that hire unemployed veterans and providing one-time payments to eligible veterans totaling \$700 million. My 2011 Budget builds on last year's historic increase in veterans funding, and extends employment and training services to our veterans to help them during our Nation's economic recovery.

We have taken additional steps, extending health care coverage to an additional 500,000 veterans by 2013, increasing access to rural medical care, easing the transition from military care to veterans' care, and enhancing screening and treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. We are building a 21st-century Department of Veterans Affairs and harnessing technologies to cut the red tape and fight the claims backlog. We implemented the Post-9/11 GI Bill so more service members and their families can pursue higher education and reach for the American Dream. And, because no veteran should ever face homelessness, we are expanding services to help them get back on their feet. To read more about our plans, please visit: www.WhiteHouse.gov/issues/veterans.

For information on opportunities for veterans out of work, please visit: www.dol.gov/vets. To learn about health care and other benefits, home loans, facility locations, and services available to veterans, visit iris.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000.

Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

Sincerely,



Nevada State Veterans Home
100 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, Nevada 89005
(702) 332-6784 • Fax (702) 332-6752

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor



Office of Veterans Services
6900 N. Pecos Road, Room 1C237
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89086
(702) 224-6025 • Fax (702) 224-6927

Northern Nevada
Veterans Memorial Cemetery
P.O. Box 1919
Fernley, Nevada 89408
(775) 575-4441 • Fax (775) 575-5713

STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
5460 Reno Corporate Drive, Suite 131
Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 688-1653 • Fax (775) 688-1656

Southern Nevada
Veterans Memorial Cemetery
1900 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, Nevada 89005
(702) 486-5920 • Fax (702) 486-5923

December 5, 2012

Mr. Norman Alkazin
19097 Highway 16
Amite, LA 70422

Dear Mr. Alkazin,

I am in receipt of your letter to Governor Brian Sandoval dated November 4, 2012, and regarding Vietnam veterans suffering from environmental health hazards. Thank you for taking the time to engage on this important subject. I hope my response here is of some help. Commence

As you may know, the Department of Defense is beginning their commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War next year. The purpose of this commemoration is to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War for their service and sacrifice, to highlight the service of the armed forces, to pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States, to highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research, and to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War. It will be carried out over two years leading up to the 50th anniversary through local events held around the nation in support of the DoD effort.

Our agency is proud to partner with the Nevada National Guard to honor the veterans of the Vietnam War and their families through this program next year. We are currently developing our plans for a program for Memorial Day on May 27, 2013, so I appreciate your recommendation for a Governor's proclamation. We will work to see if it can be included in the event's program.

Thank you again for engaging in this matter, and thank you for your service.

Serving America's Heroes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caleb S. Cage".

Caleb S. Cage
Executive Director
Nevada Office of Veterans Services

T.P. RESOLUTION NO. R15-28

"A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT TANGIPAHOA PARISH'S UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CONSIDER A PROCLAMTION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR"

WHEREAS, the Tangipahoa Parish Council has been presented with House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 by Representative John Bel Edwards to recognize November 13, 2013, through November 11, 2025. As the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the Tangipahoa Parish Council is of the opinion that these men and women are worthy of this recognition and that our country owes a huge debt to these men and women.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tangipahoa Parish Council as follows:

That this resolution of support for and a copy of the aforesaid resolution as presented to the Tangipahoa Parish Council by Norman Alkazin be forwarded to Tangipahoa Parish's United States Congressional Delegation, for their review and consideration.

On motion by Mr. Joseph and seconded by Mr. Varnado, the foregoing resolution was hereby declared adopted on this the 27th day of April, 2015 by the following roll-call vote:

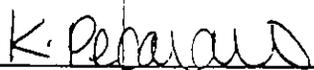
YEAS: 8 (Varnado, Joseph, Bruno, Muscarello, Wells, Vial, Lavine, Cortez)

NAYS: 0

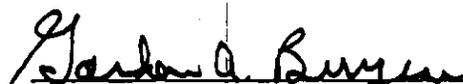
ABSENT: 2 (Forrest, Bankston)

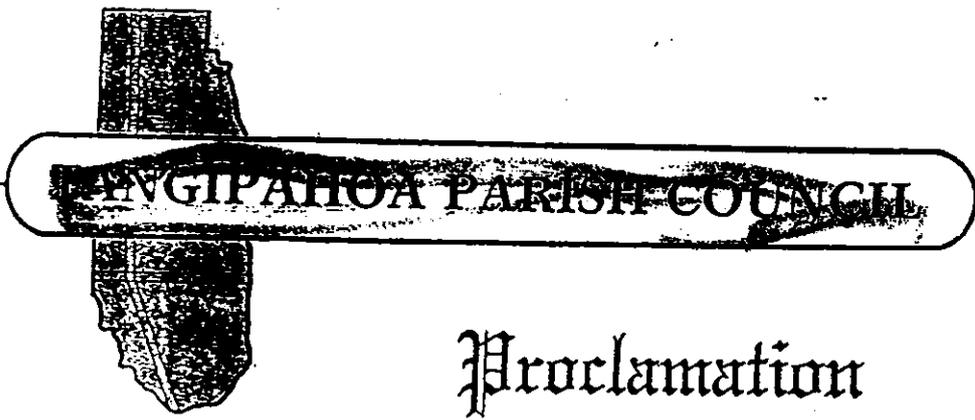
NOT VOTING: 0

ATTEST:


Kristen Pecararo, Clerk of Council
Tangipahoa Parish Council


David P. Vial, Chairman
Tangipahoa Parish Council


Gordon A. Burgess, President
Tangipahoa Parish



TANGIPAHOA PARISH COUNCIL

Proclamation

As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans. Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces.

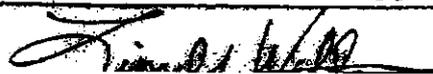
As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots --their names etched in black granite -- who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war, yet who returned home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,600 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a Nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home. In the reflection of The Wall, we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful for their service, valor, and sacrifice.

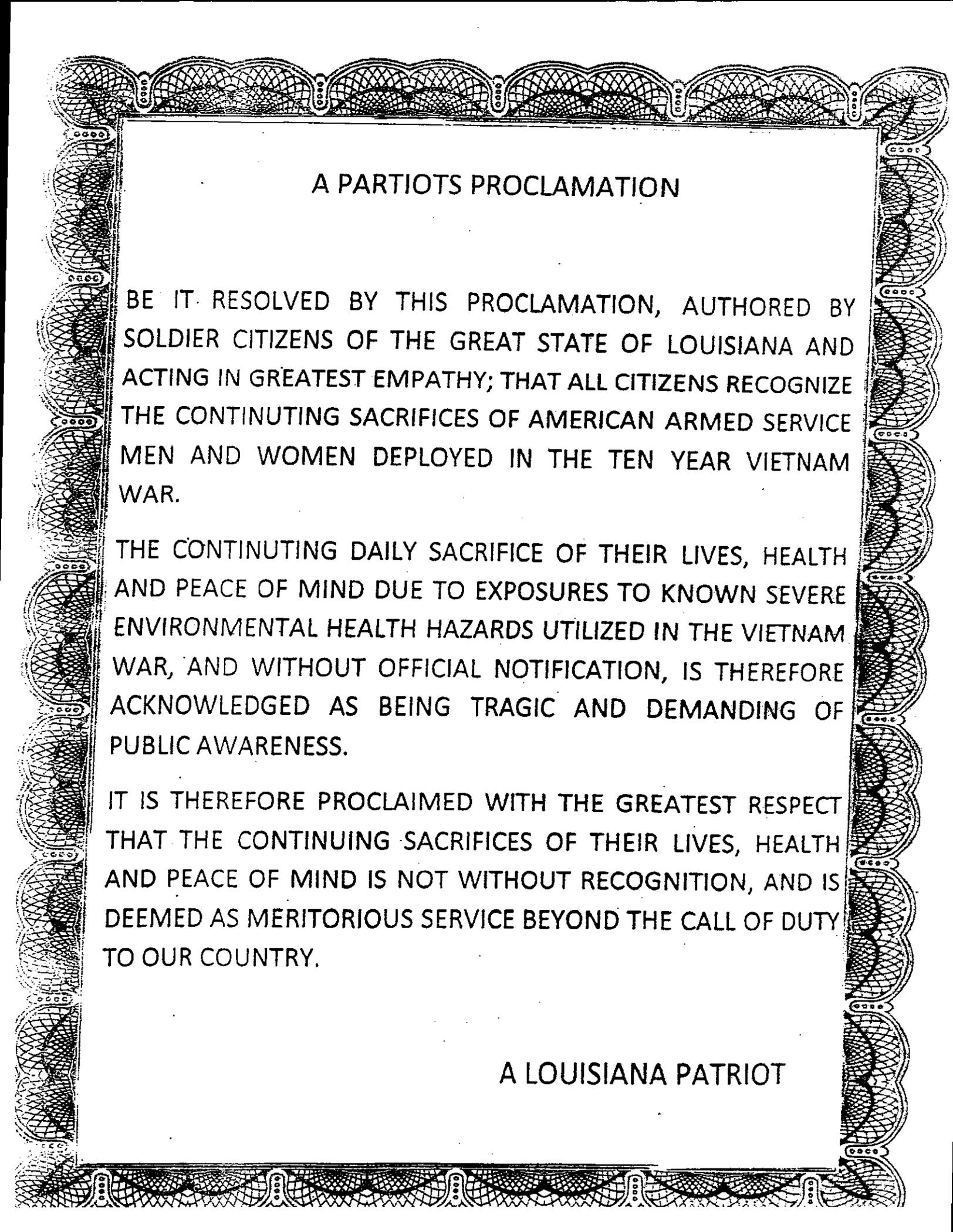
In recognition of a chapter in our Nation's history that must never be forgotten, let us renew our sacred commitment to those who answered our country's call in Vietnam and those who awaited their safe return. While no words will ever be fully worthy of their service, nor any honor truly befitting their sacrifice, let us remember that it is never too late to pay tribute to the men and women who answered the call of duty with courage and valor. Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned.

Throughout this Commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all who have served the fullest respect and support of a grateful Nation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Lionell Wells, Tangipahoa Parish Council Chairman, do hereby call upon Federal, State, and local officials to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS THEROF, I do hereunto set my signature and have cause to be affixed the official seal of the Tangipahoa Parish Council on this 25th day of February, 2013, in Tangipahoa Parish.





A PATRIOTS PROCLAMATION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS PROCLAMATION, AUTHORED BY SOLDIER CITIZENS OF THE GREAT STATE OF LOUISIANA AND ACTING IN GREATEST EMPATHY; THAT ALL CITIZENS RECOGNIZE THE CONTINUING SACRIFICES OF AMERICAN ARMED SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN DEPLOYED IN THE TEN YEAR VIETNAM WAR.

THE CONTINUING DAILY SACRIFICE OF THEIR LIVES, HEALTH AND PEACE OF MIND DUE TO EXPOSURES TO KNOWN SEVERE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS UTILIZED IN THE VIETNAM WAR, AND WITHOUT OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION, IS THEREFORE ACKNOWLEDGED AS BEING TRAGIC AND DEMANDING OF PUBLIC AWARENESS.

IT IS THEREFORE PROCLAIMED WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT THAT THE CONTINUING SACRIFICES OF THEIR LIVES, HEALTH AND PEACE OF MIND IS NOT WITHOUT RECOGNITION, AND IS DEEMED AS MERITORIOUS SERVICE BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO OUR COUNTRY.

A LOUISIANA PATRIOT

Local News with Don Ellzey

Local Vietnam Vets want parish council to support resolution honoring veterans of Vietnam War

DON ELLZEY

www.tangilena.com

AMITE – Two Vietnam veterans asked the Tangipahoa Parish Council to use its influence in support of a resolution honoring veterans of the Vietnam War.

Marine veteran Marvin Vernon and Navy veteran Norman Alkazin, both of Amite, asked the council, at its April 27 meeting, to approve a resolution asking the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to support a declaration in Congress recognizing those who served in the war.

Vernon thanked the council for its past support of veterans and veterans' issues.

"It hasn't gone unnoticed," he said.

He said many Vietnam veterans are dying daily, and it is important to honor them for their service while they are living.

Alkazin said the council has been a leader in standing for Vietnam veterans. He asked that the council especially request support for the Toxic Exposure Research Act, which would benefit all Vietnam veterans exposed to toxic chemicals such as Agent Orange.

Councilman Harry Lavine said many people do not realize the sacrifices that Vietnam War veterans made for their country.

Councilman Nicky Muscarello Sr. said the council thanks the veterans for their service.

"We admire you guys," he said.

The resolution to the Congressional Delegation was approved.

Councilman Louis Joseph told the council that parish President Gordon Burgess was recently recognized by the state Legislature for his exemplary service to the parish.

Joseph said the Legislature noted that Burgess implemented the pay-as-you-go funding plan for the parish, and provided services and public improvements over the years without putting the parish in debt.

"He leaves a legacy of exemplary public service," Joseph said of Burgess, who is retiring at the end of the year.

Burgess said it was the people, employees and council members who made his 30 years of service a success.

"I'm honored to have had the opportunity to serve," he said.

Roseland Mayor requests assistance with drainage

DON ELLZEY

www.tangilena.com

AMITE -- Roseland Mayor Walter McCoy and members of the town council met with Tangipahoa Parish Council during meeting to assist with drainage and around the municipality.

McCoy said a canal and some culverts as on Frazier Lane and Jackson need need of maintenance.

A canal is not moving water out she said.

Councilman Louis Joseph asked parish President Gordon Burgess to look into and determine what assistance needed.

An ordinance was adopted to establish a 20 mph speed limit at play and 20 mph speed limit on Road in District 8.

An ordinance was introduced on the eastern 425 feet of Meads Road.

Tangipahoa Parish Council approves 14 roads for microsurfacing

DON ELLZEY

www.tangilena.com

AMITE – Fourteen parish roads have been approved for microsurfacing this year by the Tangipahoa Parish Council.

Microsurfacing is the application of a special overlay to asphalt to increase the longevity of the surface.

The roads scheduled for the process are:

– District 2, Greg Varnado: Hillcrest School Road, Old Spring Creek Road, Grandoe Road, Rising Fawn Road.

– District 4, Carlo Bruno: Wiggins Road, Michelli Road, Copper Head Road.

– District 10, Bobby Cortez: Brandon, Gill, Morgan, Drude, Bren Way, Dale and Carol drives.

Fallen Amite police officer honored in Washington

A murdered deputy marshal will be honored in Washington DC on May 13 at a Candlelight Vigil.

Deputy Marshal Limus Walter Amite Police Department was born at the age of 41 when he intervened in a men burglarizing a pharmacy sustained major head injuries and scene.

Moak had served with the Amite Police Department for nine years. At his death he was survived by his wife and three children.

All three of the subjects were arrested. Moak along with 276 fallen officers honored in our nation's capital May 10 – 16 which was proclaimed National Fallen Law Enforcement Week.

National Police Week pays special attention to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and protection of others.

Others from our area to be honored are James Ellis Foster Jr. of Den Bienville, Joseph Viola of Orleans Parish, and Trosclair of Ponchatoula, Carlo

Gravity Drainage District No. 1 requests TPSO to pay to clean ditch near Story Road firing range

Opinions

Readers share memories of Dallas Woods, Cave Tangi

BY WAYNE NORWOOD

"Louisiana Treasures"

My article about the old Cave Tangi on Highway 51 South brought back a lot of memories week before last.

I received overwhelming phone calls in response to the article plus people stopping me in town and coming by the museum.



Norwood

One of the first calls was from Mrs. Louise Steadman, who told me it was her father, Mr. Beckendorf, who had put down all the ceramic tile in the Cave. He had his own company, Beckendorf Tile Company out of Hammond, and he ran his business by word of mouth.

Mr. David Rouse said he remembers Dallas Woods raised his own chickens behind the Cave. He did this until 1948 and

Thank you for calling and sharing your memories of the good times that you had and the memories you made at Cave Tangi.

mart and Murphy Oil let the historic fountain be torn down and not moved to the side of the property.

I can add that every single person I talked to about the Cave told me that they felt that the public officials from Ponchatoula didn't try hard enough to save the historic fountain and a little piece of history that was a part of Ponchatoula history.

Some of the stories told

can't be published in this article, but remember it was a long time ago and we were young and growing up when the Cave was the place to be.

Thank you for calling and sharing your memories of the good times that you had and the memories you made at Cave Tangi.

Thanks to David Rouse, the Louisiana Treasures Museum now has a photograph of the Cave Tangi, taken in 1948 and also carry out food bags from the Cave.

Just one more little of piece of history added to the collections at the museum.

For more information or hours of operation, call Wayne Norwood at 225-294-8352.

Letter to the editor

Tangipahoa Parish cares about veterans

Dear editor:

You have been kind in the past concerning veterans' issues I have involved myself with. I thank you! I would like to share with you and your readers a recent milestone success. This also applies to those having an interest in efforts to recognize Vietnam War veterans for their services.

In April in the legislative session, a resolution by Rep. John Bel Edwards was introduced and adapted recognizing the 50th year anniversary of the Vietnam War, as well as the tragedies and sacrifices of these armed service members.

An attempt in 2012 to recognize these men and women veterans had failed. This resolution, La. 2015 #43, followed the example of the people of Florida in 2005 with U.S. House Resolution

#500 on behalf of 27 lost naval aviators in the Bermuda Triangle (Flight #19).

Our Tangipahoa Parish Council last month, with Mr. Greg Varnado and Mr. Louis Joseph, sponsored a resolution R15-#28 adopting La. House Resolution 2015-#43, to be forwarded for consideration to Louisiana's U.S. Congressional delegation. These resolutions were to be presented to the U.S. Congress as a resolution to honor and recognize our Louisiana armed service men and women who served in the Vietnam War and its 50th year anniversary.

It is important for the citizens of Tangipahoa Parish to know about these patriots who represent us as elected delegates. Their action on behalf of these veterans is not only honorable but also is an

example that Tangipahoa Parish truly cares for its armed service men and women.

Another matter of interest is the current legislation before the U.S. Congress (The Toxic Substance and Research Act) that needs supporting by the citizens of Louisiana.

It should also be noted this legislation will apply to all armed service members and their progeny harmed from toxic substances while in service.

In addition our Louisiana congressional delegates should be encouraged to adopt La. Resolution 2015-#43 in the U.S. Congress on behalf of its Vietnam War Veterans and the 50th year anniversary commemoration.

Sincerely and with thanks,

*Norman E. Alkazin,
Amite*