



## **VVMF Build The Center Benefit**

12 November 2010

Remarks by General Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret.)

### **1.) Thank:**

- Congressman Norm Dicks – intro.
- Honorable Bob Kerrey – great help to me – MOH!
- Michael Heisley – done so much VVMF. Patriot.
- Judith Heisley Bishop – Vietnam trip
- Honorable John Warner – Mac Mathias Award  
“Do whatever you want, but we’re voting for Warner.”

### **2.) Proud to be associated with VVMF leadership**

- John Dibble – our chairman
- Sandy Mayo
- Janis Nark
- John Woods
- Harry Robinson
- Jim Kimsey
- In particular – Jan Scruggs – his leadership

### **3.) The Veterans we serve**

- Jill and I just hosted 14<sup>th</sup> Reunion – B Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 7<sup>th</sup> Cav – Since 1986  
“How old am I” – “Sir, you are 64!”

### **Who are the Vietnam Vet’s**

- 9.7% of their generation
- 79% who served in Vietnam are high school graduates (63% Korea, 45% WWII)
- 3.4 million served in theater

- 9 million in Armed Forces
- 2.6 million direct combat
- 7,484 were women
- Peak strength – 543,482 (1969)
- 25% in country were draftees

### **Casualties**

- 58,202 killed (61% were 21 years old or younger)
- 303,704 wounded (75, 000 severely disabled)
- Crippling wounds lower extremities, 300% higher WWII
- Missing in Action – 2,318
- POW's – 766 (114 died in captivity)

### **4.) The Reality vs. The Media**

- 91% glad they served
- 74% serve again even knowing the outcome
- Least likely to be in prison – ½ of one percent
- 97% Honorable Discharge
- Personal income exceeds non-Vet age group by 18%
- Lower unemployment rate
- 87% American people hold in high esteem
- 2/3 who served in Vietnam were volunteers
- 70% of those killed were volunteers – (average age 23.1 years old)
- Average age Vietnam infantryman was 22 years old – WWII was 26 years old
- Average infantryman South Pacific WWII saw 40 days combat in four years
- Average infantryman Vietnam saw 240 days combat in one year thanks to the helicopter mobility.
- One out of ten Americans who served in Vietnam was a casualty – percent similar to other wars.
- **There were twice as many casualties in Southeast Asia (Primarily Cambodia). The first two years after the 1975 Fall of Saigon – Then the ten years of US involvement.**

## **5.) The Education Center at The Wall**

- General Colin Powell
- Peter Holt
- Actor Tom Selleck (spokesperson)
- Me – Advisory committee
- Have \$25 million of \$85 million
- Wall of Faces
- Timeline War
- Legacy of Service (other wars)
- Collections – 150,000 items
- Construction – Tishman Construction Corp.
- Architects – Ennead Architects LLP (Formerly Polshek Partnership)  
Newseum
- Ralph Applebaum Associates  
US Holocaust Memorial  
Newseum  
US Capitol Visitor Center