



The Denton County Veteran

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

(Asking for a Declaration of a State of War between the United States and Japan, December 8, 1941) Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of

America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack. It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government had deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace. The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives were lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.



Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

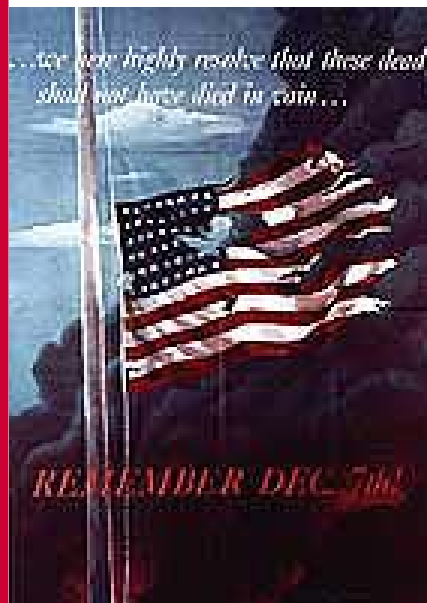
Last night Japanese forces attacked Wake Island.

This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their

righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again. Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounded determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God. I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, 7 December, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.



Remembering December 7th,

December 2003

DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

County Judge Mary Horn, Commissioner Cynthia White, Precinct 1; Commissioner Sandy Jacobs, Precinct 2;

Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell, Precinct 3; Commissioner Jim Carter, Precinct 4

Volume VI Issue 12

Inside this issue:

Gift of Groceries Program	2
VA Launches "Kids Page"	3
I am your Flag	3
Scholarships for Military Children	4
During the Vietnam Era (cont)	4
Vietnam Women's Memorial	5
Merry Christmas	6

Donors Sought for 'Gift of Groceries' Program for Military Families

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, November 3, 2003 -- With the holiday season right around the corner, officials at the Defense Commissary Agency are encouraging the American public to show its support for U.S. service members through its highly successful "Gift of Groceries" program.

The program, which enables anyone to purchase and donate gift certificates good at all 280 military commissaries worldwide, reached the \$1 million mark just six months after its launch in September 2002, according to Kaye Kennedy, the agency's corporate communications chief. Now that figure has climbed even higher, with \$1.6 million in gift certificates purchased through the program.

Jean Villerreal, DeCA's gift certificate program manager, said the program "has really exceeded all our expectations as customers, industry and military charities embrace the service."

Kennedy attributes the program's success to the fact that it gives friends, family and the public an opportunity to show their support for military families.

Donors can present the gift certificates to military families directly or send them to a local military relief organization. They can also elect to donate them to one of the three nonprofit organizations supporting the program: the Air Force Aid Society, the USO and the Fisher House Foundation.

"Our priority is to get these gift certificates to the families of service members wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom," said Jim Weiskopf of the Fisher House Foundation. He said families staying in Fisher Houses at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, and the National Naval Medical Center in nearby Bethesda, Md., while their wounded family members undergo medical care are already benefiting from the program.

Military chaplains' funds purchased more than \$500,000 in gift certificates for the 2002 holiday sea-

son.

Civilian organizations are jumping on board as well. One regional family- support effort near San Diego netted \$50,000 in donated gift certificates last spring. In addition, employees of large defense contractor location in Dallas donated \$25,000 in gift certificates for military families.

And now with the holidays approaching, officials are hopeful that the public's generosity will continue.

The Gift of Groceries program operates through a business agreement with CertifiChecks Inc., at no cost to the Defense Commissary Agency or the federal government, Kennedy said. Only authorized commissary shoppers can redeem the gift certificates.

To buy purchase commissary gift certificates, visit www.commissaries.com or call the toll- free 1-877-770-GIFT. The certificates are not sold in commissaries, Kennedy said.

A standard charge of \$4.95, paid by the purchaser, covers the cost of handling, printing and mailing. Additional charges may apply for large orders or special delivery, but installation charities can apply for a waiver by checking with their local commissary.



The 2004 COLA will be 2.1% for military and federal retired pay, VA payments, SBP survivor annuities, Social Security and other federal program.



VA Launches "Kids Page" on Internet

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the launch of VA Kids, a new Web page designed to help young people understand what it means to be a veteran.

“The ideals of military service and patriotism can be unfamiliar to some children and young adults,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “The VA Kids Web page supports President Bush’s initiatives on education and volunteerism by providing an entertaining and informative way for young people to learn why veterans are special.”

The Web page, at <http://www.va.gov/kids>, contains areas for students in kindergarten through grade 5, for grades 6 through 12 and for teachers. VA Kids also has information about VA, Veterans Day, scholarships, student volunteer opportunities, rehabilitative and special events for disabled veterans and links to veteran-related sites.

For younger students, VA Kids has interactive activities such as puzzles, coloring pages, matching contests and age-appropriate language to describe a number of patriotic topics. For older students, there is information on volunteer programs, scholarships and more sophisticated educational resources, games and reference links. The teachers’ section contains additional information, links and suggested classroom activities.

“The title ‘veteran’ is bestowed by a grateful nation on citizens willing to sacrifice everything to preserve our freedom,” said Principi. “It is our responsibility to honor these heroes by ensuring that each American generation understands what this prestigious title means.”

I am your Flag

- I was born on June 14th, 1777.
- I am more than just cloth shaped into a design.
- I am the refuge of the World's oppressed people.
- I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.
- I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.
- I am the inspiration for which American Patriots gave their lives and fortunes.
- I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to the bloody swamps of Vietnam and the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan.
- I walk in silence with each of your Honored Dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent White Crosses, row upon row.
- I have flown through Peace and War, Strife and Prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.
- My Red Stripes . . . symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.
- My White Stripes . . . signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons.
- My Blue Field. . . is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.
- My Stars . . . clustered together, unify 50 States as one, for God and Country.
- "Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high.
- Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes.
- Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return.
- Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.
- Worship Eternal God and keep His commandments, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind.
- I am your Flag.

• Colonel Daniel K. Cedusky, USA, Retired



APPLICATION FOR FALL 2004 ACCEPTED STARTING
NOVEMBER 3, 2003

Commissaries are an integral part of the quality of life offered to service members and their families. The Scholarships for Military Children Program was created in recognition of the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family community. It is the intent of the program that a scholarship funded through contributions be awarded annually for each commissary operated by the Defense Commissary Agency worldwide.

The Scholarships for Military Children Program is funded through the generosity of manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries, worldwide. Military families are encouraged to take advantage of their commissary benefits that not only provide a savings of more than 30 percent on the products purchased, but also support the military community through programs such as this scholarship. The purchase of products from these [companies](#) funded the 2003 scholarship program.

Applications can be picked up at your local commissary and are also available as a PDF file or Microsoft Word file. Applications may be filled out online, however once completed, you must print and hand-carry or mail it to your local commissary. Applications may not be emailed. Individuals may apply at only one commissary. Typically this will be the commissary where his/her family does their shopping. It is your responsibility to ensure that your application is received at a commissary by close of business, February 18, 2004.

Go to:

<http://www.militaryscholar.org/apply/where.shtml>

for more information and application information.

During the Vietnam Era—continued from page 5

According to a recent Veterans Administration report, 48% of the women who served during the Vietnam conflict will suffer from some form of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during their lives. Yet, few have sought documented help for it. Many women also have suffered health problems associated with Agent Orange exposure. Some have committed suicide.

The Foundation's [Sister Search](#) program is dedicated to locating all American women – both military and civilian – who served during the Vietnam era. The purpose of the Search is to facilitate healing among these veterans, allow them to network with each other, share their stories with the public, and complete essential research on this virtually undocumented veterans group. So far about 12,000 Vietnam women veterans have been located by the Foundation.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/women.htm>—to review those women who died in Vietnam

<http://www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org/pages/frames/sistersearchform.html>—for the Sister Search



Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation
(formerly the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project)

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

...over 265,000 women served in the armed forces of the United States. Nearly 10,000 women in uniform actually served in-country during the conflict. They completed their tours of duty and made a difference. They gave their lives.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial was established not only to honor those women who served, but also for the families who lost loved ones in the war, so they would know about the women who provided comfort, care, and a human touch for those who were suffering and dying. The Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated in 1993 as part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project was incorporated in 1984 and is a non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C. The mission of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project is to promote the healing of Vietnam women veterans through the placement of the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.; to identify the military and civilian women who served during the Vietnam war; to educate the public about their role; and to facilitate research on the physiological, psychological, and sociological issues correlated to their service. The Project has the support of every major veterans group in the country including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and more than 40 other diverse organizations. In 2002 The Project changed its name to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation to better reflect its mission at this time.

During the Vietnam Era...

Approximately 11,000 American military women were stationed in Vietnam during the war. Close to ninety percent were nurses in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Others served as physicians, physical therapists, personnel in the Medical Service Corps, air traffic controllers, communications specialists, intelligence officers, clerks and in other capacities in different branches of the armed services. Nearly all of them volunteered.

By 1967, most all military nurses who volunteered to go to Vietnam did so shortly after graduation. These women were the youngest group of medical personnel ever to serve in war time.

Because of the guerilla tactics of Vietnam, many women were in the midst of the conflict. There was no front, no such thing as "safe behind our lines." Many were wounded; most spent time in bunkers during attacks. The names of the [eight military women](#) who died in Vietnam are listed on the "Wall."

Medical personnel dealt with extraordinary injuries inflicted by enemy weapons specifically designed to mutilate and maim. During massive casualty situa-

tions, nurses often worked around the clock, conducted triage, assisted with emergency tracheotomies and amputations, debrided wounds and inserted chest tubes so surgeons could get to the next critical patient. Over 58,000 soldiers died in Vietnam; 350,000 were wounded.

It is estimated that approximately 265,000 military women served their country during the Vietnam war all over the world in a variety of occupations. Thousands of women served in Japan, Guam, the Philippines, Hawaii, and other stateside hospitals caring for the wounded and dying who had been stabilized and flown out of the war zone. Many Navy women were stationed aboard the USS *Repose* and the USS *Sanctuary*, hospital ships stationed off the coast of South Vietnam. Air Force nurses served both "in country" and on air evacuation missions.

An unknown number of civilian women also served in Vietnam as news correspondents and workers for the Red Cross, the USO, the American Friends Service Committee, Catholic Relief Services and other humanitarian organizations. Like their military counterparts, many of these

women were wounded in the crossfire. More than 50 civilian American women died in Vietnam.

Many Vietnam women veterans have never told their friends, colleagues or even loved ones about their tour of duty in Vietnam. The majority of them were only in their early 20s when they returned to a country that did not understand what they had just experienced. Although most were there to save lives, they received the same hostile treatment as the returning combat soldiers.

When the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project was started in 1984, Project leaders (all volunteers) were struck by the lack of information about the women who served during the Vietnam era. Veterans groups and the government had few records of them – there were no networks established and no easy way to find out where these women were. Although the Foundation is making steady progress in researching available documentation there is still no official, accurate record of the number of women who served during the Vietnam era.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Denton County Veterans Service Office
306 N. Loop 288, Suite 146
Denton, TX 76209
Monday through Friday
8:00 am—Noon & 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



We're on the WEB at
www.dentoncounty.com

If you ♥ your freedom
Thank a veteran