

VETERANS TO VETERANS

Veterans Update:

Phone A Deposit. Veterans who receive monthly compensation or pension check from VA are being urged to sign up for automatic deposit. VA has made the process nearly painless by allowing veterans to simply phone in their information. The advantage of having monthly checks go directly to your bank is that electronic deposits cannot be lost or stolen. VA also estimates that electronic deposit saves the government 30 cents per check in printing and postage - a potential savings of several million dollars if every veteran participated.

To switch to automatic electronic deposit, phone VA at 1-800-827-1000.

Attention Would-be Instructors:

The Akwesasne Detachment 556 is in the process of recruiting Staff for the Young Marines. Staff personnel do not need to have a military background, but they will need to have three letters of Character References showing that they have worked with children between the ages of 8 and 18, do not use illegal drugs, have never been convicted of a crime, never been charged with child neglect, has never had drivers license suspended or revoked, or had any other fact or circumstances that would call into question being with the supervision, guidance and care of young people. If interested in being one of the staff contact Jeff Lazore at: (315) 769-1315, Bob Grinstead, (315) 769-5168, or Joanne Reyome (518) 358-2711.

Sons of the American Legion

Membership Eligibility:

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of a member of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and Persian Gulf, during the delimiting periods set forth in Articles IV, Section I, of the National Constitution of The American Legion or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the "Sons of The

American Legion".

There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership. A General Information meeting for all eligible members will be held on Saturday, April 27, 1996 at 10:30 am at the American Legion Post 1479.

Persian Gulf Veterans:

Persian Gulf veterans who suffer from chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses may receive disability compensation from VA under legislation signed into law November 2, 1994. The disabilities must have first appeared either during active duty in the Persian Gulf theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War or within a period following service in the Persian Gulf, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. VA has been directed to develop and implement a uniform medical evaluation protocol and case definitions or diagnoses for the unknown illnesses of Persian Gulf veterans. VA is authorized to conduct a survey of Persian Gulf War veterans and their families and an epidemiological study of the health consequences of service in the Persian Gulf during the Persian Gulf War.

The Wall:

(The Vietnam Veterans Memorial) One of the Random Observations and Comments.

Veteran Organizations Reflect on the Wall.

(Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, The American Legion)

My personal memories of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial date from the late 1970's when Jan Scruggs wrote the National Commander of the American Legion for support of the Memorial. I was given the assignment as The American Legion's liaison to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. As a Vietnam-era veteran, my memories surrounding the Memorial are as follows: **Courage, persistence and healing.** Courage that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built against formidable odds; the persistence of Jan Scruggs, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the veterans community that

its building was a just cause; but above all, the healing effect of the Memorial and the message it gives to Vietnam veterans and the nation.

In my view, the Memorial commemorates the sacrifice of those of our generation who gave their lives, but it also remembers those yet to return and recognized those still suffering.

The Wall is a constant reminder of the young men and women who served their country in America's most divisive war.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund and those of us who stood with it overcame a mean-spirited opposition — some motivated by ego and others who bowed to petty politics. Bringing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial into reality was not easy, or was it pleasant, much like the Vietnam War itself.

In the end, however, the Memorial is a reflection of a generation of Americans who served honorably and with courage. Perhaps my life's greatest honor was being a part of the building of

the Memorial.

My thanks go out to the 3.1 million members of The American Legion who, through their average donation of \$8, raised \$1.3 million for the construction of the Memorial. The dedication of the Wall began the reconciliation and understanding of the Vietnam Veteran community with the nation.

Reminder:

If you still need to find your DD-214, come and see me and I'll help to obtain a copy from your official records which are on file at the Record Center.

Fellow Legionnaires:

April 13th meeting was with a great lake of participants, therefore the nominations which were planned, are now reset for May 4, 1996. This time we are hoping to see more of you than this past meeting.

Mike White, American Legion
Post 1479

Cook's Greenery

Don't Forget Mom on Mothers Day, May 12th, 1996!!



Box 86-A, Route 37,
St. Regis Reservation,
Bombay, N.Y. 12914

358-2982

Andrew & Irene Cook

..Raid con't from front page
"many years ago."

No audio tapes were recovered from either business.

In addition to Fountain, the following were specifically named on the warrants: Charles Williams, Gary Grey, Carl Tarbell, Patricia Tarbell, Lyle David Pierce III A.K.A. "Joe Boy Martin", Regina Pierce, Hart's Enterprise, Loran Thompson, Larry Thompson, Dana Leigh Bush, Charles "Buck" White, Lewis Tavano, Pine Partnership, Terry and Leona Francis, and Sheila Loran.

While the exact nature of the suspected crimes remains a mystery, Brent's article did report that agents from the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation along with state troopers, took part in the searches. New York State Bureau of Criminal Investigations Captain Peter W. Person, however, would only confirm that troopers had aided "some federal agencies."

An official in the office of the U.S. District Court in Syracuse, where the warrants originated, could find no record of them on their computer system, meaning that any documents pertaining to the case may be sealed. It is unknown how the warrants and inventory lists were obtained by Brent.

There is concern among some Akwesasne residents as to how the results of this federal investigation will affect a recent agreement between Fabian Hart and the Tribe for financing of the Seven Stars Casino currently being built on land owned by Buck White (see related article this issue).

Tribal spokesperson Joe Gray, however, says the Tribe is not anticipating any problems, as the financing agreement is between the Tribe and Soaring Eagle, a limited liability corporation formed by Fabian Hart and the Astri Corporation's Stanley Dru.