



# Vietnam Veterans In Canada

## 430<sup>th</sup> General Meeting (2003-16)

07 August 2003

## AGENDA

**Call to Order at 1930 hours**

**Moment of Silence  
(Reading of the Names)**

**Military Casualty Reports  
(Since 24 July)**

**Capt. Joshua T. Byers, 29, of Nevada** was killed in action on July 23 when his convoy hit an explosive device east of Baghdad. Byers was assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, in Fort Carson, Co.

**Cpl. Evan Asa Ashcraft, 24, West Hills, Calif** was killed on July 24 north of Al Hawd, Iraq, when his military convoy came under enemy fire. Ashcraft was assigned to the Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, in Fort Campbell, Ky.

**Pfc. Raheen Tyson Heigher, 22, Bay Shore, N.Y.** was killed on July 24 north of Al Hawd, Iraq, when his military convoy came under enemy fire. Heigher was assigned to the 2/320<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Fort Campbell, Ky.

**Staff Sgt. Hector R. Perez, 40, of Corpus Christi, Texas** was killed on July 24 north of Al Hawd, Iraq, when his military convoy came under enemy fire. Perez was assigned to Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, in Fort Campbell, Ky.

**Sgt. Juan M. Serrano, 31, Manati, Puerto Rico**, died on July 24 in Baghdad, Iraq. Serrano was changing a tire on an M998 vehicle when it fell on him inflicting a fatal head injury. Serrano was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 37<sup>th</sup> Armor, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany.

**Spc. Ramon Reyes Torres, 29, Caguas, Puerto Rico**, was killed on July 16 in Baghdad, Iraq. Reyes Torres was killed as he sought cover from a passing truck that contained a command detonated device. Reyes Torres was assigned to the 432<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company, Ceiba, Puerto Rico.

**Sgt. Daniel K. Methvin, 22, Belton, Texas**, was soldiers killed on July 26, in Baghdad, Iraq, while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Methvin was killed as a result of a grenade being thrown from a window of an Iraqi civilian hospital that he was guarding. Methvin was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 67<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Spc. Jonathan P. Barnes, 21, Anderson, Mo.**, was soldiers killed on July 26, in Baghdad, Iraq, while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Barnes was killed as a result of a grenade being thrown from a window of an Iraqi civilian hospital that he was guarding. Barnes was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 67<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Pfc. Wilfredo Perez Jr., 24, Norwalk, Conn.**, soldiers killed on July 26, in Baghdad, Iraq, while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Perez Jr. was killed as a result of a grenade being thrown from a window of an Iraqi civilian hospital that they were guarding. Perez Jr. was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 67<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Pfc. Jonathan M. Cheatham, 19, of Camden, Ark.**, was killed on July 26 in Baghdad, Iraq. Cheatham was in a convoy that came under rocket propelled grenade attack. Cheatham was assigned to the 489<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, North Little Rock, Ark.

**Sgt. Heath A. McMillin, 29, of Canandaigua, N.Y.**, was killed on July 27 South of Baghdad, Iraq. McMillin was on patrol when he came under attack from rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire. McMillin was assigned to the 105th Military Police Company, Army National Guard, Buffalo, N.Y.

**Spc. William J. Maher III, 35, Yardley, Pa.**, was killed on July 28 in Baghdad, Iraq. Maher was in a convoy when he was injured by an improvised explosive device. Maher died of his injuries. Maher was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, based at Ray Barracks, Germany.

**Sgt. Nathaniel Hart Jr., 29, of Valdosta, Ga.**, died on July 28 in Tillil, Iraq. Hart died of injuries he received when his vehicle went off the road and rolled over. Hart was assigned to the 416<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, 260<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Battalion, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

**1st Lt. Leif E. Nott, 24, of Cheyenne, Wyo.**, was killed on July 30 in Belaruz, Iraq, while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nott died of wounds received from hostile fire. Nott was assigned to A Troop, 1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Pvt. Michael J. Deutsch, 21, of Dubuque, Iowa** was killed on July 31 in Baghdad, Iraq. Deutsch was in a vehicle that was struck by an explosive device. Deutsch was assigned to 1st Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment, Armstrong Barracks, Germany.

**Spc. James I. Lambert III, 22, of Raleigh, N.C.** was killed on July 31 in Baghdad, Iraq. Lambert was struck by a stray bullet fired during what was believed to be a celebratory event by local nationals. Lambert was assigned to the 407th Combat Support Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C. The incident is under investigation.

**Spc. Justin W. Hebert, 20, of Arlington, Wash.**, was killed on August 1 in Kirkuk, Iraq. Hebert was on patrol when his vehicle was struck by a rocket propelled grenade. Hebert was assigned to the 319th Field Artillery, 173rd Airborne Brigade, Camp Ederle, Italy.

**Staff Sgt. David L. Loyd, 44, of Jackson, Tenn.**, died on Aug. 5 in Kuwait. Loyd was on a mission when he experienced severe chest pains. The soldier was sent to the Kuwait hospital where he was pronounced dead. Loyd was assigned to the 1175th Transportation Company, Army National Guard, Brownsville, Tenn.

*The names and details provided above come from official Department of Defense Press releases. (No. 543-03 Jul 25, 2003, No. 544-03 Jul 25, 2003, No. 551-03 Jul 28, 2003, No. 552-03 Jul 28, 2003, No. 554-03 Jul 29, 2003, No. 556-03 Jul 29, 2003, No. 559-03 Jul 30, 2003, No. 565-03, Aug 01, 2003, No. 568-03 Aug 04, 2003, No. 577-03 Aug 07, 2003)*

**Introduction of Guests, New Members, and Visitors.**

**Announcements**

***Tribute to Iraqi Freedom Heroes  
Northwest Fair – August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>  
1400 hours – Admission Free  
Lynden, Washington***

**President's Remarks**

(W. Carmack, USMC)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Remarks**

(K. Payne, USN)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Remarks**

(G. Robinson, AUS)

**Chief of Staff**

(S. O'Grady, AUS)

**Collection & Auction**

(Chief of Staff)

**Minutes**

The Minutes of Meeting 429 held 24 July 2003 are available under separate cover.

**Finance Reports**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2003 Financial Reports are due in early October. Already published financial reports are available to any member in good standing upon request.

**Mail Call**

**Aid & Comfort**

(No public details-24 July)

John McDermott

**Administrative Items**

1. VVIC T-shirts
2. Standing list for "Naval events".

## **Attachments**

1. Persian Gulf War I POWs suffer setback.
2. Check out Mars, the planet.

## **Unfinished Business**

VVIC Picnic – Mail Out

VVIC status with Victoria – Finalization of the Constitution of 2003 (incomplete)

Possible cross Canada trip in October 2003.

## **New Business**

1. The chair declines to introduce any new business this week.

New Business from the floor:

The next General Meeting is 21 August 2003 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment

## Persian Gulf War I POWs suffer setback

Source: ADAM LIPTAK nytimes.com July 31, 2003

A federal judge in Washington ruled yesterday that 17 former prisoners of war might not collect the hundreds of millions of dollars they won in a suit against Iraq.

The American ex-prisoners, who were tortured by their Iraqi captors in the first war in the Persian Gulf in 1991, had sought the money from frozen Iraqi bank accounts that the United States seized in March. The government expressed sympathy for what the plaintiffs had endured, but opposed the collection effort, saying the money was needed to rebuild Iraq.

Judge Richard W. Roberts, who awarded almost \$1 billion to the service members and their families this month, ruled with evident reluctance. "The secretary's position that the P.O.W.'s are unable to recover any portion of their judgment, despite their sacrifice in the service of their country, seems extreme," Judge Roberts wrote, referring to Treasury Secretary John W. Snow.

But the judge said the government had the better legal argument.

"Though the penalty is great and the responsibility heavy, the court's duty is clear," he wrote, quoting a decision of the Supreme Court that allowed Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, the convicted spies, to be executed.

A law enacted in November allowed people who won court awards against some countries that support terrorism, including Iraq, to be paid from frozen funds of those countries. American civilians who were used as human shields in the first gulf war have collected \$95 million under the law.

But more recently, in general language in a law passed in April to appropriate money for the Iraq war, Congress authorized the president to void other laws concerning Iraq. In May, President Bush used that authority to void the November law.

A lawyer for the former prisoners, Steven A. Fennell, said, "A few general words buried in an appropriations bill" should not "take away the ability of American P.O.W.'s tortured in the dungeons of Iraq to realize a measure of accountability."

He said his clients would appeal.

END

## **CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH MARS**

Source: unknown

Never again in your lifetime will the Red Planet be so spectacular. This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars, an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287.

Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the last 5,000 years but it may be as long as 60,000 years. The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye.

Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August, Mars will rise in the east at 10 p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m. But by the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30 a.m.

That's pretty convenient when it comes to seeing something that no human has seen in recorded history.

So mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.

Share with your children and grandchildren. No one alive today will ever see this again.