

Celebrity Vietnam Vets

Pat Sajak

Pat Sajak was born and raised in Chicago where he graduated from Farragut High School in 1964. He then went to Columbia College in Chicago while working as a desk clerk at the Palmer House hotel. Sajak won a contest on WLS radio's Dick Biondi Show to be a guest teen deejay. While at Columbia College Chicago, his broadcasting instructor Al Parker told him that a local radio station (WEDC) was looking for a newsman. Sajak applied for the job and was hired to work from midnight to 6:00 AM.

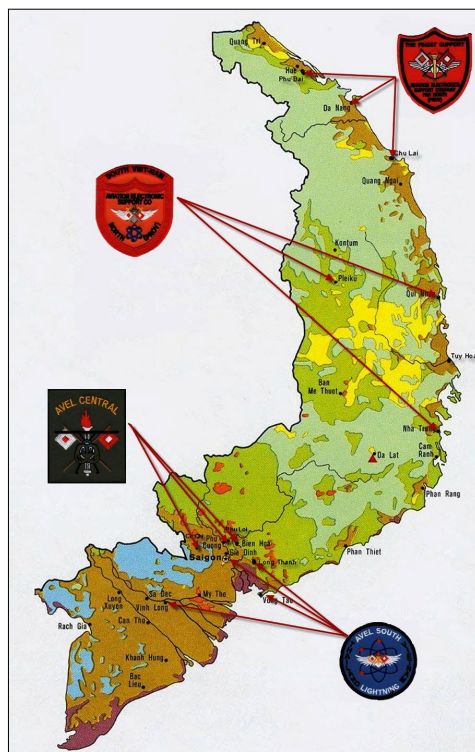


In 1968, Sajak joined the U.S. Army with the hope that he could avoid being sent to Vietnam and was trained as a clerk typist. Of course, since it was 1968, that plan didn't work out so well. Sajak was sent to Vietnam and ended up working as a finance clerk in Long Binh, Vietnam. Desperate to switch jobs, he kept applying for radio duty, but nothing happened. Eventually, Sajak hit on an idea. He wrote a letter to one of his old radio employers who had been elected to Congress. A few calls to the right people later, and Sajak became an Army disc jockey with AFVN, a job he held for 18 months. Sajak didn't love a lot of the military's radio rules, so he circumvented them. He later told the New York Times, "If you said your name, you were supposed to say your rank - Specialist Fifth Class, which kind of ruins your patter. So on the radio I would just not say my name at all. I went for a year on radio without ever identifying myself."

On The Military Channel's program, An Officer and a Movie, Sajak admitted to botching President Nixon's 1969 Christmas broadcast to the troops; he accidentally cut the feed off prematurely. Upon realizing the error, he decided it would be best not to resume the feed.

In an interview Pat said "I used to feel a bit guilty about my relatively soft duty. After all, I was billeted in a hotel and there were plenty of nice restaurants around. But I always felt a little better when I met guys who came into town from the field and thanked us for bringing them a little bit of home. I always thought it strange that they should be thanking me, given what so many of them were going through on a daily basis.

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But they reminded me of the importance of providing entertainment to those who serve—something the USO knows very well. To this day, my fellow vets from that era repeat those thank-you greetings and it's really very humbling.”

“My respect for those who serve has stayed with me throughout my life, and my time in the military—particularly my time in Vietnam—are among those things in my life of which I'm most proud.”

Welcome Home Pat



VA Benefits Eligibility Update

A few that may have been overlooked

Any veteran who is service-connected for a disability for which he or she uses prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may receive an annual clothing allowance.

VA provides pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service.

A surviving spouse age 57 and older who remarries after December 15, 2003 is entitled to continue to receive benefits.

Passports are available to family members free of charge for the purpose of visiting their loved one's grave or memorialization site at the American military cemeteries on foreign soil.

A rating percentage is considered “protected” once it is in place for 20 years. There would be no danger of decreased disability rating after the 20 year mark.

A new imaging study has found that Gulf War veterans have what appears to be unique structural changes in the wiring of their brain.

Disabled veterans may be able to claim a federal tax refund based on: an increase in the veteran's percentage of disability from the Veteran's Administration (which may include a retroactive determination) or the combat-disabled veteran applying for, and being granted, Combat Related Special Compensation, after an award for Concurrent Retirement and Disability.

Veterans who are 100% service-connected may be eligible for an additional monthly entitlement of \$62.50/month for a catastrophic injury.

[Source: U.S. Veteran Compensation Program, December 31, 2017]



NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

Egan, Tom (SP4)

156 Jayne Ave
Patchogue, NY 11772
631-654-8133

28 Signal Detachment, Vinh Long: June 1967-June 1968

tegan299@optonline.net

MOS: 26D30

TAPS



Paul Moore

Avel Central, 1967-1968

Paul died on 23 November 2017 of cancer caused by Agent Orange.

He was 71 years old.

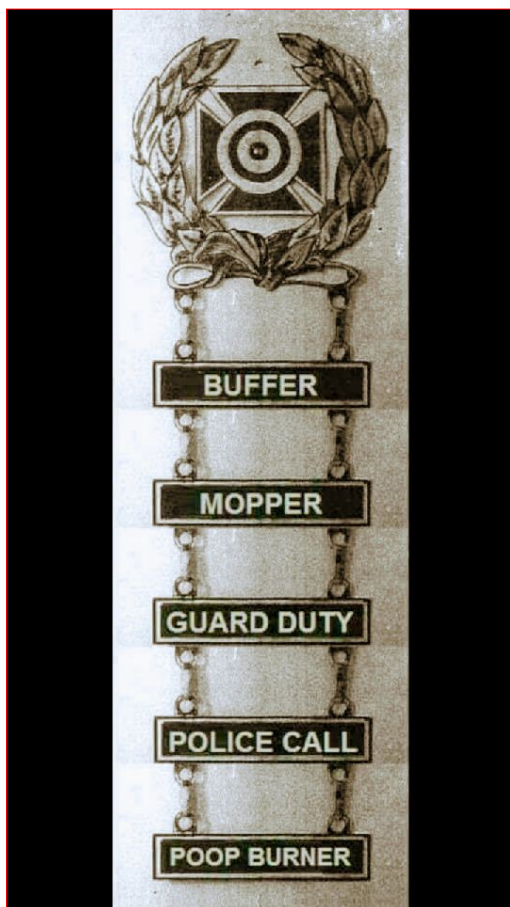
PHOTOS

None Submitted

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL

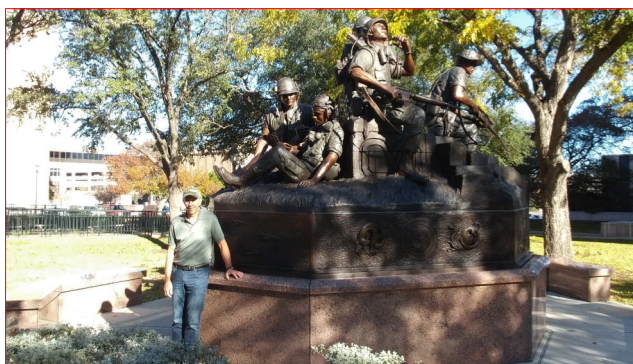
Lee Muse (Avel North) has a new email address

Fred Enslin (Avel North) has a new email address



AUSTIN, TEXAS VIETNAM MEMORIAL

Mike Blatt (Avel Central 1969-1970) sent in these photos of the Memorial. *Thanks Mike!*

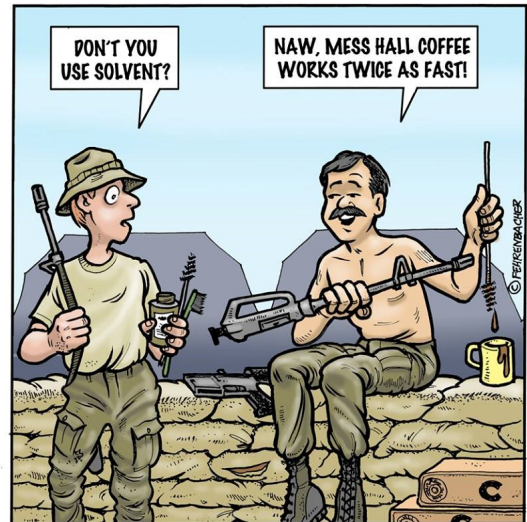


IN-COUNTRY



EM CLUBS SPARED NO EXPENSE TO BRING
YOU A LITTLE SLICE OF HOME!

IN-COUNTRY



GRAY AREA



AVEL VIETNAM



January 2018 Newsletter