



The VHP Voice

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 4, 2011

VETERANS HERITAGE PROJECT, A 501(C)(3)

- Motivating Students and Advisors to record veterans' stories for Permanent Preservation
- Continuing the efforts of Cactus Shadows High School's Arizona Heritage Project
- Expanding the project to more schools, educators, students, and veterans

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VHP Student Interviews WW1 Vet



It's never too late! Cactus Shadows High School freshman Elysia Laws was thrilled to interview her first veteran — but could not believe it when CSHS advisor and VHP founder Barbara Hatch said that it was going to be with World War I veteran Andrew Rasch!

Accompanying Laws, senior Madi Pascale commented, "It's an honor to be selected to record Mr. Rasch's service to our Country. This is what VHP is all about."

Pascale has a real interest in serving her country as well. "I have applied to all five service academies but I have a heart for the Coast Guard Academy because of their mission. Although I feel that I could save lives upon graduating from any service academy, Coast Guard just feels right! I was not able to discuss my service academy dreams with Andy but I was able to discuss his time in the Navy as well as a life-saving medal he earned from the Coast Guard!"

Read Rasch's story in Volume VIII of *Since You Asked*, available April 2012.

VHP Adds 2 Schools

The Veterans Heritage Project continues to spread its mission to more schools in Arizona, that is, to connect students with veterans so that their stories of service to our country may be preserved for all times.

Ironwood Ridge High School of Oro Valley in NW Tucson and Shadow Mountain High School in Phoenix join Cactus Shadows High School, Show Low High School, and Shea Middle School Continued on Pg 3 SCHOOL

IRHS Introduces Their New VHP Club

Ironwood Ridge's Social Studies teacher Don Dickinson was motivated to start a VHP club after completing a booklet several years ago based on his father's life. Dickinson's father was killed in Austria during WWII right at the end of the war as part of Patton's tank corps. The effort made him realize the sacrifices veterans have made to preserve America's freedoms. When he heard about the

project from VHP Show Low Advisor Pam Lizardi, he was keen on bringing the club to his campus. "The club has over 25 members who are very dedicated students. They are looking forward to sharing Southern Arizona veterans' stories in the next volume of *Since You Asked*," said Dickinson.

On Saturday, September 24th, the Cactus Shadow High School training team arrived in Oro Valley to kickoff the club's efforts. Advisor Hatch, VHP director Laura Byers, and a student team of Ashley Durham, Rachel Vessels, and Nima Sadeghi were welcomed by enthusiastic club members who jumped in immediately after training to interview two veterans. IRHS VHP Club Head Historian, Mollie Hansen, interviewed Jim Ewing, IRHS science teacher who served six years in Vietnam. Club member David Finley Continued on Pg 3 IRONWOOD



VHP's Shea Middle School welcomes Shadow Mountain High School

On Thursday, September 29, the VHP CSHS training team consisting of advisor Barbara Hatch, club president Brenna Leech, and sophomore Chase Hinkle arrived at Shea Middle School to provide interviewing and program training. Students from a new VHP chapter school, Shadow Mountain High School, also participated.

Last year, Shea Middle School students contributed five veteran interviews from their annual Pillars of Freedom project to volume VII of *Since You Asked*. SMS Advisor Todd Swigart spoke about how each student was affected by the one-on-one experience and are looking forward

to participating more fully this year. Swigart also connected with Shadow Mountain High School teacher Paula Burr, who has just launched her own group. VHP in Phoenix will be well represented! Welcome back, SMS! Welcome aboard, SMHS!



As part of the training exercise, WWII USMC veteran Gerry Jones was interviewed by CSHS's Chase Hinkle. Jones recounted his service as a scout and sniper for the first Marine Corps unit in the South Pacific. Later, he showed students his three Purple Hearts. Hinkle, whose father and grandfather are both Marines, was very pleased about sharing her interview with other students. Look for Jones's story in the 2012 edition of *Since You Asked*.

Also on hand at Shea Middle School were Honor Flight representatives from Prescott, Arizona, who sat in on VHP's training session. Honor Flight, a non-profit, flies veterans to Washington, DC to visit and reflect at their appropriate memorial. Nancy Page and Susan Howe hope to establish a VHP chapter in Prescott and to help promote the common interests of the two non-profit projects. We look forward to it!

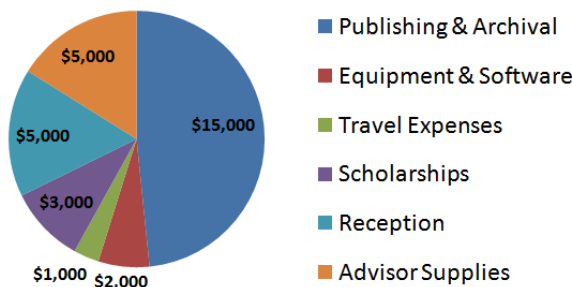


L-R: WW II Veteran Gerry Jones, Honor Flight representative Nancy Page, VHP Founder Barbara Hatch, Shea Middle School Advisor Todd Swigart, Shadow Mountain High School Advisor Paula Burr, Honor Flight representative Susan Howe, and VHP School Liaison Donna Ward.



VHP Non-Profit 2011-2012

VHP 2011-2012 Estimated Costs,
5 Schools, 70-80 Veterans' Interviews



2011-2012 Fundraising Efforts



Thank you for YOUR support!

- Arizona Department of Veterans' Service for your generous donation of \$15,000!
- Carefree Kiwanis for your continued support of our program and for \$2,000!
- Our community of veterans, friends, businesses and families for your support!

See how you can help... go to page 4

IRONWOOD from page 1 - interviewed his grandfather, Mr. R. Hugh Porter, a WWII USMC veteran who served in the Pacific and later taught leadership at the US Naval Academy. Molly and David were assisted by camera crew member-in-training Jesse Wealing, the club's president, and Alexandria Nichols, club member, respectively.



Left: WWII veteran R. Hugh Porter and grandson David Finley. **Right:** Molly Hansen with Vietnam veteran Jim Ewing flanked by his two sons.

Welcome aboard, IRHS!



L-R: VHP founder Barbara Hatch, Alexandria Nichols, Molly Hansen, IRHS VHP Advisor Don Dickin-son, David Finley, and Jesse Wealing.

SCHOOL from page 1 - School's VHP Academic Community and form the heart of what will become a nationwide program.

Barbara Hatch, founder of the year-and-a-half-old VHP non-profit, is pleased that the program is expanding according to plan. "We are in our mid-phase of a three-year pilot to create a reproducible, scalable program. Our goal is to enable other schools to do what the Cactus Shadows High School club has done—become self-sustaining. What that means is that the program can stand on its own two feet and overtime help spawn other schools nearby. A self-sustaining school is where students want to join and fully participate in the club, they're able to develop strong support from the school district and local veterans' community, the group is able to fulfill the requirements of the interview process, and within a few years are able to publish and finance up-front their own volume of *Since You Asked*. This last goal is of course for schools where the project has really taken off. We need to be assured that our first 'ripple' into other schools can achieve these goals before we know our model works," says Hatch. "We are very encouraged with the quality and commitment of our VHP Advisors. They're awesome," says an enthused Hatch!

Many observers of the VHP approach see the project as a new model for education. This program is unique in that it is not just a once-in-a-moment interview with a veteran. The experience is far more engaging for both the students and veterans, leaving lasting impressions. Veterans are able to pass along their stories of ser-

vice while students learn of their veteran's sacrifice to preserve America's values. Some of these values include hard work, perseverance, critical thinking, leadership and civic-mindedness. "These values inspire students to excel and to pursue the American Dream. Through the program, students acquire the tools and skill sets necessary to manage the project, learn to collaborate with others and produce a high quality end-product which really distinguishes them when pursuing college as they enter the job market or participate in government," says retired Phoenix businessman and Advisor to VHP, Tim Ganahl. "These students are transformed, and it's great to know that veterans and advisors were instrumental," says Ganahl.



VHP Scholarships

Did you know that VHP awards scholarships each spring at its annual reception and book signing event? Awards ranged from \$250 to \$750. To be eligible, seniors have to have been active members in their club; have two years of participation; and be eligible for full-time undergraduate admission to an accredited four-year college or university, a two-year college or trade school, or be destined to any branch of the U.S. Military. Dick Doubek, VHP Treasurer and Vietnam Veteran will make available applications for scholarship by March 1, 2012. Deadline for submission will be March 15, 2012 11:59PM.

VHP is dedicated to

preserving the stories of America's veterans. Students interview veterans from both wartime and peacetime, from all branches of the United States Military, and write down their experiences into essays. These essays are then compiled by Project members into a published volume of stories, which is sent to the Library of Congress through the Veterans History Project, the governmental and national version of VHP. The Project expects to add schools from a number of states, creating student programs to interview veterans nationwide.

For more information on the Project please call VHP director Barbara Hatch at 602-571-1248 or go to VHP's website: www.VeteransHeritage.org.

Upcoming Issues

- VHP Clubs celebrate Veterans Day
- Fundraising Campaign
- VHP Advisor Feedback... what it will take to attract and keep new Arizona Chapters
- VHP Club's Operations
- The Art of Book Publication

Please send your newsletter articles and ideas to Laura@veteransheritage.org

Veterans Heritage Project

A nonprofit 501(c)(3)

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Please join us...
 VHP Committee meets the first and third Wednesdays
 of every month at 3:45PM at

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Calendar

Oct 2011
 5th, 19th 3:345PM VHP Committee Meeting, Byers (see box, left)

Nov 2011
 2nd & 16th 3:345PM VHP Committee Meeting,
11th—Carefree Veterans Day
23rd^h – Early turn-in final essays, student & vet bios, pictures

Dec 2011
 2nd-4th: VHP Speaking at NCSS Conference, Washington D.C.
 7th VHP Committee Meeting
 15th—DEADLINE for Essay turn-ins for 2012 Volume

Jan 2012
 Publisher Training

Feb 2012
 11th—Advisor Luncheon
 29th—Submit Mock-up to Publishers

March 2012
 15th— Scholarship Application Deadline

April 2012
 21—VHP Student and Advisor Chapter Party
 22— VHP Reception and Book signing ASU West

Schools & Advisors

- 2003 Cactus Shadows High School, Cave Creek, AZ (Barbara Hatch, Advisor)
- 2010 Show Low High School, Show Low, AZ (Pam Lizardi, Advisor)
- 2010 Shea Middle School, Phoenix, AZ (Todd Swigart, Advisor)
- 2011 Ironwood Ridge High School, Tucson, AZ (Don Dickenson, Advisor)
- 2011 Shadow Mountain High School, Phoenix, AZ (Paula Barr, Advisor)

Tax Deductible Donations

To contribute, please fill out this form and mail it and your check to: Veterans Heritage Project, P.O. Box 1297, Carefree, AZ 85377-1297. **You will receive a letter from Veterans Heritage Project documenting your contribution for your records.**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

Check one or both:

Tax Credit Donation to a VHP club at an Arizona School
Payable to: Cactus Shadows High School.
 in the amount of _____
 • Deduct this from your state taxes.

Tax-Deductible Donation, to the 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation
Payable to: Veterans Heritage Project,
 in the amount of _____
 • To be included in your itemized deductions for federal taxes.

Books & VHP Guide for Purchase

Since You Asked

Volume I 2005	SOLD OUT
Volumes II-IV, 2006-2008	\$20.00 each
Volume V-VII, 2009-2011	\$25.00 each

Purple Heart Shirts (S-XXL) \$25.00

Any 3 Volumes: \$50.00
 VHP Advisor Program Guide \$50.00
 Shipping 1 to 3 books or guide \$10.00

To order, visit our website: www.veteransheritage.org