

Last Of Green Beret Unit To Return From Vietnam

PLEIKU, South Vietnam - (NPI)--The last member of a small, elite Green Beret unit is coming home...alone.

Staff Sgt. Willie Stallworth, known as the "Black Charger," has decided to call it quits in Vietnam, after six years' service with the U.S. Special Forces. His last year in the war-torn country will be up Feb. 5. And he is hoping he will make it to that date unscathed.

Stallworth is the only member of his 10-man unit who hasn't been killed or wounded.

"I can't help having a funny feeling," he said. "When we all started out together, I never thought I'd be left here by myself...the very last."

A Los Angeles resident, he noted that his decision to come home is chiefly based upon his wife, Mrs. Viola Stallworth, who objected to the idea of his extending the Vietnam tour by another six months.

Now 34, Stallworth has spent 15 years in uniform--nine of them in the Marine Corps. He reached Korea just in time to help handle the prisoner-of-war exchange after the conflict there.

Tax Exempt Improvements

Feeling the spirit of the holiday season, Clark County Assessor James A. Bilbray announced that his study of existing tax laws permit homeowners to make many varied improvements on their property.

Bilbray stated that, "Good maintenance not only preserves the investment you have in your home, but keeps blight from gaining a foothold in your neighborhood. You can make many improvements to your home that do not increase your taxes because we can consider them as normal upkeep, under the law."

The list of improvements offered by Assessor Bilbray as being exempt from assessment is as follows:

Outside your house, you can; add a dormer or bay window, add or replace gutters or downspouts, repair or replace sidewalks or drives, repair porches or steps, replace porches, insulate with weather stripping, storm windows or storm doors, repair or replace fence, replace existing masonry, repair roof, replace roof, (if not tile or slate), add or improve lawns, trees and landscaping, paint, install small window awnings.

INSIDE YOUR house, you can; rewire electrical systems and modernize fixtures, replace plumbing fixtures (if not part of a complete modernization), replace old furnace with new one of same type, add closets and built-in storage areas, install automatic hot water heaters, add partitions, new wall surface and new ceilings (excluding conversions), replace old flooring, paint, plaster or redecorate.

Additionally, Assessor Bilbray indicated that there are more extensive home improvements "which give you benefits that far exceed the slightly higher taxes you may pay, as a result of increasing the value of your home." These improvements which add very little to your tax assessment are:

Structural changes resulting in larger building area, adding a complete bathroom, finishing off a room in attic or basement, enclosing and heating porch, complete modernization and conversion, changing from a single family to multiple family use, adding a garage or breezeway, replacing stove or hot air heat with forced hot air heat, replacing siding with masonry veneer or face brick. All of these require permits.

The County Assessor said that if homeowners will give themselves a Christmas present in the form of a home improvement as listed, he would guarantee that the value is not added to their property tax assessment.

Champ & His Mrs. Agree On Quality



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OOPS - The VOICE goofed last week. In the Jack Markus Shoe Store ad showing Mrs. Joe Louis (The Champ's brilliant attorney wife) shopping, the "Mrs." was inadvertently dropped. We're "sorry 'bout that" and are proud to display Jack Markus' "peach of a pair" patrons here together.



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Solon Has The Floor At Xmas Party



AS EVERY WOMAN KNOWS - No party, anywhere or whatever the occasion, is a complete success until the male guests find (or make) opportunity to go into a huddle for an exhilarating round of strictly man talk...Real Estate Broker Marjorie Elliott's gay Christmas Day Open House Buffet was no exception as evidenced in picture above...Oblivious to the din of merriment surrounding them, these community business and professional gentlemen are supremely happy in their own private "man's world"--From left, Attorney Chas. Kellar, Assemblyman Woodrow Wilson, Clarence Ray, Jim Anderson, and Rev. E. E. Davis...For other photos of the Elliott Christmas Party, see page 8.

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