



Between The Lines

Mar 2024
Episode 143



ATTENTION IMPORTANT INFORMATION

NOTICE:

Everyone must use the front entrance to the Chili Recreation Center. The Exit Doors in the meeting rooms are now alarmed. No Exceptions!

Per Chili Recreation Dept.

For Chapter 20 members/guests with mobility issues:

There are walkers and electric scooters available at the main entrance to Chili Recreation Center

MEMBERSHIP and BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS are now at

TOWN OF CHILI COMMUNITY CENTER

3237 Chili Avenue
Rochester, NY 14624

Room 218 (Banquet Room)
6:30pm – 8:45pm monthly

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hoping this message finds everyone in good health. We have been enjoying a mild winter - let us hope it continues. As our weather improves, we look forward to seeing our snowbirds returning to the flock.

Dale Webster has started the weight loss challenge this year, running for the next several months. Dale is looking for more members to participate. If you wish to participate, look for the weigh-in area and get registered. This is a healthy endeavor for all of us, as I am sure we could all stand to drop a few pounds after the holidays.

Laura Heltz from the Veterans Outreach Center will be at our March meeting to offer an update on what is happening at the VOC. At that time, we will be presenting her with a check from the Chapter as our annual donation.

Once again a reminder that elections are coming up in April. This year we will be voting for three Board Members and State Council Delegates. With two of our current board members not running for re-election, we are looking for some new blood to join the board. If you would like to run for the Board or as a State Delegate, please talk with Dan Corona, Bill Auble, or myself. Those running for the Board positions will be given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the membership at our March meeting.

Also mark your calendars for the Annual Dinner which will be at the Salmon Creek Country Club on April 27th. Information on the dinner and how to sign up is available in this BTL and will be available at both the March and April meetings.

I look forward to seeing you at the March 14th meeting.

Charles Klauck
President

Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 20 Annual Dinner

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

Salmon Creek Country Club
355 Washington Street
Spencerport, NY

Doors Open at 5:30 PM with Cheese and Crackers
Cash Bar
Dinner at 6:30 PM

Buffet Menu

Chicken Parmesan – Baked Ziti – Herbed Potatoes – Green Beans
With Sliced Prime Rib and Baked Ham at End of Table
Salad and Rolls on the Table – Coffee and Tea

For Member and Spouse/Significant Other - \$20.00 per person
Additional Guests - \$40 per person

Reservations may be made at the March or April meetings or by returning the
form below along with your check payable to Chapter 20, VVA

All reservations must be in by April 17th

Name of Member and Spouse/Significant Other _____ @ \$20.00 each = \$ _____

Name(s) of Additional Guests _____ @ \$40.00 each = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send your completed form and check (made payable to Chapter 20, VVA) to:

Bill Schrader
507 Sherborne Road
Webster, NY 14580

With our Annual Dinner coming up in April, it's time to think about those who serve the chapter as well as all veterans. There are several awards given each year and we are fortunate to have many in both our chapter and our community who work diligently above and beyond their normal duties to serve our veterans. Consider those around you and nominate them for one or more of the following awards

Awards

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The community Service Award recognizes a group, organization or individual who has demonstrated a strong sense of community service and who favorably recognizes and relates to the Vietnam Veterans issues.

My nomination for this award is _____ Because _____

VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

The Veteran Service Award recognizes an individual who demonstrated outstanding dedication in improving the conditions of the Vietnam Veterans and /or the Community. (There may be up to 3 awards presented annually).

My nomination for this award is _____ Because _____

THE ROGER ROBACH AWARD

The Roger Robach Award is given to an individual who has spent a minimum of ten years working for the betterment of all veterans in New York State.

My nomination for this award is _____ Because _____

DON AND RORI MURRELL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Don and Murrell Humanitarian Award is given to an individual who has accomplished an extraordinary effort on behalf of active duty personnel and /or veterans and their families. (All individuals are to be considered for this award regardless of Chapter or veteran affiliation).

My nomination for this award is _____ Because _____

Special Recognition Award

The Special Recognition award is given to an individual, group or organization that through their single or continuous actions has favorably benefited Vietnam or other Veteran issues.

My nomination for this award is _____ Because _____

Please consider nominating those who go above and beyond. Nominations must be submitted no later than March 30th. Email your nominations to lynngursslin@gmail.com.



Remembering Our Fallen Heroes Born in March

Website - <http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/>



Metcalf, Larry Duane	3-1-1942
Koch, Kenneth Edwin	3-4-1949
Shorack, Theodore	3-6-1929
Schieb, Ralph Eugene	3-6-1945
McFarland, Sylvester	3-8-1948
Leone, John Frank	3-9-1947
Beale, Robert B.	3-11-1939
Hockridge, James A.	3-12-1944
Carapezza, Richard Allen	3-13-1948
Bachmann, Jr., Lynn	3-15-1945
Roberts, Wallace	3-17-1928
Nadeau, Harold Bradley	3-17-1947
Malone, Richard Lee	3-18-1950
DeRue, David John	3-19-1947
Coles, Leonard Ashworth	3-20-1945
Keenan, Dennis Joseph	3-22-1943
Nederlk, Michael Alexander	3-22-1948
Kooman, Gary Roger	3-23-1946
Curtis, David Allen	3-23-1949
Covey, Jr., Elwood D.	3-29-1943
Siegwalt, Marlin L.	3-30-1937
Natale, Nicholas Anthony	3-31-1948

Friends of the Memorial

To be placed on the volunteer contact list, contact Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com

Memorial Tours & Presentations

Persons interested in on-site tours or presentations at schools or organizations, contact Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com



Nominating Committee by Dan Corona, Chair

*The Annual Meeting & Elections will be held
April 11 2024 from 6:30 pm through 7:15 pm.*

**Location: Chili Community Center
3237 Chili Avenue
Rochester, NY 14624**

 **March Meeting (3/14) will be “Meet the Candidates for 2024”**

The "new" Nominating Committee will also be elected by the membership that evening. A “to date” slate of candidates will be finalized by February 15th. and published in the March issue.

- In order to vote in the Annual Election, voters must be a member for at least 30 days.
- Only paid members with a DD214 on file by 28 February of previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (For example - 28 February 2023 to vote April 2023).
- A quorum is defined as 30 of VVA 20 members as of 28 February of the previous fiscal year. Voting for candidates will take place between 6:30 PM till 7:15 PM, after which no new ballots will be taken and votes will be tabulated.
- According to the National VVA Constitution, “Additional persons may be nominated by any member at the Annual Meeting.” These candidates will fall under the category of Floor Nominations.
- Floor nominated candidates can only receive votes from members present at Annual Meeting. (A “Special Note” stating such will be placed March and April BTL issues.)

The slated candidates for this year (as of 2/24) are as follows:

Director Positions (3)

- Dale Webster
- Tom Puff
- Bob Caulkins

State Council Reps.

- Charles Klauck
- Nick DeLeo
- Rosemary Rossi-Williams
- Ken Allocco

Any member interested in running for any of the above mentioned positions, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members:

Dan Corona 406-6108
Bill Auble 683-2213

CANDIDATE BIOS

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR - TOM PUFF:

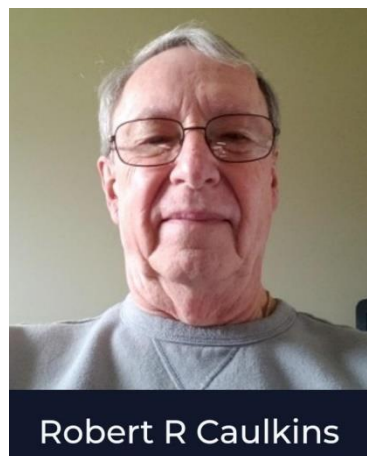
Hello to my Brother and Sister Vets:

My name is Thomas Puff and I served in the United States Air Force from 1972-1977 (on active duty) and from 1977- 1981 (in the reserves). I maintained a B-52-G model flight simulator and assisted in the training of Pilots and Co-pilots in several emergency scenarios that they might encounter in flight. I worked in a stationary simulator at Barksdale AFB, La. and also maintained a mobile simulator mounted inside old rail cars that traveled monthly to one of seven different bases that had Wings of B-52-G's stationed there. When I left the active duty service, I stayed in Louisiana to go to school and work in the Oil Field Industry, making and maintaining gas detection equipment.

In 1984 I moved back home to Rochester, N.Y., where I later learned about VVA- Chapter 20, but I didn't join because I wasn't an "In Country Vet". Years later during a hike through Mt. Hope Cemetery to raise money for our memorial, a Nam vet named Mike twisted my arm and talked me into joining Chapter 20. I've been a member since 1998. The next year I joined both the Marching Unit and the Honor Guard. I've attended our meetings held at Ira-Jacobson Legion Post, the Italian-American Club in Gates and now in Chili Recreation Center. (At this rate we will be meeting in Hilton soon). I attended a National convention in Reno, Nevada and have gone to D.C. several times for a POW-MIA ceremony in September at the Wall and at Arlington to honor the 4 or 5 Rochester boys who are interred there. A couple of years after 9-11 I was asked to replace Tom Gleason as the Chapter Chaplain when he became too ill to continue. I was honored and accepted! Recently I was asked to consider running for the Board of Directors, and I would be honored to serve our chapter members.

I don't know how long we have left to stay together as a Chapter, (I sure hope it's a lot longer). Whether we have 10 years or we throw in the towel next year,... But until then I'm willing to serve my Brother and Sister Veterans and do what's best for the chapter and the many lives that are touched because Chapter 20 reaches out to our community!

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR - BOB CAULKINS:



I joined the Vietnam Veterans of America in September 2016 as a lifetime member. I have participated in almost every membership meeting since that time. I have also participated in the spring cleanup, every year since joining, at our Highland Park Memorial. My wife's cousin Kenny Costanza is E2 Bollard # 237 PFC - E2 - Marine Corps.

I am a US Air Force veteran. I served from July 1967 to July 1971. I was a Sergeant, Radio Relay equipment repairman. My last duty assignment was on top of the highest mountain, on the island of Menorca, Spain. We were a vital link in communications between Europe and the United States. Our Communications equipment had to be operational 24/7 for 365 days per year.

I was married for 32 years to my wife Virginia and I had 2 children, a son and a daughter. I now have by them, 2 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Virginia passed away in 2014. In 2016 I found another companion, Gloria whom I was engaged to be married with. She passed away December 10th 2023. I am a 1998 retiree of Eastman Kodak company, I spent 32 Years at Kodak as a Estar film base machine operator. I then sold Men's suits at J C Penney at Marketplace Mall for 11 years and retired from there in 2009.

I have decided to step up and fill a vacancy on our Chapter 20 VVA Board of Directors. I would appreciate your vote on this new challenge. Thanks.

Robert R. Caulkins

POW/MIA CHAIRMAN JOE PECK



There are currently no new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the National League of Families and the DOD of any new Vietnam service member being recovered, returned and identified this month. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War still stands at **1577**.

There are reports of the recoveries and identifications of individuals from the following wars:

- Radioman 2nd Class Robert Thomas Duncan, US Navy was captured at the surrender of Bataan on April 6, 1942 in the Philippines. He was reported to have died of Malaria at Cabanatuan POW camp in the Philippines on Sept 16, 1942. He was accounted for on Dec. 26, 2023.
- MSgt. Thomas Crayton, US Army was captured at Somindong, North Korea on Dec. 1, 1950. He was reported to have died Feb. 11, 1951 at POW camp #5 in Pyoktong, North Korea. He was accounted for on Dec. 26, 2023.

UNTIL ALL OUR MISSING SERVICE MEN AND WOMAN HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR, WE WILL NEVER GIVE UP HOPE THAT SOMEDAY THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES AND A GREATFUL NATION.

“WELCOME HOME BROTHERS AND REST IN PEACE”



MARCHING UNIT - HONOR GUARD

Charles Klauck - Commander

MARCHING UNIT

Our calendar is beginning to fill up for the upcoming parade season and we are always looking for new members to join us as we represent the Chapter in the community. If you would like to be a member of the Marching Unit and/or Honor Guard, please let me know (305-9557). We will work with you to get a uniform.

We have received the first three parade invitations for the year:

- March 16, 2024 - St. Patrick's Day parade
- May 11, 2024 - Lilac Parade
- July 11, 2024 - Webster Firemen's Parade

HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard has recently presented the colors at a Knighthawks game and an Amerks game. On **April 21st**, the Honor Guard will be the color guard for the returning Honor Flight.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Charles Klauck, Chairman, Membership Affairs

Chapter 20 membership is currently at 619 members and AVVA membership is at 36 members as of 02/24/2024.

Please welcome the following new members: Richard Wright (U.S. Navy), Peter Witkowicz (U.S. Air Force) and we welcome back Charles “Skip” Snell (U.S. Army).

Membership at the National level continues to grow. It was only a short time ago that the VVA hit 90,000 members. We are now close to 92,000.

There are many eligible veterans or past members out there waiting to be asked to join or rejoin. Membership is the backbone of any organization. The pool of eligible veterans out there is shrinking but we can still bring in new members to the Chapter. Please extend an invitation to anyone you know who is eligible and not currently a member.

Chapter 20 membership is open to U.S. Veterans who served on active duty (other than for training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between November 1, 1955, and May 07, 1975, or any duty location between August 05, 1964 and May 07, 1975. **Please note the new dates for in country veterans.**

Membership includes a subscription to our award-winning newsletter, Between the Lines, and The VVA Veteran, bringing you updates on issues and legislation affecting veterans, as well as unique articles on the people, places, and history of the Vietnam experience.

Membership in the Associate of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) is open to anyone; you do not need to be a veteran. Membership in the AVVA has been static for some time. If you know of someone who might be interested, invite them to join.

We need new members! Membership applications are available on our Website, in this newsletter, or by contacting me, Charles Klauck (chask809@outlook.com). Completed applications should be sent to Charles Klauck, 809 Tinker Tavern Rd, Webster, NY 14580. To facilitate the processing of the application, please include a copy of your DD-214 and a check for \$50.00 payable to VVA Chapter 20.

Vietnam Veteran and War on Terror Memorials Spring Cleanup 2024

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Start Time – 8:00 AM

Bring - Yard Tools

Knee Pads, Kneelers

Rakes, safety glasses, gloves, bucket/rags,

Weed scrapers – OLD screwdrivers, putty knives, etc.

(Optional) Your Favorite

String trimmer

Wheelbarrow

We hope to see you there!

RICHARDS HOUSE OPERATION SHOW YOUR LOVE

I am very disappointed in the fact that I did not have anything to bring to the Richards House this year.

I did have some gift cards to bring them. A big thank you to all of you who gave me cards. The House will use them with love.

Maybe we can do better next year.

Ken Allocco



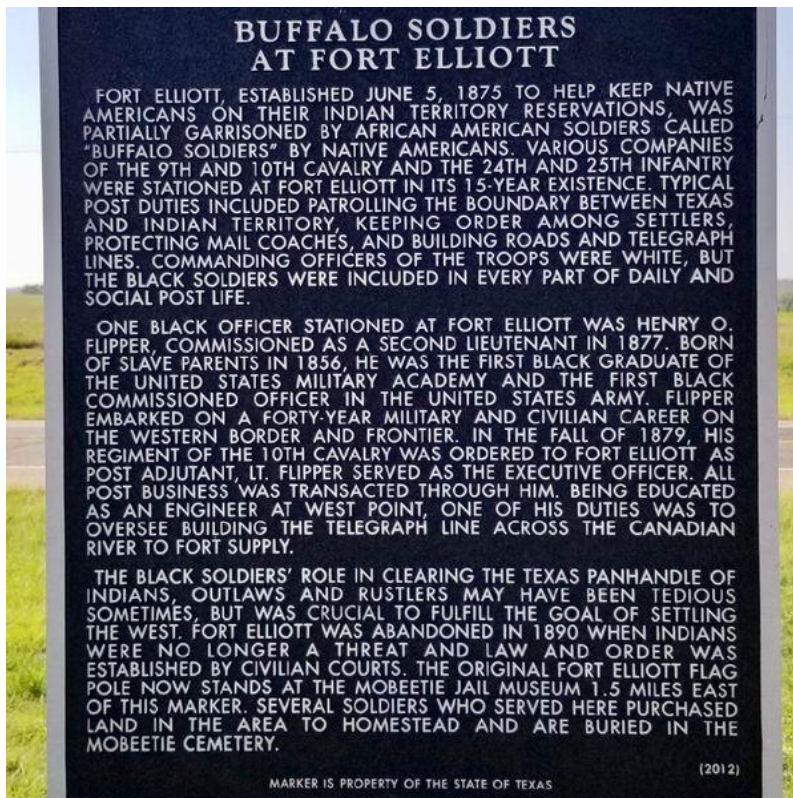
A Surprise in Texas

By Fred Elliott

Imagine my surprise when I discovered Fort Elliott in Texas. I first saw the name in a paperback western novel I was reading. Naturally I thought it was the invention of the author; after all who would name a place in Texas after an old Scottish name ?

Turns out it was true. Fort Elliott was an Army post in the Texas panhandle between 1875 and 1890. It had been named for Army Major Joel H. Elliott, a casualty of the Battle of Washita River in 1868. Sad to say, I'm not related to the Major.

A temporary post was established in February of 1875 by several troops of the 6th U.S. Cavalry and four companies of the 5th Infantry. The permanent location was established on June 5th, 1875. By 1878, the post was comprised of a commander's residence, six sets of officers' quarters, five company barracks, a twelve-bed hospital, the post headquarters, and a combined chapel and school. All the structures were one-story frame buildings on stone foundations. There was no stockade fencing as it was considered unnecessary.



Troop strength at the post was usually just under 200 men. After 1883, a company of forty Indian scouts was also stationed at the post. In 1879 a company of the black Tenth U. S. Cavalry was assigned to the post, and between 1880 and 1888, other black units, companies of the Twenty-Fourth U. S. Infantry 9th U. S. Cavalry, served there. From November 1881 until February 1884 all of Fort Elliott's troops were black. However, all of the commissioned officers were

white, with the exception of Lt. Henry O. Flipper, the first black graduate of West Point.

By the mid-1880s the garrison was policing the range cattle industry and supervising southern Texas herds being driven north. Under the protection of the Fort, numerous large ranches were established and by 1880 nearly 300,000 cattle grazed the Panhandle.

In 1887, the first railroad in the Panhandle bypassed Fort Elliott, eighteen miles to the north. With this new source of security and prosperity, the Fort's role in the region's growth ended. The Army decided to close the Fort in 1890. An outbreak of typhoid in the summer of 1890 sped up the abandonment of the Fort. Most of the garrison departed on October 2 of that year and the Fort was formally closed on the twentieth. Over the next sixteen years, the Department of the Interior sold the buildings and land. Of the post that helped transform the Panhandle from a frontier into a settled region, little remains today.



BENEFITS

CONTRIBUTED BY S. Patykiewicz



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

vapublicaffairs@va.gov

VA proposes rule to extend presumed areas of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides, making it easier for exposed Veterans to receive their earned benefits

02/09/2024 04:00 AM EST

VA continues to expand access to health care and benefits for toxic-exposed Veterans as a part of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the nation

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining plans to expand the locations and time frames for which VA presumes exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. If this proposed rule becomes final, VA will implement a new presumption of exposure to locations where herbicides were tested, used, or stored outside of Vietnam. Specifically, this proposed rule would add locations in the United States ([full list of US locations where Agent Orange was tested or stored](#)), [Canada](#), and [India](#) to the existing presumptives for Agent Orange in Vietnam, Cambodia, Johnson Atoll, Guam, American Samoa, Korea, Laos, and Thailand.

A presumption of exposure means that VA automatically assumes that Veterans who served in certain locations were exposed to certain toxins. Presumptives lower the burden of proof required to receive disability benefits, helping Veterans get the benefits they deserve as quickly as possible. This expansion of presumptives will help Veterans who served in the specified locations receive health care and benefits for [certain cancers and chronic conditions](#). To be eligible, a Veteran must have served in the identified location(s) during a specific time period and currently have a condition(s) presumptively associated with herbicide exposure.

Delivering world-class health care and benefits to toxic-exposed Veterans is a top priority for VA and the Biden-Harris Administration. As a part of President Biden's pledge to serve Veterans with military toxic exposures, over the past few years, VA has expanded presumptive service connection for more than [hundreds of health conditions](#) related to toxic exposures under the [PACT Act](#) – the

[largest expansion of Veteran care and benefits in generations](#). Thanks to this historic action, VA is delivering [more care and more benefits to more Veterans](#) than ever before in U.S. history.

“This proposed change would make it easier for Veterans exposed to herbicides who served outside Vietnam to access the benefits they so rightly deserve,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “Our goal is to provide every Veteran – of every era – with the VA health care and benefits they deserve, and this is another step in the right direction.”

Veterans who want to file an initial claim for a herbicide-related disability can visit [VA's website](#), use [VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits](#), or work with a VA-recognized [Veterans Service Organization](#) to assist with the application process. Veterans may also contact their [state Veterans Affairs Office](#). [Survivors](#) can file claims for benefits based on the Veteran's service if the Veteran died from at least one of the recognized presumptive herbicide diseases.

This proposed rule also codifies provisions in the [PACT Act](#), the [Blue Water Navy Act of 2019](#), and the [National Defense Authorization Act for 2021](#).

For more information about the changes, visit [The Federal Register](#).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT

vapublicaffairs@va.gov

VA housed more than 46,000 homeless Veterans in 2023

01/30/2024 08:30 AM EST

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it permanently housed 46,552 homeless Veterans in 2023 — surpassing [the calendar year goal to house 38,000 Veterans](#) by 22.5%.

In 2023, VA also engaged with 40,203 unsheltered Veterans to connect them with the housing and resources they need, exceeding the Department's [calendar year goal](#) by 43.6%; ensured that 95.9% of Veterans housed have remained in housing, exceeding the Department's [calendar year goal](#) by

0.9%; and ensured that 96.4% of the Veterans who returned to homelessness have been rehoused or are on a pathway to rehousing, exceeding the Department's [calendar year goal](#) by 6.4%.

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority of VA and President Biden, who has made supporting Veterans a key pillar of his [Unity Agenda](#) for the nation. Thanks in part to these efforts, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness [has fallen by 4% since early 2020](#) and by more than 52% since 2010.

“No Veteran should ever experience the tragedy and indignity of homelessness. More than 46,000 formerly homeless Veterans are going to sleep tonight in good, safe, stable homes — and there’s nothing more important than that,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “While this is an important step forward, we’re not stopping here — we’re going to keep pushing until every Veteran has a safe, stable place to call home in this country they fought to defend.”

VA’s efforts to combat Veteran homelessness are grounded in reaching out to homeless Veterans, understanding their unique needs, and addressing them. These efforts are built on the evidence-based “[Housing First](#)” approach, which prioritizes getting a Veteran into housing, then providing them with the wraparound support they need to stay housed, including health care, job training, legal and education assistance, and more. This initiative is part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s broader efforts to reduce homelessness.

VA has also made progress in combating Veteran homelessness in the Greater Los Angeles area, providing 1,790 homeless Veterans with permanent housing in 2023 — which is the most of any city in America and exceeding the local [calendar year goal](#) for 2023 by 19.3%.

This is the second year in a row that VA has housed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans. In 2022, [VA housed more than 40,000 formerly homeless Veterans](#), prevented more than 17,700 Veterans and their families from falling into homelessness, and helped nearly 191,700 additional Veteran families who were experiencing financial difficulties to retain their homes or avoid foreclosure.

VA staff and its community partners nationwide help Veterans find [permanent housing](#) such as apartments or houses to rent or own, often with subsidies to help make the housing affordable. In some cases, VA staff and partners help Veterans end their homelessness by reuniting them with family and friends.

For more information about VA’s comprehensive efforts to end Veteran homelessness, visit [VA.gov/homeless](#).

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK
SENATOR
RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 478
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
202-224-4451

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
ARMED SERVICES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Dear Mr. Patykiewicz,

Thank you for writing to me about veterans affairs. New York is home to nearly 688,000 veterans, and ensuring they have the support and benefits earned throughout their service is among my foremost priorities.

It is our duty to take care of our veterans when they return home. My casework team annually helps hundreds of New York veterans secure thousands of dollars in benefits each year and can also provide assistance with veterans records and other issues veterans may face. If you or a loved one are experiencing such issues, please visit my website, click "Help," and follow the instructions under "Help for New Yorkers."

I annually support funding for rural, female, disabled, and homeless veterans to ensure all veterans receive the full scope of care and benefits they earned. I am also proud to have supported and helped lead legislation such as the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act*. The *PACT Act* included my legislation, the *Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act*, which made a range of burn pits-related health conditions presumptively connected to a veterans' service if they deployed to countries where burn pits were used. I am grateful for your advocacy and will keep your views in mind as Congress considers legislation on these topics.

Thank you again for writing to me about veterans affairs. I hope that you keep in touch with my office. For more information on my efforts, please visit my website at <http://gillibrand.senate.gov>.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

★ ★ ★

Veterans Faced with Cancer Support Group



2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month
5:30-7 pm
255 Alexander Street
Rochester, NY 14607

Cancer Support Community at Gilda's Club, provides free social and emotional support to adults, teens and children impacted by cancer at no cost.

The Veterans Cancer Support Group provides a forum for individuals to share their experiences living with or surviving cancer and connect through common fears, emotions, challenges, and overall journeys.

For more information on joining our support group or our additional support programs call 585.423.9700 or visit us at cscrochester.org.



**Community is Stronger
than Cancer.**

The Chaplain's Corner

Brothers and Sisters of VVA Chapter 20:

I want to remind everyone how important communication is among our membership. It is common for a member or their loved ones to have health issues as we age, and Chapter 20 members have always been supportive during these times.

I have received very few notices of our members' hospital visits or (God forbid) their passing from this life to the next. Please be my eyes and ears and let me know if any of our members are struggling with health issues (or worse).

*It is important for all of us to stay in touch, call for a "Buddy Check", to pop over for a visit, or go out to eat. Our mental health is as important as our physical health! If you hear anything please call me at **585-227-3426**, or email me at tpuff@frontiernet.net. Thank you! God Bless and Stay Well.!!!!!!*

In Memoriam

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of those members who have passed from our ranks in the past six months.

Joseph G. Harkness	09/12/23
Allan R. Schichtel	09/12/23
Ronald T. Poness, Sr.	09/18/23
Robert Orvis	10/01/23
Edwin F. Williams	10/23/23
Earl F. Bonenblust	11/24/23
Frank E. Lazzaro, Sr.	12/19/23

24/7, confidential crisis support for **Veterans and their loved ones**



If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, reach caring, trained responders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When you call the Veterans Crisis Line, here is what you can expect:

- A qualified responder will answer your call, ready to listen and help.
- The responder will ask a few questions, such as whether you or the Veteran you're concerned about may be in immediate danger or at risk for suicide.
- The conversation is free and confidential, and you decide how much information to share.
- Support doesn't end with your conversation. Our responders can connect you with the resources you need.

You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

You're not alone— the **Veterans Crisis Line** is here for you.



Dial 988 then Press 1



Chat online at
VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat



Text 838255



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Scan the QR code to download
Veterans Crisis Line resources.



07/2022

You have questions. VA has answers.

Call VA today.

1-800-MyVA411

(1-800-698-2411)

The number to call when you don't know who to call.

You only need to remember **one number** for information on **VA care, benefits, and services** or to speak to a **live agent** for assistance!



1-800-MyVA411 serves all members of the Veteran and service member community seeking information or assistance

[Explore VA.gov to learn about your benefits](#)

VA is here for you.

1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) is always the right number for information and assistance.

Or call directly:

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255

Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat

White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311



Member Application

For new members, print this membership form and complete, then mail with your payment and a copy of the DD214 form. Renewal members may complete and print the form and mail it with your payment. Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #20, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14692

Membership Application

(bold fields are required.)

First Name

Last Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Home Phone, Ext.

Work Phone, Ext.

Primary Email

Date of Birth

MM/DD/YYYY

As of October 20, 2018, there will be one paid class of membership.

1. LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$50.00
2. All 3-year members who have paid \$50 will automatically become a life member.
3. All one-year members will continue as an individual 1-year member until their membership expires, one-year members will then be required to pay \$50.00 to remain a member of VVA.

The Historical Archives of Chapter 20 Newsletters

By Joe Peck

After several years of searching and digitizing all of the newsletters published by Chapter 20, the historical archives of the Forward Observer and the Between the Lines is now available for viewing on the Chapter 20 website. This is our history from 1981 to our present day.

In addition to this, hard copies of all these publications with the permission of the donors will be donated to the Vietnam Veterans history section of the Rundle Library in downtown Rochester for future generations to view and get an insight of the history of Chapter 20.

Board Meetings	Membership Meetings
MAR 5, 2024	MAR 14, 2024
APR 2, 2024	APR 11, 2024
MAY 7, 2024	MAY 9, 2024
JUN 4, 2024	JUN 13, 2024

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE CHILI COMMUNITY CENTER

3237 Chili Avenue, Rochester, NY 14624

The Building is basically located behind the Target store, but you have to proceed to the next left hand turn past the Fire House. Turn onto Old Scottsville-Chili Road, and then another left turn at the digital sign. Proceed straight back to the Community Center.

From the EAST: Heading West on 490, take Exit 5-RT 386 Chili Center (this is the second exit past the Buffalo Rd. exit). Turn left *on Chili-Coldwater Rd. and proceed to Chili Ave. Turn right on Chili Ave. Take the first left after the fire house. This is Old Scottsville Chili Rd. (RT 386). There is a Kwik Fill station on the corner. Take the next left at the digital sign and proceed to the Center, straight back. It is approximately 2 miles from the 490 exit to the Community Center.*

From the West: Heading East on 490, take Exit 5-RT 386 Chili Center. Turn right *on Chili-Coldwater Rd. and proceed to Chili Ave. Turn right on Chili Ave. Take the first left after the fire house. This is Old Scottsville Chili Rd. (RT 386). There is a Kwik Fill station on the corner. Take the next left at the digital sign and proceed to the Center, straight back. It is approximately 2 miles from the 490 exit to the Community Center.*

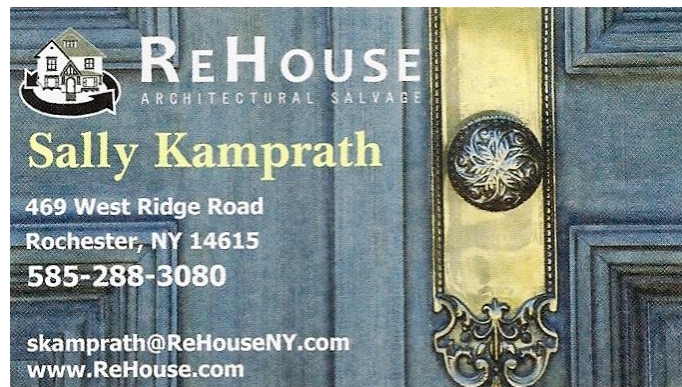
From the South: Take Ballantyne, Archer and Paul Roads to Chili Ave. and turn left.


From the North: Heading South on Howard Road to Chili Ave. Turn right on Chili Ave. and proceed to Chili Center.

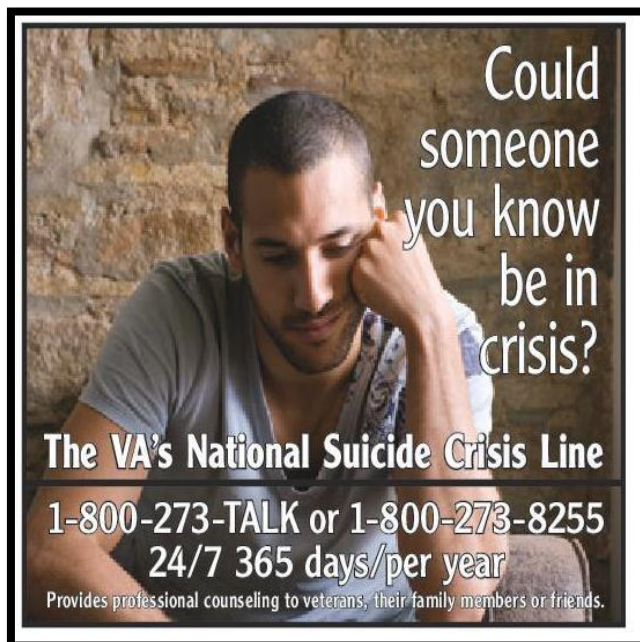


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 Rochester, NY 14615
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 skamprath@ReHouseNY.com
 www.ReHouse.com



Could someone you know be in crisis?

The VA's National Suicide Crisis Line
1-800-273-TALK or 1-800-273-8255
24/7 365 days/per year
 Provides professional counseling to veterans, their family members or friends.



Do you know a veteran who is homeless?

The VA's National Homeless Veterans Hotline
 The Hotline is staffed at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center in conjunction with the National Suicide Prevention services. Studies show a huge correlation with needs required by one or the other services provided at the time of the call.
1-877-424-3838
24/7 365 days/per year

Your business card could be here. Contact Chapter Treasurer, William Schrader, wjs77mbox@gmail.com for details.

In Memory Donations

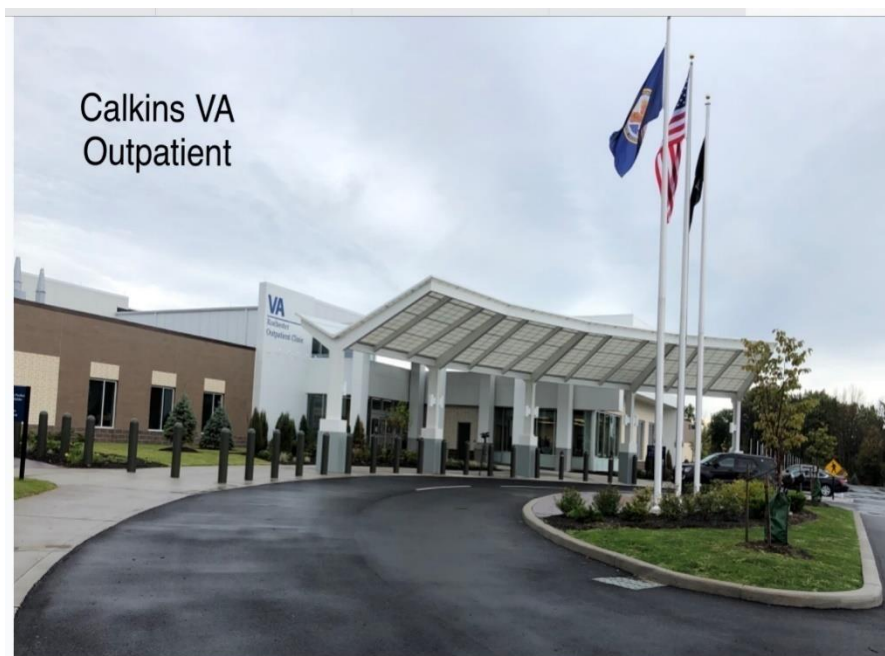
When the simple act of placing flowers on a casket or placing stones on a headstone does not seem to be enough to honor the memory of a special someone who has passed away, one may choose to make a donation in his or her honor to commemorate the values and beliefs of the deceased. Chapter 20 VVA is committed to recognizing the sacrifices made by all military personnel in every branch of the armed forces. The memory of the deceased veteran is honored in the continuous work and service carried out by the dedicated Chapter members and associates. The monetary donations sent by individuals help make it possible to continue serving veterans and their families. The combined efforts of donors, lawmakers, members, and associates have far-reaching effects on the quality of all our lives.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 offers several ways of commemorating a special person. One of those ways is the Memorial Walk at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walk is a pathway of bricks inscribed with the names of individuals who have served their country with valor. Their names will forever remain a reminder of the dedication and tenacity demonstrated by the thousands of men and women who have served in the U. S. Armed Forces.

If you wish to make a monetary donation directly to Chapter 20 in support of all the functions and services they provide to veterans and their families, send your check or money order payable to Chapter 20, VVA:

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 20
P.O. Box 12580
Rochester, NY 14612**

Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic



Calkins VA
Outpatient

Rochester Calkins VA Clinic
260 Calkins Road
Rochester, NY 14623
585 463- 2600

**Hours of Operation for
Rochester VA Clinic:**
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Extended hours by
appointment

Parking is free and the Clinics are handicapped accessible.

Rochester Calkins VA Clinic offers:

Primary Care
Pharmacy
Podiatry
Respiratory/Sleep
Psychiatry
Eye Care
Radiology
Cardiology

Dental
Laboratory
Prosthetic
Home Based Primary Care
Audiology/Speech Pathology
Dermatology
Women's Health
Gastroenterology

VA Health Care Benefits Contacts and References

E-Benefits Portal Site

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>

Enrollment/Eligibility

<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility>

Health Resource Center

1-877-222-8387 (VETS)

OEF / OIF

<http://www.oefoif.va.gov>

Women Veterans

<http://www.va.gov/womenvet>

Benefits Line

1-855-829-6636

Dental Care

http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/IB10-442_dental_benefits_for_veterans_2_14.pdf

Copays

<http://www1.va.gov/CBO/brochures.asp>

Health Resource Center 1-877-222-8387

Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

Prosthetics

<http://www.prosthetics.va.gov>

My HealtheVet

<http://www.myhealth.va.gov>

Homeless Veterans Hotline

1-877-424-3838

Contact Information

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VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION

Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial	753-7275
(enter 9; enter 2 to leave a message)	
VA Outpatient Clinic	260 Calkins Road 463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center	459 South Avenue 546-1081
VA Vet Center	232-5040
Veterans Administration	800-827-1000
Monroe County Veterans Service Agency	753-6040
e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com	
VA Veterans Benefits Hotline	800-827-1000
Women Veterans Call Center	888-829-6636
VA Medical Center in Batavia	297-1000
VA Hospital in Buffalo	716-834-9200
VA Medical Center in Canandaigua	394-2000
VA Medical Center in Bath	607-664-4000
Vietnam Veterans of America National Office	800-882-1316
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund	202-393-0090
National League of Families	
POW/MIA Updates	202-223-6846
Richards House at VOC	506-9060
The Resource Center at VOC	546-4250
Stars & Stripes – The Flag Store	546-3524
National Caregivers Support Line	855-260-3274
Homeless Hotline	877-424-3838
Crisis Hotline	800-273-8255

WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES

Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park
www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial
VVA New York State Council
www.nyvietnamvets.org
Honor Flight
www.HonorFlightRochester.org