President’s Message
Ken Moore

August was not too busy, as normal. We have been looking into the finances of the chapter and asking ourselves a couple of questions: are we spending our money in a manner that makes the most sense to support veterans issues, and are there other ways that may also need our attention?

August also took me to Kentucky for nine days to help Heather French (Miss America 2000) at the State Fair talking to veterans about health and benefits that are due to them.

September will be a busy month for the chapter and its members. On the 9th and 10th our memorial in Highland Park will celebrate its tenth year since dedication. There will be lots to see and do on Saturday with static displays and other displays. Sunday there will be a short service with the help of our Marching Unit.

September will also bring us to our 25th Anniversary Celebration as a chapter. I ask all of you to come to this event. Meet members of the chapter and enjoy the evening that took lots of dedication and planning by the committee. The BOD has pledged money to the committee so that the tickets will now only be $10.00, so please come.

So for now, thanks for your service and see you at the 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Nelson Peck, who will be inducted into the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in September at Cape May, New Jersey.

PLEASE SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS to Ken Moore:
17cav@rochester.rr.com

VVA New York State Council NEW Website:
www.nyvietnamvets.org
Scam Alert!

Between the Lines wishes to alert veterans and their families to two scams which reportedly are targeting veterans, arising out of the recent theft of a VA computer containing veterans’ personal information. The first involves contacts, supposedly from the VA, seeking to confirm personal data to assist in the recovery of their information, or stating that the VA needs their date of birth and social security number to see if they were in the database that was stolen. These calls do not originate from the VA and are an attempt to “phish” veterans’ personal information.

A second scam regards telephone calls in which veterans are urged to call a 1-800 number. Supposedly this request relates to data loss by the VA and involves a resource to assist them. Once the 1-800 number is called, the caller is directed to call a 1-900 number, where they incur a $9.99 per minute charge. This also is a hoax.

Gold Star Mothers’ Day

Governor George Pataki has signed legislation into law that designates the last Sunday in September as “Gold Star Mothers’ Day” to honor New York mothers who have lost a son or daughter during wars and armed conflicts or while in service to our country. Gold Star Mothers’ Day is not a holiday, but one of more than 20 New York “days of commemoration” set aside in recognition and special honor of a person or persons, group ideal, or goal.

On the national level, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895 as amended) has designated the last Sunday in September as “Gold Star Mother’s Day.”

Calling all Goblins, Ghosts and Freaks of the night!!!
Creep, float or crawl over to our
Halloween Costume Party

Saturday, October 28, 2006
7PM – 11PM at the Ira Jacobson Post
$3/person; $5/couple (Money to be donated to AVVA projects)

If you have some Halloween decorations or special effects you would like to share, please contact Kathy at 978-1331 or kathy14470@msn.com.
Marching Unit  
Ray Melens, Commander

Even though the 2006 parade season is officially over, the Marching Unit and Honor Guard will still be busy during the month of September. Members of the Marching Unit will be taking part in a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park on Sunday, September 10th, to commemorate the tenth consecutive year that September 15th, this year’s trip to Washington, D.C. for these services.

It is a special milestone. It marks the tenth consecutive year that Chapter 20 has sent members the tenth year that our service goes home and picks up the POW/MIA issue and does something that accounts for even just one MIA being accounted for, well then we succeeded in our mission. Let’s all remember then on Friday, September 15th to fly our POW flags with our American flag and fly them every day. I will have a full report of the trip in the November issue of the BTL.

On Saturday, August 26th, the annual Marching Unit picnic was held at Ira Jacobson. Hopefully in next month’s report I will have pictures from the picnic to share with the report. Seeing as the picnic has not taken place as of this writing, I will have to wait till next month to let everyone know how it went.

On Saturday November 11th, we will once again conduct our annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. There will be more details available in next month’s report. Seeing as this year the 11th falls on a Saturday, maybe the time of the ceremony will change. Marching Unit members will be needed to conduct the ceremony properly. If interested in partaking please let me know right away. We will again this year have chili after the ceremony like we did last year.

A reminder that the Honor Guard will resume meeting again before the October membership meeting. We meet upstairs at Ira at 7:00 P.M. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to attend the meeting.

Until next month…………….  
AT EASE!!!!!!

POW-MIA  
Gail Bologna-Melens, Co-ordinator

I can’t believe it’s September already. This is the busiest month for POW/MIA events.

To start off the awareness events is our annual Candlelight Vigil, which shall be held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. It will be in conjunction with the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the memorial. We will start at 7:30 P.M. on Saturday September 9th. The names of the 1,802 service personnel still missing and un-accounted for will be read. I will need volunteers to read the names and to ring the bell. Those who have attended this ceremony in the past have found it very moving.

Then, on Thursday, September 14th, VVA’s Honor Guard, myself, and AVVA members as well as a group from Pennsylvania (recruited by Marlin Plymette) will be going on our annual journey to the Wall in Washington, D.C. We will be leaving from the Greece Ridge Center at 7:00 A.M. as we have done for the past ten years. When we are in D.C. we have a ceremony at the Wall to inform the public that it is National POW-MIA Awareness Day as decreed by Congress. We place a wreath at the apex of the Wall, give a salute, and say a prayer. Then we march from the Wall leaving the POW-MIA flag
to follow behind us about 50 feet. This symbolizes that they have been left behind.

Wreaths are also placed at the Women’s Memorial. A salute is given to The Three Soldiers statue and the large flag at the beginning of our walk before the Wall.

After this is accomplished, we proceed to Arlington National Cemetery to pay our respects at the gravesites of our two local POW-MIA’s who are buried there. We place wreaths at their graves and present a salute as well as Taps.

As of this writing I have mailed 54 letters to homes and businesses flying the POW-MIA and American flags together. Keep looking – I know there are more out there. Just let me know the house number and street and town. I do not need a name.

Please, fly your American flag and POW-MIA flag during this time. If we do not REMEMBER them- who will?

Agent Orange/Health Affairs
Sue Oleksyn, Coordinator

Three interesting bits of information fyi:

1. The U.S. Senate passed S.2694 giving veterans the right to choose an attorney to represent them with VA claims. This would overturn a Civil War-era restriction on attorneys, improve educational opportunities and more. If adopted by the House, it then must be signed by the President. Under current law, a veteran must exhaust the VA process—which may take years—before hiring an attorney. Tell your House representatives and the President to back this important legislation.

2. My husband’s VA doctor gave him a US map showing the locations across America of VA locations. Go to www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp to access this information for those of you who may travel.

3. Vietnam Veterans of America NYS Council Interchange, Volume 17, Issue 2, 2006, page 11 (article from Simon Kearney: The Australian newspaper kearneys@theaustralian.com.au). Navy shipboard Vietnam cancers have been linked to water on their ships which was contaminated with Agent Orange. The VA is investigating a link between the number of cancers among sailors and the desalinated water on board the ships used for drinking, bathing, etc. This relates to ships that took on water in Vung Tau harbor in Vietnam between 1965 and 1972, specifically HMAS Sydney, which made 23 trips to Vietnam during the war, and her escort ships. (My note: US VA requires veterans to have stepped on the ground in Vietnam to place an Agent Orange-related cancer claim. This should be carefully watched for all of our heroes who have been denied.)

Finally, congratulations to each of you in Chapter 20 VVA and AVVA for 25 outstanding years. Whether you have been here for a day or all the way, your noble answer to your country’s call, your service to America and your generous giving spirit in doing so much for Chapter 20, your community and America are amazing and commendable. This tragic, politicized war has left a legacy that we all must deal with daily. The scars are deep, and the suffering is tragic. Most serious is the slow response from VA to the substantiated claims from our noble veterans. This should be the first order of America—to provide whatever is necessary for the noble men and women who suffer from service connected health issues. So many have fallen through the cracks and have suffered and died without the benefits and services that they deserved due to noble service to their country. This Chapter will not stop until every veteran (from all wars) is taken care of with dignity and thoroughness and respect. Members of Congress are taken care of for life with outstanding medical benefits as well as other perks. So too will our veterans be taken care of.

The first 25 are the hardest!! Let’s all recommit ourselves to standing together as we go forward, helping each other and those in need, with one strong undivided voice. Yours is the only voice that many veterans have. Remember to go to Pat Pudetti and the fine people at the Monroe County Veterans’ Service Agency, 753-6040, serviceofficer@yahoo.com, if you have service-connected health issues and wish to file a claim with the VA. They know the system well and will help you with all aspects of your needs. May God bless our troops and their families, Chapter 20--each and every member--and God Bless America. Peace.
25th Anniversary Celebration - Saturday, September 30th, 2006

by Pat Pudetti

Just to remind everyone, next month will be here before you know it. On behalf of the 25th Anniversary Committee we would like to invite you to participate in this very special event. The Committee has worked very hard in giving up their time and talents as volunteers in hopes of making this a great success.

We will have a power point presentation by Stirlin Harris and Tom Cray about the beginning of Chapter 20 and VOC, to current events with Chapter 20 and VOC.

Jack Devine, Vice President of National VVA, is coming in on Friday the 29th for an informational and educational presentation on VetsConnect. VetsConnect is a new program from National regarding our newest veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and the War on Terrorism.

On Saturday, our keynote speaker will be Adrian Cronauer, the voice of “Gooooooood Morning Vietnam”. Currently he is Special Assistant to the Director of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office.

The chapter will also have an educational display of pictures, newspaper articles and the dioramas that show many of the events that the Chapter has been involved with over the years.

Last, we will have live music from the “Coupe De Villes”.

So please plan on attending this special event for our Chapter as it celebrates its 25 years as an organization set up to help our veterans and their families.

If you have any questions, please contact our Chapter office at 585-482-7396 between 11:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.

See you all there for one great party.

This year’s Ride to the Dakota motorcycle run on June 25 raised $1,800 for Chapter 20’s 25th Anniversary celebration.
“VetsConnect”
“In Service to Our Veterans of the Global War on Terrorism”

September 29, 2006
6:00-7:30 p.m.
E. Main Street
(Former Armory)
Open to all veterans!!
(emphasis on Iraqi & Afghanistan veterans)

Guest Speaker: Jack Devine, National Vice President of VVA
Subject: “Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another”

Jack will explain how this new program began, its purpose and how everyone can be a part of it. Questions will be answered after the presentation.

Refreshments will be served

For further information, please contact (585)482-7396 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.
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Excellus Health Plan, Inc.  
Rochester Gas & Electric  
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**Bronze Sponsors:**  
Monroe Litho, Inc.  
Wegmans Food Market

Thanks also to the following businesses, which have contributed to our Chapter:  
The Distillery, High Falls Brewery, & Doan Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep

Our gratitude for their continuing support contributing to our Chapter so far through the Program Ad Book goes to the following:

- United States Congresswoman, Louise Slaughter  
- United States Congressman, James T. Walsh  
- United States Senator, Hillary Rodham Clinton  
- Governor of the State of New York, George E. Pataki  
- NY State Senator, James S. Alesi  
- NY State Senator, Michael F. Nozzolio  
- NY State Assemblyman Joseph Errigo  
- NY State Assemblywoman, Susan V. John  
- Rochester City Mayor, Robert J. Duffy  
- National Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America  
- New York State Council, VVA  
- Fred Elliott, VVA Region 2 Director  
- USS Liberty, John Hrankowski, President  
- David J. Kauffman Post #41, Jewish War Veterans  
- Stars & Stripes, the Flag Store  
- Veterans Outreach Center, Inc.  
- The Party House  
- Bags Unlimited  
- Pirate Toy Fund  
- Allstate Insurance Company, Charles Lovall, West Ridge Road  
- Kaddis Manufacturing Corporation  
- SLJ Associates  
- Larry and Judith Schulman  
- DeCarolis Truck Rentals  
- Joe Bishop Auto Sales, Inc.
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20
Membership Application

Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214, to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, 1199 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY 14609

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: __________________________</th>
<th>Date of Birth: ______________</th>
<th>Sex: M / F</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address: ______________________</td>
<td>Home Phone: (____) __________</td>
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<td>City: __________________________</td>
<td>Work Phone: (____) __________</td>
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<td>Zip: __________ Country: _______</td>
<td>E-mail Address: _____________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter # _______ (if known)</td>
<td>Sponsor: ____________________</td>
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I am not a Vietnam veteran, but I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families. Please accept my donation: _______ $10 _______ $20 _______ $50 _______ Other ($_______)


| Term: ______ 1 year ($20) ______ 3 years ($50) ______ Life Membership:          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                            | $250 (ages 49 and under)          |
|                                            | $225 (ages 50-55)                  |
|                                            | $200 (ages 56-60)                  |
|                                            | $175 (ages 61-65)                  |
|                                            | $150 (ages 66 and over)            |

Payment Option: _______ Check _______ Money Order

VVA is a non-profit veterans service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.
The Veterans Walk Committee of Chapter 20, VVA want to thank you for your purchase of a personalized, engraved paver brick. Each paver brick (4” x 8”) can have from one to three lines of engraved information. The cost will be $50.00 per brick. Make checks or money order payable to: VVA Chapter 20, Veterans Walk.

The engraved line(s) can include any of the following information:
- Full name
- Branch of service, rank
- Dates of service (1967-1969, etc.)
- Conflict (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, etc.)

Please print the information you would like engraved on the brick below. (Maximum of 14 letters/numbers, including spaces per line).

1. 
2. 
3. 

When you return the completed form to the Veterans Walk Committee at P.O. Box 92402, Rochester, New York 14692, please include your payment and “Proof of Service” for above recipient.

PLEASE NOTE: Order may take up to 6 months to be fully processed.
I FIELD FORCE, VIETNAM

Shoulder Sleeve Insignia

Description: On a shield shaped like the head of a battle-ax, 2 3/8 inches (6.03cm) in width overall divided diagonally (from upper left to lower right) into two parts, red and blue, separated by a diagonal yellow bar, a crusader’s unsheathed sword point to top with white blade and yellow hilt, the blade fimbriated red where it crosses the yellow diagonal.

Symbolism: The crusader’s sword (the “Sword of Freedom”) was suggested by the shoulder sleeve insignia previously authorized for the United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and the United States Army, Vietnam. The one diagonal refers to the numerical designation of the I Field Force. The sword “piercing” the red area alludes to the constant probing of enemy territory and positions and the driving back and crushing of enemy forces. The colors red, white and blue are the national colors of the United States, and the colors yellow and red, are those of Vietnam. The colors blue, red and yellow are also those of the three major combat arms: Infantry, Artillery and Armor. The silhouette of the shield is shaped like a battle-ax to symbolize the smashing power of the I Field Force and the constant combat readiness of its personnel to engage the enemy. The battle-ax shape, in itself, is also an additional I Field Force identification.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved on 5 Oct 1966.

Distinctive Unit Insignia

Description: A gold color metal and enamel insignia 1 3/16 inches (3.02cm) in height overall consisting of a green enamel triangular mountain, the summit behind the lower part of a gold and enamel (scarlet and blue) device in the shape and background design of the authorized shoulder sleeve insignia of the I Field Force, Vietnam; overall an unsheathed Crusader sword with point up, the hilt gold and the blade of white enamel between two gold diagonal tapering rays issuing from the lower edges of the blue area and extending over the green area all within a circular gold scroll passing behind the upper part of the “shield” device and the ends terminating at the gold rays with the inscription “FIRST FOR” on the left and “FREEDOM” on the right all in scarlet enamel letters, the ends of the scroll connected by two narrow gold concentric arcs; the inner arc coinciding with the inner diameter of the scroll, the areas between the scroll, “shield” and mountain being pierced.

Symbolism: The operational and numerical designation of the organization are indicated by the red, gold (yellow) and blue device in the shape and background design of the authorized shoulder sleeve insignia of the I Field Force, Vietnam, the unsheathed Crusader sword, which has become associated with Vietnam, also simulating in this instance the numerical “One (of “First”). The green mountain alludes to the terrain and vegetation of the Central Highlands, the major operational combat area of the I Field Force. The ray allude to constant alertness and combat readiness in both attack and defense and, in leading into and cutting through the mountainous jungle terrain, indicate the “seek and destroy” tactics of jungle warfare; the open circular scroll simulating an envelopment or pincers movement. Jungle trails and lines of communication and supply are indicated by the narrow gold lines and arcs. The motto “First For Freedom” reflects the organization’s numerical designation and in the alliterative use of the initial letter of each word alludes to “I (First) Field Force.

Background: The Distinctive Unit Insignia was approved on 4 Oct 1968.
September 16 & 17, 2006
in the Blue Cross Arena at the War Memorial
for tickets go to:
www.rochestermarinetattoo.net
or visit the Tattoo table at this DCA event

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Veterans History Project

Every war veteran has a story to tell. And now there is a place to tell it.

Preferred Care is proud to be an official partner with the Library of Congress in its effort to collect these past war experiences.

The Library of Congress created the Veterans History Project to gather memories, accounts, and documents of war veterans and of those who served in support of them during World Wars I and II, the Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

Through the Veterans History Project, the Library of Congress continues to build a national catalogue of oral histories and other documents of our nation’s veterans and encourages people to tap into this comprehensive resource to learn and enrich our lives. Whether you served in a branch of the military or supported war efforts in other ways (war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers) you can support this project by sharing your story.

To date, over 75 stories have been collected and donated to the Veterans History Project on behalf of Preferred Care’s partnership. We are dedicated to making every effort to help this national catalogue grow.

If you have a story to share – perhaps your own or a family member’s – please call Preferred Care Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Minchella at (585) 327-5752.

To learn more about the Veterans History Project, visit their website at www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/.

Salute to a Vet and Brother Firefighter by Dick D’Imperio

A salute goes out to Kevin T. Crouch, not only a brother firefighter for 35 years of service, but also a brother Vietnam veteran. Kevin at one time did serve on the Board and served well. But as he climbed up the ladder his time took him away.

When he returned from serving his country he joined the Laurelton Fire Department as a volunteer for seven years. In 1971 he was hired as a paid firefighter at the St. Paul Fire District and put in 15 more dedicated years. While working here he was also part-time in the Town of Webster as a fire marshal. In 1975 he left Laurelton and joined the West Webster Fire District and as of this day is still an active member. He has been a firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Asst. Chief, and Chief of this Department, 1975-1991.

In 1981 Kevin was hired as a part-time fire instructor for the Monroe County Fire Bureau, up to 1987.

He retired from St. Paul F.D. in 1986 to become Team Command Program Manager for M.C.C. for two years.

In 1988 Kevin rose to become the Asst. Fire Coordinator – Arson for M.C.F.B. For 18 years to follow Kevin put some time in arson awareness programs, fire investigation, and juvenile-related programs. He spent time develop-
### Chapter Officers

President: Ken Moore .......... 392-0269 (h) .. 576-9000 (c)
1st Vice President: Geno Lenyk .......... 423-0206 (h)
2nd Vice President: Rich Isaman .......... 594-8022 (h)
Secretary: Chuck Macaluso .......... 225-8288 (h)
Treasurer: Larry Schulman .......... 271-6967 (h)

### Board of Directors

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<td>Pete Galle</td>
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<td>Wally Gekoski</td>
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<td>Kathy Gleason</td>
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<td>Ron Trovato</td>
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### Committee Contacts

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<tr>
<td>Agent Orange/Health Care</td>
<td>Sue Oleksyn 663-5255</td>
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<td>AVVA</td>
<td>Kathy Gleason 638-7805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Between The Lines</td>
<td>Bruce McDaniel 482-5314</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Tom Gleason 638-7805</td>
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<td>Comm. Service/Pub. Affairs</td>
<td>Tom Gleason 638-7805</td>
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<td>Constitution</td>
<td>Fred Elliott 288-5756</td>
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<td>Finance</td>
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<td>Historian</td>
<td>Dave Hooker 544-8815</td>
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<td>Incarcerated Veterans</td>
<td>Ron Trovato 544-8470</td>
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<td>Marching Unit</td>
<td>Ray Melens 392-2079</td>
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<td>Membership, Chapter Gear</td>
<td>Ralph Pascale 755-2560</td>
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<td>OWH Liaison</td>
<td>Sheri Corona 349-1828</td>
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<td>POW/MIA</td>
<td>Gail Bologna-Melens 392-2079</td>
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<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>Alice Popen 247-1024</td>
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<td>Social Events</td>
<td>Dick Oleksyn 663-5255</td>
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<td>Speakers Bureau</td>
<td>Geno Lenyk 423-0206</td>
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<td>Veterans Affairs/Benefits</td>
<td>Pat Pudetti 482-2387</td>
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<td>Veterans Walk</td>
<td>Chuck Macaluso 225-8288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordinator</td>
<td>Kathy Gleason 638-7805</td>
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### Veterans Organizations and Information

- **Ira Jacobson American Legion Post #474**: 663-7030
- **VA Clinic - 465 Westfall Road**: 463-2600
- **Veterans Outreach Center**: 546-1081
- **Vet Center**: 232-5040
- **Veterans Administration**: 800-827-1000
- **NYS Council**: 888-678-VETS
- **Monroe County Veterans Service Agency**: 753-6040
  - e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com

- **Veterans Benefits Hotline**: 800-827-1000
- **“Veterans Bill of Rights”**: 800-343-3558
- **VA Hospital in Batavia**: 343-7500
- **VA Hospital in Buffalo**: 716-834-9200
- **VA Medical Center in Canandaigua**: 394-2000
- **VA Medical Center in Bath**: 607-664-4000
- **V.V. of America in Washington**: 300-VVA-1316
- **V.V. Memorial Fund “The Wall”**: 202-393-0090
- **Nat.’l Lge. of Fam. MIA/POW Updates**: 202-223-6846
- **Richards House**: 506-9060
- **The Resource Center**: 546-4250
- **Stars & Stripes**: 546-3524
- **Persian Gulf Vets, Inc.**: 385-4097
- **Operation Welcome Home**: 234-4694

### Miscellaneous

- **VVA 20 Thrift Store, LLC Mgmt., Gary Smith**: 482-8036
- **Donation Pick-up, Beth Affeldt**: 482-8016
- **VVA Vehicle Donations, Beth Affeldt**: 224-8484
- **VVA Chapter 20, Barb DiVico**: 482-7396
  - bdivico@vva20.org

### VVA CH. 20 Board of Directors Mtg. Attendance

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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- **X** = Present  
- **E** = Excused  
- **A** = Absent