BETWEEN THE LINES

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.,
Chapter 20

February 2007
Issue 97

TOGETHER THEN...TOGETHER NOW

PG. 6
Annual Election

Another Local MIA Identified

PG. 6
Well, I hope you all had a great holiday and didn't eat too much. The board meeting for January was a great start to the New Year with some hard work ahead of us. As you all are aware, we passed the 2007 budget in December and at the January BOD meeting Bruce Van Apeldoorn gave a great presentation on what we can expect to see in the upcoming year. Bruce, Joe Peck and Fred Elliott did a wonderful job putting all of it together. We as a chapter look forward to using some new accounting practices that will allow us all to understand just how the budget and cash flow are going. It is with sadness that we had Larry Schulman turn in his resignation as treasurer so that he could run for National President of the Jewish War Veterans. We will miss Larry and all the hard work he has done to make Chapter 20 run with the limited funds we have experienced in the last couple of years, and on the same note we congratulate him on his new position. To fill the remainder of Larry’s term through 2007 the board has appointed Ray Melens as the new chapter treasurer. Thanks, Ray, and I hope your arm heals from all the twisting that I had to do.

Also, the Board has voted to move the Chapter 20 office to the Ira Jacobson Post (top of the stairs on the left) and the move will be done in the next couple of weeks. The phone number will remain the same and the new address will be a post office box soon to be announced. The move will end up saving us a considerable amount of money, allow a little separation from the store, and make it possible to visit it on off hours. More info to follow. As always, we will be looking for volunteers to help us man the office. As part of this move we will no longer have a chapter administrative person to work in the office as we have had in the past. We will be redoing the room over and should be done by this issue. I would like to thank Chuck, Mickey Mouse and all those who helped make this move happen. Please stop up on meeting nights to see the office and have a cup of coffee.

Again on Saturday, January 6, I went with Ron Trovato to visit the chapter in the Attica Correctional Facility. Great meeting with the vets, but a long ride in my toaster putting all of it together. I do have that Ronbo served with Bill Clinton in Vietnam, or was it Al Gore; can’t remember.

In January we said farewell to two brother Vietnam Veterans. First, my friend Fred Ostrow who served two tours as a Recon Marine in Vietnam, being wounded twice, and the other a veteran from this area who lived in San Diego after Nam and was laid to rest here. In both cases it made me proud to see how well our Honor Guard does in these hard times for us all. Rest in peace, my brothers.

Lastly, keep the chapter in mind in this year’s United Way Campaign. Our number is 2458.

Together then together now
Ken Moore, President

VVA Chapter 20
Board Meeting Schedule
January 8, 2007
February 5, 2007
March 5, 2007
April 2, 2007
May 7, 2007
June 4, 2007
July 9, 2007
August 6, 2007
September 10, 2007
October 1, 2007
November 5, 2007
December 3, 2007

Note changes in July & October dates.

Membership Meeting Attendance
January 11, 2007

Dick Oleksyn, Tom Puff,
Linda DeMetry, Bob DeMetry, Kathy Gleason, Tom Gleason,
Dick McDermott, Dan Corona,
Skip O'Brien, Ken Moore, Nick DeLeo,
William Wallace, Gary Redlinski,
Cecil Young, Fred Elliott, Marie Davias,
Larry Schulman, Lee Kauffman,
Phil Nasca, Wally Gekoski,
Bonnie Gokoski, Chuck Macaluso,
Bill Meminger, Bruce McDaniel,
Bruce VanApeldoorn, Ray Melens,
Ken Allocco, Steve Mros, Gary Rodas,
Ted Wilkinson, Hank Walse

Don’t miss these upcoming meetings!

Please come and support your Chapter!

All meetings are held at the Ira Jacobson American Legion Post, 90 St. John’s Park, unless otherwise noted.

Membership Meetings
2nd Thursday of the month beginning at 7:30 P.M.

February 8, 2007
March 8, 2007
April 12, 2007 (6:00 P.M.)
May 10, 2007
June 14, 2007
July 12, 2007
August 9, 2007
September 13, 2007
October 11, 2007
November 8, 2007
(no December meeting)

Annual Dinnette & Awards,
April 21, 2007

Memorial Day Picnic,
May 28, 2007
Marching Unit
Ray Melens, Commander

Seeing as how I didn’t do a January report for the BTL, I would like to start out this report by saying “HAPPY NEW YEAR” to you all and I hope everyone had a great holiday season this year.

The months of November and December turned out to be pretty busy for myself personally as well as for MU/HG business. From the MU/HG side here are some of the events that have taken place since my last report.

During December, I met with a brother Marine Vietnam Veteran to discuss his funeral details. It is a very hard thing to do, sit down with someone who knows his time is very limited here and wants to make sure his final requests are taken care of. Also in December we received word that once again another local MIA’s remains had been positively identified. They were identified as being those of SFC. Francis G. Graziosi. The family is planning a spring or early summer repatriation service with full military honors. Of course members of our Honor Guard will be partaking in the service. Until we have the exact date and other details of this service, I will not be able to ask for the necessary volunteers. When I do know, I will send out the word right away.

Then in January, the Honor Guard was asked to partake in the funeral service and military honors for Marine Vietnam Veteran, Fred Ostrom. I knew who Fred was, but never got to know him personally. After listening to all the words of praise bestowed upon Fred at his memorial service, I could tell that he was a true veteran’s advocate. Always stood up for what he believed in and was not afraid to tell you what that was. Also by the number of those that attended to pay respects to Fred and his family, I can say that he truly touched a lot of lives in one way or another. It was a huge turn out for both days of his services.

On the last day of Fred’s service, I got another phone call from an Army Vietnam Veteran’s sister asking for our Honor Guard to help in rendering military honors for her brother, Robert Eddy. The way I understand it, it seems that Robert had a very difficult time adjusting to life back in the States upon his return from duty in Vietnam and ended up never returning to his home town here in Rochester and decided to live the life of a destitute person in Mexico, where he eventually died. His sister asked that we partake in his memorial service that she wanted to hold to pay honor and respect to her brother. Members of the Honor Guard did attend and made sure that Robert got his proper due respect and military honors bestowed upon him.

Due to stringent financial cutbacks this year in the Chapter’s budget there are several events that the MU & HG will not be able to do this upcoming year. The one major event is the annual Washington, D.C. trip for POW/MIA Recognition Day in September. It’s not only the MU/HG feeling the pinch but other committees as well. Several of our other events we may still be able to hold, but I want to have a meeting with all MU/HG members very soon before our annual meeting in April. In fact this meeting may have taken place already in January after I wrote this report. We, as a unit, need to discuss several options that we have to continue to hold some of our annual events that we have had for the past several years - just for an example, our annual MU/HG dinner dance, the MU annual picnic and others. I will inform all MU/HG members of this meeting when I can get the hall at Ira for us to conduct the meeting.

I have also been informed that long time Marching Unit and Honor Guard member, Bill Meminger is moving to Georgia sometime in March. Bill has been a devoted and sometimes stubborn member of the Unit for many years. I’m sure all the members join with me in wishing Bill well in his new home in Georgia. Also I have been told by Dick D’Imperio that he is quitting the Marching Unit and Honor Guard also. Since the inception of the Honor Guard, Dick has been my right hand man, always there to help out with protocol and the correct way to conduct a service. Dick will also be missed by me and the other members. Dick also has been a very devoted member and yes, stubborn sometimes, too. We wish Dick well in all his future endeavors as well.

As you can see from the above paragraph, our numbers are beginning to dwindle. I strongly encourage and ask present members that have been thinking about joining the Marching Unit or Honor Guard to please do so now. Also, we need to recruit new members into Chapter 20 as well. So everyone should do what they can to recruit new members into the Chapter and the MU/HG.

As always the Honor Guard will meet at 7:00 PM at Ira on the second Thursday of the month. This is the same night as the general membership meeting. We meet upstairs just before the regular membership meeting. Anyone that is interested or wants to join the Unit is encouraged to attend a meeting and see for themselves what goes on and what the Unit is about.

Until next month…AT EASE!!!!!!
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.

I feel ____________________________ should be considered for the Veterans Service Award because of his/her involvement in:

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

I feel ____________________________ should be considered for the Don and Rori Murrel Humanitarian Award because of his/her involvement in:

Nominations are due by March 16, 2007 so that the Awards Committee can make final decisions in time for the Annual Dinner.

Nomination forms are to be dropped off at the Chapter office or mailed to 1199 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14609, to arrive no later than March 16, 2007.
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20
AWARD NOMINATION FORM

VETERANS SERVICE AWARD

The Veterans Service Award is given to the member or members who have demonstrated outstanding dedication in improving the condition of Vietnam Veterans and/or the community, and have been active in Chapter 20. Any member is eligible for this award.

I feel ______________________________ should be considered for the Veterans Service Award because of his/her involvement in:

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Community Service Award is given to the group or organization that has demonstrated a strong sense of community service and favorably recognizes and relates to Vietnam Veterans issues.

I feel ______________________________ should be considered for the Veterans Service Award because:

Nominations are due by March 16, 2007 so that the Awards Committee can make final decisions in time for the Annual Dinner. Nomination forms are to be dropped off at the Chapter office or mailed to 1199 East Main Street, Rochester, New York 14609, to arrive no later than March 16, 2007.
POW-MIA
Gail Bologna-Melens, Chairperson

It seems like we are going to have a good year for returning POW-MIA’s. The total is 1,794 as of this writing. Rochester now has 8 missing and unaccounted for. That number is down from 12.

The Department of Defense has announced that the remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and are returning to their families for burial with full military honors.

Sgt. 1st Class Francis G. Graziosi is among the three. He is from Rochester. Capt. Herbert C. Crosby, of Donalsonville, Georgia and Sgt. 1st Class Wayne C. Allen of Tewksbury, Massachusetts are the other two who were identified.

On January 10, 1970, (which was also Francis Graziosi’s 19th birthday) these men were returning to their base at Chu Lai, South Vietnam, aboard a UH-1C Huey helicopter after completing a combat assault mission from Tien Phouc, South Vietnam. Due to bad weather, their helicopter went down over Quang Nam Province. A search was initiated for the crew, but no sign of the helicopter or crew was spotted. Francis Graziosi was a member of the 178th Aviation Company on verbal orders to the 71st Aviation Company at Chu Lai, South Vietnam, when he became missing.

In 1989, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam gave the U.S. specialists 25 boxes containing the remains of the U.S. servicemen related to this incident. Later that year, additional remains and Crosby’s identification tag were obtained from a Vietnamese refugee.

Between 1992 and 1999, joint U.S./S.R.V. teams, led by the JPAC conducted three investigations in Ho Chi Minh City and two investigations in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province (formerly Quang Nam Province). A Vietnamese informant in Ho Chi Minh City told the team he knew where the remains of as many as nine American servicemen were buried. He agreed to lead the team to the burial site. In 1994, the team excavated the site and recovered a metal box and several bags containing human remains, including those of these three soldiers.

Francis George Graziosi will be buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery where his parents are buried. This will be in the spring. VVA Chapter 20 will be there to welcome him home. When I know definitely what the date is Ray will let the Honor Guard know and I will have it in my article.

Our monthly flag give away has had to be discontinued due to the financial constraints of the Chapter. But there are always decals available for your vehicle window. Also, available are necklaces for $8.00. They are either black and white for our POW/MIA’s or red, yellow and green for our Vietnam campaign ribbon colors. See me at the meeting where they are available.

Nominating Committee
Chuck Macaluso, Chair

ANNUAL ELECTION 2007

Members please note changes made to Chapter Policy Manual last year.

March 6, 2006 BOD Meeting
• Motion approved that you need to be a member for 30 days before you can vote in the Annual Election.
• Elections will take place on the second Thursday in April. Only paid members with a DD214 on file by 28 February of previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (28 February 2007 to vote April 2007)
• Quorum is defined as 10% of VVA 20 membership as of 28 February of the previous fiscal year.

April 3, 2006 BOD Meeting
• The Chapter 20 Nominating Committee is to present a slate of candidates by February 15th of each election year to meet VVA Constitution’s minimum 30 day notice to the membership via names in the March BTL.
• Membership will be allowed to cast their vote at the office on Wednesday, prior to the Annual Meeting, from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm and Thursday (day of Annual Meeting) from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and at the Annual meeting.

July 10, 2006 BOD Meeting
• The VVA Constitution states “Additional persons may be nominated by any member at Annual Meeting.” These candidates will fall under the category of Floor Nominations.
• Floor nominated candidates can only receive votes from members present at the Annual Meeting. A Special Note” stating such will be placed in the March and April BTL issues.
Front and Center

30th at the Hyatt Hotel in Bethesda all year long. (Treasurer) and Steve Christman and Officers such as Dale Thurston we thank their Board of Directors with the leadership it deserves and Cottrell for providing the Chapter recruitment and fund raising. We continues to make progress in member the Chapter is doing well and con-
cility sent along Holiday Greetings at the Groveland Correctional Fa-
Martin Hall from Chapter 603

Veterans Incarcerated
Ron Trovato, Chair

Martin Hall from Chapter 603 at the Groveland Correctional Facility sent along Holiday Greetings from the guys there. He noted that the Chapter is doing well and continues to make progress in member recruitment and fund raising. We recognize Chapter President Wayne Cottrell for providing the Chapter with the leadership it deserves and we thank their Board of Directors and Officers such as Dale Thurston (Treasurer) and Steve Christman (Secretary) for their contributions all year long.

Ernie Bullock spent November 30th at the Hyatt Hotel in Bethesda Maryland attending the National GAINES Center Workshop there which addressed state planning and coordination of mental health, substance abuse and criminal justice programs directed at veterans, especially those who have suffered from combat trauma. The workshop focused on institutional and community corrections programs and representatives of Federal, State and private organizations were in attendance. Ernie said the meeting was a great beginning and that the views of VVA were respected and well received by those present.

On December 15th, I dropped off over 100 sets of hats and scarves made for me by the vets of Chapter 205 at the Auburn Correctional facility to School #9 and School #33 in Rochester. A local retailer donated 200 pairs of kids’ gloves to go along with the hats and scarves, so it was a special day indeed. As always we were warmly welcomed by the office staff at #9 School on N. Clinton Avenue, and they were especially grateful this year. Your heart goes out to these schools because the kids are in such need. We visited for a while at #9 School and then we were off to #33 School on Webster Avenue. This year we were ushered into Mrs. Smith’s first grade class where the children picked out items that matched their coats. Then other classes came through until all the items were gone. I saw firsthand the need and the joy these children showed us in receiving these surprise gifts. Photos were taken of a fellow probation officer and myself with the kids and we appreciated the kindness showed by Mrs. Smith and her class to us. It was indeed the true meaning of Christmas. Thanks to all the guys at Auburn who worked so hard to make such an uplifting day possible!

The Probation Officers Association is winding up their clothing drive at the Probation Dept. and we thank POA President Jennifer Ball for her hard work in organizing this event. Also, I need to thank the Thrift Store for saving yarn for me for the guys at Auburn.

Conning Kenny Moore into thinking I was taking him to a wet T-shirt contest in Buffalo, we arrived at Attica on January 6, 2007 for Chapter 489’s membership meeting. Normally Sgt. Mark Schieffer escorts us to the meeting, but this time we had to find it on our own as he was nowhere to be found. It is easy to get lost, however. Just before we began our new jobs in the facilities laundry, we were ushered into the meeting where we met with Jack Adams (President), Phil Glazier (Secretary) and Sgt. Schieffer. Ken Moore answered questions regarding benefits and we discussed implementing a fund raiser which hopefully will allow the veterans of Chapter 489 to donate to the needy of the Attica community. Phil noted that this would help keep a sense of purpose in the members there and we could not agree more. Although things are moving slowly, we are going in the right direction with Chapter 489 and I want to thank all these guys at Attica, especially those who regularly attend Chapter meetings.

The following is an excerpt from a letter which Ron received from Groveland Chapter 603, dated December 15, 2006:

What a wonderful collection of reporting that went into the Final Tribute to James E. Widener. That is why Between the Lines is number one.

Thank you.
Chapter 20 thanks the following sponsors of our 25th Anniversary Celebration:

Gold Sponsor: Dakota Restaurant
Dave & Sherri Dansig, Owners

Silver Sponsors: Bausch & Lomb
Excellus Health Plan, Inc.
Rochester Gas & Electric
Don & Sue Charles

Bronze Sponsors: Monroe Litho, Inc.
Wegmans Food Market

Can You Help?
The New York State Veterans’ Home at Batavia needs your help!

Chapter 20 is planning to help out at the Restaurant Nights on May 1 and 2, 2007, from 4:00 P.M. to approximately 7:00 P.M. Help will also be needed on June 23 for a picnic for the residents. For more information or to volunteer, contact Dick Oleksyn, 585-663-5255.

Vietnam Veterans of America CHAPTER 20
Car Donation, LLC

Call 224-8484
Vietnam Veterans of America

THRIFT STORE, CHAPTER 20, LLC

1199 East Main Street, Rochester, NY 14609

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Car Donations 8:30am - 5:00pm
Truck Pick-up: 9am - 4:30pm
(weather permitting)

~ Delivery Available ~
Truck Pick-up #482-8016
Thrift Store #482-8036

All donations go to the Thrift Store at the address above.
Speakers Bureau
Geno Lenyk, Chair

Hello to all of my fellow Chapter 20 members. I’m here to tell you that I’m pleased to be reporting to you again as Speaker for the first time in a couple of years!

Since being selected to take the reins of the Speaker Committee, I’ve had 5 official engagements this past fall: 3 Memorial tours and two High School/Middle School visits.

All 3 Memorial tours were in October, and all 3 were repeat schools. Bruce Brown from Pittsford-Mendon brought a group again this year. These were seniors so I try to work in the age factor – they’re about the same age a lot of us were when we went in. I think that makes it more real for them. They can visualize themselves in our shoes a little better! It was a good visit again, as always. Thanks to Bruce for working this trip into his annual lesson plan.

Patrick Adams brought a large contingent from Holy Cross Middle School. This group is normally split up into two groups and I take them through separately. The group that isn’t on the tour goes on a scavenger hunt for information that Patrick has put together for them. It works out well – obviously I have to adjust my spiel to allow for the younger age of the kids, but I think they go away better informed. Thanks to Patrick for making this an annual event, also.

And lastly, Kim Dalheim brought her contingent of French exchange students for my third experience with them. They alternate years with the Livonia kids. They are from a school in Brittany. They’ve consistently been very well informed and politically aware – which leads to very good questions! I’m able to get some of the history of our involvement there after the French era that they relate to very well. We get to discuss the similarities and differences between Dien Bien Phu and Khe Sahn, for example! As always, a great visit – they bring me cookies, too! Thanks to Kim for keeping this relationship ongoing!

Then in November I got an invitation from Kim Breed at Red Jacket HS/MS and went out there and spoke to an auditorium full of primarily 7th graders, with one group of seniors sprinkled in the back! That mix made it a little more difficult to set a tone for the age groups – but, we got over that pretty quickly! This was a first timer for me and I hope to see them again in the future.

The last one was an invitation from Nick Benedetti at Medina HS. He had a group of seniors I talked to in their auditorium. It was another first time engagement and we had a good experience that made up for the length of the trip! Who knew it was an hour away!!!

That’s what I’ve been up to recently as your Speaker representative – so if you’re interested in volunteering for duty with the group – please e-mail me or call me anytime to let me know. I realize several of you have told me verbally at meetings that you’d be interested, but I’m starting to lose that short-term memory acuity! So, please remind me through the ether or the phone lines! My e-mail is GLenyk@ntid.rit.edu and my phones are H – 423-0206 and W – 475-6481. Thanks. And until the next update – Shut My Mouth!

Help Build
The Veterans Walk
at the Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Any past or present member of the United States Armed Services, Active or Reserve, is eligible for an engraved paver brick. For information and an order form, please contact the Chapter 20 office at 482-7396.
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

Name: _______________________________ Date of Birth: ________________ Sex: M / F
Address: _______________________________ Home Phone: (_____) __________________
City: _______________________________ Work Phone: (_____) __________________
Zip: __________ Country: __________ E-mail Address: _________________________ W / H
Chapter # ______ (if known) __________ Sponsor: ______________________________

I am not a Vietnam veteran, but I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families.
Please accept my donation: _______________ ☐ AVVA Membership
$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.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Between the Lines is published monthly by Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Chapter 20, or the Vietnam Veterans of America, its officers, board of directors, or the general membership. No subscription fee is charged for this publication, and inclusion on the mailing list is available on request. Between the Lines can also be seen on the Chapter 20 website, www.vva20.org.

We welcome letters to the editor, poetry, original articles, and suggestions. Submissions can be sent to: Between the Lines, 1199 E. Main Street, Rochester, New York 14609. If you want to submit something on disk, call the office (585-482-7396) to check on compatibility. If you want your manuscript returned, include a self-addressed envelope with postage. We reserve the right not to use materials we think are not appropriate for the publication, and to edit for space and clarity. We'd also like to have a phone number as well as your name in case there are any questions.

The deadline for submissions intended for a particular month's issue is the 5th of the preceding month. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the first business day following the 5th.
In partnership with numerous cultural, educational, and faith-based organizations, George Eastman House is leading a community-wide conversation on genocide and war.

Join us in exploring how photography and photographs make us all witnesses to world events.

War and the Photograph: Four Exhibitions

On view January 20–April 22, 2007

Reflections from the Heart
Photographs by David Seymour

DARFUR/DARFUR
Know War

On view February 17–May 6, 2007

Ghosts in the Landscape
Vietnam Revisited
Photographs by Craig Barber

Reflections from the Heart is made possible by the generous support of Ben Shneiderman with additional support from EPSON USA Inc. Major support for Ghosts in the Landscape is provided by Bank of America and Dominion with additional support from Bostwick & Sullivan.

Ron Haviv. GIRLS OF DARFUR, 2005. Young girls leave a camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) in North Darfur to gather firewood. For some the work will take more than 7 hours and leave them exposed to attacks. © Ron Haviv/VII Hasted Hunt.

900 East Avenue | Rochester, NY | (585) 271-3361
Stand Up For Veterans:
Pledge Your 2007 United Way Dollars to the VOC

"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."
- President John F. Kennedy (Inaugural Address, 1961)

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, this famous quote by President Kennedy rang true in hearts of thousands of American men and women who responded by joining the military. Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly apparent that many of those who answered this call to duty are now suffering a war of a different sort—an internal war of nightmares and flashbacks related to their wartime experiences. Please make a contribution through the 2007 United Way Donor Choice Program so that we can continue Serving Those Who Serve. Designate Veterans Outreach Center and include our ID number—1119. For more info, call 585.546.1081 or visit www.veteransoutreachcenter.org

UNITED WAY

CHAPTER 20
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
DESIGNATED DONOR NUMBER
2458
PLEASE DONATE

CHILI/CROCKPOT COOKOFF

Two categories:
CHILI (any variety)
CROCKPOT (e.g. - soup, stew, casserole)

NO ENTRY FEE!

Thursday, March 8th - Ira Jacobson Post

Prizes awarded!
Registration begins at 5:30pm
For questions, call Kathy at 978-1331
Peter M. Galle  
Email: PGALLE5000@aol.com  
Landline: (585) 272-9873  

http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Awards/REPUBLIC%20OF%20VIETNAM%20CAMPAIGN%20MEDAL1.html

**REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL**

1. **Description:** A Gold six pointed star with rays, 32cm in diameter, superimposed by a White enamelled star, 42cm in diameter, overall in center a Green disc, 18cm in diameter, with the outline of the Vietnamese Country with a Red flame of three rays between North and South Vietnam. On the reverse of the medal is a circle with a designation band containing the word “CHIEN-DICH” (Campaign) at the top and “BOI-TINH” (Medal) at the bottom. Across the center of the circle is the word “VIET-NAM”.

2. **Ribbon:** The ribbon is 1 3/8 inches wide and consists of the following stripes: 1/16 inch Gherkin Green 67183; 3/16 inch White 67101; 5/16 inch Gherkin Green; 1/4 inch White; 5/16 inch Gherkin Green; 3/16 inch White; and 1/16 inch Gherkin Green.

3. **Criteria:** The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal is awarded to personnel who meet one of the following requirements:
   b. Served outside the geographical limits of the Republic of Vietnam and contributed direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam and Armed Forces for six months. Such individuals must meet the criteria established for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (for Vietnam) or the Vietnam Service Medal, to qualify for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.  
   c. Six months service is not required for individuals who were wounded by hostile forces; killed in action or otherwise in line of duty; or captured by hostile forces...

5. **Background:**
   a. The Secretary of Defense approved a request for approval of foreign awards to US Military personnel on 7 February 1966. As a result of this approval, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with device bar (1960-) was awarded to US Armed Forces personnel by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam per Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Order No. 48, dated 24 March 1966. The acceptance, criteria and description was announced in the Federal Register, Volume 31, No. 147, 30 July 1966 (Title 32, Code of Federal Regulation 47).
   b. The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Memorandum 2655 prescribed there were two devices to be worn on the ribbon. The first device was for the period 8 March 1949 - 20 July 1954 and is not authorized for wear by American Military Personnel. The second period was from 1 January 1960 with the last period to be decided after the war was over. The ending period remains blank, since the Republic of Vietnam Government ceased to exist before the ending period was established. The devices for the medal are in two sizes - - the large size is 1 13/64 inches in width and is worn on the miniature decoration and service ribbon bar.
   c. Since the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal is a foreign award, it is not issued by the United States Government. The medal may be purchased from commercial sources.
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: Ray Melens ..................392-2079 (h)

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POW/MIA..........................Gail Bologna-Melens 392-2079
Scholarship .........................Alice Popen 247-1024
Social Events .......................Dick Oleksyn 663-5255
Speakers Bureau .................Geno Lenyk 423-0206
Veterans Affairs/Benefits.....Pat Pudetti 482-2387
Veterans Walk .....................Chuck Macaluso 225-8288
Volunteer Coordinator .......Kathy Gleason 978-1331

WEB SITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Veterans Widows International Network
members@aol.com/vetwindows

NYS Department Health:
www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets

Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park:
www.vietnammemorial.org

Operation Welcome Home:
www.operationwelcomehome.org

VVA New York State Council:
www.nyvietnamvets.org

Region 2 Director:
www.region2vva.com

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” ...........800-342-3358
VA Medical Center in Batavia........585-297-1000
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 ......800-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., Beth Affeldt .482-8036
Donation Pick-up, Beth Affeldt ..........482-8016
VVA Vehicle Donations, Beth Affeldt ....224-8484
VVA Chapter 20 .........................482-7396
bdivico@vva20.org

VVA CH. 20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG. ATTENDANCE

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X=Present  E=Excused  A=Absent