2007 Newsletter of the Year!

2007 National Convention,
Springfield Illinois

National Convention Reports
PG. 11

A Chance Encounter

Together Then...Together Now
Well, it’s been another busy month at the chapter. I got to spend some peaceful time with my Sandra Dee on a short four days in Nassau to kick back and relax. Weather, food and fun were the order of business. Upon returning home for one day, it was off to the VVA National Convention in Springfield, Illinois. It was with sadness that for health issues some of our delegates were not able to attend and I hope they are feeling better.

On July 17, at 6:00 AM, I entered the Rochester Airport to find Rambo Trovato sleeping in the entrance with his new garbage bag luggage scattered around the lobby. After a short flight to Washington DC, we spent a five hour layover for our flight to Springfield. It was a long five hours having to hear all about his dreams of becoming a rock star, hearing his renditions of “Proud Mary,” Devos “Whip It” and a neverending “I Lost my Heart In San Francisco.” We arrived in Springfield at 5:00 PM and met with many old friends from VVA around the country.

The next morning we entered the hall with much surprise, to find that the New York delegation was seated up front. President John Rowan opened the convention with the posting of the colors, Pledge to the flag and a prayer. One of the highlights of the morning was an appearance by country singers Big and Rich, who performed the hit, “8th Of November,” a song about Niles Harris who was wounded while serving in Vietnam in 1965 with the 173rd Airborne, one of the worst battles of the Vietnam war. He was present on stage as they played the video of his story and Big and Rich sang. Another highlight of the opening, a performance by Lee Greenwood of his hit “God Bless the USA,” was a moving moment. His performance and talk impressed me that he is a true patriot and he sings this song from his heart and truly supports our nation’s veterans.

The convention moved along faster and more smoothly than others I have attended in the past. Our own Fred Elliott did an outstanding job in presenting for vote and decisions the proposed constitutional amendments to our national constitution. It was with great pride and pleasure that when John Rowan presented the award for convention newsletters to a chapter with 200 plus members, Chapter 20’s Between the Lines (again for I think the 5th time) was the winner. I may have accepted the award on behalf of the chapter, but the credit truly goes to Bruce McDaniel and those who contribute to it on a monthly basis. Thanks to all.

The days and nights were full of hard work and long hours. Wednesday night the delegates divided up attending committee meetings. I first attended the Veterans Benefit meeting and then on to the Healthcare meeting. In both, we reviewed the proposed resolutions and gave our input. After a long day we finally quit at about 8:00 PM. Thursday and Friday were much of the same, except that on Thursday night we had the Region 2 caucus to hear the candidates talk that were running for positions in VVA National. I have to say that our neighbor to the West, Chapter 77’s President Pat Welch truly stood head and shoulders above the rest and I am happy to say that Pat was elected to the National Board. The election process was flawless and fast.

The Banquet on Saturday night was again one of the best I have ever attended with performances by “The Ding a Lings,” Dean Martin’s Goldiggers that performed the first time in 37 years together. Another highlight was the appearance of Nancy Sinatra, who came across to me as a person who truly cares for our nation’s veterans and for the years since Nam has kept in touch with those who she met and touched.

Well, enough about the convention. See the other reports in this issue for details.

A couple of other things -- The Moving Wall is moving along smoothly, and keep in mind we NEED VOLUNTEERS to make this happen. The Chapter’s Vetsconnect will be teaming up with Monroe County to host an event to inform veterans as to the benefits due to them - More information to follow. Also with the Vetsconnect, Chapter 20 will be featured in The Veteran next month with the project of giving the coins to the new vets.

Lastly, the “Ride to the Dakota” motorcycle run netted the chapter $8,500 and I thank all those who helped in this effort.

Well, till next month I wish all those who are having health issues a speedy recovery and I will keep them in my thoughts. Till next month - Stay safe!

Together then...Together now.

Ken Moore, President

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**Membership Meeting Attendance**

**August 9, 2007**

Tom & Kathy Gleason  
Nick DeLeo, Joe Peck  
Rose Rossi-Williams  
Bill Meminger, Lee Kauffman  
Pat Pudetti, Sandy & Ken Moore  
Mike Kelly, Tom Puff, Steve Mros  
Dan Corona, Dick Oleksyn  
Tim Sturm, Bruce VanApeldoorn  
Mike Sanfilippo, Ralph Pascale  
Chuck Macaluso, Phil Nasca  
Dick McDermott, Joe Swystun  
David Bair, Lee Reisnaer  
Gary Redlinski, Joe Harkness  
Tom Emerson, Russ Chimera (guest)  
Pat Marianelli, Ron Trovato  
Ray Melens, Craig Wirth  
Max Lill, Rusty Kurtz  
Glen Peck (guest)

**September 10, 2007**

**October 1, 2007**

**November 5, 2007**

**December 3, 2007**

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**VVA Chapter 20 Board Meeting Schedule**

September 10, 2007  
October 1, 2007  
November 5, 2007  
December 3, 2007

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**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 Car Donation, LLC**

Call 224-8484
Another parade season has come to an end. This past summer was a great year for the Marching Unit. In every judged parade that the Unit marched in, they won. They won either first or second place and in one parade, they brought home a trophy, which is now on display upstairs at Ira, along with many other ones that have been earned in past parades during the years. The members of the Marching Unit can be very proud of their accomplishments this past year. They helped to bring in some money to the Chapter as well as honoring and remembering those that did not return home, and represented Chapter 20 with honor while doing so as well. Great job again this year guys.

This month will find members of the Marching Unit and Honor Guard very busy conducting ceremonies at the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall when it arrives at Gates Memorial Park in the town of Gates. I know from experience that they will again represent all Vietnam Veterans and Chapter 20 with the utmost pride and respect while participating in the ceremonies. I will have more on the Wall’s visit hopefully in next month’s report.

Just because the Honor Guard will not be traveling to Washington, DC this year for National POW/MIA Recognition Day does not mean that they will not be doing something to help keep the awareness issue alive. This year National POW/MIA recognition day falls on Sept. 21st. It is always the third Friday of September. The plan at this time is for the Honor Guard to march into the POW/MIA Memorial in Charlotte at 7 PM. We will place a wreath and conduct a brief ceremony, much like we do in Washington. So if any of you have ever wanted to see how we do it in Washington, this is your chance to witness it first hand. Please attend and show your support for our local POW/MIA's and all the POW/MIAs. Again, if we as veterans don’t REMEMBER, then who will? Let’s have a big crowd there to show our elected officials that we still expect a full accounting of all our POW/MIAs.

On Saturday July 21st, members of Chapter 20’s Honor Guard partook in the dedication ceremony for the James E. Widener Memorial Garden at Churchville-Chili High School. It was a great day and a great ceremony. There was a flyover of a CH-53 Marine Corps helicopter. It was a flyover to remember. At the end of the ceremony a POW/MIA flag was presented to James’ father, Jay. We folded the flag in such a way that when presented what you saw were the words “YOU ARE NOT
FORGOTTEN”. Again I can not say enough about the Widener family and especially Dad. What a proud and patriotic family they are.

In November, when a large part of us will be in Washington DC for the 25th anniversary of the WALL on Veterans Day, I have asked Tom Puff to conduct a service in my place, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. Any Marching Unit members that will not be going on the trip and can help in partaking in the ceremony are asked to contact Tom and let him know. Just because some of us won’t be here, doesn’t mean that there still can’t be a service remembering our 280 Brothers enshrined there in Highland Park.

Hopefully at the October monthly meeting, members of the Honor Guard can get back to having their regular monthly meeting before the membership meeting. They meet at 7 PM upstairs at Ira, just before the regular monthly membership meeting. All Honor Guard members are invited to attend as well as anyone that may wish to address the Honor Guard for any reason. Also, anyone that is even thinking about joining is invited.

In next month’s report I hope to have pictures of the Wall’s visit as well as some from the Marching Unit picnic.

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

POW-MIA
GAIL BOLOGNA-MELEN'S, CHAIRPERSON

There are four servicemen missing from Iraqi Freedom. They are:

- Sgt. Matt Maupin of Ohio, Captured 4/9/2004
- Spc. Alex R. Jimenez, Massachusetts, Captured 5/12/2007

There is also one serviceman missing from the Persian Gulf War.

From the Vietnam War we now have 1,870 servicemen missing and unaccounted for.

Corporal Jim Moshier, USMC, was repatriated August 15, 2005, and identification released on April 5, 2007.

Technician Chief Roland R. Pineau, USN, was also repatriated from South Vietnam on August 15, 2005, and identification was released on June 12, 2007.

Lt. Col. Michael J. Masterson, USAF, was recovered in Laos on August 4, 2005, and the identification date was February 7, 2006.

Lt. Col. James H. Ayres, of Pampa, Texas and Lt. Col. Charles W. Stratton, of Dallas, Texas, both USAF. On Jan. 3, 1971, these two men crewed an F-11 Phantom II aircraft departing Korat Royal Thai AFB on a nighttime strike mission of enemy targets in Savannakhet Province, Laos. Shortly after Ayres initiated a target run, the crew of other aircraft in the flight observed a large explosion. No one witnessed an ejection or heard beeper signals, and communication was lost with the aircraft. Hostile activity in the area prevented search and rescue attempts.

Please REMEMBER all of our missing and unaccounted for from all of our wars. It could have been any one of us.

Don’t forget THE WALL will be coming to Gates Memorial Park September 7-9. On Saturday night we will be holding a candle light vigil and reading the names of those still POW-MIA from Vietnam. We will be starting our vigil at 8 PM. I will need name readers and other volunteers. Contact me at home if you can help 392-2079.

We will not be going to THE WALL in Washington, DC, this year so this is a chance to see some of what the Honor Guard does when we go to pay honor and homage to our POW-MIAs on National POW-MIA Recognition Day in September.
At the Agent Orange Committee Hearing, it was stressed to those present to be tested for exposure to dioxin herbicides from their tour in Vietnam. There are no longer any questions asked about the location in country, since service in Vietnam is the only requirement. Everyone was urged to set up an appointment with a VVA Service Officer to start the VA Claim process and to be proactive by enticing all Vietnam veterans to be informed of this extremely important health related subject.

Agent Orange and all of the other dioxins were also sprayed in Guam, South Korea, and Vietnam villages built for training at stateside military bases in the late 1960’s to early 1970’s. Exposure is transferable to children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans through a gene passed on from their father or grandfather. At this time the only birth defect recognized by the VA is spina-bifida. A Florida based advocacy group will publish an article in an upcoming issue of The Veteran titled “Children of Vietnam Veterans With Birth Defects: A Vietnam Legacy.”

On the VVA website, a program called Sam the Service Officer will be started to answer questions from the membership regarding cancer-related problems among Vietnam veterans. It was noted there is a need to place advertisements in all medical college journals to inform new doctors of Agent Orange related illnesses with patients in the age group of those who may have served during Vietnam. Another suggestion was to publish articles in the Journal of the American Medical Association about exposure to these herbicides and its toxic effects on Vietnam veterans as they start to enter their golden years.

Prostate cancer is highly prevalent in Vietnam veterans and you must have a Prostate Specific Antigen test performed by your family doctor before contacting a service officer. Updates from the American Prostate Society will be published in The Veteran and listed on National’s website. Vietnam service automatically places a veteran in Category 6 in the VA, and all are eligible to receive health care. Don’t hesitate to visit your local VA facility to become registered in the system.

It is imperative that Vietnam veterans must contact the VA to inform the health care professionals of all service related health problems and to request an Agent Orange screening test. This will allow the VA to add as much data to identify potential problems. The original Agent Orange Self Help Guide is in the process of being rewritten and will be a post card size document that can be mailed or handed out easily.

During the Membership hearing, the most hotly debated topic was raised once again about expanding VVA membership to include veterans of all conflicts and wars that have occurred since Vietnam. This single item could potentially break apart the organization due to strong opinions on both sides of the debate. There was a significant amount of passion among those who were in attendance.

Resolution M5-05, Support Creation of the Southwest Asia Veterans Organization, was rewritten and presented to delegates on the floor due to the proposed dissolution of the Gulf War Resources Center at a National Membership meeting. Support for Veterans of Modern Warfare by VVA was established at the 2005 Convention in Reno, Nevada.

In keeping with the VVA motto of “Never Again Shall a Generation of Veterans Abandon Another,” and to pass on the organization’s legacy of truly working on behalf of all veterans, VVA is committed to assisting these new veterans in forming their own Veterans Service Organization.

Those in support of expanding the VVA membership attempted to bring this topic to a vote on the convention floor, but it was soundly defeated by delegates who didn’t believe this was the correct process to work with veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflicts throughout the world. VVA will provide them guidance and possible financial support.

It is assumed that those who feel VVA should open membership to all war time veterans since 2 August 1990 will attempt to have it debated again at the 2009 Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, since it has
Adaptive Clothing For Military Wounded

American military personnel are serving our country in a variety of dangerous situations and locations. A number of them return seriously wounded or injured. Modern medical technology is having great success saving the lives of these heroes. However, medicine doesn’t address some of their basic needs, such as clothing that will accommodate medical devices and situations - braces, fixators, casts, prosthetics and burns. Many of the wounded troops are left with a hospital gown as their only clothing option.

SewMuchComfort (www.sewmuchcomfort.org/index.asp) is a collaborative of seamstresses from around the country modifying clothing to accommodate these needs. All clothing is provided free of charge to the soldiers.

Marianne Wink-Sturgeon lives in Fairport, N.Y. and requests donations for her part in this project. Donations of new men’s boxer shorts (sizes L, XL or XXL only, please) are requested. Donations can also be made to Marianne in the form of gift cards to Target, Kmart, Penney’s, etc. or cash (Paypal to mari6art@aol.com). Any and all donations are welcome.

Please bring your donations to the next membership meeting or call Kathy Gleason at 978-1331.

Marianne Wink-Sturgeon
17 Monroe Street
Fairport, NY 14450
mari6art@aol.com
(use this email address for Paypal donations)

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.
September 13, 2007
October 11, 2007
November 8, 2007
(no December meeting)

Bus Trip to the WALL
25th Anniversary

We still have some seats left on the bus!
Please call Dick Oleksyn at
585-663-5255 or
e-mail: roleksyn@yahoo.com
Deadline is September 14, 2007

For those people going down to D.C. by other means of transportation who would like to stay at the same hotel as those on the bus trip, please call:

Stephen Balthrop, Tour/Travel Sales Manager
Holiday Inn Capitol
Phone: 1-202-378-1164

Mention VVA Chapter 20 membership for the same price as those on the bus ($99+ tax/handling/baggage/night)

For more information on the weekend’s events, go to www.vva.org 25th anniversary site.

For all those whose have signed up, we look forward to a wonderful anniversary weekend for all who attend.
been discussed at every convention I’ve attended since 1999 in Anaheim, California. Why would a new veteran join VVA when Vietnam veterans would never have wanted to be part of a Korean or World War II veterans’ organization?

Securing DD 214’s was discussed at the committee hearing since National only retains a member’s DD 214 for 30 days after all pertinent information is recorded. Social Security numbers aren’t part of this database. This is the reason for requiring all delegates provide a copy of their DD 214 when registering. It was noted State Councils have different By Laws with respect to having members who are seeking elected office provide a copy of their DD 214. All Chapters should review their security for the storage of this important document in their possession to protect their membership. Placement of DD 214’s should be in a locked storage unit inside of a secure area with access by no more than 2 members to prevent possible abuse.

Constitution Committee hearing started by reviewing proposed amendments that were not reported out by explaining the committee’s process for their lack of support. VVA membership eligibility in the National Constitution was discussed. It was noted VVA establishes these limits and not the United States Congress. This was due to requesting an amendment to expand VVA membership eligibility to include all war veterans since 2 August 1990. It was brought up to the delegation during the Constitutional Amendment discussion and voted down by a large majority.

Another item debated was Convention Committees aren’t under the direction of VVA and it was argued these special groups should be allowed autonomy. It was pointed out in concurrence with Robert’s Rules of Order these committees are appointed by the President and serve at their discretion.

Filing an election report is required as a method to ensure VVA National has an understanding of who is actually running a Chapter or State Council. Approximately 60% of State Councils and 40% of Chapters are not providing election reports.

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.

A Word of Thanks

Thanks to the photography group from the Rochester VA Day Treatment Clinic which takes pictures at the Thrift Store for the eBay account. This group is all disabled veterans. Your help is appreciated!

National Board Elections

Congratulations to Fred Elliott on his reelection as Region 2 director.
Fred’s e-mail address: felliott@rochester.rr.com.
And congratulations to Patrick Welch, president of Chapter 77, on his election as an at large director on the National Board. His e-mail address: pwwusmc@aol.com.
Chapter 20 thanks the following sponsors of our 25th Anniversary Celebration:

Gold Sponsor: Dakota Restaurant
Dave & Sherri Danzig, Owners

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

Bronze Sponsors: Monroe Litho, Inc.
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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)

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Thrift Store #482-8036

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This was the fifth National Convention that I have attended, and for me it was just as much about the business of the convention as it was reconnecting with old friends such as Ned Foote, Grant Coates, Connie Stears, and all our other friends in Region Two. Chapter 20, despite some unavoidable last minute cancellations, was well represented by Chapter members Fred Elliot, Ken Moore, Wayne Miller, Nick DeLeo and myself. This convention had little of the controversy that past conventions have generated and business was conducted quickly and smoothly.

It was great to have regular access to VVA President, John Rowan, and the other Executive Officers and Cherie Stears, who helped lay out the floor seating, really took care of New York State because we were up front and close to all the action. The opening ceremonies were just great with country superstar Big and Rich performing their ballad, “The 8th of November,” a tribute to Niles Harris and the 48 troopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade who died on Hill 65 in Vietnam on that date.

Country artist Lee Greenwood received VVA President’s Award for Excellence in the Arts at the opening ceremonies and he sang his monster hit, “God Bless the U.S.A.” Additionally Arlo Guthrie, who was in town on unrelated business, gave an impromptu concert to arrivals on Tuesday before the convention opened, when asked to do so by some of the Vietnam Vets.

The city of Springfield was a very gracious host and the locals were indeed happy to have us in town. Chapter 20’s Between the Lines won VVA’s 2007 award for the best newsletter which Ken Moore accepted in front of the entire convention and the best T-shirt was worn by a NY delegate that said, “I am Jody now.” Clarence Page, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and editorial writer for the Chicago Tribune, was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies.

The high points for the 625 delegates were many. For me, I especially enjoyed seeing Allen Manuel from Region 7 win the VVA Commendation Medal for his work with incarcerated veterans. It was also with a great deal of pride that I saw Fred Elliot elected as Region 2 delegate and Pat Welch from NY elected to the National Board. Another highlight for me was meeting the Dean Martin Show’s Ding-a-ling, Wanda, Michelle and Suzy, as well as the very gracious Nancy Sinatra, who gave a straight from the heart speech at the closing dinner. Bill Nelson, a Vietnam Vet and Chief Executive Officer of HBO, gave away hundreds of boxed sets of the classic “Letters Home From Vietnam,” as well as “Band of Brothers.” A more down to earth guy you will never meet. They were all given awards at the dinner and The Endless Summer Band was one of the best I’ve ever heard. They played for several hours, never took a break, and went from one classic song to the next. At one point, they had the stage full of dancing delegates, waiters and waitresses, all having a ball. It was probably the best convention that I have attended.

The low point was when a NY State delegate interrupted VA Deputy Director Mansfield during his speech and Ned Foote not only did the right thing, but showed real class in apologizing to the entire as-
assembly. That delegate disappeared thereafter and let us never speak of him again.

Two things really stood out during the five days in Springfield. The first was that so many Vietnam Vets were suffering physical problems resulting from their service and were still trying to get help. The second was how great it felt to be among just Vietnam Veterans again.

**Veterans Incarcerated Committee Report -- Chaired by Wayne Miller**

There were no new resolutions to discuss at what I thought was a well attended committee report, so the resolutions passed at prior conventions all apply without modification. There continues to be a push for alternatives to incarceration, and combat military service is more frequently viewed as a mitigating circumstance for convictions. VVA remains the only active Veterans Service Organization that works with incarcerated vets. The Department of Veterans Affairs is putting more resources into veterans with release dates of a year or less but still needs to establish local agreements with correctional facilities in order to provide services. The problem of identifying veterans in the prison system continues. Jonathan Pollack was identified as the VISN 2 DVA contact for incarcerated veterans and there are several VISNs that have not yet even named a contact person. Each state now has its own version of the Felon to Freedom Handbook with recent state changes and is accessible on the DVA website. The American Corrections Association seems to also have gotten on board with the need to assist incarcerated veterans and there are several VISNs that have not yet even named a contact person. Each state now has its own version of the Felon to Freedom Handbook with recent state changes and is accessible on the DVA website. The American Corrections Association seems to also have gotten on board with the need to assist incarcerated veterans.

**Homeless Veterans Committee -- Chaired by Sandy Miller**

Another well attended committee and the proposed resolutions along with modifications were discussed. There are ongoing problems with delayed per diem payments to homeless veterans program providers by the DVA across the board. There are over 360 programs geared towards homeless veterans currently in place with the emphasis on transitional housing. There are an estimated 194,000 homeless veterans and VVA is having an impact. Information was provided on pending legislation and the Bobby Jay Award was presented to Melvin Colston from Philadelphia.

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**A Chance Encounter**

**Fred Elliott**

On Wednesday August 8th, I was on my way to see if Ronbo was still keeping the peace in Irondequoit, when my attention was distracted (an easy thing to do according to Marie). And what was it that distracted me, you ask? A tractor trailer with the POW/MIA logo prominently displayed on a panel behind the driver’s cab.

This was no mere decal but what appeared to be a real graphic about two feet by three feet – a real eye-catcher. Because the truck exited Route 104 when I did, I decided to follow it to see if I might get a chance to talk to the driver. After all, he might be able to tell me about a good truck stop!

The truck, a Western Star, leased by L.A. Thomas Trucking of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania from Kapmeyer Truck Lines went to the Home Depot on East Ridge Road. Could this be a delivery of new crayons for Ronbo? I was about to find out.

The driver, Wayne White of Pennsylvania, never heard of Ronbo but is a Vietnam Vet. Wayne served with the Marines at Nha Trang in 1969-70 in communications. He makes regular trips to Home Depot here in Rochester and believes in the POW/MIA issue strongly enough to have the logo on his truck along with huge POW/MIA mud flaps and a POW/MIA license plate on the front of the tractor. If you see Wayne and his rig in the area be sure to wave or honk or stop and say Welcome Home!

I still think there’s a Ronbo connection here that I wasn’t able to uncover.

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**News of Our Members**

Max Lill, a life member of Chapter 20, took second in the Masters National over 60 years old in the HWT class on July 21 and 22. He used Ray Charles singing “America” for his music at the finals on Saturday night and brought the house down. Between shows he was wearing a Chapter 20 T-shirt.
Support OUR TROOPS

We’re collecting items to box and send to our troops. Please bring whatever you can from the list below to the next General Membership meeting. We will announce a date shortly thereafter and ask help to prepare packages for shipment.

Likewise, if you know of someone stationed in the Middle East, give us their contact information and address so we can include them on our list. You can bring the information that evening, or email it to kathy14470@msn.com. Thanks for your help!

Items include:
- Soap (bars only)
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Shaving Cream
- Razors
- Deodorant
- Movie DVDs
- Cheez-it Crackers
- Cream Savers (or hard candy) (no chocolate as it melts!)
- Beef Jerky (a popular favorite!)
- Single stick flavor packets for bottled water (e.g. – Crystal Light On the Go)
- Chewing Gum

The following thank you letter has been received in response to one of our packages sent to the Troops in the Middle East.

July 13, 2007
Dear Mr. Gleason,

I want to thank you for your hospitality in sending a care package this way. It came in good order and I shared it among the Marines. They particularly loved the junk food; the chow hall serves nothing but wholesome, balanced meals, which isn’t necessarily a bad thing. After two days the contents were redistributed among the Marines and our Navy copsmen.

The movies were great and Rocky became the theme song for the week. Someone seemed to be humming the theme song every few hours. I haven’t seen the Arnold movie yet but that’s on deck.

We all appreciate your support and thought it sending a care package to strangers. They certainly help keep morale up.

Respectfully,
Lt Tobias
3d Battalion, 7th Marines
Ramadi, Iraq
We Did It Again!

The news came to me first by way of Ray’s e-mail, then from a message from Ken on my answering machine: at the VVA National Convention, Between the Lines received this year’s Newsletter of the Year Award. Chapter 20’s newsletter first received this award in 2000, and we have won every year since 2003.

None of this would be possible if we did not have outstanding chapter activities to report. My thanks to all those who have been part of our success: Kathy Gleason for editing assistance and putting our issues on the Chapter website, our president, committee chairs, and others who write reports and submit stories and photos, our Virtual Vet, the people at AdNet who lay out our issues and handle the printing and mailing, Karen Ballard, who updates our mailing list, our advertisers, and everyone else who in one way or another contributes to our success.

Thanks to New York State Council President Ned Foote for his support during the entry process for the award.

And I would like to thank all of you, our readers, who make the effort every month worthwhile.

Bruce McDaniel, editor

VVA CH. 20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTG. ATTENDANCE

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X=Present E=Excused A=Absent
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20
Membership Application

Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214, to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612

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.

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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, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, New York 14612 or e-mailed as a word document to: bruceimcdaniel@earthlink.net. 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.

Between the Lines runs paid advertisements to help offset the cost of publication and as a convenience to our readers. Chapter 20 does not endorse any advertiser or guarantee satisfaction with goods or services provided.
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20
P. O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612
(585) 482-7396 • Fax (585) 482-5513 • www.vva20.org

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2nd Vice President: Bruce VanApeldoorn.... 252-514-5597 (c)
Secretary: Chuck Macaluso ............225-8288 (h)
Treasurer: Ray Melens ..................392-2079 (h)

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Pete Galle
Kathy Gleason .............................978-1331
Tom Gleason ..............................978-1995
Joe Harkness .................. 889-9728 (h)
Max Lill ................................ 288-4646 x18
Jack Madigan ......................... 392-8259
Dick Oleksyn ...................... 663-5255 (h)
Ralph Pascale ...................... 755-2560 (h)
Joe Peck ................................ 734-9046 (c)
Pat Pudetti ............................ 753-6040 (w)
Ron Trovato ............................ 544-8470 (h)

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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
Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial... 585-753-7275
(enter 9; enter 2 to leave a message)
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

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION, CONT’D.
VA Medical Center in Canandaigua..... 394-2000
VA Medical Center in Bathe ............ 607-664-4000
V.V. of America in Washington ........ 800-VVA-1316
VA 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, Cindy Rowley 482-8016
VVA Vehicle Donations, Cindy Rowley 224-8484
VVA Chapter 20 .......... bdivico@vva20.org • 482-7396

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Tom Gleason ....................... naml0c@hotmail.com
Geno Lenyk ...................... gn3153@ntid.rit.edu
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Bruce McDaniel ............... brucedmcdaniel@earthlink.net
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Ralph Pascale ............... golferalph@hotmail.com
Joe Peck .......................... jpeck2@rochester.rr.com
Pat Pudetti ....................... patrickusmc1@yahoo.com
Bruce VanApeldoorn .... bvanapeldoorn@rochester.rr.com

BETWEEN THE LINES

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<td>Happy Birthday to Larry Schulman</td>
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<td>Grandparents' Day</td>
<td>Board of Directors Meeting 7pm</td>
<td>Happy Birthday to Pat Pudetti Patriot Day</td>
<td>Happy Birthday to Geno Lenyk</td>
<td>Membership Meeting 7:30 P.M.</td>
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<td>Happy Birthday to Tom Gleason and Ralph Pascale</td>
<td>Happy Birthday to Richard Isaman</td>
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If you would like your Birthday or Anniversary included on the BTL calendar, please call the office at 482-7396 or E-mail info@vva20.org