BETWEEN THE LINES
Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.,
Chapter 20
October 2007
Issue 105

2007 NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR!

PG. 6-7
The Dignity Memorial Wall Experience

PG. 10-11
Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall Photos

Bob Harder’s grandkids at the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall
photo by Shannon Harder

TOGETHER THEN...TOGETHER NOW
I want to start this month’s report by thanking everyone who visited the Dignity Wall, September 7-9, in Gates Memorial Park. I also want to give a special thanks to all who volunteered for that weekend. Because of you this event was a great success. As always, the Marching Unit did its outstanding job under the direction of its commander, Ray Melens. The planning of this event started in January of this year and without the help of Ray Melens, Bob Harder, Christina Busby, the Alvah Hal-loran Funeral Home staff, the County of Monroe Maggie Brooks, Monroe County Parks Dept., RM Landscape Rick Lerncke, Town of Gates, Gates Fire Department, Home Depot, and the Iron Workers Union and many others this event would never have happened.

The motorcycle escort on September 4 was a sight to see, 300 motorcycles escorted by the NY State Police, Gates Police, Monroe County Sheriffs Department and attended by many motorcycle groups. We led the truck from Churchville to the park and to them I extend my thanks. I think that the measure of success of this event was not only the 13,000 some people that attended but also the 300 or so school children that we gave guided tours to so they could see the names and understand the sacrifice that was made by some 58,000 young men and women in the Vietnam War.

The other thing that the Wall did is give our brother and sister Vietnam Vets an opportunity to see the Wall. For some it was the first time they saw it, and hopefully it helped them heal their wounds of the war and deal with the daily nightmares that haunt them. Thanks to all, you made me proud to be a Vietnam Vet and President of your Chapter.

The Chapter has bought Challenge Coins that have our logo on one side and the POW/MIA logo on the other. At the September membership meeting we presented coins to those in attendance free of charge for their dedication and work in the chapter. I’m sure that I’ll need to give out a few more to those who are active in the chapter. The remainder will be on sale at the product sales for $10.00. For those who have a coin and are willing to participate in a little fun game, the rules are as follows: If you are asked by a member who has a coin to see yours (this is the challenge) and you fail to produce it there will be a $2.00 fine. The fine will be paid at the following membership meeting where you will be required to make the walk of shame to the front of the meeting and deposit your $2.00 in a box, and then at some point the money collected will go to a charity.

Next on the agenda (and which will have already happened by this reading) is a VetsConnect outreach in partnership with Monroe County at the Monroe County Hospital that will provide information on how veterans can get the benefits due to them. The event includes information from the Vet Center, Rochester Outpatient Clinic, and Monroe County Veterans Service Agency; and Chapter 20 will present a coin made for the VetsConnect to each in attendance.

On September 15, Music Fest was held in Hamlin and the proceeds went to Chapter 20 targeted for gift baskets to our troops serving in harm’s way today. When we get to the point of putting these together I will need the members to step up and help with this effort. In this issue I’ll have a form and if you have someone you know or a relative in service in the war PLEASE get the name and information to me so that they will have a package from us. I need to thank the band Second Nature for putting together this event and offering their help in the packages.

Till next month, Thanks again, I’m proud of all of you for your service and dedication. God bless you, our nation and our service persons serving today.

Ken Moore
The Marching Unit held their annual picnic on Saturday, August 25th at Ray & Gail’s house. The weather was not all that cooperative this year as in past years though. It was hot, muggy, and very windy and we had the threat of rain all day. We did get our picnic in and managed to still have a good time. The food was catered by Sully’s Catering and needless to say it was good and served on time. We didn’t get our bonfire in, but we still sat around and had Joe Peck lead us in song. A song that is. Seems he only knew one song. Joe may be many things, but a singer is not one of them. Elsewhere in this issue will be some pictures from the picnic. Funny thing about one of the pictures, though. In last month’s issue there was a picture of Mrs. Peck chalked out after her fall at home. Well it seems that someone was able to chalk out Mr. Peck in the barn at Ray & Gail’s after he was run over by a loose horse. Poor Cowboy Joe. I know Mrs. Peck will enjoy seeing that picture. All in all though, everyone had a good time and some fun.

On September 4th, the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall arrived. Escort by 200 motorcycles and some cars, it arrived at its destination in Gates Memorial Park safe and sound. Little did we know at that time that those of us on the planning committee were about to meet and become friends with a real character. The person I’m speaking about is the driver of the truck that brought us the Wall. Wayne Rogers himself is a Vietnam Veteran. During his stay here, he was a big help for us with advice and his many words of wisdom. Just a great guy and a lot of fun to be around.

The rest of the week was spent setting everything up and getting organized. On Friday we gave tours of the Wall to school children from All Saints School and Northstar Christian Academy. That evening was the opening ceremony, and I cannot begin to tell you how many compliments I received after the ceremony about our Color Guard. MGen John Batiste was our main speaker. What a great job he did! We were very glad to get him to speak for us and we appreciated him taking time out of his busy schedule to attend.

From what I have been told though, it seems that the highlight of all three ceremonies was the reading of “From the Other Side of the
“Between the Lines”

What made it so special was the enactment that was played out at the Wall while it was read. What a great job by our three actors - Terri Robach, her daughter Kathy, and Spec. Ben Misemer. Yes that was our friend NYS Senator Joe Robach’s Mom and sister, and Ben is from the 98th Div. What a superb job they all did! I cannot thank them enough for giving up their time and doing this for us.

Saturday night was the candle-light vigil for our POW/MIA’s and that also was well attended. Our guest speaker that evening was Alan Frisa, cousin of Francis Graziosi MIA, whose remains were repatriated last May. Then on Sunday came the closing ceremony. After all the color guards were dismissed from the Wall, Chapter 20’s Color Guard, led by a lone piper (Jim VanBredereode) from the Keystone Pipe & Drum band led us by the Wall while playing Amazing Grace for our final salute. We then were in formation in front of all the other color guards that formed up, faced the Wall, Presented Arms and Taps was played. The Wall’s visit to Rochester, NY was concluded.

During its stay here, I met a lot of people. Some were brother veterans that just wanted to talk, some just wanted to be alone with their thoughts, and some were looking for some kind of closure to that part of their life. I was able to have the privilege of escorting Jay Widener and his wife Jo, to see his son’s name JAMES E. WIDENER inscribed on the Wall. He was never able to get to see the WALL in DC while there last November for his son’s repatriation service. I also made some new friends, met some old friends and most importantly to me, I got some time to spend with a couple of friends that I haven’t seen since 1969 (Robert McCarthy 31W Line 54 and James Cummings 32W) and I had time and the honor to make sure that all 58,000+ on the Wall received the respect and honor that is so deserving to them.

I just hope that everyone that visited the Wall while it was here came away from it with thanks and respect to those 58,000+ that sacrificed their lives so that we may continue to live in the freedom that we so richly enjoy today.

To all that volunteered and spent many hours at the Wall helping to do whatever needed to be done, “THANK YOU”. Again this Chapter came together and showed our community what Vietnam Veterans are all about.

Then on Tuesday 9/11 Honor Guard members were asked to attend the Monroe County Legislature meeting to present the Colors and to receive a proclamation for the Honor Guard’s activity within the community. It was presented to us by one of Chapter 20’s own, Dick Yolevich, Legislator-District 1. What an honor for all the Honor Guard members, to know that their involvement in the community does not go unnoticed. Keep it up guys - Great job!

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

Pow/Mia
Gail Bologna-Melens, Chairperson

WOW, what a September! The Wall has left and I feel sadness. We
were so busy while it was here but it was nice having all of our brothers and sisters here with us if only as names on THE WALL. The candlelight vigil was perfect – the continuous wind stopped so that the candles could burn. It was a beautiful sight looking out from the stage and seeing 400 candles flickering in the hands of the people who attended. The enactment of From the Wall made me cry all three nights.

Then, also identified are: Lt Michael R Newell, USN, from New York, missing 12/14/68. Sgt 1st Class James D Williamson, USA, from Washington, missing 1/5/68.

With the identification of these remains we still have 1,773 missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Please REMEMBER them in your thoughts and prayers. If we keep this issue alive more will be identified and returned to their families that still wait for answers.

--- *** FORM *** ---

SERVICE PERSON
SERVING IN HARM’S WAY
ADDRESS FOR PACKAGE

RANK AND NAME

ADDRESS

NAME OF PERSON REQUESTING PACKAGE AND PHONE NUMBER

PLEASE INCLUDE COMPLETE ADDRESS TO INCLUDE APO, FPO, ETC.
PLEASE SEND TO CHAPTER 20 OFFICE AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

CHAPTER 20 VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
PO BOX 12580
ROCHESTER NEW YORK 14612

ATTN: TROOP PACKAGES
I didn’t see that episode of Trick My Truck on TV, so I wasn’t prepared for the full impact of the tractor-trailer being used to take the Dignity Wall around the country. Marie and I had decided it would be fun to meet the truck when it arrived at the Churchville exit on Route 490 so we drove out there not really knowing what to expect. The truck was already there when we arrived as was Gates Police Officer Dan Phelps.

Painted in patriotic red, white, and blue, the trailer proudly proclaimed “The Vietnam Wall Experience” – “Touring North America”. Many people driving by on 490 slowed down to get a better view and many more honked and waved. The tractor pulling the trailer was painted with a view of the Dignity Wall on each side along with other details on the cab.

Truck driver, Wayne Jones, was born in Georgia and now resides (when he isn’t on the road) in Tennessee. He’s a veteran of the Army’s Americal Division and a two-tour Vietnam Veteran. A real southern gentleman and a pleasure to talk to. He and his pet dog, Precious, travel the country with the Dignity Wall for about seven months of the year. According to Wayne there isn’t a better job anywhere.

Soon after we met Wayne and learned a little about him, Chapter President, Ken Moore and his wife Sandy, and Chapter members Ralph Pascale and Bob Harder led a column of about 200 motorcycles into the rest area to form an escort for the truck to Gates Memorial Park. Also in the column of bikes was my friend and former National Board Member and Past State Council President, Gordy Lane from Syracuse (he’s also Dave Hooker’s cousin). There were also some dozen or so police motorcycles and several squad cars. Marie and I, along with Bruce and Nancy VanAppeldorn followed the procession in our Corvettes.

Marie and I stayed to take some pictures and then headed for home. On Wednesday I found that I couldn’t stay home knowing The Wall was here. So, I jumped in the car and went to the site. I hadn’t signed up as a volunteer other than for a shift as security on Thursday night but I found plenty to do. Whether it was assisting visitors to locate a name on The Wall, trans-
porting elderly or disabled people to the site from their vehicles, or just plain helping, there was always something to do. Marie joined me that afternoon and we stayed until Taps that night.

Every night at nine o’clock, Taps was played either by Ray Melens or Wally Gekowski or Ralph Pascale – they all did a great job - it never fails to bring a tear to my eye. Friday night’s opening ceremony was great. There were several honor guards participating, the Keystone Pipers, and a few dignitaries. Of course, I think our honor guard was the best. The entire ceremony went off without a hitch and made you proud to belong to Chapter 20.

Saturday night’s candlelight ceremony for the POWs and MIAs was another one that went flawlessly and brought a tear to many an eye. And then on Sunday the rain stopped long enough for us to hold the closing ceremony.

But for me The Wall’s visit was not about ceremony, but rather about visiting with friends, both those on and off The Wall. The veterans, Chapter members, friends, and family who came to see The Wall, pay their respects, and otherwise visit were what kept me there everyday. I caught up with some old friends, made some new ones, and got to visit with my friends on The Wall. It was a great week and I enjoyed every minute I spent there with my friends.
National Veterans Job Expo

**WHEN:**
TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 30, 2007
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**WHERE:**
EISENHART AUDITORIUM
at the
ROCHESTER MUSEUM &
SCIENCE CENTER
657 East Avenue
Rochester, NY

Meet Local and National Employers with Career Opportunities In:

- Health Care
- Information Technology
- Warehouse/Distribution
- Utilities
- Manufacturing
- Customer Service
- Retail Operations
- Security/Maintenance
- Food Service
- Hospitality

Bring your Military Separation/Discharge document (e.g. DD214), if available.

For All Military Service Veterans.
Free Admission.

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Vietnam Wall

Photos by Gary Redlinski
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.

- October 11, 2007
- November 8, 2007
  (no December meeting)

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**Bus Trip to the Wall 25th Anniversary**

**SOLD OUT!**

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

For all those who have signed up, we look forward to a wonderful anniversary weekend.
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 show hall served 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 corpsmen.

The movies were great and Rocky because 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 okay.

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

Respectfully,
Lt Tobias
3rd Battalion, 7th Marines
Ramadi, Iraq

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
From Saigon to Daharan. One thing can be said with certainty about Vietnam—“America’s longest war” --the US soldiers there are well. Not from the moment the first troops arrived, but over time as the logistics infrastructure improved. By the late 1960s, it was not uncommon to find ice cream and eggs to order at far-flung fire support bases. The Sea Land Corporation off-loaded large refrigerator cargo vans and conveyed them to major distribution centers throughout the country. Use of helicopters permitted troops in the field to enjoy garrison-type meals almost on a daily basis.

In 1965-66, subsistence personnel instituted the “Push Package” system to funnel rations into South Vietnam. With the rapid buildup of troops in-country, it did not take long to convert from MCI feeding to the feeding of B-Ration meats and components of the A-Ration. By 1969 a new 28-day menu had been successfully instituted, reducing somewhat the need for refrigeration. More than 90 percent of the meals were being served hot.

Troops on patrol could usually expect at least one hot meal a day delivered in insulated food containers. At other times they could rely on canned MCIs and the newly created Long Range Patrol (LRP) Packets, with their assortment of dehydrated components. Also, new ration sun-dry packs contained such items as candy, tobacco products, stationery, shoe laces and sewing kits. For those stationed at base camps in the rear, the 1968 “cantonment mess” project led to major upgrades in dining facilities all across Vietnam.

In the quarter-century since the war ended in Southeast Asia in 1973, there have been other major changes in the way America’s Army is fed.

Thermal processed Meals, Ready-to-Eat (MREs), sealed in soft brown, lightweight retort pouches, were added to the growing family of field rations in the late 1970s and fielded in the decade that followed. To these were later added flameless ration heaters, giving soldiers the option of eating a balanced hot meal anytime, anywhere. Since then, the variety of MRE menus has also expanded.

With the sudden call-up and rapid expansion of troops sent to Saudi Arabia in late summer 1990 in response to Operation Desert Shield, Army food service personnel faced an enormous challenge: how to feed a force of nearly 400,000 troops, deployed at a distance of some 8,000 miles from home, in an inhospitable desert environment.

Yet, they more than met the challenge — served upwards of 94 million meals over the course of six months. Broke new ground by maximizing the use of host nation support in the form of contracted dining facilities, milk, bread, fresh fruits and vegetables. And successfully used a mixture of B-Rations, MREs and T-Rations (Tray Packs) for field feeding. Operation Desert Shield/Storm also saw the hurry-up development and fielding of such unique items as pouch bread and slow-to-melt, high-energy “Desert Bars.”

Today’s Food Service Specialist is the product of more than two-and-a-quarter centuries of steady change and improvement. From the constant introduction of new technology and our increased understanding of the body’s dietary requirements, to the vastly improved training environment provided every soldier who attends the Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence (ACES) located at Fort Lee, Virginia, the message is the same. The US Army Quartermaster Corps remains committed to Supporting Victory and to the idea of The Best Feeding the Best.

### 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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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.

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Veterans Walk .................. Chuck Macaluso 225-8288
Volunteer Coordinator ....... Kathy Gleason 978-1331

WEB SITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Veterans Widows International Network
members@aol.com/vvetwindows

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 Bath ............. 607-664-4000
V.V. of America in Washington......... 800-VVA-1316
V.V. Memorial Fund “The Wall” ....... 202-393-0090
Nat.’l Ige. 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.......... 234-6494

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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Pat Pudetti.........................patrickusmc1@yahoo.com
Bruce VanApeldoorn.... bvanapeldoorn@rochester.rr.com

800-827-1000
232-5040
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<td>Happy Anniversary to Chuck &amp; Joan Macaluso</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