Hope everyone had a great month; weather’s changing and turkey day is just around the corner. When you read this we will have made our trip to Washington, DC, for the 25th Celebration of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We all need to thank our Mouse Dick Oleksyn for ANOTHER great job and all those who made the trip with us.

The last two membership meetings, in September and October, had a great turnout with over 50 in attendance at each. I want to keep the momentum going and will be looking for ways to make the meetings better and a little more fun. If you have any suggestions please feel free to call me and let me know.

At the October board meeting we voted to donate $3000 to the New York Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America to help with the funding of the Veterans Service Officers program... With their funding low and the program so important to veterans it was the right thing to do.

At the October board meeting we voted to donate $3000 to the New York Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America to help with the funding of the Veterans Service Officers program headed by Rich Isaman doing an incredible job at the thrift store. Thanks to all.

On October 14 Max Lill, his wife and I attended the 75th Anniversary dinner for the David Kaufman Jewish War Veterans Post. Our own Larry Schulman, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans, was the keynote speaker along with the State Commander Jason Kaatz and others; it was a wonderful time and a great bunch of veterans. I found out what may be a little known fact, that the post was named after the great uncle of our own member, and member of everything he’s so active in the veteran community, Lee Kaufman.

Let’s remember our young men and women in harm’s way today as we remember those who still remain POW or MIA.

Keep your challenge coin on your person. Last meeting seven people made the “WALK OF SHAME,” led by your own president who holds the record of first caught without it on the night we handed them out. (Sandra Dee, thanks, I’ll get you back.)

Till next month remember, “TOGETHER THEN TOGETHER NOW.”

Ken Moore
Marching Unit
Ray Melens, Commander

All has been relatively quiet for members of the Marching Unit and Honor Guard.

Since my report in last month’s BTL, members of the Honor Guard did partake in a ceremony on Friday, September 21st for POW/MIA Recognition Day. Unlike the past 10 consecutive years where we traveled to Washington, DC to conduct services at the Wall and at Arlington National Cemetery, this year we partook in ceremonies at the POW/MIA Memorial in Charlotte. So that everyone is aware, this ceremony is conducted annually by members of the former POW/MIA Marathon team. So, whether The Honor Guard is in town or not, our members should be attending this ceremony and showing our support for a full accounting of all our POW/MIAs. Members of the Fairport VFW’s Color Guard and rifle squad were there also to partake. Wreaths were placed and honor was paid to some former POWs that were in attendance. I can not say enough, “If we as veterans don’t remember our POW/MIAs, then who will?”

Then on Saturday, October 13th, members of the Honor Guard were present at the annual Diabetes Walk. We were asked to be present with colors for the playing of the National Anthem at the start and to lead the walkers on their way. No, we did not walk the route with the walkers. We got them started and then that was it for us. It was important for us to be a part of this fundraiser for one important reason. Many Vietnam Veterans today suffer from the effects of diabetes. Whether it’s Agent Orange related or otherwise, it was important that we show our support in this cause.

That’s all that’s been going on as of this writing for the Marching Unit and Honor Guard. Now for some MU/HG upcoming events.

This year for Veterans Day, a majority of the Marching Unit members will be in Washington, DC for the 25th anniversary of the Wall. Fear not, for there still will be a ceremony locally on Veterans Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. This year’s service will be conducted by Tom Puff. I am asking all Marching Unit members that are not going to Washington for the 25th to please contact Tom right away at 458-7465.
On Sunday comes the major event, the service on Veterans Day honoring our 58,000+ brothers and sisters that are forever enshrined on that black granite wall.

We will make a trip to Arlington National Cemetery when we are in DC in November to remember our three local soldiers who are entombed there.
OUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER RECENTLY ran a story on the Share the Warmth clothing giveaway which Chapter 20 held at our Thrift Store on October 7.

According to the Democrat and Chronicle, Chapter 20 members set up tables and racks of winter clothes, hats, scarves, and shoes outside the thrift store. The items were free for the homeless and those who cannot afford to buy winter clothes. About 300 people, many from shelters throughout the city, came and went during the day.

Chapter 20 president Ken Moore was quoted as saying “It’s our way of giving back to the community.”

Thanks to Bruce Van Apeldoorn and all those who participated in this event.

--- 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
REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER 2007 STATE COUNCIL MEETING

BY FRED ELLIOTT

Chief Service Officer Dee Garcia now has an administrative assistant 8 hours a week – NYSC hired Dee’s niece, Jennifer, a USMC veteran

Council delegate Ed Seastrum was recently promoted to senior investigator in the Attorney General’s office

President Foote, with the consent of the delegates, removed the Healthcare and Silver Rose Committees and made the Veterans Initiative a subset of the POW/MIA Committee

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month

Chapter 193 has a new office in Leroy

Chapter 681 continues to provide a monthly dinner at the Batavia PTSD Clinic

Chapter 480 is starting a Veterans of Modern Warfare Chapter in Owego

Chapter 79 donated $1,000 to VVAF for the 25th anniversary parade

VA Claim Numbers will become a thing of the past – they will be using the veteran’s last name and the last four digits of their social security number

Patrick Welch thanked everyone for supporting him in his run for election to the national Board – he has been nominated as Vice-Chair of the National Membership and Government Affairs Committees – he will be leading VVA’s Vets Vote campaign

VVA provides transportation for veterans at Walter Reed Hospital to attend a monthly dinner at the Capitol Hilton

Copies of Veterans and Families’ Guide to Recovering from PTSD by Stephanie Laite Lanham were provided for each chapter

The number of At-Large members in the state is approaching 500 – a letter will be distributed to all chapter contacts to be sent to those at-large members in their area to try to get them to join a chapter

There will be a Walk-A-Thon as fund raiser for NYSC in the fall of 2008

Chapter 77 donated $600 to the Jack Wisby PTSD Center in Batavia

There have been 263 reported incidents of domestic violence within the 1st two weeks the 10th Mountain Division was home

Vietnam Veterans of America

Car Donation, LLC

Call 224-8484
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.sew-muchcomfort.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)
November 8, 2007
Honorary Chair Lori A. VanDusen and the Board of the Veterans Outreach Center invite you to the 2nd Annual

A STARS & STRIPES Celebration

with featured speaker

Lee Woodruff
Co-author, In An Instant

13 WHAM-TV’s Don Alhart
Master of Ceremonies

Receiving the Edward and Jacqueline S. Harris Award for Exemplary Service to Veterans and Veterans Outreach Center

R. Wayne LeChase
Rochester Hyatt Regency Hotel
Reception 5:30 pm — 6:30 pm  Cash bar
Dinner 6:30 pm
$1,250 per table of ten
or $125 per person
Call 546-1081 today to make your reservation, or to sponsor a veteran to attend.

Media Sponsor:

Stand Up for Veterans Weekend

November 10, 2007
Impact Technologies presents a live broadcast of

Highland Park
Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Rochester, NY
8 a.m. - noon
Open to the General Public

Sponsored by:

media Sponsor:

November 11, 2007
The Gold Star Families of Rochester present the first-ever

An all-day music event to benefit the Veterans Outreach Center.
Featuring country-music acts

Jen Cass
Tracy DeLucia
Katelyn Hobson
Jenae Johnson
Sherri Mullen
Alyssa Sommers
and more...

Main Street Armory, Rochester, NY
Doors open at noon
First act begins around 1 p.m.
$15 per ticket

Visit www.veteransoutreachcenter.org for more details.

Media Sponsor:
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.

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SUPPORTS THE VIETNAM VETS
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Serving the area for 20 years.

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Veterans Advocate
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Clothing, Boots, Gear, Buckles, Flags,
Award Cases, Military Rings and Watches

Various topics are offered from military / veteran oriented, patriotic, scenic, landscapes, nature, botanical, animals, fantasy, in a variety of sizes and gift items

Gary T. Redlinski Email: gtredlinski@frontiernet.net
Rochester, New York

www.GTRedphotos.com
As most of us deal with our own health and aging issues, we find ourselves also caring for our parents. There is a new resource available to help those of us in this area determine what services might be available for us for support in this area.

Greater Rochester Area Partnership for the Elderly, G.R.A.P.E., has a new website that I encourage you to check out! On the site www.grapelder.org you will find a comprehensive guide to senior services in Monroe County. The site is “interactive,” meaning as programs or services change it can be updated immediately. As a result, it is the most up to date resource currently offered in Monroe County.

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
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. Simply fill out and mail the completed form to the Veterans Walk Committee at PO Box 12580, Rochester, New York 14612.

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

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

1. 
2. 
3. 

When you return the completed form to the Veterans Walk Committee at P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, New York 14612, please include your payment and “Proof of Service” for above recipient.

PLEASE NOTE: Order may take up to 6 months to be fully processed. Engraved bricks will be installed prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day (twice annually). Questions? Please call Chuck or Joan Macaluso at 225-8288.
Military Payment Certificates, or MPC, were used from the end of World War II until the end of the Vietnam War, between the years of 1946 and 1973. MPC’s utilized layers of line lithography to create colorful banknotes that could be produced cheaply. Fifteen series of MPC’s were created but only 13 series were issued.

History of MPC

Military Payment Certificates (MPC) evolved from Allied Military Currency as a response to the large amounts of US Dollars circulating in post-World War II Europe due to American servicemen. The local citizens did not trust local currencies as the fate of their governments was unclear. Therefore preferring a stable currency, dollars, they often accepted payment in dollars for less than the accepted conversion rates. Obviously dollars became more favorable, inflating the local currencies and thwarting plans to stabilize the economies. Contributing to the problem was the fact that though troops were being paid in the local currency they could convert an unlimited amount to dollars at the government set conversion rate, which was much more favorable to the GIs than the market rate. From this a black market developed where the servicemen could utilize the favorable exchange rate.

To combat this the US military devised the MPC program. MPC’s were paper money denominated in US Dollars in amounts of 5 cents, 10 cents, 50 cents, 1 dollar, 5 dollars, 10 dollars, and starting in 1968 20 dollars. MPC’s were fully convertible to US dollars upon leaving the combat zone (a designated MPC zone) and convertible to local currencies when going on leave (but not vice-versa), and were illegal for unauthorized personnel to possess, thus, in theory, eliminating US dollars from local economies. Al-
though actual greenbacks were not circulating, many local merchants accepted MPC on a par with US dollars, as they knew they could use them on the black market. This was especially evident during the Vietnam War when the MPC program was at its zenith. To prevent MPC from being used as a primary currency in the host country, thereby destroying the local currency value and economy, MPC banknote style would change. Many veterans can recount a conversion day or C-Day.

C-day in Vietnam was always classified, never pre-announced. On C-day, soldiers would be restricted to base, preventing GIs from loading up on old MPC from local bars, brothels, bargirls and other black market people and unable to help these Vietnamese convert to the newer style MPC. Vietnamese were not allowed to convert and frequently lost so much old, worthless MPC, they would “arrange” to have the nearest U.S. base rocketed the next night.

To illustrate the Vietnam war MPC cycle, in mid 1970, a GI would have his family mail him a U.S. hundred dollar bill, take it “downtown” and convert it to 180 dollars MPC, then change MPC to S. Vietnamese piasters at double the legal rate. He then could have a fun day shopping, bar hopping, or a full service massage, paying in very low cost piasters.

To continue the MPC cycle, that 100 dollar note would find its way to high level Vietnamese government officials, especially the corrupt ones, who had access to out of country travel, where the U.S. currency could be deposited safely (Bangkok, Taipei, or Hong Kong). Rumors also suggested that this hard currency (U.S. dollars), would find its way to Hanoi, then to Europe.

There were 13 series of MPC issued between 1946 and 1973, with varied designs often compared to Monopoly (game) money due to their colors. After the Vietnam War MPC was never again issued, and lay dormant until the late 90’s when it was replaced by a Stored Value Card system.

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.

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, 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.
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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
Entrance fee: $10 (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

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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” .......202-393-0000
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Richards House ..........................506-9060
The Resource Center .....................546-4250
Stars & Stripes ...........................546-3524
Persian Gulf Vets, Inc .......................385-4097
Operation Welcome Home ..................234-4694

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Donation Pick-up, Cindy Rowley .............482-8016
VVA Vehicle Donations, Cindy Rowley ......224-8484
VVA Chapter 20 .........bdlivico@vva20.org • 482-7396

EMAIL ADDRESSES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CONTACTS
Dan Corona ...................................nycorona@juno.com
Fred Elliott ......................................felliott@rochester.rr.com
Peter Galle .....................................PGALLE5000@aol.com
Kathy Gleason ................................ kathy14470@msn.com
Tom Gleason ..............................namo40c@hotmail.com
Geno Lenyk ..............................gnl3153@ntid.rit.edu
Max Lill .....................................jmax.lill@industrialfurnace.com
Chuck Macaluso ......................chuckmac66@yahoo.com
Bruce McDaniel ......................bruceimcdaniel@earthlink.net
Ken Moore ..............................17CAV@rochester.rr.com
Dick Oleksyn .............................roleksyn@yahoo.com
Ralph Pascale .........................golferalpur@hotmail.com
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Bruce VanApeldoorn .......bvanapeldoorn@rochester.rr.com
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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

Happy Thanksgiving!

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