Meet The CANDIDATES

OFFICERS
Ken MOORE President
Tom GLEASON 1st Vice President
Ray MELENS Treasurer
Chuck MACALUSO Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS
Jerry McDERMOTT
Pat MARIANETTI
Ron TROVATO
Hank WALLACE
Peter M. GALLE
Dick McDERMOTT

STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
Nick DELEO
Fred ELLIOTT

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American Gold Star Mothers

Pg. 6-8 & 10-13
Candidates for Upcoming Elections
President’s Report

Well another month has passed and the good news is that we are that much closer to summer and good weather.

The next big issue in the chapter is the election of officers for the next few years. It’s great that this year we have some new members stepping up to run for office, and we look forward to new ideas and energy of the Board.

Because this is the last issue you will see before elections, I would like to express my thanks as your president to the following:

The Board of directors and officers of the chapter for the past two year’s for their hard work.

Thanks to Ray Melens and Chuck Macaluso for the many hours each week doing the admin stuff to keep Chapter 20 going.

Thanks to our “Mouse,” Dick O for all the good food and remembering that Chapter 20 runs on Dunkin.

Joe Peck and Bruce for putting together our budget and helping keep us on the straight and narrow.

Kathy Gleason - what can I say that will thank her enough for everything she does from the BTL to everything else that is asked.

Thanks to Dan Corona for the new web design.

And lastly all the hard work by our committees.

Thanks to our members old and new for being part of the Chapter family.

Over the next few months the Chapter, along with other groups that meet at Ira, will be undertaking some projects to clean up and remodel the post. I know that we will be sending out requests for help, so if you see Chuck Macaluso or myself and want to help let us know.

In closing, after elections we will be off and running doing the things that make us such a great Chapter. Please bring your friends to join us in helping veterans and our community be a better place to live.

Ken Moore
Vietnam 1966-67
US Army Cavalry

Special Events

• Annual Elections, April 10
• Annual Dinner, April 19
• Memorial Day Picnic, May 26
• Ride to the Dakota, Sun, June 22 - Chapter’s Biggest Fundraiser - Volunteers Needed!
• Summer Picnic, August - Date TBA
• Christmas Party, December 6

* Dates changed due to conflict with holidays or other events.
Nominating Committee
Chuck Macaluso, Chair

Chapter Elections -
Annual Membership Meeting
April 10, 2008
Location -
Ira Jacobson Post Home
90 St. Johns Park
Time - 6:00 PM

This year openings include the Executive position of President (1), 1st. Vice-President (1), Treasurer (1) and Secretary (1). Three (3) Director positions as well as two (2) for State Council Reps.

The “new” Nominating Committee will also be elected by the membership that evening. In order to vote in the Annual Election, voters must be a member for at least 30 days.

Elections

Only paid members with a DD214 on file by 28 February of previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (For example - 28 February 2007 to vote April 2007).

A quorum is defined as 10% of VVA 20 membership as of 28 February of the previous fiscal year.

Voting for candidates will take place between 6:30 PM till 7:30 PM, after which no new ballots will be taken and votes will be tabulated.

According to the National VVA Constitution, “Additional persons may be nominated by any member at the Annual Meeting.” These candidates will fall under the category of Floor Nominations.

The slated candidates for this year are as follows:

Officer Positions
President ................. Ken Moore
1st Vice-President ... Tom Gleason
Treasurer ............... Ray Melens
Secretary .......... Chuck Macaluso

Director Positions
...................... Hank Wallace
...................... Pat Marianetti
....................... Peter Galle
....................... Ron Trovato
..................... Dick McDermott
...................... Jerry McDermott
State Council......... Nick DeLeo
........................ Fred Elliott

Any member interested in running for any of the above mentioned positions, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members:
Chuck Macaluso 225-8288, Bob DeMitry 659-2850, Tom Puff 235-3556, Dan Corona 406-6108, Pat Pudetti 753-6040

Marching Unit
Ray Melens, Commander

Things were very quiet for the Marching Unit and Honor Guard in the month of February. Hopefully, the month of March will be just as quiet also, as we approach another parade season very soon.

The month of April will be a little bit busier for members of both units though. On Saturday, April 5th, the Honor Guard and members of the Marching Unit will be at Wally Gekoski’s burial service to render him his Military Honors. I ask that any and all MU and/or Honor Guard members to please attend Wally’s burial service in uniform. Wally will be laid to rest at the Beechwood Cemetery on W. Kendall Rd., north of Rt. 18. I will be emailing all MU/HG members to inform them and to see who will be attending. All members of the Chapter are welcome to attend as well. I know that Bonnie and Wally’s family would really appreciate any and all the comfort and support that we can give to them right now.

Then on April 19th, I will need Honor Guard members for the posting of Colors at the annual dinner and, hopefully, if we get enough HG volunteers, we will do the POW/MIA table ceremony. If you are a member of the Honor Guard and would like to partake in these ceremonies, please let me know right away, if you have not done so already.

On the following Saturday, April 26th, the Marching Unit will hold its annual meeting. This is when we vote on the upcoming season’s parade schedule. All Marching Unit members are encouraged to attend, as well as their wives and/or significant others. We will be discussing and voting about other matters that pertain to the Marching Unit as well. After the meeting is over we will have pizza and wings and plenty of time to enjoy each other’s company. Maybe (R.A.) Joe Peck will even entertain us a little with some of his life experiences. Those are always good for a laugh or two. So be sure to mark the date. The meeting will be at Ira Jacobson post and the meeting will start at 7PM.

The month of May will find the Marching Unit pretty busy also. Our parade season will officially begin on Saturday, May 10th with the Lilac Parade. Then comes Memorial Day weekend with the Irondequoit Memorial Day parade, the Downtown Memorial Day parade and, of course, our Memorial Day service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park after the Downtown parade. Again, I will need as many members of the Marching Unit as possible for the service at the Memorial. Without members partaking we can not honor our fallen brothers the way we should and have for the past 12 years. Please

Continued on Page 4
Front and Center

MARCHING UNIT

Continued from Page 3

I would like to take this opportunity to ask ALL eligible members to volunteer for this important service on Memorial Day.

The Honor Guard will not be meeting before the April membership meeting but will meet again before the May membership meeting at 7PM upstairs at Ira.

POW-MIA

GAIL BOLOGNA-MELIS, CHAIRPERSON

Well, we have good news. Once again we will be doing the flag give away and we will start it at the April meeting. For those of you who are not familiar with the flag give away – at each monthly meeting the names of members attending the meeting are put into a bucket. At the end of the meeting a name is picked and that person receives a 3’ x 5’ American flag and a 2’ x 3’ POW-MIA flag. The only conditions to this are that you be a member, one win per family in a year’s time and most importantly, you must have a place to fly it.

The possible remains of a missing U. S. military service member were repatriated Saturday, March 1, from Cambodia for forensic analysis in Hawaii. Riding in the dark inside a Navy helicopter over rough waters off the coast of North Vietnam, Navy Lt Spence Dry didn’t hesitate when the time came to jump. Dry, commanding a SEAL team, was determined to link up with the submarine USS Grayback in the waters below to continue a daring mission to rescue U.S. prisoners of war trying to escape from the Hanoi Hilton, the infamous North Vietnamese prison.

“I’ve got to get back to Grayback,” John Wilson, the helicopter crew chief, recalled Dry saying. He was adamant that the mission go forward. Finally, the helicopter crew spotted a flashing light they believed to be the submarine’s beacon. Wilson slapped Dry on the shoulder, the signal to jump, and Dry disappeared into the night, followed by the three SEALs in his team.

But the helicopter was flying too high and too fast, and Dry, 26, died instantly upon impact with the water. The last SEAL to die in Vietnam. The circumstances of his death would remain tightly classified for more than 30 years. Dry was given no recognition by the Navy, and his family received few answers. The Navy labeled it a training accident. The possible remains of a missing U. S. military service member were repatriated Saturday, March 1, from Cambodia for forensic analysis in Hawaii.

The U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., declined to add the 1968 graduate to its listing of alumni killed in action displayed in Memorial Hall, citing the accident classification.

This week, inside the ornate hall considered the heart of the academy, more than 200 friends and family members gathered for a ceremony in which Dry was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star medal with valor. His name was also formally added to the alumni scroll in Memorial Hall. Guests included Wilson, the helicopter crew chief, as well as many of Dry’s SEAL platoon members and the former commander of the USS Grayback. The Naval Academy’s Class of 1968 showed up in force, including Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Also paying his respects was retired Air Force Col John Dramesi, one of the prisoners Dry was attempting to rescue.

Based on intelligence that prisoners had formed a plan to escape and travel by boat on the Red River to the Gulf of Tonkin, the Navy initiated a rescue mission, Operation Thunderhead. On the night of June 3rd, Dry and three members of his SEAL Team One platoon were launched from the Grayback in a mini-submarine to establish an observation post on a small island near the mouth of the Red River.

But the mini-sub went off course, and the SEALs were forced to scuttle it. They were rescued by helicopter and taken to a guided-missile cruiser. Dry and his team were flying back to the Grayback on June 5th to resume the mission but the helicopter had trouble finding the sub and was flying too high and too fast when the SEALs jumped. Dry’s neck was broken on impact, the other men were rescued treading...
American Gold Star Mothers

By Fred Elliott

Did you know that in 1935, the President of the United States proclaimed “that the last Sunday in September shall hereafter be designated and known as Gold Star Mother’s Day”? In June of 1928, a group of some twenty-five mothers in Washington, DC set out to organize a national organization to be known as the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Within seven months, the organization was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.

The original group was composed of mothers who had lost a son or daughter in World War I. At the 1941 convention of GSM the membership was opened to those mothers who had lost a child in World War II. Future hostilities saw the membership opened to those mothers who lost a child in Korea and Vietnam. Presently membership is open to natural mothers, adoptive mothers or stepmothers, who are citizens or legal residents of the United States or of the territorial and insular possessions of the United States, and whose son or daughter has made the supreme sacrifice while in the service of the United States of America Armed Forces, or died as a result of such service. Also, husbands and children of members of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc may join as Associate Members using the same application. Associate members pay no dues, hold no offices and may not vote.

Congress granted the GSM a Federal Charter in 1984. Some of the objects and purposes listed in Section 3 of that charter are: to assist veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and other strategic areas and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Veterans Administration, and to aid in any way in their power the planned escape from the Hanoi Hilton was called off because it was deemed too risky. “It was a devastating disappointment to us,” Damesi recalled. “It was tragic in all ways.” So far, 29 of the 55 listed as missing in Cambodia have been repatriated.

I will have POW-MIA window decals at the meeting. Please put one on your vehicle.

REMEMBER to keep all of our POW-MIA’s in your prayers and thoughts. If we don’t – who will?
My name is Ken Moore, current president of Chapter 20, and I wish to seek another term as your President. I served with the US Army in Vietnam with D Troop 17th. Cavalry 1966-67 in III corp. worked for Eastman Kodak for 30 years retiring in 1991 as a construction supervisor, before my full retirement in 2004 when I worked for the County of Monroe as a Veterans service officer helping veterans receive the health care and benefits due to them for the service they did for their country.

I wish to return as your President to help keep the Chapter moving in the right direction. Over the past term of 2 years I, along with the Board and the executive officers, have turned the Chapter around. Two years ago we were in dire straights as far as finances go and we were at a point that that required us to make some drastic cuts. We reduced our spending to the bare bones. This was a hard thing to do - reducing committee spending to almost zero, letting go of the administrative employee, cutting operating expenses to meet the money we had to work with. With the help of our Thrift Store and car business making the same type of cuts we were able to make the chapter more financially sound, to the point that today we are now in better shape than ever before.

We have also, in the past two years, worked harder to provide information to veterans about their health and compensation for those in our community who have served. We held information seminars at the County Hospital, area Malls and others. We held our first Child Safety Fair, euchre tournaments, Christmas baskets for the needy and the Dignity Vietnam Wall that was on display in Gates this past September. We have made special efforts to increase our membership in ways that make them feel more welcome, and we still have to work in that area. We have seen an increase in the attendance at membership meetings and events that require volunteers, by trying to reward those who work to make the chapter as great as it can be.

We have a ways to go in the coming next few years and the following are things I would like to accomplish:

- Create a financial plan for the next 5 - 10 years that will show our plans on supporting our veterans and our chapter.
- Increase and maintain membership. Today we today have over 400 members with a wealth of knowledge that we could use to help make the veteran community better, and I would like to see more of them attend our meetings and become more active in moving us forward in the right direction.

- Develop a program in the community for the health issues that affect all veterans. Vietnam veterans today who suffer the effects of Agent Orange, such as diabetes II, prostate cancer and PTSD. Veterans who served in other areas of the world that were also injured or became ill from service need to know that there are benefits due to them and how they can get them. I believe that we can show them the way to improve their life style today.

In closing I would like to ask for your vote as your next president and would also ask that you support the executive committee of Ray Melens for Treasure and Chuck Macaluso who have worked so hard over the years for our Chapter.

Branch of service: Army
Tom served from April 1968 – April 1971 and was in country as a combat medic with the Americal Division from October 1968-October 1969. From 1974 – 1992, Tom joined the Army Reserve as a combat medic and combat engineer, 98th Division, retiring from the Reserves in 1992 - a total of 21 years of service.

Tom is married to Kathy and between them have 5 children and 3 grandchildren. He has been with the Post Office since 1987.

Tom currently serves as the Chapter's Chaplain and is an active member of the Marching Unit and...
Honor Guard. His term as a Board member is expiring this year and he is seeking a position on the Executive Committee as 1st Vice President.

“I have served several terms on the Board and have enjoyed being involved at this level. I feel I am ready to step forward and take on the duties of 1st Vice President.”

Ray MELENS
Treasurer


Ever since I joined the Chapter I have been an active member in one way or another. It was in the summer of 1996 that I was approached by then Marching Unit Commander and President, Lee Claxton, to take over the reins of the Marching Unit as the Unit’s Commander. After some considerable thought, time and training from Lee, I officially became the Marching Unit Commander in February 1997. I have seen many great changes take place within the Marching Unit, not to mention the immense amount of pride that I hold because of the great work that the members do in carrying out their many duties as members of the Marching Unit. Shortly after taking command of the Unit, I formed our Chapter’s Honor Guard. To this day, I strongly feel that is probably one of the best things I have done as Commander. The numerous funerals, events and ceremonies that they are asked to attend and participate in every year are just a great tribute alone for what they stand for - not to mention the ceremonies that were conducted every year for 10 consecutive years in Washington, DC for POW/MIA Recognition Day. They bring a great deal of pride and recognition to Chapter 20.

Two years ago the Chapter was not in as great a financial situation like it is now, thanks in a large part to the hard work done by the LLC and the Chapter’s BOD and Executive Committee. It was a tough road to climb, but there is still more work to be done. I think that President Ken Moore did a good job in leading the Chapter to where it is now, and I know that his work is not yet done. He still has more to accomplish in making sure the Chapter remains a sound and financially secure organization. I feel I can help him and the Chapter with some of those goals as your Treasurer. Please consider voting for me as your Treasurer and, if we all work together, this Chapter can continue to do its great work within the Rochester community, helping all veterans and the local community as well. Thank You!

Chuck MACALUSO
Secretary

I would like to start out by giving you a little background about myself. I have served three years in the USMC with duty stations in the Med–iterranean, Vietnam, Philippine Islands and Camp Pendleton, CA.

Graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology obtaining an A.A.S. Degree in Electronics. Retired from Eastman Kodak after thirty seven years as a Process Control/Computer Systems Technician. I am a certified instructor for the Department of Environmental Conservation and teach Hunter Safety for students wishing to obtain a hunting license. I am currently a Life Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Marine Corps League, American Legion, a member of The Khe Sanh Veterans. I also serve as Treasurer on Ira Jacobson Post Home Board and actively involved in facility maintenance.

Married for 38 years to my lovely wife Joan, we have two children Dawn & Brian along with two grandchildren, Kylie (Dawn & Mike Mitchell) and Jeffery (Brian and Allison).

Past Service - Served as Chairman of the Mailing Committee for eight years, a member of the House Committee for six years and 10K Race Committee for four years, Social Committee Chairman for two years and member of Strategic Planing Committee. I have been an active member of Chapter 20 for twenty three years, member of the Marching Unit for the same assisting the Commander of the Unit when needed. I have served on the Board of Directors for nineteen years, Nominating Committee for twenty-two holding the position of committee chair for past 19 years. Currently Chapter Secretary and Chairman of the Veterans Walk at Highland Park.

The experience of serving on the Board and working on Chapter goals and activities is very rewarding. I believe the major goal must be a drive to get the membership...
more involved in Chapter activities and committees. We must also increase our visibility in the Community. If we as veterans want to be recognized as being an asset to the Community, we must have people willing to get involved by taking part on committees and community events.

We must be actively involved with past and current veterans’ issues, laying the groundwork for future generations of veterans to follow. I believe the “business” part of our membership meetings should be limited to enable more social time for old and new members to get to know each other. Introductions lead to friendships and the more comfortable members feel around each other the greater likelihood for involvement - the Marching Unit is proof positive that this approach works. I am also a firm believer of recognition for “active” members; large memberships mean nothing without these “doers.”

Chuck Macaluso Bio
Continued from Page 7

Robert T. Thomas
Continued from Page 7

Meetings
April 10th

Annual Election

Meeting opens at 6:00pm.
Buffet Dinner to be served.
Polls close at 7:30pm sharp!

Hear This: News & Notes

Important Property Tax News

If you are a veteran of the Cold War
Please check out the new law 458C

This law authorizes a limited exemption from real property taxes for real property owned by persons who rendered military service to the United States during the Cold War (defined as September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991)

Information and instructions:
http://www.orps.state.ny.us/ref/forms/pdf/ rp458bins.pdf

The form itself is available at the following address:
http://www.orps.state.ny.us/ref/forms/pdf/ rp458.pdf

E-Mail List

We would like to compile an e-mail address list so that we can communicate updated information or news relating to Chapter 20. This list will be used only for Chapter-related business, and will not be published in Between the Lines. We invite you to give your e-mail address to Kathy Gleason, either by e-mail (kathy14470@msn.com) or by calling the Chapter phone number (585 482-7396) and leaving a message.
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.

BETSY LOMBARDO
Veterans Advocate
DEBRA SLOANE
Retail Office Assistant

A project of the Veterans Outreach Center, Inc.
455 South Avenue • Rochester, NY 14620
Tel: 585-546-FLAG • Fax: 585-546-5978

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Senator
Joseph E. Robach

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(585) 225-3650

Room 902
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247
(518) 455-2909 • Fax (518) 426-6938
E-Mail: Robach@senate.state.ny.us

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E-Mail: Robach@senate.state.ny.us

E-Mail: gtredlinskiphotos@frontiernet.net
Candidates for Election

Jerry McDermott

US Army
3 Year US Army Enlistment
March 1968 – March 1971
Vietnam - March 2, 1969 – March 1, 1970
Rochester area resident since 1979
after moving from the Detroit, MI area via job transfer.

Current Business Background:
Sales Representative – Murphy and Nolan, Inc. Distributor of carbon, stainless steel, aluminum and alloy bar and tubing products.
Former owner, developer and manager of 3 start up companies in Rochester, NY area.
Special machines builder and contract mechanical components supplier
Value added production of materials to include secondary operations for mechanical details per drawing specifications
Sales and marketing development for contract manufacturing, design and engineering services.
Extensive background in sales, sales management, marketing, production operations and customer service support to local, regional and national corporations.

Volunteer/Service and Community Involvement:
Former Board of Director for 174 unit Home Owner Association (4 years)
Former Board of Director and Officer for Youth Hockey Association (8 years)
Former Youth Sports Coach/Manager for hockey, baseball, softball (18 years)
Current Member of Rochester Regional Veterans Business Council (1 year)
Married: 35 years – 3 adult children – 1 grandchild
Looking forward to serving my fellow veterans in Chapter 20 of the VVA as we face the challenges of the future together.

Pat Marianetti

My name is Pat Marianetti and I’d like to give you some background on myself. I served in the Navy from 1962 – 1967. I was sent overseas from 1962 – 1965, aboard the U.S.S. Maddox DD 731. I graduated from Irondequoit High School and went directly into the Navy. I was trained to become a boilerman aboard ship. My various job duties included installation, troubleshooting and service of HVAC systems. After discharge, I then went on to become certified in NYS for HVAC layout and design. I secured employment in the HVAC field.
I have been an active member for the past year and, in that time, I have made new friends, supported the Chapter’s various community activities and have increased the growth of the Chapter by securing new members.
My decision to run for Board of Directors stems from my sincere desire to support VVA. I also would like to be a part of the team that sets goals for Chapter 20 and be able to use skills that I have developed throughout my life.
I will need your support with this now and in the future, if elected, with making decisions which will benefit our Chapter. All of our voices must be heard, and not just some.

Ron Trovato

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you why I am running for a Board of Directors (BOD) position. I served two tours in Vietnam in the Army and was a founding member of Chapter 20. I have served two prior terms on the BOD and just finished filling in a vacant position there for two years. I have been the Veterans Incarcerated Committee Chair for about 17 years and have represented Chapter 205 at several National Conventions. I was a writer for both the Forward Observer and BTL for many years. I work full time at the Monroe Features.
Chapter 20 has given me many good and loyal lifelong friends. My wife has been active in the chapter and my two kids grew up around the chapter. Chapter 20 always gave them a little extra at the annual Christmas party when they were little. I have marched with Chapter 20 in two parades, both with my oldest son Jimmy, once in 1986 when he was 5 and once when he was discharged from the Navy last year. Chapter 20 restored my sense of patriotism and pride in my military service when it was at low ebb because of hostility and indifference. Chapter 20 made the American flag looked real good to me again, as good as it did when I would look up at it coming out of the field in Vietnam.

Chapter 20 has given me a great sense of camaraderie, when at each meeting I attend I see our chapter doing so much to help out others. Chapter 20 has always funded my committee and provided me with support when I have visited our incarcerated brothers. Chapter 20 has been one of the most important things in my life. Chapter 20 has always been there for me, that is why I want to give something back by continuing to serve on the Board of Directors.

My name is Hank Wallace. I served in the Army from 1966 to 1970. I was in the Infantry, serving in Ft. Carson, Co (5th Div.), Vietnam (173rd Airborne), and as cadre at the Florida Ranger Camp, Eglin AFB, FL. I was one year as staff (not an inmate or “trainee”) of the Correctional Training Facility, Ft. Riley, KS.

After the service, I used the GI Bill to get a Master’s degree in accounting from SUNY at Binghamton. Afterwards, I worked for several firms and was able to get my CPA certification. Most of time, almost 34 years, I have taught accounting at either the community college level or the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. I have a small CPA practice (mainly taxes) on the side.

I have only been a member of Chapter 20 since the Fall of 2006. During that time, I have become an active member of the Marching Unit and Honor Guard. I have also had the opportunity to help out or attend at a number of extra activities.

It is my belief that if you are going to be an active member of an organization, you should contribute to the organization in any way that you can. You should help to get things done or make things happen. As a member of the Board, I hope to help get things done and build on our feeling of family. I feel that we need to reach out to both our non-attending members and to other Vietnam Veterans, to help expand our efforts to the community. We also need to expand on our belief that new veterans should never be treated as our brothers were when they returned.

I ask your support in the election process.

In serving in Cantho, RVN in 1966 with MACV I had very little contact with Americans having worked primarily with Vietnamese Army Military Police. It is was this seeing a different culture than that I adapted to and returned from that influenced my getting involved with veterans. Initially the American legion-5 times -5 different posts. I meandered around until I found Chapter 20.

My significant involvement with Chapter 20 ranges my current Board position, BTL column as the Virtual Vet, Marching unit and Honor Guard on prior occasions, my ongoing assistance with the Highland Park Memorial and talks at various schools and shows.

As for the future I believe I will continue to carry on as I have in the past but with a change of direction in that the recent loss of a Traveling Education Display has harmed the chapter dramatically. We need to share our history in our displays and our actions with the public-it is to this end that we need to stand out as an educational vehicle about the Vietnam War but also showing the current war and our war-where we were the same and where we differed. VVA chapters in Jamestown and Buffalo did not wait-we cannot afford to wait.

You have been with me in the past- be with into the future. I will appreciate your vote and backing as we move forward.

Hank WALLACE

Peter M. GALLE

I did not come to Chapter 20 empty handed-field auditing experience with the IRS, serving the Health Association- To Reach Out and Inform about Developmental Disabilities oversight board, working with Equal Rights for Fathers regarding deployed troop issues and the Diabetes Council at Unity Health.

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You have been with me in the past- be with into the future. I will appreciate your vote and backing as we move forward.

Dick McDERMOTT

No photo or bio submitted.
As a Charter Member I have held the following elected positions:
- **Vice President** – Elected in April 1984.
- **President** – Elected in 2000 after no one else chose to run for the position.
- **First Vice President** – Appointed in December 2002. Elected in 2004.
- **Board of Directors** – Appointed to last year of BOD position in 1986 and 1989.

In 1988 I was appointed as the Chapter 20 representative on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of Greater Rochester Board of Directors and was elected VVMGR Secretary in 1990. Remained in this position until June 2000 when the original BOD was disbanded.


Appointed as the Chapter 20 representative on Veterans Outreach Center BOD in 1999 and remain in this position. Formed a special committee with 5 other Chapter 20 members in February 2002 to start the Veterans Emergency Relief Foundation and was elected Secretary. This group offers emergency financial assistance to any veteran who meets the not-for-profit’s guidelines. Served as a member of the VVA 20 Veterans Walk Committee from 2001 until 2006.

Elected as a Chapter 20 delegate to VVA New York State Council in 2002 and was elected NYSC Treasurer in September 2005 after Ned Foot became President. I was reelected in June 2006, and plan on seeking reelection in June 2008. Appointed to Kodak VetNet Board of Directors in September 2006 and was elected Vice President in 2008. Previously was Treasurer of VetNet in 1997 to 1999 before my division was divested. Delegate to VVA National Conventions from 1999 to 2007 and intend to attend in 2009.

My commitment to VVA and serving my brother and sister veterans is genuine.

Chapter 20 has always been at the forefront in living up to the organization’s motto of “Never Again Shall a Generation of Veterans Abandon Another.” There is an urgent need to have assured health care funding for the VA and to ensure those men and women currently serving receive the benefits they earned. Funding for the VVA Service Officer Program is vital to assist with all claims filed on behalf of Vietnam and all other veterans.
chair of VVA’s National Convention Rules Committee. He was elected to the National Board of Directors in 1999 as an At-Large Director, and in 2003 as Region 2 Director. In 2005, he served as Chair of the National Convention Resolutions Committee, was re-elected as Region 2 Director, and was appointed to the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Foundation Board of Directors where he was elected Secretary. At last year’s national convention, Fred again chaired the Convention Resolutions Committee and was re-elected Region 2 Director.

Did You Know??

That the Ira J. Jacobsen American Legion Post 474 has been in existence since September 20, 1919. Originally the Post was located on Stutson Street where it shared space with a railroad station. In 1945 the Post relocated to its present location. The property was purchased from the Sisters of Mercy who had been using the property as a summer cottage and as a school for women.

The Post is named after Ira Jacobsen, a young Rochesterian who was a clerk at the Charlotte train station when he enlisted in the Army to fight in World War I. Sadly, young Ira was killed in action in France where he is buried. Sergeant Jacobsen was a squad leader in the 106th Infantry of the 27th New York Division of the American Expeditionary Forces.

(Information was taken from the Ira Jacobsen Post web site, www.irajacobsen0474.org where additional information about the Post can be found.)
membership application

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20

Name: ___________________________________________ Date of Birth: ______________________ Sex: □ M □ F

Address: ___________________________________________ Home Phone: ( ___ ) ______________________

City: ___________________________________________ Work Phone: ( ___ ) ______________________

Zip: _______________ Country: ______ Email Address: _______________ □ W □ H

Chapter # (if known) ____________________________ Sponsor: ________________________________

I am not a Vietnam, but I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families. Please accept my donation: ________ □ AVVA Membership

□ $10 □ $20 □ $50 □ Other ($________)


Term: □ 1 year: $20 □ Life Membership: $250 (ages 49 and under), $225 (ages 50-55), $200 (ages 56-60),

□ 3 years: $50 $175 (ages 61-65), $150 (ages 66 and over)

Payment Options: □ Check □ Money Order

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

VVA is a non-profit veterans service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.
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1st Vice President:
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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Kathy Gleason ........................................978-1331
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AVVA.................. Kathry Gleason 978-1331
Between The Lines......... Kathry Gleason 978-1331
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Comm. Service/Pub. Affairs .... Dick McDermott 398-2628
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Incarcerated Veterans ........... Ron Trovato 544-8470
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Membership, Chapter Gear .... Ralph Pascale 755-2560
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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: region2vva.com

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION
Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial... 857-753-7275
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, Cindy Rowley ............ 482-8016
VVA Vehicle Donations, Cindy Rowley .... 224-8484
VVA Chapter 20 ..................... info@vva20.org • 482-7396

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**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 viewed on the Chapter 20 website at www.vva20.org.

We welcome letters to the editor, poetry, original articles and suggestions. Submissions should include name and phone number and can be sent to *Between the Lines*, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612 or emailed to kathy14470@msn.com. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity and to not use materials we think inappropriate for the publication. Deadline for submissions for each issue is the 5th of the preceding month. Exceptions may be granted by contacting the editor.

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**06 SUN** • Marine Corps League Breakfast – Ira Post 9am - Noon

**07 MON** • Board of Directors Meeting

**10 THU** • Annual Election/Membership Meeting

6:00PM – Buffet Dinner (see p. 8)

**15 TUE** • Don’t forget your taxes!

**19 SAT** • Annual Dinner/Installation of Officers, Barnard Exempt, 7:00PM (see p. 2)

• Child & Youth Safety Day – 1PM to 5PM (see p. 14)

**26 SAT** • Marching Unit Annual Meeting, Ira Post 7:00PM

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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.

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Vietnam Veterans of America
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