POW-MIA Recognition Day
Friday, September 19, 2008
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another month over the summer is really flying by. Can't believe that it's nearly fall, and we are nearly over the summer and outreaches with our new trailer are complete for the year. On the subject of the outreaches with the trailer, let me address a couple of things that need fixing and the good that this project has done.

• First, we had scheduled 5 or 6 events and, with the exception of the air show, we were strapped with not having enough volunteers. The firemen's carnivals, for the most part, had a couple of us that spent long hours staffing the trailer. Over the winter, Pat (and the Membership Committee) will be trying to come up with a plan to help ease this. WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS.

• The Air Show was a great event, with many thanks going out to those who showed up to man the booth. Over that weekend we touched more veterans than I could keep track of. Many of these veterans -- both old and new, from WWII to the current ones serving in harm's way -- were provided with lots of information on property tax exemptions, healthcare, and compensation due to them for their service to our country. We also presented challenge coins with the important phone numbers on them to those who have not yet looked into their benefits.

Saying all that, we plan to have some training sessions over the winter to inform those who choose to volunteer at these events about the information we will be handing out. I think this project is really important and in keeping with our founding principle, "NEVER AGAIN SHALL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER." We as brother and sister veterans have a duty to help each other. In closing on this subject, special thanks go out to Pat Marianetti for all his help and leadership in making this project work. Thanks, Pat!

On another note, I would like to welcome Pat Marianetti to the Chapter Board and also as the new Chair of the Membership Committee, filling the spot that was held by Ralph Pascale -- Welcome Pat, and we look forward to your support of the Chapter. I would also like to thank Ralph Pascale for all the hard work he has done for the Chapter, both as a Board Member and Chair of the Membership Committee. Thanks Ralph!

The Chapter now has new t-shirts, in black or gray, with the Chapter logo and POW logo on them for the cost of $10.00 each. They will be on sale at the membership meetings.

In closing, stay safe, enjoy the remainder of the summer and we'll see you at the membership meetings.

Ken Moore
Vietnam US Army Cavalry
Vietnam 1966-67

VICE PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Vice Presidents' Report - As a result of a recent Executive Meeting we, as 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, were notified by the President that we needed to comply with Policy #201 in the Chapter's Policy Manual. Policy #201 sets a requirement for the Vice Presidents to meet quarterly with the Chapter 20 designated committee chairpersons to discuss their activities and financial expenditures. The President's interpretation is that this policy requires a physical meeting with all Committee Chairpersons on a set date.

Tom and I decided that the first such meeting would be on Wednesday, September 3 @ 7pm in the Chapter's Board Room at the Post. Quarterly meetings after the initial meeting will be, when possible, on the first Wednesday of each quarter @ 7pm in the Chapter's Board Room.

Bruce VanApeldoorn/Tom Gleason

MARCHING UNIT
RAY MELENS, COMMANDER

Before we ended another great parade season, we were invited to partake in a new parade (for us) in October. We will be marching in the Columbus Day parade on Saturday, Oct. 11th, with an 11:30AM start time. The parade will begin at East Ave. and Alexander Street, just the same as the Memorial Day parade. When I find out where we form up, I will advise the members of the Marching Unit by e-mail or phone. So, except for this parade, another great parade season is behind us.

As I said last month, though, the Marching Unit will still be busy in September. Saturday the 6th is the MU picnic. I will have more on that event in next month's report. We will also be having a candle-light vigil on Saturday, Sept. 13th at the POW/MIA Memorial in Highland Park, and on Friday, Sept.19th at the POW/MIA Memorial in Charlotte (at the end of Lake Ave. at the base of the flag pole), members of the Honor Guard will be partaking in the annual POW/MIA Recognition Day service. I ask that everyone try and attend these two services to show the public and our elected officials that we, as veterans, still expect a full accounting for our fellow veterans.

The month of November will be here before we know it, and that means another Veterans Day service to be conducted at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. This service is always held on Nov. 11th at 6:00PM. In next month's report, I will be asking for...

Continued on page 10
POW-MIA

GAIL BOLOGNA-MELENS, CHAIRPERSON

Okay, I’m not even going to say where did the summer go? (Even though I guess I just did).

It is September, the month of POW-MIA Awareness. Our candle light vigil will be held on Saturday night, September 13, at 7:30 PM. We will be reading the names of the 1,754 people still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. I will need readers of the names. Don’t call – just show up. When you feel that you would like to read names, just stand next to the person currently reading and when they finish their page they will turn it over to you. The former reader then becomes the person who will ring the bell after each name is read. As I mentioned before, there are 1,754 people still missing and unaccounted for. Four more have been repatriated. WO 1stClass Arthur F Caney, U.S. Army, from Virginia, and WO 2ndClass Bobby L McKain, USAR, from Kansas both listed as KIAS/BNR in South Vietnam on May 3, 1968, were turned over to the US officials on June 11, 1985, identified on March 11, 2008 but only recently released by DPMO as identified.

The remains of Sgt timothy J. Jacobsen, USA, from California, listed as MIA on April 16, 1971, in South Vietnam and recovered June 7, 1995, and identified March 24, 2008, and announced as identified on July 28, 2008. Hospital Corpsman 3rdClass Manuel R. Denton, U.S. Navy, of Kerrville, Texas. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery as part of a group. On October 8, 1963, he was one of six men who crewed a UH-34D Choctaw helicopter that was on a search-and-rescue mission. While over Quant Nam Province, Vietnam, the helicopter came under intense enemy ground fire and crashed. There were no survivors. Over the next several days, the remains of four of the crew were recovered. However, the remains of Denton and one other crewman, US Marine Lance Cpl Luther E Ritchey Jr. were not recovered, until now.

At our monthly meetings, don’t forget that we have the flag drawings and always available to the membership POW-MIA window decals. It is just a little way of keeping our POW-MIAs in the public eye. If we don’t REMEMBER them - who will.

Please don’t forget our POW-MIA’s in your thoughts and prayers. If we don’t REMEMBER them, who will?

Hello Mr. Moore ,

I want to thank you for your service to our country and our freedom. I was part of the Gates Chili group you educated early last month at the memorial at Highland with Wes Geer as our instructor. I have never been there before...I am ashamed to say. I can’t get you and your brothers out of my mind. I am touched beyond what mere words can express. You are truly great men and heroes walking among us who have taken your sacrifice for granted. I am honored to have met you all. Our debt to you can never be paid but our gratitude can be expressed and I am trying right now. I hope peace has found a place in your heart and in your life. Welcome home, Sir.

Most sincerely,
Jeanne Quagliata
It doesn’t seem possible that our organization held its 5th biennial meeting. Next year we will be celebrating 10 years. Ten years of ups and downs, but we are now on the right track, working hard for our veterans and their families. The following were elected as officers: Elaine Simmons, President, Mary Yeomans, Vice-President, Patsy Varnell, Secretary and Bill Williams, Treasurer.

Two motions of high significance were passed. AVVA incarcerated dues will be $1.00 and will not exceed $7.00. As many of you know, the board of directors changed the incarcerated AVVA membership dues two years ago to $20.00. This basically made it impossible for them to join or remain as members, as most incarcerated individuals earn less than $20.00 per month. Delegates and voices of this meeting let it be known with their votes that this important issue needed to be resolved. The charge for membership will vary by State with New York State mandated by the state government to only charge $1.00. So, let us start getting those members back -- they work tirelessly for veterans and their families.

The second motion was to begin incorporating Chapters of the AVVA. It was a grueling process and took most of a morning to make changes to these policies. Once the policies are approved by the Delegates and past board of directors, the new Board will start implementing them.

Another monumental effort is being started -- the Associates of Vietnam Veterans Service Officer Program. I have been named chair of this committee and have been creating the basic program, requirements that we must meet, and policies and procedures. This will be submitted to the VA for their approval and, once granted, funding will be needed by our new foundation, the National Foundation for Veterans & Families, Inc. We will also be working with the Veterans of Modern Warfare. Vietnam Veterans of America is behind us 100%, as many of the Service Officers are now retiring. So, if you are interested in becoming a service officer or coordinator, please let me know.
GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY
Sunday, September, 28, 2008

“The gift of liberty is secured by heroes who have answered the call to serve when America needed them most. On Gold Star Mother’s Day, we honor the mothers of the service men and women who have given their lives in the defense of our great Nation.

America’s Gold Star Mothers are remarkable patriots who serve their communities by demonstrating good citizenship, providing support and services to our troops and veterans, and helping comfort the families whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice. Their sense of duty and deep devotion to our country inspire our Nation, and we thank them for their compassion, determination, and strength. Though they carry a great burden of grief, these courageous mothers help ensure that the legacy of our fallen heroes will be forever remembered. On this day, we offer our deep gratitude and respect to our Nation’s Gold Star Mothers; we honor the sons and daughters who died while wearing the uniform of the United States; and we pray for God’s blessings on them, their mothers, and their families.”

- George W. Bush, 9/21/07

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, George Vaughn Seibold, 23, volunteered. He was sent to Canada where he learned to fly British planes since the United States had neither an air force nor planes. He was deployed to England and assigned to the British Royal Flying Corps, 148th Aero Squadron. With his squadron, he left for combat duty in France, but corresponded with his family regularly. Eventually, the mail from George stopped. Since all aviators were under British control and authority, the United States could not help the Seibold family with any information about their son.

Christmas Eve, 1918, the postman delivered a package to the Washington, DC residence of George and Grace Seibold. The package was marked, “Effects of Deceased Officer, First Lieutenant George Vaughn Seibold, Attached to the 148th Squadron, BRFC.” No other information was provided.

Grace continued to visit hospitalized veterans in the Washington area, clinging to the hope that her son might have been injured and returned to the United States without any identification. While working through her sorrow, she helped ease the pain of the many servicemen who returned so war-damaged that they were incapable of ever reaching normalcy.

After months of inquiry, the family received official notice that their son was killed in aerial combat over France on August 26, 1918. His body was never recovered.

Grace, realizing that holding grief within is self-destructive, devoted her time and efforts to both working in the hospital and extending a hand of friendship to other mothers whose sons lost sons in military service. She organized a group consisting solely of these special mothers, with the purpose of not only comforting each other, but giving loving care to hospitalized veterans confined in government hospitals far from home. The organization was named after the Gold Star that families hung in their windows in honor of the deceased veteran.

After years of planning, June 4, 1928, twenty-five mothers met in Washington, DC to establish the national organization, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. The success of the organization continues because of the bond of mutual love, sympathy, and support of the many loyal, capable, and patriotic mothers who while sharing their grief and their pride, have channeled their time, efforts and gifts to lessening the pain of others.

Since 1936, the last Sunday in September has been observed as Gold Star Mothers Day. A similar but separate organization, the Gold Star Wives of America, was founded in 1945.
Jerry McDermott

It was a great honor and my pleasure to attend the VVA 2008 National Leadership Conference in Greenville, SC this past July along with four very dedicated and hard-working Chapter 20 members Kathy and Tom Gleason, Pat Pudetti, and Hank Wallace. Other familiar Chapter 20 VVA members such as Brue and Marie Elliott, as well as Nick DeLeo were also in attendance in their respective roles from NYS Council and Regional positions to round out the Rochester connection.

Since this was my first conference, I was eager to attend the scheduled programs, sessions and workshops to gain as much information as possible from the very talented and expert presenters that were assembled. I was very impressed with the content of programs that I did attend and wished that I could have had more time during these worthwhile sessions. The chances to meet, learn, ask questions and discuss issues affecting us all with VVA and AVVA members from around the entire country was a priceless opportunity. It was truly a wonderful experience to watch, listen and learn from other attendees that came to Greenville to share their experiences, discuss problems, recommend solutions, ask numerous Q’s and receive numerous A’s, and commit to mutually support each other to become better at what we are trying to do for our common cause...our fellow veterans, their families and our communities.

I attended such program sessions as BOD’s Role of Governance in the Association, Post War Integration issues, Duties of BOD’s, Role of Officers in the Association, JPAC POW/MIA updates, Volunteering at the VA, to name a few. Of course, we (our band of brothers and sisters from Rochester) did manage to hang together for nourishment, beverages, and merriment at the end of each official daily program. There were plenty of sights to see, foods to taste, drinks to wet our whistles (and let’s not forget ice cream stores) that could not be passed by without getting huge triple scoop cones to eat. We did not want to offend the locals in any way. Everything was within easy walking distance to the hotel and conference center. I know, because Hank Wallace was on a daily morning mission to recon the entire area of downtown Greenville, and to report back to HQ before the birds were awake to chirp out a morning greeting. Hank was on a mission; he was in training for a return to West Point in mid-August and desperately tried to walk my sorry butt into training like it was going to be Beast Barracks for me, too.

I really enjoyed the opportunity to attend this conference. I had a terrific time with my fellow Chapter 20 friends and I met a great number of terrific people from all over the country trying to do the same for their Chapters. It was a tremendous pleasure to attend and represent Chapter 20 and our organization.

Hank Wallace

The foothills of the southern Appalachian Mountains moderated the South Carolina heat. The residents of Greenville have developed a tree-shaded, hospitable Main Street with shops, seats, and a welcoming air. It was sort of a Park Avenue (Rochester) setting with hotels, banks, evening music and a beautiful park on one end. In this setting, the VVA’s Leadership Conference was held. From Wednesday to Saturday we chose from a variety of sessions to both gain knowledge about the VVA National’s expectations and how to make our Chapter better. All of the sessions I attended were valuable. As an accountant, I was especially inter-
I attended sessions regarding roles and responsibilities of the board and various officers. In addition, there were other sessions regarding more general topics such as management and leadership, as well as POW/MIA recovery. I was able to talk with other members from around the country and get a greater sense of the meaning of VVA membership and mission.

From the interaction with folks from other chapters, it became clear that Chapter 20 is exceptional. Both in size and actions, Chapter 20 is a model in many ways. But we are similar to other chapters in that only a small proportion of the members attend the meetings and that an even smaller group does the work of the chapter.

Tom Gleason

On July 15-19, I attended the 2008 Leadership Conference in Greenville, South Carolina. While there I went to eight seminars. The first was on Membership recruitment and retention. I audio taped this seminar and passed the tape and class materials on to Pat Marianetti, our Membership chair, as he could not attend. I then attended 2 sessions on Parliamentary Procedures, 1 on the role of the Board of Directors and their role, and 1 on the role of the President. Along with these, I attended one on the Challenge of Leadership and one on the use of e-mail in the chapter.

Those who presented these lectures had a good grasp of their subject material and welcomed any and all questions for discussion on the topics. The best presenter was from a company called Leadership Outfitters, Dr. Bridget Cooper. Her lectures were not only informative, but also entertaining. The finale was the VVA Awards Banquet and Dance on Saturday evening, with live music from a group called Endless Summer and a duo called Blue-Eyed Soul.

I would recommend highly to those who have never attended a leadership conference or national convention, to get involved and attend. There are things to learn, and friends, new and old, to meet.

Pat Pudetti

It’s been a few years since I attended a leadership conference but I was glad I was asked to attend this year.

All in all it was a learning experience and one that is on top of my list. The area was beautiful the city had everything you needed, restaurants, shops, parks, and stores. All with in walking distance. Actually seeing that it was July in South Carolina the heat was there but there seemed to be a breeze all of the time. Plus all kinds of trees to help keep it shady during the day.

Education: I know it’s been said by other attendees but the information that has been given in my opinion was outstanding.

The one thing that came out of the conference was the VEAA of 2008 (Veterans Education Assistance Act), which will be effective August 1, 2009. It will provide up to 36 full time months of education for 15 years from date of discharge release. The VA pays a lump sum directly to the school, max payment not to exceed the max in state rate for public institution. A maximum rate of $1,000 each year for book supplies, equipment and other educational costs paid in a lump sum – prorated by quarter, or semester. Something new is that you can transfer to dependents – an active duty service member with qualifying service with an agreement to serve additional years may transfer unused benefits to...
spouse or children 18 or older and
10 years or more of service.

VMW (Veterans of Modern
Warfare) were handing out this
information re: education. The vet-
eran had to have served after 9-11-
01. There are 8 categories from
36 months to 90 days active duty.
Example, 36 months active duty =
100% payment; 90 days active duty
= 40% payment, the rest fall between
them. The hand out is available on
line @ www.va.org

Good News: This could be
good and bad; the VA is now accept-
ing claim applications online, and
without a signed copy. It reduces
the number of incomplete applica-
tions according to the VA, but if the
veteran has questions, he may have
a problem. If you go online (www.
va.gov) you can read about this new
education benefit for our service per-
sonnel.

VMW is our newest veteran’s
group. They are for veterans who
served from 1990 up until today
and beyond. They face some new
problems such as: types of chemical
problems, depleted uranium, para-
sites and a variety of shots from our
government some with little known
side affects. They are also dealing
with high rates of suicide, homeless-
ness, drug abuse, sound familiar?

VMW is working towards
“Veterans Courts” that deal with
the new veterans heading to jail for
crimes, that may be secondary to
their war experience.

Tom Berger, PhD said “the most
important work for the local chapters
involve outreach to younger veterans
and education of local medical and
mental health providers on veteran’s
needs.”

On Friday morning there was
a MIA/POW ceremony held just
outside of the hotel. It was well
attended but the sounds system was
a little less than cooperative.

I also attended the Veteran’s
Benefits Hearing, a lot of informa-
tion was talked about. I have
included some of the more impor-
tant things. No surprise that the
VA has a backlog of claims. This is
true in most RO’s (regional office).
The VAs are receiving about 1000
claims a week that’s new, increases,
pensions, comp and education and
DIC.

The question of Security came
up, that anyone who handles a claim’s
folder should have a back ground
check done on them. The cost is
around $400.00. This maybe a costly
expense to some organizations that
have a number of service officers.

For veterans looking ship records,
ship logs and unit records you can
try this web-site www.archives.gov.

Just a note for veterans who
have claims in or plan on putting
in a claim, remember, Dates on the
letters, you receive from the VA are
very important. If you miss a date, it
could cost you money or worse your
claim.

In closing, I feel the conference
was a great success. A lot of good
and helpful information was pre-
sented.

Also, being with good friends
from our chapter like Hank, Tom,
Kathy, Nick, Fred, Marie and Jerry
make it even more pleasurable. Jerry,
the next time we drive I’ll be sure to
bring a GPS, my map skills were a
little rusty!???

Thank you.
the company around me. It’s always refreshing for me to spend a few days with other members and learn more about them on a different level.

The next Leadership conference will be in Kentucky – I strongly encourage you to think about attending. You will learn a great deal and have a super time with this terrific extended family of ours.

**Nick DeLeo, NYSC Treasurer**

At the Leadership Conference in Greenville, South Carolina I attended several informative sessions over four days. Parliamentary Procedures was explained under the title of Role of the Presiding Officer. Call to Order isn’t part of business and a quorum is required to conduct a meeting. If there is no quorum it can only be adjourned. Committee reports should be listed in alphabetical order and special or ad hoc committees report last. Any motions not addressed at previous meeting become Unfinished Business and only the chair states whether there is any unfinished business. The presiding officer should be impartial with no expressed opinion on topics being discussed.

Minutes are adopted by unanimous consent versus a motion with a second and voting. The Secretary makes necessary corrections to the minutes after approval upon request of a member. Voting is generally by voice vote and if the chair is in doubt a hand vote is taken. The chair repeats a motion every time a vote is taken on a subject with amendments. When addressing the chair a member must wait to be recognized before speaking. A presiding officer appoints committee chairs and the chairperson appoints the committee. An organization’s structure is the By-Laws and this document should be no more than two sheets. All members of the meeting body must be present to be part of the meeting. Calling in to the meeting is only allowed when it’s listed in the By-Laws.

In the Treasurer Duties it was explained VVA is a 501 (c) 19 not-for-profit organization due to having members and is not considered a 501 (c) 3. Chapters are covered under a group exemption, but must retain a Federal Tax Identification Number. It must list the name of the specific group and this exemption is only for federal taxes. Tax laws vary according to state and an application should be made to be exempt from ant state tax. National provides bonding up to ten thousand dollars ($10,000.00) and State Councils and Chapters can purchase insurance to cover liabilities over this amount.

Annual Election Reports with financial statements are required to be submitted to National and the respective State Council by 15 July of each calendar year. Disciplinary action will be taken against any Chapter that fails to file a financial report to their State Council and National. Only National is required to conduct a financial audit, but there are state laws that could direct Chapters to file a financial report especially when state grants are involved. Due to the timeframe of the 2009 convention it’s extremely important for Chapters to file financial reports by 15 July 2009 to allow their delegates to be seated.

The role of the Secretary in a State Council or Chapter consists of a file system with a permanent location of the organization’s records. It includes the Letter of Incorporation, a historical record issued once, an Incorporation Certificate from the state, the Charter from National, Tax Exempt Certificate from the IRS, and State Tax Exempt Certificate. There should be a list of past officers and directors and the By-Laws must be reviewed periodically to update for accuracy. Chronological recording of minutes from inception to the present are to be maintained. National provides bond insurance through the Hayes Insurance Group and its recommended that each State Council and Chapter retains a policy to cover liabilities over the limit provided by National. A calendar of the decision of each Chapter to retain or destroy their members’ DD214s. The Secretary records what business was conducted, not conversations, only actions and is seated next to the presiding officer. They shall retain all committee reports, notify members of appointments to committees and have possession of the Chapter or State Council seal to affix to documents. Election reports and financial reports are submitted to their State Council and National by the due date. Minutes of Executive Session aren’t recorded and this is to allow a free exchange of debate regarding financial matters, disciplinary action, real estate and legal issues. Recording of votes is only necessary when it’s requested. Abstention is considered not voting on a topic and is basically no opinion. When there is a conflict of interest it must be brought up by a member and explained why it’s an actual conflict. Never discard a voided check because it must be retained for the organization’s records.

Administrative management of a State Council or Chapter consists of a file system with a permanent location of the organization’s records. It includes the Letter of Incorporation, a historical record issued once, an Incorporation Certificate from the state, the Charter from National, Tax Exempt Certificate from the IRS, and State Tax Exempt Certificate. There should be a list of past officers and directors and the By-Laws must be reviewed periodically to update for accuracy. Chronological recording of minutes from inception to the present are to be maintained. National provides bond insurance through the Hayes Insurance Group and its recommended that each State Council and Chapter retains a policy to cover liabilities over the limit provided by National. A calendar of the decision of each Chapter to retain or destroy their members’ DD214s. The Secretary records what business was conducted, not conversations, only actions and is seated next to the presiding officer. They shall retain all committee reports, notify members of appointments to committees and have possession of the Chapter or State Council seal to affix to documents. Election reports and financial reports are submitted to their State Council and National by the due date. Minutes of Executive Session aren’t recorded and this is to allow a free exchange of debate regarding financial matters, disciplinary action, real estate and legal issues. Recording of votes is only necessary when it’s requested. Abstention is considered not voting on a topic and is basically no opinion. When there is a conflict of interest it must be brought up by a member and explained why it’s an actual conflict. Never discard a voided check because it must be retained for the organization’s records.

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events for an entire term of office should be established for planning purposes. Serial numbers of all fixed assets must be recorded to have proof for an insurance claim.

Membership recruitment booths at events should have all veteran related material laid out on the table and available in bags to provide to anyone who shows an interest. Use give-away items such as buttons, pins, Chapter newsletter and The Veteran. Having a display with the map of Vietnam is a great draw for potential members. Have a small packet about VVA and the local Chapter with the local organization contact information. It’s a marketing and educational tool for veterans, and those working the booth should be knowledgeable about veteran’s services and be friendly. Be sure to offer suitable answers to every question and offer referral to a service officer for specific requests.

Only the presiding officer or their designee should speak on behalf of the Chapter when approached by a reporter. Be judicious with statements especially during press calls with the media. Remember a reporter isn’t your friend or enemy and it’s imperative for you to know the facts, since you will be quoted as an expert. It’s strongly suggested to read The Veteran and VVA press releases. Always uses positive phrases when discussing issues. Be prepared for live interviews to make sure you understand the topic. Never argue with a reporter or engage in debate and above all, remain calm. Your advantage is who you are as an informed Vietnam veteran. Dress appropriately when conducting an interview, not necessarily a coat and tie, but business casual with VVA identity.

MARCHING UNIT from page 2
MU members to volunteer for this service. We keep it short but meaningful. This is mostly due to the extreme weather conditions we deal with there at the site at that time of year. We will also probably have the chili dinner afterwards. There will be more on that as well in next month’s report.

Before the September membership meeting at 7:00PM, the Honor Guard will begin meeting again upstairs at Ira. This is an informal meeting and anyone that is interested in joining may attend as well.

Until next month……………..

AT EASE!!!!!!!

Hall Rental & Catering
IRA J. JACOBSON POST 474
AMERICAN LEGION
90 St. Johns Park, 14612   Phone # (585) 663-7030


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:
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Hear this: news & notes

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Do You Know?
How Army Engineers Cleared Viet Cong Tunnels?

To counter the immense technological advantage held by U.S. and allied forces during the Vietnam Conflict, the Viet Cong developed an extensive network of underground tunnel complexes. From these tunnels, which were concentrated mostly around Cu Chi but spread as far as the outskirts of Saigon, the enemy could effectively ambush American forces and then safely vanish underfoot. The tunnels became so highly developed that they eventually contained armories, hospitals, mess halls, manufacturing centers, and storage facilities. Some complexes ranged up to 40 miles long; the Cu Chi tunnel complex contained 130 miles of passageways.

Having begun construction during their fight for independence against the French, the Vietnamese had incorporated a number of unique, battle-tested design features in their tunnels. They were made with minimal breadths with angled walls and were virtually impassable by most Westerners. Detection was difficult; airshafts were camouflaged and entryways disguised by filled wells dropping 50 feet. There were a variety of tunnel types: squad-size tunnels generally were less than 6-feet deep and 100-feet long; company-size tunnels were wider but not extensively compartmented; and battalion-size tunnels could burrow 50 feet underground and sometimes contain up to four different levels. Extensive booby-trapping made it nearly impossible for American troops to extricate the enemy from their impregnable safe-havens that allowed them to withstand intense aerial bombardment—even by crater-making B-52 bombs.

While Army engineers faced a daunting task in destroying these systems, they nevertheless had developed a number of methods for doing so. The least effective was by mechanical means, as bulldozers and plows could not displace any but the shallowest of tunnels and only with great difficulty could they be deployed in densely vegetated and remote areas. Flooding also proved ineffective because the Viet Cong had dug additional wells deep inside to prevent the tunnel complexes from becoming saturated. An even less desirable, but most immediately available method was for volunteers from special engineer tunnel demolition teams (who became known as “tunnel rats”) to enter headfirst into the tunnels to clear them out the hard way.

Other means could avoid such insertion. Conventional explosives were tried. Block explosives placed at critical points with a force of 2-pounds-per-foot could bring down a section, although they generally would not affect other parts of the bunkers. Shaped charges facing upward also could destroy specific tunnel segments. Also, it was found through trial and error that ring mains with delay caps allowed lower charges to detonate first, which would bring down entire tunnels. Another way was to deposit cratering charges in five-foot-deep holes along the outside trace of a known tunnel. Because of their explosive characteristics, Bangalore torpedoes were the most successful conventional means in effecting complete

Continued on page 12
Destruction. But because of their 5-foot lengths, each Bangalore section had to be carried into the tunnels and emplaced by hand. Overall, however, the large quantity required and the need for soldiers to physically place the charges limited the use of most conventional explosives.

Different and more innovative methods were employed, such as running tubing along the length of a tunnel and filling it with liquid explosive, either by gravity fill or a pumping system, although the highly flammable nature of these liquid explosives often countered their effective use. Another means of denying use of the tunnels was through the introduction of CS powder, smoke, or riot-control agents aerosolized and dispersed by the Mitey Mite Blower. It was believed that some of these chemical agents would remain on the tunnel walls and render them uninhabitable for months. But the dense jungle and poor climatic conditions often “swallowed up” chemical dispersants.

Most effectively, engineers used acetylene for destruction of tunnels with less than 7 feet of overburden. A charge could ignite an acetylene-air gaseous mixture generated from a calcium carbide and water reaction. Four cubic yards of acetylene pumped into an area could destroy more than 50 cubic yards of tunnel volume. When acetylene was used in conjunction with conventional explosives, the effect could collapse 15 feet of overburden. But this latter method also involved inherent danger due to volatility of the chemical compounds.

In the end, enemy operations from the tunnels were never completely eradicated in spite of the ingenuity of Army engineers. The tunnels around Cu Chi are now a major tourist attraction—having been widened to accommodate Westerners.

Image sources:
The Army Engineer in Vietnam, The U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, VA. (Not dated.)
Report on the Employment of Acetylene in the Destruction of Viet Cong Tunnels. (Not dated.)

For more information on this historical vignette, please contact the Office of History at ceho@usace.army.mil

Wreath Laying in Greenville
by Fred Elliott

Tuesday, July 15th in Greenville, South Carolina was clear and hot -- a picture perfect day to place a wreath at the Greenville Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The memorial is located in Cleveland Park, a short car ride from our hotel for the National Leadership Conference. The memorial is composed of several black granite panels mounted on a concrete structure. The various panels list the local killed-in-action from the Vietnam War, a tribute to the Purple Heart, Poems, emblems of the five armed services, a tribute to American Gold Star Mothers, and quotations from various sources. It is a well-planned and fitting memorial.

VVA’s National President, John Rowan, and his fellow officers placed a wreath, followed by Mary Miller and Nancy Nix for AVVA, and representa-

tives of the South Carolina State Council. President Rowan made a few remarks, as did Avery Taylor, South Carolina State President. Region 3 Director Bruce Whitaker, was interviewed by the media and was on TV later that day.

The ceremony was everything a ceremony should be…..brief and to the point.
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.

David J. Kauffman Post #41
Jewish War Veterans

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Supports the Vietnam Vets

Larry Schulman, Quartermaster, 271-6967

New York
State
Senate

Senator
Joseph E. Robach

2300 West Ridge Road
Rochester, NY 14626
(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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Tomi Rinaldo, President

Betsy Lombardo, Advocating for Veterans

Debra Sloane, Retail Office Assistant

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Events

Veterans Outreach Center, Inc., will host three summits, dubbed Voices Together, to promote conversations among various populations connected with the veteran community, in hopes of strengthening the system of veterans’ reintegration. These summits will bring together members of the armed services, family members of veterans and service-members, and social service providers to create a better system of reintegration for service-members and their families post-Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and/or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Members of these populations from the Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes regions are invited to participate. Information that is shared and gathered will be anonymous. Ideas and suggestions will help create new programs or services, inform public policy, and could be used in a wider study for New York State as a whole, in an effort to improve veterans’ health and well-being statewide. The schedule for the summits is as follows:

- Canandaigua—Crosswinds Wesleyan Church, Friday, September 19, 2008
- Rochester—Nazareth College, Saturday, September 20, 2008
- Batavia—Genesee Community College, Friday, September 26, 2008

All sessions are 10am – 4pm. Check-in begins at 9:00am for each summit, and participants are asked to arrive no later than 9:45am. Lunch will be provided and childcare facilities will be available as needed. Participants must commit to attending the entire program (10am – 4pm) as each part of the day will build on the next. Pre-registration is required to ensure adequate space. Please contact Jocene Preston at 585.546.1081 for further information.

National Veterans Job Expo

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008 - 2 to 6 p.m.
WHERE: EISENHART AUDITORIUM at the ROCHESTER MUSEUM & SCIENCE CENTER, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY
Bring your Military Separation/Discharge document (e.g. DD214), if available. Sponsored by Veterans Outreach Center, 585-546-4250.

There are a number of stories we hear told at various events. I’d like to capture them in writing and publish a book of your Vietnam era stories. I’m looking for the more light-hearted tales, like Bruce Vanapeldoorn’s Tropical Bar or Bruce McDaniel’s story of learning to stand guard. I think (and the BOD agrees) that a collection of these tales would be a refreshing addition to the numerous intense episodes that have scarred so many of you. Contact Kathy Gleason at 978-1331 or kathy14470@msn.com if you’d like to share your story. Submissions can be anonymous if necessary.
Prostate Cancer (A Brief Look)

Guys -- it is said that if you live long enough, you WILL get Prostate Cancer. You must keep an eye on this problem to discover when you have the cancer. The normal test is a blood test called PSA. You should have this test done each year -- more often if you have an elevated level. This test is an indicator for the doctor to do a cancer search, an easily done biopsy.

When you have the cancer, the problem is what to do for it. Prostate cancer is a slow-growing cancer. It can, in some cases (of men older than most of us), be left untreated. The biggest danger as I see it, is that the cancer may spread to very hard-to-treat areas deep within your body. If you have prostate cancer, get it treated.

There are several methods: radiation, chemo, and surgery. What you and the doctor decide will depend on your health and the doctor’s preferences.

In Rochester, we are a leader in robotic surgery. In this, the doctor uses a machine to go in and get the prostate via five small incisions near the navel. Regular surgery uses a bigger opening to remove the prostate. Both methods require time to relearn control of the urine system and may have an effect on your ability to have an erection. This method is normally recommended for men who do not have serious health problems.

Radiation can be done in several varieties and depends on your health, preferences, and family. If you have had heart problems, radiation is usually the choice. Radiation can be done by short visits to a cancer center repeatedly every weekday for four to six weeks (or more). Another version of radiation is called “seeds,” in which radioactive seeds are implanted around the prostate. This is sometimes not suggested for someone around small children.

Chemo, the use of chemicals to treat the cancer is another option. It is well known for multiple side effects. But it may the best option depending on your health.

Clearly I have only touched on the topic of Prostate Cancer; you will need to research your situation with the help of your doctor and a search of the internet.

Prostate Cancer in Viet Nam (in-country) vets is automatically assumed to be Agent Orange related, and you will qualify for help and support from VA medical facilities.

Hank Wallace (Robotic surgery March 08) 334-5352 or whwnbt@rit.edu
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
Car Donation, LLC

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2008 • Time: 1:00 p.m. till ??
Where: American Legion Post #468, 344 Dorsey Road – Greece, NY (663-2091)
Donation: $20.00/ticket
Steak Dinner (served 2:00-7:00 p.m.)

Raffles & 50/50’s • DJ Danny Blues Music for Listening & Dancing
Pre-Sale Tickets Only - Available at American Legion Post #468 until Sept.6th
Our BOD has wholeheartedly agreed to allow the collection of items below in support of our hospitalized veterans, both men and women, currently receiving treatment at the Canandaigua MC. Volunteer Opportunities are always welcomed and you can make direct contact with Ms Robin Johnson, Manager of Voluntary Services, anytime at 585-393-7759. You can help out one time a year or whenever your schedule will permit.

- Comfort care items (deodorant, shampoo, shaving cream, lotions [for men/women vets at the Center] - travel size, full size, or complementary sizes from hotel/motel chains are great!)
- Coffee (regular and decaf)
- Creamer, sugar, sugar substitute
- Hot Chocolate mix
- Bowling/movie tickets
- Baking items (cookies, bread mixes - for a homey effect in the wards, used as aromatherapy)
- Gift cards from stores like Walmart/Wegmans/Tops
- Prepaid phone cards
- Tickets to sporting events, zoo
- Paper products (plates, napkins)
- New socks, tee shirts, sweatshirts (men and women sizes...color white...tube socks are ideal!)
- Postage

We will collect any items that are brought to the monthly membership meetings, and I will take responsibility to make the delivery to Canandaigua MC. Thank you for your support, Jerry McDermott

The VA’s National Suicide Crisis Line

1-800-273-TALK
or
1-800-273-8255

24/7 365 days/per year provides professional counseling to veterans, their family members or friends.
Numbers
by Hank Wallace

The trip to the VVA Leadership Conference (Greenville SC) in July 2008 added to my knowledge of numbers. As an accountant, tax preparer, and teacher, I have been using numbers in a variety of ways over the years. But the numbers of VVA are both interesting and depressing. Here is a review for your information.

Lesson
Because of the way we were treated, we have accepted as a founding principle “NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER.” My observation from the Greenville Conference is that we of VVA, both at the local and national levels, must not abandon our own generation of brothers and sisters who are not yet part of VVA. We must expand our efforts to reach out and inform them (and the Veterans of more recent times) of the many rights and benefits due them for their service. We need to share our knowledge with those who do not know what is available. We must continue to expand our efforts to contact all vets. The need to educate vets about the benefits and the rights available to them at the local, state and national levels should be a major thrust of all of us in VVA.

Chapter 20’s Actions
Chapter 20 has begun to work at reaching out to our fellow vets. The Chapter has purchased a trailer to take to public events to provide both an attention getter and a place to store materials. We have gathered both our own and VA pamphlets to be available for visitors.

Chapter 20 needs you and your support in this effort to keep our founding principle “NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER”
Before arriving in Greenville, South Carolina, for this year’s Leadership Conference, Marie and I made a side trip to Elberton, Georgia. About 2 hours north of Atlanta, Elberton is the county seat for Elbert County. This rural Georgia county has a population of about 21,000 with 4,700 of those folks residing in Elberton (about 1,000 people smaller than Hilton). Our purpose in visiting Elberton was to visit with a former neighbor of Marie’s who had relocated to Elberton over 30 years ago. Mary Elizabeth Gaffney, now an eighty-six-year-old widow, served in the United States Army during World War II and spent time in the European theatre, where she had the privilege of meeting and serving with Allied Supreme Commander General Dwight Eisenhower. She and her husband had four sons, two of whom served in the U.S. Armed Forces – Michael in the Marine Corps at the tail end of the Vietnam War and John, who graduated West Point and is now serving in the United States Coast Guard.

On our way back to the Gaffney home after dinner out, we happened upon the Elbert County Veterans Memorial. Marie and I were totally taken with this great memorial dedicated to all veterans of WW1, WW2, Korea, and Vietnam. Because Elberton is known as the Granite Capital of the World, it became obvious why there was such a generous use of granite at the memorial. Dedicated in 1982, the granite pieces and their engravings have withstood the ravages of time. The site itself could use some loving care to improve the landscaping, but overall it is a great memorial site.
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).

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When you return the completed form to the Veterans Walk Committee at PO 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.
We are up and running again on EBAY!!
- Take a peek, tell your friends, watch us grow! Go to EBAY.com, Advanced search, far left side click on “items by seller”, Enter VVA20 for the seller’s ID.

The store is packed!

Shoppers needed…

The Thrift Store has a new truck - Do you like the artwork?

**Roll Call: B.O.D. Attendance**

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X=Present  E=Excused  A=Absent
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 Vet, but I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families. Please accept my donation: ______ □ AVVA Membership
□ $10  □ $20  □ $50  □ Other ($________)

Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Military (for other than training purposes) between

Term:  □ 1 year: $20  □ Life Membership: $250 (ages 49 and under), $225 (ages 50-55), $200 (ages 56-60),
□ 3 years: $50  □ 3 years: $50  □ 3 years: $50  □ 3 years: $50  □ 3 years: $50  □ 3 years: $50  □ 3 years: $50
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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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Membership, Chapter Gear ............... Pat Marianetti • 723-8148 (H) • 509-0114 (C)
POW/MIA ................................ Gail Bologna-Melens • powmia20@aol.com • 392-2079
Social Events .......................... roleksyn@yahoo.com • 663-5255
Speakers Bureau ......................... Geno Lenyk • gni3153@ntid.rit.edu • 423-0206
Veterans Affairs/Benefits ............... Pat Pudetti • patrickusmc1@yahoo.com • 753-6040
Veterans Walk .......................... chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288

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.nvyetnamvets.org
Region 2 Director: www.region2vva.com

MISCELLANEOUS
VVA 20 Thrift Store, LLC Mgmt.,
  Beth Affeldt .................................. 482-8036
Donation Pick-up, Cindy Rowley .......... 482-8016
VVA Vehicle Donations .................... 224-8484
VVA Chapter 20 ........................... info@vva20.org • 482-7396

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
VA Medical Center in Canandaigua .... 394-2000
VA Medical Center in Bath ............. 607-684-4000
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 ............ 234-6949

BETWEEN THE LINES

 Numbers to Know
01 MON • Labor Day

06 SAT • Marching Unit Picnic – The Melens’ Homestead 2:00pm

07 SUN • Happy Birthday, Larry Schulman!

08 MON • Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00pm

11 THU • Happy Birthday, Pat Pudetti!
• Membership Meeting - 7:30pm

12 FRI • Happy Birthday, Geno Lenyk!

13 SAT • Candlelight Vigil – POW/MIA Remembrance @ Vietnam Memorial, Highland Park, Rochester, NY - 7:00pm

17 WED • Happy Birthday, Tom Gleason!
• Happy Birthday, Ralph Pascale!

19 FRI • POW/MIA Recognition Day - Observed each year on the 3rd Friday of Sept.
• Happy Birthday, Rich Isaman!

28 SUN • Gold Star Mothers Day

29 MON • Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year (from sundown on 9/29 through 10/1)

OTHER DAYS OF INTEREST

07 SUN • Grandparent’s Day *

10 WED • U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps incorporated, 1962

11 THU • Patriot Day – 2,793 people died in NY, Washington DC & Pennsylvania from the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks

13 SAT • Battle of Heartbreak Ridge began, 1951

14 MON • Star Spangled Banner was written by Francis Scott Key, 1814 (due to Fort McHenry being successfully defended against a bombing by English ships)

18 THU • U.S. Air Force established, 1947

21 SUN • International Day of Peace

22 MON • First Day of Fall – Autumn Equinox

24 WED • USS Enterprise, the 1st nuclear aircraft carrier launched, 1960

29 MON • US Army established, 1789

29 MON • VFW established, 1899

*Grandparent’s Day (1st Sunday after Labor Day) - Grandparent’s Day originated with a housewife in Fayette County, West Virginia, whose primary motivation was to champion the cause of lonely elderly in nursing homes. She also hoped to persuade grandchildren to tap the wisdom and heritage their grandparents could provide. President Jimmy Carter in 1978, proclaimed that National Grandparents Day would be celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Labor Day. From http://www.butlerwebs.com/holidays/september.htm