POW/MIA Day Recognition Events
President’s Report

Well, it looks like summer is over and moving quickly to winter. To start, just a few things from the Board of Directors meeting this month.

The board approved the second payment of $8,000 (total of $16,000) to replace four curbs on the right side of the path at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. Hopefully they are in by this reading. The board also approved a donation of $5,600 to the Rundel Library for a video conference center so that the families of those serving in the Armed Forces can talk to them via video conference. The center will have a sign noting that it is sponsored by Chapter 20 Vietnam Vets. The donation amount will be given over a two-year period.

Troop boxes will be done again this year in January 2010, so we will be looking for names of those serving in the Armed Forces this year in January 2010, so we will be looking for names of those serving in the Armed Forces who will be at their duty station in February 2010, otherwise they return the boxes to the chapter. Please send the names to the Chapter P.O. Box or let one of the board members know. A thank you goes out to the Eastman Kodak Vet Net for their donation of a trailer and flag display. The annual dinner is scheduled for April 24, 2010, again at Lakeshore Country Club. More information will follow on that.

Lastly on a sad note, my friend and fellow vet Ray Melens has resigned as Marching Unit Commander so that he may spend more time with his grandkids. Ray has been the Commander for years and has put many miles on his boots leading his men down the road at too many parades to count, plus all the events that the Honor Guard has done. Ray, you are a true buddy and as I have told you, PLEASE don’t slip away from your family at the Chapter because if you do we will hunt you down. Thanks Ray! Also on that note, Gail, Ray’s wife, has chosen to step down as Chair of the POW/MIA Committee so that in her retirement she can spend ALL her time with RAY. Gail, you will be truly missed and have always made us proud for what you have done for those who remain lost in the war. I know that you will continue to be with us, being that now you will spend ALL YOUR TIME with Ray. Thanks Gail -- we love you. I will appoint our own Mr. Joe Peck to Chair the POW/MIA Committee. We are looking for a Commander of the Marching Unit, so if you would like to be considered please let me know.

In closing, thanks for your support and we will see you at the next meeting. God bless you all and God bless this great country!

Ken Moore
President
Vietnam 1966-67
US Army Cavalry

Marching Unit
Ray Melens, Commander

On Saturday, Sept. 12th members of the Marching Unit marched in the Gaines, NY Bi-Centennial parade. To many of us senior members it was very reminiscent of the Pumpkin Hook parades we use to do many years ago. I don’t think they will invite us back for their next Bi-Centennial parade though. The last official parade of the 2009 parade season was held on Saturday, Oct. 10th. The Marching Unit partook in the Downtown Columbus Day parade. Can’t tell you much more about this parade, because it has not actually taken place as of this writing. I’m sure though that there was a good turn out by marchers as well as spectators. This year’s trip to Washington, DC, for POW/MIA Recognition Day was the eleventh time the Honor Guard made the trip. Anyone that has been on this trip in the past knows how seriously the Honor Guard members take this ceremony. This year while at the Wall to conduct our service there were at least two busloads of tourists watching and listening to our service. A bouquet of flowers was placed at the Women’s Memorial as well as the wreath that was placed at the apex of the Wall. I can honestly say that we certainly drew a lot of attention this year and got the word out about POW/MIA Day. From there we went across the bridge to Arlington National Cemetery where we conducted brief services at the gravesites of our three MIAs that have been repatriated. Those graves that we visited were those of Rex Dewispleare, John Crowley and James Widener. This year’s trip to Washington was a bittersweet one for me. While we were in DC, I announced to those present that after months of deliberation and thought I would be turning in my resignation as Marching Unit/Honor Guard Commander when we returned to Rochester. I did write my resignation upon returning, making it effective on Oct. 11th, the day after the Columbus Day parade.

I must say that probably the one thing I’m most proud of from my 13-year tenure as the Marching Unit Commander was the start up of the Honor Guard. Another thing that I am very proud of is that I got a golden opportunity to lead a great bunch of veterans in remembering and paying honor to our fallen Brothers by marching down the street in parades. It is strictly because of these many dedicated members that our Chapter has the recognition it does nationally for paying respect and honor to fallen heroes from all eras. They have been to Arlington National Cemetery for repatriation ceremonies for John Crowley and James Widener as well as Francis Grasiozi who was repatriated locally. There is so much to look back on during the past 13 years with a lot of pride. It was all made possible by you, the members of the Marching Unit and Honor Guard. I just feel that after 13 years, it’s time to step down for some fresh ideas to come forward and I just don’t know if I have any more. Whoever it may be that
POW-MIA
Gail Bologna-Melens, Chairperson

We have returned from Washington, DC, where we conducted our ceremony at The Wall for National POW-MIA Awareness Day. This is something that we as a Chapter have done eleven times (Ray and I have done it 12 times and I have made the trip 13 times). We went with a great group of members and I was glad to have them there on my final trip as POW-MIA Chairperson for Chapter 20. It is with mixed emotions that I am writing my final article. I wish that the number of missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War was down to zero instead of 1,731. I don’t even have any new names of returnees this month. But, on the other hand, it is nice not to have a monthly article to write every month. My first article appeared in the July 1998 issue of the BTL and I have missed very few months of submitting an article since that time. As I look back, we welcomed home three of our POW-MIAs (attending two burials at Arlington National Cemetery where the Honor Guard partook in the ceremonies) and one buried locally at which our Honor Guard partook. I have started the Watchfire for POW-MIA Awareness but it has since become the Candlelight Vigil for our POW-MIAs. I have always wanted as much public awareness as possible and we have given away numerous American and POW flag sets to businesses, individuals and members as well as a constant flow of car window decals available to all. Having the Remembrance table at our annual dinner and in the Post Office window at Ridgemont Plaza during the month of September. Having the Rochester Post Offices fly the POW flag daily is another accomplishment during my tenure.

I feel very confident that my successor and also my friend and assistant, Joe Peck, will carry on in a way that will make us all proud. He has fresh ideas and insight. I will also be available to help in any way I can if called upon.

It is not as if I were going away, it is just that I can be a participant, rather than the leader. The POW-MIA issue will always be in my heart and soul. As I always say at the end of my article we must REMEMBER and I shall. It has been a privilege to have served you for all these years.

Veterans Incarcerated Committee Report
Ron Trovato

I attended the NYS Council Meeting on September 12 and gave a quick update on my take of the recent National Convention. The guest speaker was Major General John Batiste, U.S. Army Retired, who spoke of the upcoming effort to raise funds for the building of an Education Center near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. This is an 80 million dollar project, with no public funding. Also discussed was the 90th Anniversary Veterans Day Parade in NY City. I also made contact there with Tom Bryant and Nick Valenti from Chapter #704 who have provided invaluable help to the veterans at the Auburn Correctional Facility. Thanks again, guys.

A tip of the hat to Mike Prince, who raised money for the Honor Flight, Rochester, at the recent Irish Festival in Irondequoit. The Honor Flight provides WWII veterans with transportation to the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. and accepts no government funding. The purpose is to accommodate Finger Lakes area veterans, who otherwise would never be able to visit their own Memorial with a safe and memorable experience of a lifetime.

The Oneida Active Veterans at the Oneida Correctional Facility are alive and well. The Department of Corrections turned down proposals for care packages to be sent to Iraq/Afghanistan troops as well as for the Project Recognition Day. Although a little discouraged, the veterans there formed a committee to study the POW/MIA issue and held a General Membership Meeting there on September 16 where selected POW/MIA names were read. The vets there continue to pursue ideas to help veterans everywhere and we thank all the guys there, including Wesley Dunn and G.C. Edwards for all their hard work.

The Vietnam Veterans Group San Quentin (Chapter #563) held their General Membership meeting on August 30, 2009, where 34 members were present. The guys at San Quentin and at Oneida both congratulated Chapter #20 on the “Chapter Newsletter of the
POW/MIA Day

Recognition Events

➤ RIGHT: The tradition begins with a walk toward The Wall.

➤ FAR RIGHT: A stop is made at the Women’s Memorial where flowers are placed and tribute rendered.

➤ RIGHT: The Guard salute as they pass the names on The Wall.

➤ FAR RIGHT: A wreath is placed at the Apex.

➤ RIGHT: Candlelight Vigil at the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial in Highland Park.

➤ FAR RIGHT: Honor Guard at Ontario Beach POW Memorial.

➤ RIGHT: Representatives from local Veterans Organizations wait to place wreath during ceremony at Ontario Beach POW Memorial.
BELOW: Gail reads to inform onlookers of the significance of the day and the importance of the event.

BELOW LEFT: Geno Lenyk, representing POW/MIA, remains at the Apex symbolic of the soldiers who remained missing or in captivity.

The POW flag is called to rejoin the ranks, just as many have been returned home to US soil.

ABOVE LEFT: Arlington Cemetery is visited in the afternoon to pay tribute to our local soldiers who have been repatriated.

LEFT: The women are a vital part of the trip, placing flowers, capturing moments in photos and supporting the Honor Guard throughout the weekend.

ABOVE RIGHT: Last stop in Arlington is at the Overlook where Guard members pay tribute to those lost in the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

RIGHT: The essential group hug, a favored tradition to conclude the emotional events of the day.
Region 2 Director’s Report  
Fred Elliott  

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009  
National Finance Committee Meeting  
- The committee received an update on VVA’s investment portfolio from our investment advisor, Mike Hearn of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.  
- Linda Mansfield of Mansfield & Associates updated the committee on VVA’s direct mail program.  
- Committee Chair, Bruce Whitaker appointed three sub-committees: Investment, Budget Oversight, and Scholarship.  
- It was mentioned that Wheel of Fortune host (and Vietnam Veteran), Pat Sajak has selected VVA as his charity when he competes on Celebrity Jeopardy.  
- The committee approved Communications Director Mokie Porter’s proposal for the Faces of Agent Orange Project.  
- The committee approved Public Affairs Chair King’s request for $2,500 to pay for the marketing survey recently sent to our membership by email.  
- The committee approved $2,000 requested by the Public Affairs Committee to produce a DVD of VVA’s 25th Anniversary Parade.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009  
Board of Directors Meeting  
- After being called to order and completing the ceremonial and routine items, the remainder of the meeting was devoted to resolving an outstanding issue between VVA and the Veterans Support Foundation (VSF), formerly the VVAF.  
- In September, the working group (Alan Cook, Marsha Four, and Patrick Welch) appointed by President Rowan met with Keith King and Jim Grissom of the VSF to resolve the repayment of VVAs loan to VSF and the development of an MOU between the two boards. The two groups met again on Thursday, October 8th to further refine the resolution of the loan repayment. A full report was made to the BOD and many questions were asked and answered. The end result was:  
  - VSF could not fully repay the loan and fund the VVA Service Officer Program this year  
  - VSF could provide $200,000 in funding for the Service Officer Program (a reduction of $50,000 from the budgeted amount)  
  - VSF would pay $64,272 against the loan balance of $171,500 in return for VVA considering the loan fully repaid – VSF was not interested in making payment over time – a motion was made to this effect and passed with only 3 no votes  
  - Although the loan to VSF was for publication and distribution of the 30th Anniversary Book, VVA will absorb the $15,000 mailing costs to the membership  

Finance Committee meeting  
- A motion was made and passed to: expend $15,000 to mail the VVA 30th Anniversary Book to the membership with the funds to be taken from unexpended budgeted convention expenses.  
- President Rowan assured the committee that Veterans Benefits has enough money for the service officer program because of the differences in VVA’s and VSF’s fiscal years.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009  
Board Meeting  
Household Goods – Quentin Butcher  
- Revenue is seasonal – current year revenue is steady with last year’s  
- Receiving more donations per donor  
- Next year will open in Austin & Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas  
- Also opening in Delaware and Philadelphia  
- Should see revenue from Connecticut next year  
- Have had to increase distances traveled to pickup donations  
- Setting up satellite locations for donation drop-off  
- Would like reports on chapter activities in store areas  

Colleen Rundell – President of National Association of State Veterans Homes  
- Public Law No. 109-461 is having an adverse effect on State Veterans Homes  
- The problem is particularly acute in the 31 states with Medicare/Medicaid-certified state veterans homes  
- Some states have refrained from admitting some veterans with service-connected disabilities to state veterans homes  
- Maine State Veterans Homes estimate they are losing $100-$125 per resident per day under the law  
- VVA Convention Resolution G-14-07 states: Each state council and its chapters make themselves aware of the plight of the veterans homes in their state and support the high quality of care that these homes deliver to our veterans in need. That each state council and its chapters work with their state representatives, demanding that the veterans homes in their state are properly funded with enough reimbursement to deliver the level of care.
care that our brothers and sisters have earned and deserve. And to work with their members of Congress to push for adequate federal funds for veterans state homes in their district.

- **Region 2 State Veterans Homes:**
  1. Delaware – Milford, Wilmington
  2. New Jersey – Edison, Paramus, Vineland
  3. New York – Batavia, Montrose, Oxford, St. Albans, Stony Brook
  4. Pennsylvania – Erie, Hollidaysburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Spring City

*Special Events/Meetings Planner, Wes Guidry* is negotiating with Daytona, Florida, Jacksonville, Florida, and Phoenix, Arizona for the 2013 Convention

**AVVA – Elaine Simmons**
- Ohio has the 1st AVVA incarcerated chapter
- Developing new products for sale
- Will attempt to resolve the VVA Veteran issue in the next FY budget

**BOD Motions/Actions**
- The VVA/VSF working group (A. Cook, M. Four, P. Welch) made a motion to have VVA sign the MOU between VVA/VSF as presented – passed
- President Rowan created a working group (Tom Burke, Ned Foote, Marsha Four, David Houppert, and Jerry Klein) to work with VSF to bring VVA into compliance with the existing MOU regarding the VVA Service Officer Program
- The Conference of State Council President made and withdrew a motion to allow the 2nd Vice Chair of the CSCP to be seated at a BOD meeting when the CSCP Chair is unavailable.
- The CSCP made a motion to have the Government Affairs Department send a letter to DVA about the “70% rule” affecting State Veterans Homes – passed
- The CSCP made and withdrew a motion to have Government Affairs find a sponsor for the above letter.
  - The CSCP made and withdrew a motion to increase the per diem State Presidents receive when attending CSCP meetings.
  - The CSCP made a motion to recognize the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Riders Club – a motion was made to postpone the first motion until a review can be made by legal counsel – passed.
  - The Healthcare Committee made a motion to promote and support a voluntary study regarding PTSD – passed
  - The Healthcare Committee made a motion regarding enhancement of healthcare services in Puerto Rico – passed
  - The POW/MIA Committee made a motion for a Veterans Initiative trip in April of 2010 for 3 weeks with Grant Coates, Jack Devine, Bill Duker, and Gary Jones traveling – passed.
  - The Membership Committee made a motion to replace the 10-7-06 policy for Chapter Charter Revocation with a new policy – passed
  - The Membership Committee made and withdrew a motion to approve the revised leadership handbooks.
  - The VVA/VSF Working Group made a motion to establish the position of Compliance Officer to have one person designated to monitor VVA contracts, agreements, and MOUs for compliance with the terms of each – passed (President Rowan appointed Treasurer Frazee to the position).
  - Motion 30 of January 2004 (to allow the Order of the Silver Rose to use the VVA logo and the name of the corporation on their certificates….) was rescinded.

**Bob Maras of New Jersey** presented a Memo to the BOD regarding a Health Summit for Native Americans to be held in Arizona in the spring of 2010 – the request was postponed.

**Veterans Benefits Committee – Jerry Klein**
- Working on compliance issues for the VVA/VSF Service Officer MOU
- Working on obtaining software for service officers
- Service Officer training will held February 8 thru 12, 2010 in Silver Spring

**PTSD Committee – Tom Hall**
- Developing a Military Sexual Trauma conference
- Substance abuse brochure is being developed
- The PTSD brochure will be redone
- Recommends a suicide prevention presentation be made to the BOD and CSCP
- Wants to develop a brochure to accompany the VVA Agent Orange Book

**Homeless Veterans Committee – Sandy Miller, Chair**
- The Chair has been re-appointed to the VA Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans
- Sandy has made a suggestion to begin a VA Homeless Veteran Hot Line based on the Suicide Hot Line to be staffed by formerly homeless veterans.

**Government Affairs – Patrick Welch**
- Encourages everyone to write a thank you letter to their Congressional Representatives and Senators for the passage of advanced funding for veterans health care (H.R. 1016) – the bill also passed in the Senate in lieu of S.423.
- Accountability now moves to the top of VVA’s legislative agenda

**Agent Orange – Alan Oates**
- Looking for someone to assist with creating an electronic database

**Economic Opportunity (formerly ETABO) – Ric Davidge**
- Former Chair Alan Gibson told Ric, “there were no shoes to fill”

**Incarcerated Veterans – Terry Hubert**
- Ohio State Council is going to have a meeting “inside” a correctional facility
- It was pointed out by Marsha Four that Pennsylvania has been doing that for 20 years.

**Ar-Large Director, Patrick Welch**, mentioned that he has received an email from the London, England Chief of Police about starting a Veterans Court in London.
We were honored to “walk” with 10 other VVA members last Sunday in order to remember and to raise funds to end the horrific breast cancer that strikes with random, covert deadliness in so many families. Our daughter - a teacher - said that in one first grade class there were 5 families out of 18 with cancer. These are people in their 20’s. What is happening? After President Nixon started the War on Cancer in the 60’s, we seem to be at epidemic levels with the numbers with cancers so huge in America. Every family has a loved one or knows a dear friend who has been stricken.

I saw a great parallel between the Marching Unit and the walk last week. My husband, Dick, always says that he makes sure to march in the VVA Marching Unit so that no one ever forgets those who can’t march—those killed or missing in action, POW’s, and also those who fought with great honor and are ill, dying or have died of service-connected cause. We must be their voice. So too is it with the breast cancer walk.

When you see thousands of people standing up for this fight with pictures of their deceased Moms, sisters, friends, etc. who have gone on, they are standing up for those who have no voice and who have gone on with breast and all cancers. We love and remember Marie’s sister, Mary, Wendy, Bev, and those of us still here—Ruthie, Gail and so many more. Those of us who care must do all that we can to help those ill and fight like hell to do all we can to end this monstrous disease. It randomly strikes with no concern for age, gender, position or anything else. We have met the most noble people who have suffered or who have lost a loved one. You immediately know that they get it. They know how precious life is and don’t waste a moment in meanness, greed or anything that wastes time. My 4th anniversary of survival from my mastectomy was last Wednesday, September 30. I will fight with all I have against the cancers and service-connected “illnesses” that befall our heroes.

Let’s all commit ourselves to keep up this fight. Apathy is the greatest enemy in an organization like ours, in the electorate, or any place in our democracy. This is not a spectator sport, folks. Participate and make a difference in any way you can against cancer. No less will do.

God bless our troops, our veterans, their families and God bless the USA!! We are very proud to “walk” with you all. Peace.
25,000 Canes to Be Given Free of Charge to U.S. Military Veterans

A national program will provide 25,000 canes free of charge to members of the United States Armed Forces in need of mobility assistance to honor them for their incredible contributions to our country. The program “Hugo Salutes Our Veterans” will be launched Veterans Day, November 11, 2009 and will provide Hugo® Folding Canes at all Sam’s Club locations nationwide, while supplies last. Sam’s Club Membership is not required. Proof of U.S. military service may be required in order to be eligible.

The Hugo Folding Cane to be given out on Veterans Day, which retails for about $29.99, is a beautiful metallic blue with an ergonomic comfort grip handle, appropriate for both left and right handed users. Sturdy, functional and stylish, it has multiple height settings to comfortably meet the needs of most people. The Hugo Cane easily unfolds and locks into position for use. To store, the cane conveniently folds into four sections and also includes a handle safety strap for extra confidence.

“The Hugo Salutes our Veterans Program which is of an incredibly generous scale, is indicative of the appreciation and respect for our Veterans that both private citizens and corporations have. We deeply appreciate AMG Medical, Sam’s Club and all the sponsors who support our Veterans,” said Christopher Scheer, Public Affairs Supervisor at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

For additional information about The Hugo Salutes Our Veterans program, please visit www.HugoSalutes.com.

Are you a veteran looking for a way to assist your fellow veterans?

Volunteer as a Peer Mentor in Monroe County Veterans Court

Peer mentors are veterans who assist and support fellow veterans in the Criminal Justice System. Typical duties include appearing in court and maintaining contact with the veteran.

A Peer Mentor Provides:
• Emotional Support
• Insight necessary for the Veteran to successfully complete the Veterans Court
• Assistance to the Veteran in resolving their concerns about the court procedures
• Assistance to the Veteran in accessing and navigating the Veterans Affairs System

If you are interested, please contact:
Michael Volkmer
Court Coordinator
Veterans Court
(585) 428-4428

Boxes for the Troops

We’re beginning our Annual Troop Boxes project with a goal of shipment in mid-January 2010. VVA Chapter 20 in conjunction with our Gold Star Mothers group is collecting addresses for troops who will be deployed to the Middle East through February 2010. Please pass this information along by contacting our office or by emailing Kathy Gleason at kathy1440@msn.com. It is important we have the complete name and address, as well as the contact person in the event there are questions. Last year we shipped nearly 100 boxes – our goal this year is to exceed that number. More information will follow in future issues of the BTL. Thanks in advance for your support!
Help Base Greater Rochester
(www.hbrochester.org) is an online resource for veterans, service members, and their families in Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties. The mission of Help Base Greater Rochester is to enhance services by coordinating, mobilizing and educating the community-at-large about the issues facing veterans, service members, and their families and advocating for the necessary services to ensure that these community members can regain and maintain their physical, emotional, and economic well-being.

Greece Memorial Post 206
The Newest Post in Monroe County
A casual Meeting the 3rd Thursday of the month 6:30 - 7:45 pm at
The Legacy at Park Crescent — Mt. Read Blvd.
For details, please call 227-4383 or 225-4228.

Helping veterans with donations of vehicles and other items. For more information, call 224-8484.

Vietnam Veterans of America
CHAPTER 20
Car Donation, LLC
Call 224-8484

WETZEL ASSOCIATES
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21 Bridgewood Drive Fairport, New York 14450
(585) 474-4883 lwetzel42@frontiernet.net

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For more than twenty years our firm has served individuals, families and family owned businesses in the Greater Rochester community providing a full range of comprehensive legal representation and counsel. In addition to our general legal practice we represent service members and veterans before military boards of corrections for all services.

Our practice is a disabled veteran owned business committed to serving veterans throughout our community and abroad.

- Real Estate
- Estate Planning, Probate & Elder Law
- Business & Commercial Practice
- Civil & Criminal Litigation
- Personal Injury

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William H. Wallace
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

636 Middle Road
Henrietta, NY 14467  585-334-5352
Marine Corps Birthday

The Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon is on November 8th, 2009 at the Wishing Well on Chili Avenue, near 390 North. Time is 1200 (noon) to 1500 (3pm) and the cost is $22/person. Please contact Scott VanGrol at (585) 254-6769 or email him at svangrol@rochester.rr.com. Reservations must be in by November 5, 2009.

Lincoln’s Legacy

A traveling exhibition entitled “Lincoln’s Legacy at the VA” as part of the Bicentennial celebration of President Lincoln’s birthday, will be at the Canandaigua VA MC in Bldg 5 Auditorium, from November 9th – 13th 2009 from 9:00am – 8:00pm. The “Lincoln’s Legacy at VA,” exhibition provides all the opportunity to learn about Abraham Lincoln and what he can still teach us about what it means to be an American. Further info can be found at: http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/.

Diseases Added to Agent Orange List

Under new rules, the Department of Veterans Affairs plans to add Parkinson’s disease, ischemic heart disease and hairy-cell leukemia to the growing list of illnesses presumed to have been caused by Agent Orange, the toxic defoliant used widely in Vietnam. The veterans department already recognizes more than a dozen conditions as being presumptively connected to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam, including Hodgkin’s disease, prostate cancer and Type 2 diabetes. The most common of the three illnesses, ischemic heart disease, restricts blood flow to the heart, causing irregular heartbeats and deterioration of the heart muscle. Parkinson’s disease is associated with a loss of cells that secrete dopamine, a brain chemical essential for normal movement. Patients develop tremors, rigid posture, impaired balance and an inability to initiate movement. Hairy-cell leukemia, a rarer condition, is a slow-growing cancer in which the bone marrow produces too many infection-fighting cells, lymphocytes, that crowd out healthy white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets.

Seasonal Flu Shots

Flu shots for “seasonal flu” exposure are available at various sites and clinic and are extremely encouraged for people who are diabetic or who have asthma. H1N1 shots are also encouraged for the “high risk” groups that are identified. Please be sure to take these precautions and get these injections.

Now It’s Just Fun & Games Every Day

Congratulations go out to Wayne Miller, who retired from RG&E after working over 35 years, 20 of which as a Foreman. His retirement on October 2nd, was highlighted with over 100 friends, family and co-workers gathering at Hooligan’s in Webster to celebrate. Wayne and his wife, Nancy, will be traveling to Ocracoke, NC, where he will be the Master of Ceremonies at the dedication, reunion and memorial for the US Navy Beach Jumpers Association, for which he is also a Board member. Currently Wayne is also a Life Time Member of the UDT - Seal Association as well.
America’s newest warship, USS NEW YORK (LPD 21) -- built with 7.5 tons of Twin Towers steel welded into her bow following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center -- is coming to New York City in early November. She will be commissioned on November 7, 2009.

From flight deck to crew quarters, the LPDs (Landing Platform Dock) are state-of-the-art in design and technology, effectively replacing four older classes of amphibious landing craft.

This modern-day behemoth is 111 feet longer than her battleship namesake. She will carry sea-based platforms, including:

- The V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey aircraft
- Three types of helicopters
- 14 expeditionary fighting vehicles (EFVs) and/or several air-cushioned landing craft (LCACs) for across-the-beach deployments of U.S. Marine Corps and Special Forces personnel.

The Ship’s Crest

- Seven rays of sunlight signify both the crown atop the Statue of Liberty and the seven seas
- Central focus placed on the Twin Towers and the bow of the ship, forged from the towers’ steel
- Breastplate of the phoenix bears the colors of first responders from the New York Police Department, New York Fire Department, and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Blood drops represent the fallen
- Three stars for those earned by the battleship USS NEW YORK (BB34) in World War II at Iwo Jima, Okinawa and North Africa

You can visit the website at http://www.usnys.org/index.php for more information, videos, photo gallery and to purchase merchandise in commemoration of the event.

Source: http://www.usnys.org/index.php

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Women Veterans Task Force on Women’s Issues will be holding a public hearing on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 10:00 am in New York City at Assembly Hearing Room, 250 Broadway, Room 1923, 19th Floor. The subject is issues related to women veterans, including the transition of women veterans from a combat zone to civilian life, the availability of benefits for women veterans and reasons why women veterans may become homeless. The purpose is to explore issues concerning women veterans, including those who have recently returned from combat zones, the availability of benefits and what role the State can play in their readjustment to civilian life.

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YOU CAN’T TELL A VETERAN BY LOOKING

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carrier didn’t run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth whose behavior is outweighed in the cosmic scales by four hours of unparalleled bravery near the 38th Parallel in Korea.

She is the nurse who fought against futility in Da Nang and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years.

He is the POW who left one person and came back another.

He is the drill instructor who has never been in combat, but has saved countless lives by turning no-accounts into Marines.

He is the parade-riding legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the white-haired guy bagging groceries at the supermarket, aggravatingly slow, who helped liberate a Nazi death camp.

A vet is an ordinary and extraordinary human being — someone who offered his life’s vital years in the service of his country.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known. We will never be able to repay the debt of gratitude we owe.

—Author Unknown—

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ROLL CALL: B.O.D. ATTENDANCE 2009

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X=Present E=Excused A=Absent
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)

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Thrift Store #482-8036

All donations go to the Thrift Store at the address above.
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585-227-2741
cell 585-259-9605
vgatto@rochester.rr.com

459 South Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620
www.veteransbusinesscouncil.org
For More Information Email
jocene.preston@veteransbusinesscouncil.org

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 Vet, but I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families. Please accept my donation: ______ ☐ AVVA Membership
☐ $10 ☐ $20 ☐ $50 ☐ Other ($________)

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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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Any past or present member of the United States Armed Services, Active or Reserve, is eligible for an engraved paver brick. For information and an order form, please contact the Chapter 20 office at 482-7396.

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Sue Oleksyn ..................................... soleksyn@yahoo.com • 663-5255
Incarcerated Veterans ......................... Ron Trovato • 544-8470
Marching Unit ....................................
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POW/MIA ....................................... Joe Peck • jpeck2@rochester.rr.com • 734-9046 (c)
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Veterans Affairs/Benefits ........ Pat Pudetti • patrickusmc1@yahoo.com • 753-6040
Veterans Walk ............................... Chuck Macaluso • chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288

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 ..................................... 888-378-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. ..................... 389-4097
Operation Welcome Home .............. 234-4694

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.monroecounty.gov/parks-highland.php
Operation Welcome Home:
www.operationwelcomehome.org
VVA New York State Council:
www.nyvietnamvets.org

MISCELLANEOUS

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Beth Affeldt ....................... 482-8036
Donation Pick-up ......................... 482-8016
VVA Vehicle Donations .............. 224-8484
VVA Chapter 20 info@vva20.org • 482-7396
BETWEEN the LINES

November 09

1 SUN • Daylight Savings Time Ends
2 MON • Board of Directors, 7:00pm
3 TUE • Election Day
10 TUE • Marine Corps Birthday
11 WED • Veterans Day
12 THU • Membership Meeting, 7:30pm
15 SUN • Marine Corps League Breakfast – 9:00am-11:30am at Ira Jacobson Post ($7 adults, $3.50 children)
26 THU • Thanksgiving Day

November is American Diabetes Month®—a time to focus on a serious disease that leads to potentially life-threatening complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and amputation. Diabetes affects numerous veterans and is a disease attributed to exposure to Agent Orange.

Could someone you know be in crisis?
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.

Meetings

VVA Chapter 20 Board Meetings
See page 13 for meeting attendance.
• November 2
• November 30 – Budget Review Mtg.
• December 7

Scheduled Membership Meetings
2nd Thursday of the Month, beginning at 7:30 pm. All meetings are held at the Ira Jacobson American Legion Post, 90 St. John’s Park, unless otherwise noted.
• November 12
• December 10

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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