Stand and be Counted

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will take place on April 9, 2009. Don't miss the start of the meeting at 6:00 pm at the Ira Jacobson Post or we might not leave any of the delicious catered buffet dinner for you!

Meet the Candidates

James Richard Dennison
Missing in Action
President's Message

Well, another month closer to summer and warm weather. Seems like this year's winter went on forever.

This month Ray Melens, Jerry McDermott and I continued on volunteering for the Monroe County Veterans Court. This is a long overdue process that will allow veterans an alternative to incarceration. I think Jerry and Ray will agree that it's a great project for us to represent VVA20 in helping our brother and sister veterans. If you would like more information or would like to join the Court as a mentor, please see or call one of us.

As the 2008 budget year has ended I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hank Wallace, Ray Melens and all the others that put together the budget for 2009. I would also like to thank Rich, the board of the LLC and the employees of the thrift store for the outstanding work in the past year exceeding all our expectations of income for the store and car business. Great job to all! The new budget for 2009 is in place, and in the year ahead we have budgeted for some great projects like the Rochester Public Library, Wilmot Cancer Center and many others.

On March 3 I had the great pleasure to represent the membership of Chapter 20 in presenting a check to the Wilmot Cancer Center in the amount of $6,500 for a new golf cart to transport patients from the parking lot to treatment and back. The cart will have Chapter 20's logo and a note that it was donated by us. In the past, those who were there for treatment had to walk from the parking lot to the Center. I walked it, and it took all of 10 minutes – I can't think how hard that would be if I was there for treatment. Once again, the Chapter is doing great things in the community. On March 4th Dr. J. Fisher, Director of the cancer center, met with Ray Melens and myself and talked about their needs and then Ray and I were given a tour of the facility. It’s a great place that does a lot of good work that many times is with Vietnam Veterans and their families. Ray Melens, Jerry McDermott and I will be giving some talks soon to the providers, patients and social workers regarding the effects from exposure to Agent Orange. I think with many of our members and family currently suffering from the effects of cancer, this is a perfect way we can help them. I will keep all of you posted as to what we will be doing.

Lastly, Chapter 20 has made a reprint of the VVA National Agent Orange booklet that we will be using at outreaches and they will be available at our meetings for you.

Thanks as always for your support and I will see you soon.

Ken Moore
President
Vietnam 1966-67
US Army Cavalry

Marching Unit
Ray Melens, Commander

On Sunday, Feb. 15th members of the Honor Guard partook in a Red, White, and Blue Mass that was held at St. Jude’s church in Gates. Elsewhere in this issue there will be some pictures from this ceremony. This Mass was held to honor all those that protect our community and country, such as police, fire fighters, EMTs and veterans. Immediately following this Mass was our favorite part, of course. There was a pancake breakfast held as a fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus. I know a few of us went back for seconds (not mentioning any names but-- ) because we didn’t think they were big enough. Here we go, guys! We’re starting our busy time of year now. We have our annual meeting on Saturday, April 18th at 7 P.M. at Ira. We will be voting on our parade schedule for the upcoming parade season and any other matters pertaining to the Unit that may need to be voted on. All Marching Unit members are encouraged to attend and the spouses are welcome to attend as well. Immediately following the meeting we will have pizza & wings and plenty of time for socializing. Hope to see you all on the 18th at Ira.

The following week, members of the Honor Guard will be posting colors and doing the POW/MIA Table ceremony at the Chapter’s annual dinner. This year the dinner will be held at Lakeshore Country Club on Greenleaf Rd. It’s at this dinner that the annual Veteran Service awards, the Don & Rori Murrell Humanitarian Award, the Community Service Award, the Roger Robach Award, and let’s not forget the newest award, the Gus Macker Award, are presented to members of the Chapter and members of the community. Also the Marching Unit attendance awards and the Marching Unit Service Award will also be presented at this dinner. So hopefully, every one of you gets to attend this great enjoyable evening.

As of right now, it looks as though our first official parade of the 2009 season will be the Lilac Parade. This year's parade is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th with the start time of 10:30AM. We always form up on Science Pkwy., just off of South Ave. If this should change
for any reason, I will notify the members of the Unit by E-mail and those that don’t have E-mail will be notified by phone. Let’s hope for decent weather to kick off our parade season this year.

Some cold weather gear has been purchased for members of the Honor Guard. We realized at our last cold weather service that we needed to be better prepared or should we say, more bundled up. Some warmer gloves and warmer head gear have been purchased for those that attend any cold weather details in the future. If you are a member of the Honor Guard and have not received your cold weather gear, just attend the next Honor Guard meeting to receive yours.

The Honor Guard will not be holding their monthly meeting before the April meeting. Due to the fact that it is election night and there is a brief Board of Directors meeting before hand also. There is not enough time to conduct our meeting. Any Honor Guard announcements will be made at the membership meeting while the ballots are being counted. So don’t forget to attend the annual election meeting and vote.

Until next month…AT EASE!!!!!!!
VALENTINO GATTO

My name is Valentino Gatto and I would like to give you a bit of history about myself. On July, 1966 I was drafted and served in the Army for two years, from 1966 – 1968 in Denver, Colorado. During this time I spent nine months in the military hospital in Denver, after two major service-connected surgeries. After my recovery, I was assigned to work in the Chapel Center.

I graduated from high school in 1966 and left for the Army soon after that. I presently work for Sam’s Club in the Marketing Department.

I have been an active member of Chapter 20 for two years. I would like to join the Board to work to accomplish Chapter goals, activities and to be a part of the team in decision making.

I am also a member of the LLC board for the thrift store and car donation business. The store has become a very profitable operation and provides the Chapter with more income than they budget, allowing the chapter to take on projects like the Library Endowment and the Endowment funding for the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park.

I also oversee the chapter website, which has been redesigned to make it easier to navigate and added some features that give a lot more information about the Chapter and what we do and who we are.

I graduated from Gates-Chili High School in 1968 and went to Monroe Community College (first year the campus was in Henrietta), then I got drafted before I could get into R.I.T.

I served in the Army 1970-73 working with toxic chemicals and explosives in the chemical corps.

I am seeking your vote to continue making this one of the best chapters in the country.

MAX LILL

Max Lill is President of Industrial Furnace Co., Inc. – a third generation family-owned business specializing in construction of industrial, municipal and environmental furnaces in more than 40 states and abroad. He is a native of Rochester, attended East High School and graduated from West Irondequoit High School in 1964. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969, including a tour of Vietnam where he served with the 1st Infantry Division. He graduated from Drake University in 1971 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration.

Max served from 1989 through 1999 as Vice Chairman of the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial (GRVVMC). He worked on the design and fund-raising committees while overseeing the construction of the memorial. Max was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 2006 and is now serving in that position.

Max currently serves on the Board of Directors and is seeking a second term of office with the Chapter. He states, “I hope my presence will continue to be a bridge between Chapter 20 and the GRVVMC.”

DANIEL CORONA

I am running for a third term on the Board of Directors for Chapter 20. I have been with the Chapter since 1991 and a member of the marching unit since 1992. Over the last six years the Chapter has gone through a lot. We had almost no funds for a while, and did not know how we were going to survive. After many difficult changes and cuts and better business decisions, we are now healthy.

I am also a member of the LLC board for the thrift store and car donation business. The store has become a very profitable operation and provides the Chapter with more income than they budget, allowing the chapter to take on projects like the Library Endowment and the Endowment funding for the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park.

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I served in the Army 1970-73 working with toxic chemicals and explosives in the chemical corps.

I am seeking your vote to continue making this one of the best chapters in the country.
They will never know
Only what they read
Oblivious to the pain
The hurt of the country
The hurt of their families
They will never know.

The children see it
Thinking it is a mirror
Parents see it
As a portal to another time
Attempting to be proud
Though they know
Their soldiers will never come home

Day by day
Year by year
You’re still gone
And we’re still here
Forever bound to that land
Trapped forever
So far from home
All we have left
To remember that call
Is your name etched on that Wall.

Editors Note: Edna is the daughter of Rich and Renee Morrow, new AVVA members of our chapter.
This year openings include the Executive position of 2nd Vice-President and Three (3) Director positions.

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

- Only paid members with a DD214 on file by 28 February of previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (For example - 28 February 2008 to vote April 2008).
- A quorum is defined as 10% of VVA 20 membership as of 28 February of the previous fiscal year.
- Voting for candidates will take place between 6:30 PM till 7:30 PM, after which no new ballots will be taken and votes will be tabulated.

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

The slated candidates for this year are as follows:

**Officer Positions**
- 2nd Vice-President – Fred Elliott

**Director Positions**
- Dan Corona
- Max Lill
- Valentino Gatto

Any member interested in running for any of the above mentioned positions, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members:

- Chuck Macaluso 225-8288
- Bob DeMitry 659-2850
- Tom Puff 235-3556
- Dan Corona 406-6108
- Pat Pudetti 753-6040

The Vietnam Veterans Group at San Quentin (Chapter 563) is doing quite well. The next food sale there was scheduled for March 1st and arrangements are being made for the next "Operation Mom" packing day. We also heard from R. Christensen, President of VVA Chapter 745 at the Twin Rivers Correctional Center in Monroe, Washington. State funding cuts will probably affect the veterans programs there, and he is calling for his members to become more active. Thanks for the newsletter guys, very nicely done!

Chapter #205 at the Auburn Correctional Facility is doing very well and we have been in regular contact with Dennis Conway there. He thanked us for the recent shipment of yarn we sent in and he is trying to get yarn donations from several other sources in the area. Close to 100 sets of hats and
scarcely have already been made and the number of chapter members involved in this project continues to rise. A recent membership drive at the prison would put #205's membership at about 35 and we thank all those new veterans that recently signed up. A General Membership Meeting was held at Auburn on March 6th where nominations were taken for officer and board positions. The Chapter seems to be on a much sounder financial footing and a long range goal there is to have the Department of Corrections put in a veterans affairs office as they had back in the early 1990s. That would indeed be tax money well spent and would directly assist the rehabilitation of a group of veterans that is obviously moving in that direction.

And finally, thanks for all the support for this committee - not just from the officers and board members but from all the Chapter members. It is indeed a unique committee in many ways and it will always be a worthwhile pursuit.

ANNUAL DINNER

APRIL 25, 2009
6:00 PM • CONVERSATION HOUR
7:00 PM • DINNER

LAKE SHORE COUNTRY CLUB
1165 GREENLEAF RD.
ROCHESTER, NY 14612

TICKETS: $10/PERSON

Rochester Armed Forces Day Committee, Inc.
and
The Monroe County Veteran’s Organizations

PRESENT AN
ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 16, 2009

New York Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility
76 Patriot Way, Rochester, New York

Guest Speaker
Hank Adams
Sergeant Major United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

There will be pre-luncheon music by the 198th Army Band

There will be military displays in and around the luncheon area. The luncheon will be from 12 Noon to 1:30. Following the luncheon there will also be additional viewing of the displays. Free parking is available for luncheon attendees.

For additional information please call (585) 234-1231 or visit www.rochesterarmedforcesday.com

ANNUAL HEART WALK

Saturday, April 4th
Contact Ralph Pascale for meeting location and time

(Chapter members walking in honor of Pat Marianetti)
Chief Petty Officer Henry H. Herrin was a photographer’s mate aboard an RA3B aircraft flown by LTDCR James R. Dennison and co-pilot LTJG Terrence H. Hanley assigned a mission over North Vietnam. Their plan was to fly from the U.S. Naval Air Station, Cubi Point, Phillipines to their target area and then recover at Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam for refueling and return trip. The mission was for surveillance of the enemy lines of communication to determine truck traffic.

The mission was flown under radio silence, but was under surveillance by an airborne radar control aircraft.

Emergency egress from the aircraft is accomplished by sliding down a chute in the bottom of the aircraft. All crew members were equipped with survival radios and survival kits containing flare pencils. The aircraft flew out to sea approximately 20 miles and turned southeast. No further contact was made with the aircraft.

An intensive search and rescue operation was called in consisting of surface units, helicopter and fixed wing aircraft. It was terminated with negative results. The area in which the aircraft was lost was one heavily traveled by aircraft, fishing junks and coastal shipping.

All three men were placed in Missing in Action status, which was maintained until after the war ended.

In a letter from Carolyn Dennison:

“After many search and recoveries for several days, no trace of the aircraft was found over land or sea. Our children at the time were 2 ½ and 4 months old. I returned some months later to Corpus Christi, TX to await word. Dick received his Commander’s promotion while a MIA.

In 1970, I spent 15 plus days in Paris attempting to gain info from the North Vietnam Delegation; was finally granted an audience, but learned absolutely nothing. They didn’t appreciate the bad publicity they were getting with me being in the City. They really wanted to get rid of me and told me to go home and ask my Government. I worked very closely with the MIA organization locally and Nationally. Dick was declared KIA in May 1973, shortly after the POW’s were released.”
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.

C.M.
Gifts and Militaria
Est: 1987

Charles Rabidoux
USMC 1957-61

DAVID J. KAUFFMAN POST #41
JEWISH WAR VETERANS
THE OLDEST ACTIVE VETERANS ORGANIZATION
Supports the Vietnam Vets

LARRY SCHULMAN, QUARTERMASTER, 271-6967

TOM DAVIS
INCOME TAX CONSULTATION & PREPARATION
Year-Round. By Appointment Service
1732 Winton Rd. N.
Phone (585) 288-8465 • Fax: (585) 288-8465

Industrial Furnace
J Max Lill
288-2070
www.industrialfurnace.com
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.

WETZEL ASSOCIATES
Telecommunications Engineering Consultation
Business Continuity Planning

Lawrence R. Wetzel, PE
21 Bridgewood Drive Fairport, New York 14450
(585) 474-4883 lwetzel42@frontiernet.net

Haddock Fish Fry
every Friday from 5:00pm to 8:00pm
Ira Jacobson Post Home
90 St. Johns Park
$9.00/person
Includes French fries, cole slaw and bread
Please make reservations by the Wednesday before
663-7030

News from the Thrift Store
Summary of 2008 donations FROM the store –
Homeless Veterans Program
(through the voucher system) - $ 6,571
Pirate Toy Fund - $ 4,600
Neighborhood churches - $ 2,500

(The Thrift Store also donates items to any teacher
(with ID) who is stocking his/her classroom out of
their own pocket.)

What a terrific job!

BETWEEN THE LINES
Pat Pudetti
Framed "Hero" Photos Wanted
Gunny, owner of Gunny’s Grub and Pub on North Greece Road (just north of Latta Road) invites veterans to submit framed photos for his Gunny’s Heroes wall display, honoring veterans of all branches and all generations. This was the site for the recent annual Marching Unit/Honor Guard St. Patrick’s Day gathering. Thanks, Gunny, for your hospitality!

Correction
In last month’s BTL, we listed the name of our featured POW as Hans Hubert Grauert. Though that name appears in numerous listings, Gail Bologna-Melens of our POW Committee informs me that there is a more commonly used middle name of Herbert. Our apologies for not catching this detail to include in the original article.

Agent Orange Booklet
Chapter 20 has reprinted a booklet on Agent Orange. Copies are available by contacting the Chapter office.

Veterans Service Eligibility — website
for info for priority group and restrictions:

Important Info About VA Westfall
Specialty Clinics:
By April 1, 2009, many of the specialty clinics will move to the Clinton Crossing location, Bldg. B, at 919 Westfall Rd. All phone numbers will remain the same. Clinics included in the move are Eye, Podiatry, Cardiology, Chiropractics, Neurology and Dermatology. (if space and size allows, please include picture Clinton_Crossing.jpg

Thank you from the troops:
I would like to thank you for the care package that you sent me. My platoon and I found great joy and pleasure from getting the stuff that you sent us. It was very thoughtful and appreciated. I would also like to thank you and all other vets that have served before me for your services and sacrifices that you have made. Without men like this, this country would not be what it is today. I would also like to thank you for letting me serve this great nation by serving before me.

SPC. Kenyon, Brian

GySgt Daniel N. McDermott (the favorite Marine Corps nephew of our own Jerry McDermott) pays tribute by decorating his 50 cal mount with Chapter 20 decals.
What do you get when you mix motorcycles with hot rods?
One of the largest fundraising events in Rochester!

2009 RIDE to the DAKOTA

Proceeds from this event support patient care and cancer research at the
WILMOT CANCER CENTER
University of Rochester Medical Center
and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20

• 70-mile Poker Ride
• Motorcycle and Car Show
• Food. Music. Prizes
• $15 per vehicle for ride
• $20 per vehicle for ride and show entry
• $10 per vehicle for show entry only

EVERYONE WHO REGISTERS WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN A TONY CENZI CUSTOM PAINT JOB!

DID YOU KNOW?

In just two years, more than $40,000 has been raised to support cancer research at the Wilmot Cancer Center through the Cenzi Motorcycle Giveaway.

MANY THANKS TO OUR AMAZING SPONSORS!

Sunday, June 21, 2009 ★ Dakota Grill, Hilton NY

www.RideToTheDakota.com
Greece Memorial Post 206
The Newest Post in Monroe County
Meet 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.

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
CHAPTER 20
Car Donation, LLC
Call 224-8484

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

roll call: b.o.d. attendance 2009

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X—Present  E—Excused  A—Absent
Please give (l to r) Jack Caiazza, Bernard Connolly, Tim Bortree, Leonard Luyk, Rich Morrow and Renee Morrow a hearty Welcome Home!

**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 [ ] $50 [ ] Other ($________) 

**Eligibility:** Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975 (for Vietnam-era veterans).

**Term:**
- [ ] 1 year: $20
- [ ] Life Membership: $250 (ages 49 and under), $225 (ages 50-55), $200 (ages 56-60),
- [ ] 3 years: $50
  - $175 (ages 61-65), $150 (ages 66 and over)

**Payment Options:** [ ] Check [ ] Money Order

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

VVA is a non-profit veterans service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Ken Moore.................. 17CAV@rochester.rr.com • 392-0269 (h) • 576-9000 (c)
Tom Gleason.................. nam0dc@hotmail.com • 978-1995 (c)
Bruce VanApeldoorn........ bvanapeldoorn@rochester.rr.com • 252-514-5597 (c)
Ray Melens.................. rmelens@aol.com • 392-2079 (h)
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Veterans Widows International Network: members@aol.com/vetwindows
NYS Department Health: www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets
Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park: www.monroe county.gov/ny.us/nyvets
Operation Welcome Home: www.operationwelcomehome.org
VVA New York State Council: www.nyvietnenvets.org

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Donation Pick-up .................. 482-8016
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**BETWEEN THE LINES**

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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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**april 09**

- **04 SAT** • Annual Heart Walk – Walk in memory of Pat Marianetti
- **06 MON** • Board of Directors, 7:00pm
- **09 THU** • Annual Meeting and Election of Officers – Start time 6:00pm (dinner included)
- **12 SUN** • Marine Corps League Breakfast – Ira Jacobson Post – 9am – 11:30am • Easter Sunday • Don’t forget your taxes!
- **15 WED** • Don’t forget your taxes!
- **18 SAT** • Marching Unit Annual Meeting, 7:00pm – Ira Jacobson Post
- **25 SAT** • VVA Chapter 20 Annual Dinner

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