More than a Bike Run...
Ride to the Dakota 2009

Francis George Graziosi
Missing in Action Repatriated in 2006

Honor Flight
"Grey Ghost" Apollo Recovery Mission
President’s Report

Well, summer is supposed to be here and I hope all of you are enjoying it.

Let me start by thanking all of you who helped with the 8th Annual Ride to the Dakota vets motorcycle run. This year a big thank you goes out to the Chapter for allowing the proceeds to go to Wilmot Cancer Center. Wilmot made just over $30,000 to help in the cure for cancer. With our members and families currently suffering from cancer and for our veterans who suffer from the effects of Agent Orange it was the right thing to do. Dave Danzig and I will be talking about next year’s run and what changes we will make, most likely a larger venue. I will keep the board informed and at that time we can make the decision as to where we want the proceeds to go. Again - thanks to all of you!

Vets Court is going great, with some vets well on their way to recovery and out of incarceration. At this time we have about 12 mentors. This will allow us to be scheduled for court about twice a month. Thanks go to Ray Melens, Jerry McDermott and others from Chapter 20.

Marching Unit
Ray Melens, Commander

When is summer going to start? Hopefully by the time this issue comes out, we will have had summer arrive. This year’s lousy weather has not kept the Marching Unit from hitting the streets, though. Ah, marching that is. In June the Unit marched in Spencerport, Barnard and Holley. For the month of July we were at the 4th of July parade in Irondequoit, and Firemen parades in Kendall, Webster, Hilton and Hamlin. Yes it has still been a busy season for the Marching Unit and there are still more parades to come for August and September. Check the schedule elsewhere in this issue for the upcoming parades.

The Marching Unit picnic is coming up at the end of the month on Saturday, Aug. 29th to be exact. This year we will be having it catered by Taste of Texas BBQ. The picnic will begin at 2 PM, with food being served at 4 PM. Weather permitting we will have the bonfire out back later that night. What I need from everyone is to let me know if you’re coming and how many from your family. I

Ride to the Dakota 2009

As of this reading, the delegates from Chapter 20 will be back from the National Convention in Louisville, KY. I’m sure they will have represented the Chapter well. This year New York State sent about 70 delegates, by far the best we have ever done. It’s so important that we have a voice in the issues that are before the convention. Thanks so much to those who gave their time to represent Chapter 20. For me, I’m so proud to serve as your President at events like this, and for that I thank each of you. A full report will be in the next issue from each of the delegates as to what they did and what they thought of it.

Thanks go out to Ralph Pascale and all those who volunteered to help at the outreaches and different events with the Chapter trailer.

Till next month enjoy the summer and see you soon!

Ken Moore President
Vietnam 1966-67
US Army Cavalry
need to know for sure by the 20th of Aug. The head count has to be turned into the caterer by then. Let’s hope we have some decent weather this year for our picnic. Volunteers will be needed the day before to help set the tents, tables, and chairs up. Also, I am going to need help to get the tables and chairs from the post and help to return them. Let me know when you R.S.V.P if you can help with set up.

The Honor Guard is beginning preparations for their trip to Washington, D.C. in Sept. After a two year absence the Honor Guard is going back to conduct a ceremony at the Wall and ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. At Arlington we place wreaths at the graves of our three local MIAs that have been repatriated. We make this trip on National POW/MIA Recognition Day. By doing so, we help to draw awareness to the plight of our still unaccounted for POW/MIAs. It’s amazing the number of people we meet each year on this trip that don’t even know that there is a National POW/MIA Recognition Day. What is good, is that they learn about it from us and then they return to their hometown and let other people know that there is a National POW/MIA Recognition Day and what the day is all about. It’s all about the awareness issue. We need to make people aware that we still have over 1,700 un accounted for from the Vietnam War alone, not to mention the number unaccounted for from previous wars.

If there are any individuals that want to join us on the trip to Washington, please let me know right away and I will give you details and let you know the cost of a room, etc.

Members of the Honor Guard and Marching Unit meet at 7PM the nights of the membership meeting. We meet upstairs at Ira and discuss any matters pertaining to the Marching Unit and/or Honor Guard. All MU/HG members are encouraged to attend and anyone that is considering joining one or both Units.

Until next month ……….AT EASE!!!!!!

POW-MIA
Gail Bologna-Melens, Chairperson

It seems that President Obama has not made the full accounting of our POW-MIAs a top priority. We are still at the number 1,740 still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

But, at long last, Vietnam’s leaders implemented their government’s prior agreement for the U.S. Navy Ship Bruce C. Heezen, an oceano- graphic survey ship, to participate in humanitarian POW-MIA accounting efforts. An objective that was sought by the National League of Families since 1994, this bilateral effort should be able to expedite locating aircraft incident sites along Vietnam’s coast that could help account for U.S. personnel believed lost over water during the war.

This month’s featured POW-MIA is Francis George Graziosi. Our Honor Guard was present at Rochester International Airport to welcome Francis home with all the respect and honor we could offer. We were a very visible presence at the funeral home and at the cemetery for his final honors.

At the funeral home I read a poem entitled “Remains” by an unknown author. The poem is reprinted here for you to read.

Please save the date of September 12th. On this Saturday night at 7:30pm we will be at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park to once again have our Candlelight Vigil to read the names of our 1,740 POW-MIAs still missing from the Vietnam War. We have done this ceremony in all kinds of weather and hopefully this year the weather gods will be kind to us. I hope to see quite a few of our members attending. I will need readers and bell ringers. As we have done in the past, I do not have scheduled readers. If you wish to read, you stand next to the person currently reading names. When that person finishes the page he is reading from that person then becomes the bell ringer and the new person reads until someone stands by him or her.

Please REMEMBER all of our POW-MIAs today and every day.

Veterans Incarcerated
Committee Report
Ron Trovato

Well, here we are gearing up for what should be a productive National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky and I look forward to being in on
On May 2, 2009 I had the honor to fly to DC as a Guardian for a WWII Vet. We left Rochester early in the AM (roughly 105 personnel) and returned on May 3, 2009. As we were sitting in the plane waiting to take off, I asked my Vet if he was excited about flying. He said, “This is the first time I have flown since 1943.”

Honor Flight flies the WWII Vets for free. The Guardian (each Vet has a Guardian assigned to them) makes a donation of $300.00 to cover some of the expenses. The cost per Vet is $450.00 for the weekend. This includes the flight, buses, all meals and a Four Star Hotel for one night. The cost for a trip is roughly $30,000 which comes solely from donations. There is no paid staff for Honor Flight Rochester.

On Saturday we flew Air Tran to BWI (Baltimore) and departed for DC on two coach buses with rest-rooms (very important). We arrived at Arlington National Cemetery for the Changing of the Guard and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then we headed to the Mall and the WWII Memorial. Senator Dole greeted each bus. We had Lunch on the Mall next to the WWII Memorial. Then back on the buses and a visit to the Korea/Lincoln/ Viet Nam Memorials. Back on the buses and a visit to the Iwo Jima Memorial. We departed DC and headed back to the Baltimore Hilton Hotel (Great Rooms) for a quick rest, a banquet (Outstanding Meal) and much socializing. We were also given two free drink coupons for the Hotel Bar.

On Sunday we had a great breakfast at the Hilton and more socializing. (It is great to see the guys and gals talking to each other.) We then board the buses for the airport and the flight home to Rochester. Once we land in Rochester, we gather all the Vets and Guardians together and leave the security area for the largest greeting to welcome home the WWII Veterans. (Very moving, about 300 people.) All the Vets said they never had a welcome home after the War. (Can You relate to that?) I never saw so many flags waving, TV cameras, and the Marine Color Guard. (Wow!) We all gathered in The International Room for a Welcome Home Reception with Guest Speaker Sgt. Gary Beikirch.

This was truly a trip of a lifetime for me and my Vet. The “Welcome Home” will bring tears to your eyes. Please go to the website for Honor Flight www.honorflightrochester.org and see how you can help, either by filling out an application for a WWII Vet to fly, to be a Guardian, Volunteer, or to donate. A Veteran from any era that is diagnosed as terminal may fly to DC on Honor Flight. They move right to the top of the list and will go on the next flight.

Some thoughts from one WWII Veteran that flew. “It was one of the great honors of my life to be on that flight. As a recipient of all the wonderful services provided, from the time we hit the airport at 4:30 Saturday until the time I left for home Sunday afternoon, it is unbelievable what you all do, as well as the ground crew in DC. Plus, I got a new golf buddy out of it (another one who did nothing although he was at Omaha Beach, Iwo Jima and Okinawa). And my family thanks you for getting me out of their hair for the weekend.”
Forty years ago on July 24, 1969 the “Grey Ghost,” USS Hornet CVS 12, added another chapter to the history of one of the world’s most famous military vessels - recovery of the Apollo 11 astronauts. After 2½ of the 3½ years I would spend on Hornet, this mission had different meaning than my two tours aboard Hornet off the coast of Vietnam. I am still amazed how the United States and the world turned away from our Vietnam mission but jumped on the bandwagon to support the Apollo mission.

In Vietnam we were on call 24 hours a day, and during one Tet mission spent 52 days in the “hostile fire” zone. The ship’s responsibilities included Seal Team One insertion/extraction, launching and recovering coastal recon aircraft, and ensuring pilot rescue helos were constantly at the ready for extremely dangerous missions.

The Electronic Technicians Division (ETs) consisted of a team which maintained HF (high frequency) equipment and another team that maintained all radar systems. My team of eight ETs ensured our 21 UHF (ultra high frequency) transceivers were capable of communications with all planes, helicopters, and other ships in the combat zone.

Of critical importance were the transceivers tuned to 243.7 MHz, the Vietnam emergency mayday frequency. My team provided excellent equipment up time and quality of messages both transmitted and received. All equipment failures were treated as true emergencies and were dealt with immediately. Although we lost 14 of our finest men during this tour, with five still MIA, the Hornet performed extremely well under adverse conditions to continue to maintain a “Heritage of Excellence.”

On this historic day. This mission challenged the men of Hornet to again prove to the United States and the world Hornet’s excellence. As in Vietnam, the crew was well rehearsed and ready. All Hornet divisions spent many hours during our practice recoveries to guarantee we were ready for today’s mission. The eyes of the world, especially the US, were focused on Hornet and her crew. My ET team was no exception, since we all worked many hours to fine tune, test and retest each transceiver.

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In contrast, the Apollo 11 recovery mission provided a different intensity level than Vietnam and also demanded 100% focus. The day of the recovery started with the bossons pipe sounding reveille for the crew and guests of the Hornet and also demanded 100% focus. The day of the recovery started with the bossons pipe sounding reveille for the crew and guests of the Hornet.

On the recovery morning the skies were overcast with occasional clouds, gentle wind and calm seas. All dignitaries, including President Nixon and Admiral John McCain were safely on board Hornet to witness the recovery operations. This added additional pressure to the crew, but nothing we couldn’t handle. We were all focused on “Hornet + 3,” our motto for this activity.

As the morning progressed we were given updates by NASA and our ship, based on tracking by our ship’s air search radar, on the capsule’s exact location. The NASA and National Broadcast vans, safely tethered to our flight deck, provided the world with ongoing capsule progress. I was extremely proud that my UHF equipment was the first link in the communications between the recovery helo and the world.

After re-entry into the earth’s atmosphere, the updates began to occur every minute. Many of the crew, including myself, was now on the flight deck after completing one last equipment recheck. We were awaiting the capsule parachute deployment. The excitement, although at a different level than Vietnam, was nonetheless awe inspiring. We were a vital link in the first moon walker program. The updates and conversations on the flight deck continued as we all strained to hear then view the capsule chute deployment. Messages heard from our 1MC, ship’s intercom, provided constant updates. The 1MC messages came at more constant intervals until, “Silence about the decks. The chutes will deploy in one minute,” was plainly heard by all crew members and guests. The ensuing silence cast an eerie glow across the normally busiest and noisiest areas of the “Grey Ghost.” I couldn’t help but reflect in the silence, as I looked across the deck to the clouds above, how proud we were, and how proud those that had gone before would be, as members of the Hornet family.

Almost one minute after the last announcement, three distinct booms could be heard, and the orange and white chutes could finally be seen, almost as an aberration, when they popped through the puffy clouds. The volley of camera shutter action broke the moments of silence and then a huge cheer rose among the assembled witnesses of history.

Although the actual splashdown could not be seen from the ship, the announcement finally came that the capsule was safe and upright in the 2’ to 3’ swells. This message was reassuring to us all. As we practiced in our recovery operations, this morning, we were reassured of the safe return of the Apollo 11 astronauts.
the Veterans’ Incarcerated Committee Hearings there.

We have been in regular contact with Jeff Langnese of the Vietnam Veterans’ Group San Quentin and we hope he retains his position of outside coordinator there. They have an Operation Mom packing date set there for June 27 and I believe this will be the 7th time they have held this event. Congrats to the VVGSQ for continuing to reach out from behind bars to help needy veterans, as well as to those in our community.

Gene Edwards has kept us updated on the new kid on the block, the Oneida Active Veterans at the Oneida Correctional Facility. Oneida is a medium security facility with inmates averaging 2-4 years there, so the turnover of veteran inmates is high. The group is in the process of reorganizing and has proposed a Recognition Day for veterans to the administration there with a tentative date of November 7. We thank the prison administration for their interest and support of the veterans there, and we understand that progress will be slow but steady.

VVA Chapter 205 at the Auburn Correctional Facility is alive and well and we just received their bi-monthly newsletter. It contained a special thank you to Superintendent Harold Graham and his staff for supporting the veterans’ groups there. It also contained columns by Andy Restivo (VVA Chapter President) and Dennis Conway outlining their goals and ways to achieve them. Terrific newsletter guys, keep up the good work!

Finally, we heard from VVA Chapter 745 at the Twin Rivers Corrections Center in Monroe, Washington. Sixty-two men were in attendance at the chapel there when SFC Michael Malm and CSM Jerry McClain visited the chapter. We also congratulate former Twin Rivers Inmate Thad Lawson who was previously honored by VVA as Incarcerated Veteran of the Year. After being released, he has been attending Wenatchee Valley College where he helps other veterans as President of Student Transitional Assistance for Veterans’ Education.

My next column will be from the Convention and I will be driving there with Kenny Moore. That’s right, it will take us about five days to get there, driving his hippie mobile that gets Al Gore level gas mileage, but wreaks havoc on my self-esteem. All of you incarcerated vets keep up the good work and you are not alone.

NY State Council Meeting of June 2009
Fred Elliott

The State council meeting opened on Saturday morning, June 20th, with Chapter 20 well represented. Besides myself, in attendance were Jerry McDermott, Pat Pudetti, Ron Trovato, and of course Nick DeLeo (State Council Treasurer).

The first item of business to come before the delegates was a proposed change to the State By-Laws. It was proposed to remove the residency requirement for a NYSC District Director so that a District Director need only be a resident of New York State and not the district. After some spirited discussion, a vote was taken and the change passed, 49 for and 33 against. A recess was then called so that the Southern District Chapters could elect a new director to fill the vacancy created by Connie Steers’ resignation from the position. Pat Toro, Chapter 32 President, was elected as the new Southern District Director.

It was reported that….NYS Department of Veterans Affairs has increased its number of counselors….NYS has increased its support to county veteran service agencies by 20%….NYS legislative hearings have been postponed to September to allow us to prepare for the hearings and arrange for people to attend.

The NYSC finally received checks from the state for $90,000 in grant money. This was a result of the many hours President Foote dedicated to lobbying specific legislators to keep their promise to the NYSC.

You can show your pride in VVA with a personalized license plate. The order form can be downloaded from the state web site, www.nyvietnamvets.org. You must use the 8-1/2 X 11 size form or it will be rejected.

North of the border, our Canadian brother Vietnam Veterans have a “traveling wall” available for display. Go to web site www,cvva.ca to see a video about the wall and to learn more about Canada’s Vietnam Vets.

Diabetes continues to be a real problem among Vietnam Veterans as almost half of the delegates at the meeting were diabetic. Ask your doctor to check you for this condition the next time you have a physical. And if you don’t have a physical scheduled, you should have.

Past NYSC President, Gordy Lane, and Peter Bronstad, a former Director of Chapter 103, presented a paper titled Onondaga County Veterans Diversion Program. The authors had proposed a veterans court program for Onondaga County similar to the program in Erie County but were unsuccessful in their efforts. The paper details a program they hope to start in Onondaga County.

AVVA of NYS presented a check for $500 to the state council to pay for lunch on Saturday and said that all future proceeds from “basket raffles” would be split between AVVA and VVA. AVVA is also requesting the donation of NEW wool hats, scarves, and mittens to be given to homeless veterans.

Legislation for Veterans
Fred Elliott

I wish I could tell you that the NYS Legislature passed some significant veteran legislation, but as you
probably know, the children in Albany are more interested in power games than working for the people who elected them. Maybe next month.

Fortunately, our federal legislators are doing better. The House of Representatives passed the following bills and sent them on to the U.S. Senate for debate, amendment, and voting.

H.R.403, a bill that would provide housing for very low income veterans. As of this writing, there is no companion bill in the Senate, but we’ll keep watching for one.

H.R.466, a bill that would provide housing for very low income veterans. As of this writing, there is no companion bill in the Senate, but we’ll keep watching for one.

H.R.1089, a bill that would amend title 38, USC, to provide for the enforcement through the Office of Special Counsel of the employment and reemployment rights of veterans and members of the Armed Forces employed by Federal executive agencies, and for other purposes. No companion bill in the Senate yet.

H.R.1088, a bill that would amend title 38, USC, to provide for a one-year period for the training of new disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists (DVOPS) and local veterans’ employment representatives (LVER) by National Veterans’ Employment and Training Services Institute. No companion bill in the Senate yet.

H.R.1087, a bill to amend title 38, USC, to reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) for fiscal years 2010 through 2014, and for other purposes. No companion bill in the Senate yet.

H.R.1377, a bill to amend title 38, USC, to expand veteran eligibility for reimbursement by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for emergency treatment furnished in a non-Department facility, and for other purposes. S. 404 is the companion bill in the Senate.

H.R.1513, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2009, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes. The companion bill in the Senate is S.407.

Passed or agreed to be the House but not yet sent to the Senate are:

H.R.1016, a bill to amend title 38, USC, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain medical care accounts of DVA, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1172, a bill to direct the Secretary of VA to include on the internet website of the DVA a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans, for active duty any time from 1940 to 2001. Veterans have to supply their DD214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for them to receive it. More info is available at http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm.

H.R.1211, a bill to amend title 38, USC, to expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in OEF and OIF, from the DVA, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1171, a bill to amend title 38, USC, to reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) for fiscal years 2010 through 2014, and for other purposes. No companion bill in the Senate yet.

H.R.1377, a bill to amend title 38, USC, to expand veteran eligibility for reimbursement by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for emergency treatment furnished in a non-Department facility, and for other purposes. S. 404 is the companion bill in the Senate.

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Elmira’s Vietnam War Museum

When Tom and I read in a recent magazine about the opening of a Vietnam War museum in Elmira, NY we took a trip down to check it out. What a great visit it turned out to be! The museum was easy to find, just down the street from Woodlawn National Cemetery. The exterior of the building had flags for each branch of the military proudly flying, a bombshell by the sidewalk (the military kind, guys – not the blonde kind) and both ramps and steps leading to the front door. The American, VVA and POW flags graced the front deck.

As we entered my eyes were immediately drawn to life-size exhibit, complete with sandbags and mortar launcher. We were both impressed with the overall presentation of this converted house. Three veterans welcomed us, invited us to look around and then to sit and chat. What initially was thought to be a 30-minute visit extended into a couple hours of friendly conversation.

Chapter 803 of Vietnam Veterans of America was chartered in 1997. Almost immediately, the members voiced their desire to create a legacy consisting of a Vietnam War museum and plans were started. Funds were raised, but were never enough to support the purchase of a building to house this legacy. In December 2007, Bobby Edger (Edger Enterprises, Elmira, NY) informed the Chapter that his family was donating the building at the corner of Grant and Davis Streets to the Chapter for the purpose of fulfilling this dream. The building had previously been a local bar run by his wife’s mother.

After ownership was formalized, work began with just a small group. Some donations were made and the building was gutted and renovated into the large museum area, rest room and small office/storage space. Decks and handicap-access ramps were added and donations of items started arriving. New members were brought into the Chapter as their curiosity caused them to stop by and their interest in the project allowed them to stay, join in and join up.

Denny Wolfe, Rusty Drake and Jim Clark were all there to visit with Tom and I. They are the primary participants in the museum and are there to converse with visitors, educate local school groups that plan field trips there. Elmira College students are frequent visitors to use their audio-visual resources for assignments for their Vietnam War History course and the professor of this course works with museum staff regularly.

The museum is still a work in progress. Monetary donations are helpful as there is no funding stream for the support of the building except for a small box labeled “Donations” by the front door. There is an annual letter requesting donations sent to those on the mailing list and local companies. More items for the museum itself are requested as there is a wish to have enough to rotate exhibits. Navy items (and Navy uniforms) are especially sought.

It’s only a couple hours from Rochester to Elmira and we encourage you to visit this museum at 1200 Davis Street in Elmira. The museum is open 7 days a week and you can call for specific hours at 607-737-2760. It is free to the public.
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without a hitch as a throng of 2,500 people well done. The offload was accomplished hoisted up the mast signifying a mission approached the pier and a broomstick was among the entire Hornet crew as the ship housed inside the MQF. Pride billowed to Pearl Harbor to offload the astronauts transit of the Hornet from the recovery area The last phase of the operation was the ship's celebration.

In the hanger bay, official greetings were presented to each astronaut. The three astronauts were presented with “Hornet + 3” lapel pins, which were visible as they sat at the window of the MQF to participate in their motto was complete - “Hornet + 3.” After landing, the helo with astronauts dressed in isolation suits, was transferred to the hangar bay. The astronauts then walked from the helo to the Mobile Quarantine Facility (MQF) air stream trailer.

In the hanger bay, official greetings were completed by the ship’s captain, President Nixon, Admiral McCain and other dignitaries. The three astronauts were presented with “Hornet + 3” lapel pins, which were visible as they sat at the window of the MQF to participate in the ship’s celebration.

The last phase of the operation was transit of the Hornet from the recovery area to Pearl Harbor to offload the astronauts housed inside the MQF. Pride billowed among the entire Hornet crew as the ship approached the pier and a broomstick was hoisted up the mast signifying a mission well done. The offload was accomplished without a hitch as a throng of 2,500 people greeted the veteran ship and her three special guests. Mission accomplished!

I feel a couple side notes concerning the ship's activities are appropriate. During the training session for this mission, Hornet crossed the equator and the ship came to a halt after entering the Domain of Neptunus Rex, the Ruler of the Raging Main. Navy tradition requires that an initiation for all pollywogs be held on the equator. After hours of crawling through garbage tubes on the flight deck, visiting the Royal Barber for a “trim,” and the Royal Doctor for a taste of his famous “medicine,” 600 pollywogs were welcomed into the Royal Order of Shellbacks. Officers and enlisted men participated side by side in this very humbling and important traditional ceremony. A very important document was presented to each shellback, which is held in safe keeping for the next equator crossing. Failure to present this document usually results in re-initiation.

An additional side note, Hornet went on a few months later to recovery Apollo 12. Helicopter #66 recovered the Apollo 12 astronauts, and was the recovery helo for Apollo 13. I continued my “membership” in the Hornet team completing 3½ years of duty, and with this length of time onboard I became senior division, “Salt.”

In conclusion, I am proud to say that I participated in two extremely vital missions to the United States and the world. I am also proud that I am a “Plank Owner” of the Hornet having contributed to the ship’s purchase. The Hornet, “Grey Ghost,” lives on as the Aircraft Carrier Hornet Museum docked at Alameda Point, California. Please visit the Hornets web site, www.uss-hornet.org, to view the Apollo exhibits, tour the ship and hopefully get a feel for how I spent 3½ years aboard one of the world’s most decorated ships.

### VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA CHAPTER 20 2009 PARADE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PARADE</th>
<th>START TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>AUG 21-23</td>
<td>MOVING WALL</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Fairport VFW</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>AUG 29</td>
<td>Marching Unit Picnic</td>
<td>2 pm</td>
<td>Ray &amp; Gail’s 151 Curtis Rd. Hilton</td>
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<td>SAT</td>
<td>SEPT. 12</td>
<td>Town of Gaines</td>
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<td>SAT</td>
<td>OCT. 10</td>
<td>Columbus Day Parade</td>
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NOTE: LISTED ARE START TIMES. PLEASE PLAN TO BE AT FORMATION APPROX. 45 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START TIME LISTED

**VVA Chapter 20 Board Meetings**

See page 13 for meeting attendance.
- August 3
- September 8 (Tues.)
- November 2
- November 30 – Budget Review Mtg.
- October 5
- 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.
- August 13 (Annual Picnic/Membership Meeting)
- September 10
- October 8
- November 12
- December 10

**Special Events**

- Thurs, Aug. 13 – Annual Chapter 20 Picnic, 6 pm at Ira Jacobson Post (annual flag burning will commence at approximately 5 pm)
- Aug. 20-23 – The Wall that Heals at Perinton Memorial Post 8495 (see p. 13)
On January 10, 1970, Capt. Herbert C. Crosby, pilot; WO George A. Howes, co-pilot; SP5 Wayne C. Allen, crew chief; and SP4 Francis G. Graziosi, door gunner were flying a UH-1C helicopter (serial #66-739) as the flight lead in a flight of three helicopters returning from Tien Phuoc to the unit based at Chu Lai, South Vietnam.

At 1300 hours, the three helicopters departed Tien Phuoc. Five to ten minutes later, due to instrument flight rules, Capt. Crosby directed the flight to change to a different flight heading. When the helicopters changed frequencies to contact Chu Lai ground control approach, radio contact was lost with Capt. Crosby and was not regained.

The other two aircraft reached Chu Lai heliport and at 1400 hours, search efforts were begun for the missing aircraft, although the crew was not found.

According to a 1974 National League of Families report, George Howes survived the crash of this helicopter. The report further maintains that the loss occurred in Laos, although the coordinates place it some 40-odd miles from that country. A North Vietnamese prisoner released later reported that he had seen Howes in captivity the same month the helicopter went down. A second sighting by a villager in Phuoc Chouc (or Phouc Chau) village reported Howes and two other POWs stopped for water at his house in February 1970, en route to Laos. Whether these reports also relate to Allen, Crosby and Graziosi is unknown.

(Note: Records differ as to the aircraft type on this incident. Some records show the aircraft type this crew was flying as UH1H, and some show it as a UH1C. Herbert Crosby flew Charlie models every day from at least July 1969 to January 1970. The serial number, #66-739, correlates to a C model, the first two numbers indicating that the aircraft had been made in 1966, and the H model only had come out a few months before this time. Although C models were gunships and usually flew more or less independently, while this aircraft was flying in tight formation as flight lead which would correlate with the H model, it has been confirmed that the ship which this crew was flying was definitely a Charlie model.)

From the Desk of Gail Bologna-Melens, Chairperson, POW-MIA Committee:

In December 2006, the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that the remains of three US servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War were identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors. In May 2007, Chapter 20’s honor guard was present at the service to give SP4 Francis G. Graziosi a final Welcome Home.

NAME: Francis George Graziosi
RANK/BRANCH: E4/US Army
UNIT: 71st Aviation Company, 14th Aviation Battalion, 16th Aviation Group, 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), Chu Lai, South Vietnam
DATE OF BIRTH: 10 January 1951
HOME CITY OF RECORD: Rochester NY
DATE OF LOSS: 10 January 1970
COUNTRY OF LOSS: South Vietnam
OTHER PERSONNEL IN INCIDENT: George A. Howes; Wayne C. Allen; Herbert C. Crosby (all missing)
The Wall That Heals

Is coming to
Perinton Memorial Post 8495
On “Freedom Hill”
300 Macedon Ctr Rd. • Fairport, NY
Opening Ceremony Aug. 20 at 7pm
Closing Ceremony Aug. 23 at 6pm
The wall will be available for viewing August 20-23, 2009.

Notice to Members
In the best interest of the members of Chapter 20 we no longer recommend the use of Barefoot Sportswear in Spencerport, NY for embroidery or other work on Chapter 20 Gear.

The August Membership meeting on the 13th will include a picnic supper and will start at 6:00pm. There will be a brief membership meeting. Please bring your flags for proper disposal, which will be done that evening. We will serve hots, hamburgers and salads. Feel free to bring a snack or dessert to share. Call 585-482-7396 prior to August 7th for reservations.

roll call: b.o.d. attendance 2009

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X=Present  E=Excused  A=Absent
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.

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.

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  [ ] $50  [ ] Other ($__________)


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.
**BETWEEN THE LINES**

*Between the Lines* is published monthly by Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Chapter 20 or the Vietnam Veterans of America, its officers, board of directors or the general membership. No subscription fee is charged for this publication, and inclusion on the mailing list is available on request. *Between the Lines* can also be viewed on the Chapter 20 website at www.vva20.org.

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

*Between the Lines* runs paid advertisements to help defray the costs associated with publication and as a convenience to our readers. Chapter 20 does not endorse any advertiser or guarantee satisfaction with goods or services provided.

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**august 09**

1 SAT • US Air Force Day
3 MON • Board of Directors, 7:00pm
4 TUE • Coast Guard Day
7 FRI • Purple Heart Day
13 THU • Membership Meeting – Annual Picnic, 6:00pm (flag burning starts at 5:00pm)
20 – 23 • Wall That Heals, Fairport VFW
29 SAT • Marching Unit Annual Picnic

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**NYS Division of Veterans’ Affairs Launches New Website**

In an effort to improve its electronic reach to veterans and their families, the New York State Division of Veterans’ Affairs launched a new version of its website. The new address is: http://www.veterans.ny.gov.

Please bookmark the new, simplified web address to receive the latest information on veteran’s benefits, services and programs for New York State’s veterans and their families.

Much of the new content is based on feedback from users of the site (available through Google Analytics) and oriented on better information surrounding veteran’s education benefits and employment issues.

The new site features not only great information about the Post 9/11 GI Bill, but a veterans’ education benefits calculator for New York State to help veterans decide where their benefit goes the farthest in New York. Check it out at: http://www.veterans.ny.gov/education.html.

On the employment side, the new site directs users to the New York Department of Labor’s Resource Center site for veterans, where they receive Priority of Service in recognition for their service. Check it out at: http://www.labor.state.ny.us/VETS/VETINTROPAGE.shtm.

Aside from a few ‘tweaks’ to still be made, the Division’s new site is available for all to use. Individuals using the old site address will be re-directed to the new site after about 10 seconds.

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