I sit in this cell and watch the sky.
I live from hour to hour...refusing to die.
I question not why fate put me here -
That I will be forgotten is my only fear
Surely, someone will come!
President’s Report
Ken Moore

Not too much new this month, a little slow after returning from the national convention. Thought I would try to make the letters larger to take up space so that it looks like a larger report.

The board has approved a $2,000.00 donation to the Cancer Walk this year. We will be walking as a Team for the Chapter and remembering all of ours that have passed or are suffering from the effects of cancer. The Board approved providing the funds for the Thanksgiving dinner at the Vet Center for our friends and brothers that seek their services. Operation Share the Warmth will be done again this October on Sunday the 25th, supplying warm clothing for those in need. Please see Dan Corona or Diane Rohn if you would like to help out.

Veteran’s Court is still running great and through this we have the opportunity to help a lot of vets who need a second chance.

Till next month - Stay safe, God bless and hug a veteran!

Ken Moore President
Vietnam 1966-67
US Army Cavalry

Editor’s Note: The BTL and Chapter would like to congratulate Nancy Switzer on receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent Convention in Louisville this Summer. Report of this was inadvertently omitted from convention reports in the last issue. Nancy - You’ve done so much for AVVA, VVA and veterans in general. Our sincere thanks and appreciation - along with our congratulations for this award - are extended to you. Thank you!

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

At our annual August Membership Meeting/Picnic, it has become a tradition to have a ceremonial flag retirement. Ashes from the flags are used in ceremonies at our Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park.

The text of the ceremony reads...

"A flag may be a flimsy bit of gauze or a beautiful banner of the finest silk. It’s intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but it’s real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we have worked for, lived for, and died for; a nation of free men, true to the past, devoted to the ideals and practices of justice, freedom and democracy. Let these faded, unserviceable flags of our country be retired and destroyed with respect and honor. These flags have served our nation well and long, and are now worn to a condition such that they should no longer represent the nation."

"All mighty God, commander of all, bless and consecrate this ceremony. We thank you for our country and flag, and our liberty and freedom for which it stands. To the clean and purging flames we commit these flags, worn out in their worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may thy Holy Light spread over us and bring to our hearts renewed devotion of God and country. Amen"
Marching Unit
Ray Melens, Commander

On Aug. 20th and 23rd members of the Marching Unit partook in opening and closing ceremonies at the ‘Wall That Heals’ at the Fairport VFW. The opening ceremony had Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and Major Gen. John Batiste, Ret. Both made some great comments and a flyover of a C-130. I believe they said the C-130 came in from Niagara Falls. Both ceremonies went great and Chapter 20’s Marching Unit did what I believe to be another fine job. Fortunately Joe Peck was able to remember his left from his right and made no mistakes. That away Joe! On Saturday, Aug 29th the Marching Unit held their picnic in Hilton. The weather gods were sure looking down on us that day. After raining for a couple hours in the morning, the rest of the day was dry with some sunshine even. From what I have heard, everyone had a great time. We had a great meal that was catered by Taste of Texas BBQ in Spencerport. All the food was just GREAT! Snacks and desserts were unbelievable, so much to choose from and to sample. What a day it was. Even our infamous Joe Peck was well behaved that day. So that means there’s really nothing to write about Joe from that day. Maybe, just maybe he was so quiet that day because he was nursing a hangover from the night before. Those Marching Unit members that didn’t make the picnic sure missed out on some great food and company.

Next month I will report about the Honor Guard’s trip to Washington, D.C. for National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Hopefully the weather gods will be with us for this trip again.

Our last parade for the 2009 season will be on Saturday, Oct. 10th. It will be the Columbus Day parade, held in Downtown Rochester. The parade will begin in the area of the Liberty Pole and go down Main St., ending at Plymouth Ave. At least that’s what information I have as of this writing. Things are always subject to change. As of right now though that’s the information I got and we are forming up on Liberty Pole Way, near where we were last year.

Another Veterans Day is quickly approaching again. This year Veterans Day is on a Wednesday. All Marching Unit members are asked to consider partaking in the ceremony at 6PM at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. Usually after the ceremony we head down to Ira for some chow. As of right now I’m not sure if that’s going to be case or not this year. I will advise everyone when I get more information.

The Honor Guard continues to meet every month at 7PM, upstairs at Ira on the general membership meeting night. Anyone who is a member or anyone that wants to be a member is encouraged to attend.

Until next month……………………AT EASE!!!!!!!

POW-MIA
Gail Bologna-Melens, Chairperson

The Department of Defense has released six more names as being recovered and identified. That brings our total of Americans missing and still unaccounted for to 1,731. The remains recovered earlier had been identified as MSGT Donald C Grella, US Army, from Nebraska, listed as KIA/BNR on December 28, 1965, in South Vietnam. Also, now accounted for from that same incident are WO2 Jesse D Phelps of Idaho and CPL Thomas rice, Jr. of South Carolina, both also US Army and initially listed as KIA/BNR. Three Air Force personnel whose names were released as accounted for are Capt Robert J Edgar of Florida, listed as MIA in Laos on February 5, 1968, remains repatriated May 27, 1997, and identified April 28, 2009. Maj Curtis D Miller of Texas, listed as MIA in Laos on March 229, 1972, remains repatriated August 2, 2006, and identified February 12, 2008. Lt-Col Russell a Poor of Indiana, listed MIA in North Vietnam on February 4, 1967, remains repatriated June 14, 2007, and identified May 26, 2008.

The remains of Capt Michael Scott Speicher, US Navy, presumed KIA on January 17, 1991, the first day of Operation Desert Storm, and later listed as captured, were recently recovered in Anbar Province, Iraq, near the incident site. President Obama stated, “As with all our service men and women considered Missing in Action, we remain steadfast in our determination to bring our American heroes home.”

Please REMEMBER all of our POW-MIA’s in your thoughts, prayers and actions.

Veterans Incarcerated Committee Report
Ron Trovato

Chapter 205 at the Auburn Correctional Facility has been very active, thanks to Dennis Conway and company, and we understand that Father Freemesser and Dick Bryant attended a recent Board of Directors meeting there. A General Membership Meeting was held on August 14 and we commend the guys there for being so organized and for moving forward on Chapter business and initiatives. The Chapter also sponsored the POW/MIA vigil there on September 7 and we are awaiting the success of that event. The 22nd Annual Christmas Donation drive is scheduled for December 4 and that is certainly the high point of the year for the men of Chapter 205. We
will be sending in a donation as well as sending Chapter 20 representatives to attend that event.

The Vietnam Veterans Group San Quentin (Chapter 563) has a new executive board and hopefully they can continue the food sales and donations that keep the chapter solvent. Many thanks to Jeff Langnese for keeping in touch with us, and we wish them well on their second annual “Run to the Pen” program as well as their “Operation Mom.”

Chapter 190 of Atmore, Alabama continues its business and recently had a guest speaker, Mr. Harel Jamison, M.S.W, along with a state social worker from the Department of Corrections, Dr. Richard Holbrook, address half the veterans at the prison. We thank Craig McLaren for publishing the Chapter newsletter “The Eagle Speaks” and for always maintaining contact with Chapter 20.

Legislation for Veterans by Fred Elliott

This month we’re following up on some bills we discussed in this column last month, some of which are now law.

A.1532, a bill to amend the executive law, to create a veteran speaker education program within the Division of Veterans’ Affairs. After passage by the Assembly, this bill was delivered to the Senate where it was referred to the committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs on June 4th where it still sits. The Assembly also passed A.5371, a bill that would provide authorization to grant certain exemptions from real property tax for school districts to eligible veterans where such exemption is adopted by the governing body of the school district. This bill was also sent to the Senate and referred to the Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs Committee where it has remained since May 11th.

The Assembly passed A.7093, that would require the Division of Veterans Affairs to work with the NYS Small Business Development Center and the Office of Entrepreneurial Education to provide to eligible veterans information regarding veteran-owned business opportunities. The Senate committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs has had the bill under review since June 2nd.

Cold War Veterans will appreciate that A.7422 (S.4766) was signed by the Governor on July 23. The bill provides an opportunity for municipalities to choose to offer increased property tax exemptions for veterans pursuant to section 458-b of the real property tax law and to also allow such veterans who reside in cooperative apartments to benefit from property tax exemptions when they are tenant-stockholders of cooperative apartment corporations. Now it’s up to each county, city, town, or village to adopt a local law to provide for such exemptions.

Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate where it was given to the Rules Committee for review, A.8296 will establish the NYS Interagency Coordinating Council for service-disabled veterans, define the powers and duties of the council and require an annual report by the council to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Assembly. The Rules Committee has had this bill since June 11th.

The Governor signed into law, S.2440 (A.2239), a bill that amends Section

Continued on page 11

Join us for
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor* “Tribute Ride”

Saturday, October 17, 2009

The 98 mile ride is open to the public - Bikes, cars, trucks, military vehicles and helicopters welcome.

Ride will Begin: Marvin Park, Owego, NY (Main St.)
(Register to ride between 8:00 & 9:45 AM on day of ride) (Police Escorted Ride)
Ride Ends: Sterling, NY at the South 40 Restaurant & Bar

Itinerary:
● Route 38 to the American Legion, Groton, NY
  (Departs at 1:00PM, food/gas available)

  Groton, Home of Medal of Honor Recipient:
  2LT TERRENCE GRAVES, USMC

● Route 38 to VFW/AMVETS Post Montezuma, NY

  Montezuma, Home of Medal of Honor Recipient:
  SP4 ROBERT F. STRYKER, US ARMY

● Route 38 from Montezuma to Sterling, NY

Sponsored by:
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters 377, 480 & 704, Chapter 17 - The Blue Knights Motorcycle Club and The Patriot Guard

For information contact: Harvey Baker – The Vietnam Veterans of America607-898-3507; Dan Baker – The Patriot Guard607-222-8163; Bill Chandler – The Blue Knights607-222-6397; Barry Langerlan - The Blue Knights315-496-2921

* In July 2009 Gov. Patterson signed into law for the first time and the only time in NYS, a state highway dedicated to the men and women who served in Vietnam. NYS Route 38 will now be designated as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor.
The Veterans Health Council

The last time you filled out a medical form, were you asked about your military service? The Veteran’s Health Council (VHC) estimates that at least 70% of veterans receive their medical care outside of the Department of Veterans Affairs. That equates to roughly 17 million veterans using private health insurance and non-VA providers while largely ignoring their military experience as a medical risk factor despite the wide range of related health issues. Without knowing that a patient had associated military experience, medical conditions can be misdiagnosed. Because a lot of veterans do not realize how much their military experience affects their health, it is important to pass this information on to veterans and providers, especially for prevention and early treatment.

Therefore the mission of the Veterans Health Council is to improve health care for veterans by creating an ongoing forum for members of the medical and clinical professions, employee representatives, advocacy organizations, and healthcare firms to discuss, develop, and promote effective veterans health care efforts through: (1) informing veterans and their families about health issues and benefits available to them; (2) educating health care communities about the multiple health issues associated with military service; (3) developing materials on veterans’ health issues for medical schools, nursing schools, teaching hospitals, and related educational outlets; and (4) advocating on behalf of veterans’ healthcare initiatives. For more information on the Veterans Health Council, visit the VHC website at www.veteranshealth.org

Reports from the VA Inspector General
Fred Elliott

On August 18th, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs issued Report No. 09-01123-195, whose subject was “Administrative Investigation – Misuse of Position, Abuse of Authority, and Prohibited Personnel Practices, Office of Information and Technology (OI&T), Washington, DC.

As a result of the IG’s investigation, eleven recommendations were made to the VA’s Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology. These recommendations covered abuse of authority, engaging in prohibited personnel practices, as well as misuse of position for personal gain. The Undersecretary has concurred with all eleven recommendations and has set a target date of September 15, 2009 for completion of the recommendations.

A second report was issued the same day, No. 09-01123-196. The subject of the report was “Administrative Investigation – Nepotism, Abuse of Authority, Misuse of Position, Improper Hiring, and Improperly Administered Awards, Office of Information and Technology (OI&T), Washington, DC.

As a result of the IG’s investigation, thirty-four recommendations were made to the VA’s Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology. These recommendations covered the recovery of unlawfully expended funds ($140,000+), providing guidance to employees concerning relevant ethics standards, the misuse of position for private gain, improper appointments, and various other administrative items. The Undersecretary has concurred with all thirty-four recommendations and has set a target date of October 15, 2009 for completion of the recommendations.

To view these and other reports from the OIG, visit their web site at http://www.va.gov/oig/publications/.
What Your Health Provider Should Be Asking (and telling)...

DID YOU SERVE IN THE U.S. MILITARY?

The Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that certain illnesses have been associated with military service. Please check the lists of illnesses and health concerns that have been identified with service during the wars below. If you served during one or more of these periods of war and have any of the highlighted disease, you may be eligible for compensation, benefits and health care.

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<td>PTSD (Post—Traumatic Stress Disorder) and related mental health disorders caused by PTSD. Symptoms include re-experiencing the traumatic event, emotional numbing and hyper-vigilance. Exposure to Agent Orange (dioxin) and other toxic chemical herbicides.</td>
<td>PTSD (Post—Traumatic Stress Disorder) and related mental health disorders caused by PTSD. Symptoms include re-experiencing the traumatic event, emotional numbing and hyper-vigilance. Gulf War Illness. Medically unexplained chronic, multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of symptoms that have existed for six months or more, including chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia and irritable bowel syndrome. May also include headaches, muscle pain, skin disorders, neurological symptoms, weight loss and menstrual disorders.</td>
<td>PTSD (Post—Traumatic Stress Disorder) and related mental health disorders caused by PTSD. Symptoms include re-experiencing the traumatic event, emotional numbing and hyper-vigilance. TBI (traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries). Combined penetrating, blunt trauma, burn and blast injuries. Multi-drug resistant Acinetobacter. An opportunistic strain of bacteria that can become deadly if untreated. Leishmaniasis. A parasitic disease spread by the bite of infected sand flies. Vision loss. Hearing loss, tinnitus. Traumatic amputation. Exposure to depleted uranium. Substance abuse. Military sexual trauma.</td>
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<td>Birth defects. Spina bifida in children born to either male or female Vietnam veterans. Birth defects in children born to female Vietnam veterans. Achondroplasia; cleft lip and cleft palate; congenital heart disease; congenital clubfoot; esophageal and intestinal atresia; Hallerman-Streiff syndrome; hip dysplasia;</td>
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If you wish to file a VA claim for compensation and/or health care benefits, contact an accredited veterans service officer for further information. www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/
Warrior’s Day Parade

To all who helped or participated in the 2009 Warriors Day Parade in Toronto, Canada this past August — thank you! Chapter 20 nailed down two more awards, a 1st Place and a 3rd Place. We didn’t win the Sampko Trophy this year but 2 outta 3 ain’t bad for our group. Our group was joined by Iraqi War Vet, John Carroll.

Here’s the results for the “Allied Units” from August 22nd, 2009:

**Allied & Visiting Units — Colour Guard/Colour Party** - 1st Place, AMERICAN LEGION, POST 40, PLYMOUTH MASSACHUSETTS; 2nd Place, AMERICAN LEGION, POST 457, SEELEY B. PARRISH, LADIES AUXILIARY & SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION, PHELPS N.Y.; 3rd Place, VIETNAM VETERANS, ROCHESTER, N.Y. COLOUR PARTY

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**Why A 21-Gun Salute?**

The use of gun salutes for military occasions is traced to early warriors who demonstrated their peaceful intentions by placing their weapons in a position that rendered them ineffective. Apparently this custom was universal, with the specific act varying with time and place, depending on the weapons being used. A North African tribe, for example, trailed the points of their spears on the ground to indicate that they did not mean to be hostile.

The tradition of rendering a salute by cannon originated in the 14th century as firearms and cannons came into use. Since these early devices contained only one projectile, discharging them once rendered them ineffective. Originally warships fired seven-gun salutes – the number seven probably selected because of its mystical significance of the number three in ancient civilizations. Early gunpowder, composed mainly of sodium nitrate, spoiled easily at sea, but could be kept cooler and drier in land magazines. When potassium nitrate improved the quality of gunpowder, ships at sea adopted the salute of 21 guns.

The 21-gun salute became the highest honor a nation rendered. Varying customs among the maritime powers led to confusion in saluting and return of salutes. Great Britain, the world’s preeminent seapower in the 18th and 19th centuries, compelled weaker nations to salute first, and for a time monarchies received more guns than did republics. Eventually, by agreement, the international salute was established at 21 guns, although the United States did not agree on this procedure until August 1875.

The gun salute system of the United States has changed considerably over the years. In 1810, the “national salute” was defined by the War Department as equal to the number of states in the Union – at that time 17. This salute was fired by all U.S. military installations at 1:00 p.m. (later at noon) on Independence Day. The President also received a salute equal to the number of states whenever he visited a military installation.

In 1842, the Presidential salute was formally established at 21 guns. In 1890, regulations designated the “national salute” as 21 guns and redesignated the traditional Independence Day salute, the “Salute to the Union”, equal to the number of states. Fifty guns are also fired on all military installations equipped to do so at the close of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.

Today the national salute of 21 guns is fired in honor of a national flag, the sovereign or chief of state of a foreign nation, a member of a reigning royal family, and the President, ex-President and President-elect of the United States. It is also fired at noon of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.

Gun salutes are also rendered to other military and civilian leaders of this and other nations. The number of guns is based on their protocol rank. These salutes are always in odd numbers.

**My HealtheVet**

The mission of My HealtheVet (MHV) is to improve health care for ALL veterans, independent of where they receive care, by providing health information and health assessments via the Internet. MHV is a web site designed for veterans and their families with the goal of optimizing veterans’ health care. It is for all veterans and offers additional services to those receiving care at VA medical centers.

MHV registrants will also be able to view appointments, co-pay balances and copies of key portions of their VA medical records online and much more as additional functionality is released. This is available to veterans, their families, veteran advocates and VA employees. Non-veterans are welcome to use many of the features, although they will not have access to all functions VA patients have.

You can access the website at www.myhealth.va.gov. You will need to register to use key features and will be assigned a User ID and Password for return visits. Please note that in order to access enhanced options of this website, you must complete an “In Person Authentication” (IPA) at your local VA facility. This step provides for confidentiality of your information and is required by The Privacy Act, Title 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 552a, implemented by Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §575-1.584.

**FIT VET CHALLENGE WRAP-UP – 2009**

The success of the Fit Vet Challenge - 2009 Edition will be continued for the coming year. Details are still to be worked out, but all Chapter members are encouraged to help one another and of course, to challenge the other service groups to become the “Biggest Losers” and claim bragging rights as well as providing funding for various charity organizations with their efforts - “Win/Win” for all.

The breakdown for the 2009 Challenge winners and awards to charity are as follows:

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<td>1ST</td>
<td>US MARINE CORPS</td>
<td>Wounded Warrior Project</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>US AIR FORCE</td>
<td>American Cancer Society-Prostate Cancer</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>US NAVY</td>
<td>Spina Bifida Association</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>US ARMY</td>
<td>Intrepid Fallen Heroes Foundation</td>
<td>$ 300.00</td>
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Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to the next Fit Vet Challenge experience. Get ready!
**Flu Shots**  
Flu shots for “seasonal flu” exposure are available at various sites and clinic and are extremely encouraged for people who are diabetic. H1N1 shots are also encouraged for the “high risk” groups that are identified. Please be sure to take these precautions and get these injections.

**Thrift Store News**  
The store needs shoppers! And don’t forget to visit us on EBAY… VWA20. Also, there is plenty of clothing available, so if anyone has any special places that they would like it to go to, please let Beth know. She will be talking with different elementary schools in the city and will provide them with clothing for their closets and perhaps some “Gift certificates” for children’s clothes. This will be a way of giving back to the community and advertising. Saint Pauly’s is no longer be able to pay for the clothing they pick up so there will be a LOT of extra clothing.

**Don’t forget** to help out at Share the Warmth on October 25th!

**Breast Cancer Walk**  
Chapter 20’s Board of Directors voted at the September meeting to make a donation of $2,000 for the Breast Cancer Walk in support of our Chapter members that will be participating on October 4th.

In July, after much debate in the state assembly, and senate, Governor Patterson signed into law, a bill, dedicating New York State Route 38, the “Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor” The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #377, Chapter #480 and Chapter #704, along with Chapter 17 of the Blue Knights; a law enforcement motorcycle club, and also The Patriot Guard Riders, are sponsoring a motorcycle ride to help draw attention to the Vietnam War and to all the men and women who served there.

Sign up for the ride is between 8-9:30 am, Saturday, October 17, 2009 at Marvin Park on Main Street in Owego, N.Y. The ride departs promptly at 10am then proceeds north on Route 38, with a planned stop in the village of Groton, to honor Terrance Graves and also for a lunch break. The ride departs Groton promptly at 1pm, and then continues north to the City of Auburn for a planned stop to honor Robert Stryker. The ride continues north on Route 38 and ends in Sterling, N.Y., where more food will we waiting.

This ride is not just for Vietnam Veterans it is open to the public. Bikes, cars, trucks, military vehicles, and helicopters are all welcome. For more information about the ride call 607-898-3507 or 315-496-2921. In Owego call 607-222-6357.

Submitted by Ted Wilkinson, Western Region Director, New York State Council
New Members

Please give these new members a hearty Welcome Home! (l to r):

Luke Piccaretto,
Mike Dinsmore, Dave Alley

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.

roll call: b.o.d. attendance 2009

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459-c (2) (b) to add the receipt of a United States Department of Veterans Affairs disability pension and the letter one receives, as evidence that the person is disabled and has limited income. Existing law recognizes several forms of proof of disability, but does not specifically recognize a veteran’s disability pension. This bill simply adds further clarification to the existing law without altering the actual definition of a person with a disability and limited income.

Assembly Bill A.8737 (S.6051) was signed into law by the Governor in July. This bill increases the “caps” on funding for local veterans service agencies but does not mandate increased funding. The Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee has 34 other bills under consideration. The Transportation and Ways

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cell 585-259-9605
vgatto@rochester.rr.com

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20

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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.

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www.veteransbusinesscouncil.org
For More Information Email
jocene.preston@veteransbusinesscouncil.org
ATTENTION: VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

VA needs YOU!!
Your products and services are important to The Department of Veterans Affairs

If you are interested in doing business with the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, follow the steps below to get your company registered

- Request a DUNS number (better known as Dun & Bradstreet)
- Register in the government-wide Central Contractor Registration (CCR)
- Fill out the online certifications and representations while in CCR (ORCA)
- Register your company on VA’s Center For Veterans Enterprise Web portal (VETBiz)
- Obtain a Vets 100 number (VETS100)
- Watch for Federal business opportunities (FEDBizOPPS)
- Keep sight of future procurements on VA’s Forecast of Business Opportunities

- For assistance with all small business matters or registering in CCR, contact the Rochester Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) at 585-753-2015
- The point of contact for contracting with The Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare Network Upstate New York is Nancy Holdaway.

Share the Warmth

Sunday 10/25 – Thrift Store on Main Street.
Please arrive at 8:30am for setup and stay as long as you are able to help with this annual event held from 10:00am – 2:00pm.
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

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Various topics are offered from military / veteran oriented, patriotic, scenic, landscapes, nature, botanical, animals, fantasy, in a variety of sizes and gift items

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Help Base Greater Rochester
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- Business & Commercial Practice
- Civil & Criminal Litigation
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For details, please call 227-4383 or 225-4228.

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Veterans Walk ............................... Chuck Macaluso • chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288

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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

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Donation Pick-up ................................ 482-8016
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VVA Chapter 20 .... info@vva20.org • 482-7396
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.

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.

October 09

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

5 MON  •  Board of Directors, 7:00pm
8 THU  •  Membership Meeting
12 MON  •  Columbus Day
13 TUE  •  Navy Birthday
27 TUE  •  Navy Day
31 SAT  •  Halloween

Navy Day

In the United States, the Navy League of the United States organized the first Navy Day in 1922, holding it on October 27 because it was the birthday of the Navy-supporting President Theodore Roosevelt. It met with mixed reviews the first year. In 1923 over 50 major cities participated, and the United States Navy sent a number of its ships to various port cities for the occasion. The 1945 Navy Day was an especially large celebration, with President Harry S. Truman reviewing the fleet in New York Harbor. In 1949, Louis A. Johnson, secretary of the newly-created Department of Defense, directed that the U.S. Navy’s participation occur on Armed Forces Day in May, although as a civilian organization the Navy League was not affected by this directive, and continued to organize Navy Day celebrations as before. In the 1970s, the “birthday” of the Continental Navy was found to be October 13, 1775, and so CNO Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt worked with the Navy League to define October 13 as the new date of Navy Day.