Together Then... Together Now
Between the Lines
Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Chapter 20

April 2010
Issue 135

Special Election Issue! Meet the Candidates

In Memory
William "Bud" Hemmerick

7 Extra Earnings for Military Service (Social Security) | 8 Tribute to Bud
President's Report

Let me start again by thanking you for allowing me to serve as your president over the past two years. Elections will be over soon and I hope to see some new members on the Board. The past month has been really busy in the Monroe County Veterans Court and in Wayne County. Chapter 20 leads the way in the mentor support of these courts keeping with our promise, “NEVER AGAIN SHALL A GENERATION OF VETERANS ABOND ANOTHER.”

On February 26th Jerry McDermott, Linda Anderson, Bill Auble, Mike Volkmer and I attended a veterans seminar at MCC about veterans and services for them. The talks were GREAT with another stellar performance by Dr. Pete from the Vet Center.

The Annual Dinner is quickly approaching. Invites have been mailed so please, if you plan on attending get your reservations in and come enjoy yourself. I would like to thank all of you who helped plan this event.

We are working on our 30th Anniversary celebration that will take place in April 2011 and we want to make it special. We plan on a special guest and a couple other events that weekend to celebrate.

Till our next meeting stay safe. God Bless our Troops, Our Members and this Great Country we live in.

Ken Moore
Vietnam 1966-67
US Army Cavalry

POW-MIA

Joe Peck, Chairperson

The Department of Defense has not released any new reports this month concerning any remains that have been recovered, identified and/or returned home. They have, however, supplied a progress report on the ongoing search for our MIAs. This is very important and proves that the new procedures are in place and that efforts are being made on the recovery and return of our missing Americans.

Also this month, the historical society in the town of Greece had a display set up portraying the Vietnam war. Many of the items were donated by local veterans who had proudly served their Country. Many visited and many reminisced about their own part during this period of American history. Among the many items was the POW/MIA table. This is very important part of the display because it shows that we as a Nation will never forget our missing Americans who served with us side by side and who gave their lives for our freedom. We owe it to them and their families to keep their memories alive.

POW/MIA table at the Greece Historical Society display honoring Vietnam War Vets.
Photos courtesy of Greece Historical Society.

Veterans Incarcerated Committee Report

Ron Trovato

Chapter 205 (Auburn Correctional Facility) is alive and well with their next General Membership meeting scheduled for March 5, at which time nominations will be taken for the upcoming elections. The crochet squad there received yarn from the Sunshine Lady Foundation, and are happily chewing through that donation and we thank the Foundation for helping our vets at Auburn. We also received information that Chapter 205 is once again putting together a newsletter and we look forward to receiving it.

The Oneida Active Veterans (Oneida Correctional Facility) project “Books for Vets” has been scheduled for March 4. The veterans there have collected about 400 books from fellow veterans in the facility and they have hopes of opening this up to the general population. The first shipment is slated to be sent to the Syracuse VMAC. We welcome new staff advisor Lt. Miglianti, who is also a veteran and has proven to be an asset to the Oneida vets. Word is that the group is also putting together a newsletter which we hope to receive soon. Their Memorial Day observance is scheduled for May 15 and Pat Pudetti
and I hope to be able to attend. We also heard that OAV President Gene Edwards will be released in August and we thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the veterans at Oneida. Wesley Dunn, who we know well from his involvement with Chapter 205 at Auburn, will be taking over. We look forward to working with him again.

We heard from the Vietnam Veterans Group San Quentin (Chapter 563) and the guys there seem to be doing very well. There was a news item on television there about Veterans Court here in NY State and we are glad to get the PR. There was a General Membership Meeting held there on January 31 with two outside sponsors and staff advisor Sgt. Moore. The vets at San Quentin are raising money for several of their annual programs including the highly successful Operation Mom and the Toys for Kids Programs. Keep up the good work fellas and we wish Colorguard Member Stan Baer well.

We recently received Chapter 489’s (Attica Correctional Facility) newsletter and we are glad that they have it up and running again. We thank Chapter President Charles Thibeault for all of his hard work in putting it together and getting it out. Keep the communications coming!

Nominating Committee
Chuck Macaluso, Chair

Chapter Elections - Annual Membership Meeting April 8, 2010, 6:00 pm
Ira Jacobson Post Home 90 St. Johns Park

This year’s openings include four (4) Executive Officers - President, 1st Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and five (5) Director positions. We will also selecting five (5) New York Council Representatives and alternates.

Note: Chapter Members will be also voting on the following referendum:

The President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a Chapter 20 member in good standing, to hold voting position on Chapter 20 Board of Directors. (Chapter 20 President currently holds voting position on VVM Board)

The “new” Nominating Committee will also be elected by the membership that evening. A “to date” slate of candidates and bio’s will be presented in the April issue.

• 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 2009 to vote April 2009).
• 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.
• Floor nominated candidates can only receive votes from members present at Annual Meeting.

The slated candidates for this year are as follows:

Officer Positions
President – Ken Moore
1st Vice-President – Tom Gleason
Treasurer – Hank Wallace
Secretary – Chuck Macaluso

Director Positions
Pat Pudetti
Dick Oleksyn
Juil Robinson, Jr.
Joe Peck

Tom Hetherington
Mike General
New York State Council Representatives
Ken Moore
Fred Elliott
Valentino Gatto
Jerry McDermott
Nick DeLeo

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
Dan Corona .................... 406-6108
Pat Pudetti ...................... 753-6040

Legislation for Veterans
Fred Elliot

On February 14 of this year, the Monroe County Veterans Memorial and Executive Council hosted its annual Legislative Breakfast. This annual event provides an opportunity for both local veterans and elected state representatives to meet and discuss legislative issues important to veterans.

Unfortunately, this year, while approximately 100 veterans were in attendance, not one elected State Senator or State Assemblyman was present. Nor was there anyone present to represent those elected officials. At least a few had the courtesy to advise the VM&E Council in advance of their inability to attend.

We found this lack of interest bewildering (especially in an election year) and insulting. America’s military has in the past, and continues today, to play a vital role in the security and safeguarding of this great nation. The men and women who fill the ranks of veterans of military service continue to serve America in a myriad of roles. To deny them an opportunity to discuss issues of importance to them does them a great disservice.
Meet the Candidates

President:
Ken Moore
Officer Candidate
Let me start by thanking all of our members for allowing me to serve as your president for the past four years. I think the last few years we have seen the Chapter become stronger in many areas - membership is up, attendance at events are up. I can’t ever remember having 60 to 75 members at a membership meeting. Finances are better than they have been in many years, allowing us to do many things to support our veteran community. In the last few years we have fostered a great relationship with the Board of the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the point where we now have a board spot on their board for the sitting President of Chapter 20. We have also put $150,000 into the endowment fund to assure the Memorial remains the same as it was on its day of dedication in 1996. We have supported the Video Conference Center at the library so that people at home can talk to their loved ones who are serving their country in harm’s way. There are too many projects the Chapter has done to mention in this article and I thank all who supported these projects. I am again asking for your support as I run for President to keep the chapter moving forward.

1st Vice President:
Tom Gleason
Officer Candidate
Tom served in the US Army from April 1968 to April 1971 and was in country as a combat medic with the Americal Division from October 1968 to October 1969. From 1974 to 1992, he joined the Army Reserve as a combat medic and combat engineer, 98th Division, retiring from the Reserves in 1992 for a total of 21 years of service. Tom is an active member of both the Honor Guard and the Marching Unit and has served as the Chapter’s 1st Vice President for the last two years. His term is expiring this year and he is seeking re-election. “I have additionally served several terms on the Board and have enjoyed being involved at the executive level. I believe myself capable of continuing for another two years and appreciate the support of the membership.” Tom is married to Kathy and enjoys their blended family of five children and four grandchildren. He is a recent retiree of the US Postal Service.

Secretary: Chuck Macaluso
Officer Candidate
I would like to start out by giving you a little background about myself. I have served three years in the USMC with duty stations in the Mediterranean, Vietnam, Philippine Islands and Camp Pendleton, CA. I am a graduate of RIT, obtaining an A.A.S. Degree in Electronics; retired from Eastman Kodak after thirty-seven years as a Process Control/Computer Systems Technician. I am a certified instructor for the Department of Environmental Conservation and teach Hunter Safety for students wishing to obtain a hunting license. I am currently a Life Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Marine Corps League, American Legion and a member of The Khe Sanh Veterans. I’ve been married for 40 years to my lovely wife Joan and we have two children, Dawn & Brian, as well as two grandchildren, Kylie (Dawn & Mike Mitchell) and Jeffery (Brian and Allison). I served as Chairman of the Mailing Committee for eight years, a member of the House Committee for six years and 10K Race Committee for four years, Social Committee Chairman for two years and member of Strategic Planning Committee. I have been an active member of Chapter 20 for 28 years, member of the Marching Unit for the same, assisting the Commander of the Unit when needed. I have served on the Board of Directors for 21 years, Nominating Committee for 26, holding the position of committee chair for past 24 years. I am currently Chapter Secretary and Chairman of the Veterans Walk at Highland Park. As of January 2010, I have assumed the position of Honor Guard Commander (after Ray Melens retired from this position).

The experience of serving on the Board and working on Chapter goals and activities is very rewarding. I believe the major goal must be a drive to get the membership more involved in Chapter activities and committees. We must also increase our visibility in the Community. If we as veterans want to be recognized as being an asset to the Community, we must have people willing to get involved by taking part on committees and community events. We must be actively involved with past and current veterans’ issues, laying the groundwork for future generations of veterans to follow. I believe the “business” part of our membership meetings should be limited to enable more social time for old and new members to get to know each other. Introductions lead to friendships and the more comfortable members feel around each other the greater likelihood for involvement - the Marching Unit/Honor Guard is proof positive that this approach works. I am also a firm believer of recognition for “active” members - large memberships mean nothing without these “doers.”

Treasurer:
Hank Wallace
Officer Candidate
As Ray Melens steps down from the Chapter 20 Treasurer’s job, I would like to offer myself as a candidate for the Treasurer position. I have served as a member of the Board of Directors and as Chair of the Finance Committee since April of 2008. In those positions I have worked with Ray to improve the Chapter’s accounting books. I have met with the Chapter’s auditing CPAs. Additionally, I am a CPA with a small tax practice. I have been teaching Deaf students accounting and QuickBooks at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (RIT) for more than thirty years. Before that, I worked in several positions and earned a Masters degree from SUNY Binghamton via the GI bill. I served in the Army from 1966 to 1970. In Vietnam I was a member of the 173th Airborne Brigade from June 1967 to June 1968.
Pat Pudetti  
**Director Candidate**

I’m a Life member of VVA Chapter 20 and am running for the position of Board of Director for Chapter 20. I’ve held all of the board positions - President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Director. I’ve chaired several different committees and have worked on many others. I’m presently on two National committees (Veterans Benefits and Veterans Health Care). I’ve been a delegate to all but one National Convention, and a past State Council representative for our Chapter. As you can see, I’ve been involved with this organization for many years. I’m also on the LLC board as its Secretary. The Car business and Thrift Store were formed as an LLC mainly to protect the chapter BOD and the membership from legal problems that may arise from the businesses. As a member of the LLC, it’s our goal to manage the businesses so they are profitable so we can support Chapter 20’s programs. Our Thrift Store and Car Business made a lot of hard choices over the past few years in order to keep funding available for the Chapter. Now, after an aggressive financial plan and new procedures that have been implemented we are on our way to a sounder future. I see the future of Chapter 20 as one of growth financially as well as in membership. I have seen the Chapter cut back on programs that we use to support because of the lack of financial income.

Over the past two and a half years the Chapter has grown not only in membership but activities that we support and take an active role in. We need to continue to reach out to potential new members as well as look for new income avenues. This will keep the Chapter growing strong. With the plans for aggressive outreach I feel we can achieve a larger number of members, which will be instrumental in expanding the membership rolls and carrying on the Chapter’s legacy. As a Board Director, I see the position as one who gives guidance and support to the President, as well as make sure that the decisions that are made at the Board are carried out by him and his Executive Committee. We need to let people know about the Chapter, what it does, and how it is involved with the Community. We need to let the public know who we are and all the things we are involved in and support with volunteers as well as finances, such as Troop Boxes, Speaking at schools, Clothing give-away, Library project, GRVVM Endowment, Ira Post, Vet Center, Day Treatment and many more.

At this time I’d like to end by saying thank you for letting me represent you as a member of the Board of Directors for the past three years. I hope you will see that we have come a long way and still need to continue in that positive direction. So I ask for your vote and continued support for another three years.

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Joe Peck  
**Director Candidate**

My Name is Joe Peck. I have been a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America since 1997 and a Chapter 20 member since 2004. I proudly served in the U.S. Army as a test equipment repairman (35B20) assigned to the 5th Signal Command in Manheim, Germany. I was Honorably Discharged from the Seneca Army Depot here in New York in 1976. I am currently employed at Xerox (33 years) in Webster and am looking forward to retirement hopefully in the near future. I have been married to my High School sweetheart (LuAnn) for 34 years. We have 2 grown children and I beautiful 4 year old granddaughter. I have been an active member of the board since 2007. I am presently active with the Marching Unit/Honor Guard and took over as the new POW/MIA chair. I also represented the Chapter at the National Convention last year at Louisville, KY and also made recognition to all the members of Chapter 20 on Veterans Day 2008 and 2009.

Over the last 3 years I have enjoyed being a part of the decision making and mechanics that make our Chapter work, especially participating in the many events for both veterans and our community and of course, my valuable role with the finance committee. I am asking for your support and vote of confidence to run for the position of Director. I would proudly continue to be a representative and voice for our Chapter and its many members.

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Dick Oleksyn  
**Director Candidate**

My primary goal is to stand together and be a part of a strong voice of advocacy for every Vietnam veteran, their families, and all veterans. I am a life member of VVA Chapter 20 and have served 15 of my 23 years on the Board of Directors. I co-chaired the VVA NYS convention in Rochester; chaired the 20th anniversary celebration and subsequent annual dinners; was a delegate at VVA National Conventions in 1999 and 2001; served as liaison between the VVA Thrift Store and the BOD pre-LLC; coordinated several bus trips to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC; worked with the Chapter to raise funds and worked on our own Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. My wife and I worked on every March for the Memorial (to raise funds needed). I assist on the Veterans Walk at the Memorial as well. I am Social Chair for the Chapter. I am a member of the Marching Unit and Honor Guard and have participated in parades and funeral details and many other events. I had the honor to be on the Honor Guard unit for repatriation of two of our MIA’s in Arlington Cemetery. I also work on details to send boxes to our active duty military in harm’s way and conduct tours at the Memorial or address classes of students of all ages as requested on Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day.

I graduated from Edison Tech in 1964 and was drafted into the US Army in 1965, with a 13-month tour in Vietnam (1966-67) with the 6/71 Arty-Cam Ranh Bay and Nha Trang. I retired from Eastman Kodak Company after 34-1/2 years of service. I cofounded and am active in The Shoremont (neighborhood) Association, Inc. and NYS Certified Neighborhood watch for our community. We work with the police and fire departments and local officials to maintain the integrity and safety of our community. I also belong to AVVA, DAV Post 15, American Legion 474, VFW Post 16 and was appointed to the NYS Board of Visitors for the NYS Veterans Nursing Home in Batavia by Governor Pataki. I’ve been married to my wife, Sue, for 37 years and we have two children—Cory (an engineer for HP at Xerox and Chief, Lake Shore Fire Department) and Laura (a tenured 2nd grade teacher at Paddy Hill School in Greece—who received the VVA college scholarship). If elected, I will continue to be a voice for every veteran to the best of my ability.
Tom Hetherington  
Director Candidate

Tom did two tours with Naval Forces Vietnam, Petty Officer 2nd Class USS Hornet CVS 12, 1967, 68-69, Apollo 11 and 12 recovery. He is a 7-year military veteran: 6 years Navy, 1 year Army Sgt 209th field artillery. Tom received an AAS Degree in electronics and BS and MS degrees in Management. He is a Life member of VVA and an original member of the Chapter. Tom served as Marching Unit Commander for three years and previously as a Board member. For 14 years Tom served as a firefighter and Medic for Churchville and Hamlin, but is now retired.

Tom is impressed with how far the Chapter has progressed over the years in terms of involvement with many excellent veteran and community initiatives. He wants to help the Chapter maintain and excel with the current initiatives, and help identify future activities which will benefit all veterans.

Mike General  
Director Candidate

My Primary goal is to serve all Veterans and their Families. I am a Life Member of VVA Chapter 20 and have been a member for 2 years. I recently accepted a Co-Chair for Membership Chapter 20 and have worked on the Chapter 20 Outreach Trailer throughout last year. I am Past Commander of Greece Memorial Post 206. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1962 and served until 1966. Served in the 56th Fighter Interceptor Wg (H) and 410 Bomb Wing (SAC), 2 years overseas as an Armed Courier for the 6487 AB Wg, Pac Security Region, 1957 Comm Sq. Det 3 in Hawaii. I have been married to my wife Diane for 46 years and we have two children, and five grandchildren. I am also a Ministry Leader at Hope Lutheran Church for a Group named Hopekeepers (for people with chronic illness and pain) and have worked in Transportation and as an Usher. I work for Honor Flight as the Speakers Bureau Coordinator and am a member of Operation Welcome Home. I recently joined the Patriot Guard Riders but have not yet done a Mission.

Juil Robinson, Jr.  
Director Candidate

Juil spent 2 years and 8 months in active duty for the US Army, then another 15 years in the Reserves. He was a student at Kendall Central Schools and later sought a business degree at RIT. He worked at Xerox for 25½ years in Engineering and drove a tractor trailer for 15 years, but is now retired. Juil believes many veterans need help like he did, and feels we are all in this together. He hopes that by becoming a Director on Chapter 20’s Board he can contribute to this goal of reaching out to other vets and helping them find the support they need.
Special Extra Earnings for Military Service

Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are not granted for inactive duty training.

If your active military service occurred:
- From 1957 through 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

How You Get Credit For Special Extra Earnings
The information that follows applies only to active duty military service earnings from 1957 through 2001. Here’s how the special extra earnings are credited on your record:
- **Service in 1957 Through 1977** - You are credited with $300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.
- **Service in 1978 Through 2001** - For every $300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional $100 in earnings up to a maximum of $1,200 a year.

Note: Change in special military service credits. In January 2002, Public Law 107-117, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the special extra earnings that have been credited to military service personnel. Military service in calendar year 2002 and future years no longer qualifies for these special extra earnings credits.

Are you a veteran looking for a way to assist your fellow veterans?
Volunteer as a Peer Mentor in Monroe County Veterans Court

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

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

If you are interested, please contact:
Michael Volkmer
Court Coordinator
Veterans Court
(585) 428-4428
In the past few days I have asked and heard numerous stories and memories of a life lived. Stories of a young carefree teenager, stories of a kind hearted man and his cats (including the strays he fed), memories of a coach, a brother, hunting stories, stories of a Husband, a Dad, an Uncle and Friend. All of these stories had a lot in common. All were filled with love, dedication, loyalty and laughter. The stories that I would be able to tell I am sure I would not do them justice. Those memories belong to each of you and are very special. What I would like to ask each of you-when that special story crosses your mind to think of Pat, David and Tara call them or write your story down to share. I know some will bring a tear – MOST will bring a smile. NONE will be able to bring back there husband and dad, but all will help them continue to keep him alive in their hearts. So today I have chosen to tell you my version of Uncle Buddy.

It goes without saying that Bud was a loving Husband, proud Dad and Grandpa. But my story is that of a patriot a TRUE AMERICAN HERO. Bud was a young man who was drafted and fought for this country he loved. He fought in a war that was misunderstood and saw things most of us could never imagine in a place very far away from Hobart Street. He described that place. I am told, at a High School Reunion not as a place of horror, hatred and anger - But instead as a beautiful country almost as an adventure of a young man. Bud was proud of his country and his past. He was PROUD to be a Vietnam Vet. PROUD to march last summer in numerous parades alongside his friends-his brothers in arms, ALWAYS with a smile on his face, reminding those who came to watch of the heroes that fight everyday for their freedoms and the country they love.

While writing this, it occurred to me that just maybe I should look up the definition of hero so I did. What I found is "a hero" by definition is "a man of distinguished courage or ability admired for his brave deeds and noble qualities." So, yes, by definition Bud was a HERO. Bud loved to laugh and share that laughter. I am sure some of you here today were a part of Bud's online family, and looked forward to his endless supply of jokes and forwards. If you were a part of that family I know you too experienced a void this week in your inbox that will never be filled.

Saying good-bye is never easy-it fills us with sadness and anger. Sadness someone we love has left us and angry that this disease won this fight, leaving us all here today in disbelief-a disbelief that this happy go lucky man is gone it does not seem right for a hero? SO I checked another dictionary and found a different definition. This one said A HERO "is someone who thinks of others before themselves and would die to protect others". I would like for all of us to think about that for a moment- Someone who thinks of others and would DIE to protect. When I read that I thought WOW Bud was a TRUE HERO. HE must have thought of his friends, family and all those he wanted to protect. Instead of thinking how truly UGLY this battle-a WAR of this magnitude could get...and in true hero's fashion – actually won! He chose to WIN this fight on HIS terms - peacefully protecting those he loved, to go to a special place where True Hero's are called to fight no more!

I think it is our turn now to be heroes- using courage not to say good bye-BUT to say.....

Dear Bud, until we meet again to hear that funny joke, or feel that warm embrace- PLEASE smile down upon us - and THANK YOU. Thank you for all that you were and please continue to protect us!
Bud showed dedication not only to the Chapter, but also his family. No matter what he smiled and fought the fight. He truly loved you guys, and wanted to be as involved as much as possible. When he stopped at the table before the meeting, he was always kidding around with us and always was smiling.

I barely knew Bud. I remember seeing him as a new guy with the 101st “Screaming Eagles” Airborne Patch and shook hands with him. I know he was at the Battle for Hamburger Hill in May of 1969.

I knew Bud pretty well. I had the pleasure of setting up his marching unit uniform and helping him obtain all the medals he had respectfully earned. You could see the pride in his face when he put that uniform on after all these years. He told that when the crowd cheered during our many marches, it took all he had to hold back the tears, especially when some one would say WELCOME HOME BROTHER.

He worked at Mixco for 35+ years and had various jobs, from running large radial drills to running parts lathes, turret, lathes and vertical boring mills. He was Supervisor of the Tool Room for a time and also Supervisor of the turret lathe and vertical boring mill department. He loved all kinds of sports, was on the Mixco bowling league for awhile and was a long time member of the Mixco Social Club. He loved his fishing, he joined us several years for the ESLO Trout & Salmon Derby. He also loved his hunting as he joined us several times during archery season and we did some hunting up in the Canadice area. He loved to play on other people, but I think that he really loved being the brunt of the joke. He would do things to set himself up to be picked on. One Sunday, years ago, five of us went rabbit hunting in the Town of Ontario. While walking and trying to kick up some rabbits, he stopped and started a fire and sat down. He then stated that we made him get up early and that he was cold and tired. So, after some harassment, I grabbed his hat and threw it off a everyone shot it, he laughed and yelled that it was a rabbit. Well, that we made him get up early and that he was cold and tired. So, after some harassment, I grabbed his hat and threw it off and wore it for the rest of the day complaining the entire time. To sum it up, Bud was just a very kind and generous person, he was Bud.

Never really got to know Bud really well. Usually after a parade he would meet his family. Bud was the type person that you knew was a great guy right from the start. In the short time he was in the Chapter he made a lasting impression, was fun to be around and would help you any way he could. It really was a good feeling when family members said Chapter involvement really helped his moral over the past year. He will be truly missed by all.

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**Part 4: Financial Benefits**

**Recently Discharged?**

Receive Everything You've Earned...

Unemployed? You're eligible for up to 26 weeks of unemployment benefits if you completed the first full term of enlistment, or as a reservist, at least 90 days of continuous active duty and were discharged under honorable conditions. Additional unemployment benefits may be available. Contact the New York State Department of Labor at 1-888-209-8124 for more information.

Looking for financial help to buy a home? The State of New York Mortgage Association’s (SONYMA) Homes for Veterans Program offers fixed-rate mortgages and closing cost assistance with no points to eligible veterans. Contact SONYMA at 1-800-382-4663.

Already own a home? You may be eligible for the NYS Property Tax Exemption, which provides a partial exemption on real property taxes to eligible veterans and certain dependents based on time of service. Information and applications can be obtained from the NYS Office of Real Property Services at www.orps.state.ny.us.

Veterans with a service connected disability of 40% or more can get reduced fee hunting and fishing licenses from the NYS Department of Conservation. Visit them at www.dec.ny.gov for more information.

Information courtesy of NYS Department of Veterans Affairs brochure. For more information visit www.veterans.state.ny.us/whatsnext.html or call 1-888-VETS NYS (1-888-838-7697).
Help Base Greater Rochester
(www.hbrochester.org) is an online resource for veterans, service members, and their families in Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties. The mission of Help Base Greater Rochester is to enhance services by coordinating, mobilizing and educating the community-at-large about the issues facing veterans, service members, and their families and advocating for the necessary services to ensure that these community members can regain and maintain their physical, emotional, and economic well-being.

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

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

WETZEL ASSOCIATES
Telecommunications Engineering Consultation
Business Continuity Planning

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21 Bridgewood Drive Fairport, New York 14450
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Vietnam Veterans
of America
U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5)

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E-Mail: USSLIBTY@Rochester.RR.com
Web Page: http://www.USSLiberty.org

William H. Wallace
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
636 Middle Road
Henrietta, NY 14467
585-334-5352

Help Base Greater Rochester
(www.hbrochester.org) is an online resource for veterans, service members, and their families in Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties. The mission of Help Base Greater Rochester is to enhance services by coordinating, mobilizing and educating the community-at-large about the issues facing veterans, service members, and their families and advocating for the necessary services to ensure that these community members can regain and maintain their physical, emotional, and economic well-being.

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WETZEL ASSOCIATES
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Vietnam Veterans
of America
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MyHealtheVet

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 website 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 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.

MHV PROVIDES ACCESS TO:
- Online prescription refills with the VA
- Trusted health information
- Links to Federal and VA benefits and resources
- Personal Health Journals and Health e-Logs

Is someone you love serving in the military in Afghanistan, Iraq or Kuwait? You can now schedule a video conference with your soldier for FREE!

The Freedom Calls Center is located in the lower link level of the Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building and is available by appointment only. Call 428-8304 to find out how to schedule a call to your soldier today!

This service is provided courtesy of the Rochester Public Library, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20, the Freedom Calls Foundation and the County of Monroe.

Donate to Chapter 20!

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20, Rochester NY is United Way #2458. Support your Chapter and designate your United Way pledge to #2458!

Women Veterans Group

War affects emotional, physical and relationship health. Women have similar uniforms, gear and missions as their male counterparts but their war and military experiences often differ from men. Women veterans frequently find that they see the world in new ways which may not be understood by their civilian sisters. In the Women’s Veterans Group, women will meet with other women veterans to share experiences, process those experiences and receive mutual support. These groups are free, ongoing, open and are held monthly on the 1st Wednesday of every month from 5:30 - 6:30pm. Interested in joining? Contact Wendy Sullivan, LMSW or Patti Bennett, PhD to set up an appointment (proof of war zone deployment, DD214, needed for program participation) at the Rochester Vet Center. 585-232-5040, 1867 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, NY 14620.

Get the Facts

Myth: Most Vietnam veterans were drafted. Fact: 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted.
BETWEEN THE LINES

Good food.
Good company.
Great evening.

The Annual Dinner

Saturday April 24, 2010
Lakeshore Country Club
1165 Greenleaf Road
Rochester, NY 14612

Buffet Dinner 7:00 pm

Contact the VVA Office if you did not receive an invitation and wish to attend.

Time to check your attic.
That dusty stack of photo albums.
And that shoe box under the bed.
We know you have one.

That’s right. It’s slide show time...

We need photos of our Chapter 20 members - old military photos & recent photos too - for our 30th Anniversary Celebration Slide Show. Don’t miss your fifteen minutes of fame.

Email photos to 17cav@rochester.rr.com.
Please include name, dates of service, and the place where the photo was taken.

Need a Jacket or a VVA Shirt?

3841 BUFFALO RD • 585-594-1116

We now have a new embroidery vendor. They can make Chapter Gear with a silk screen print or embroidery. They have a large selection of items to choose from. When ordering a jacket or other item from them, you will need to present your VVA Membership Card or see Valentino Gatto at a Chapter meeting.

Good food.
Good company.
Great evening.

Tribute Ride

Saturday, July 17 • 10 am
Registration 8 - 9:45 am

Begin: Marvin Park, Oswego, NY
End: Village of Fair Haven, NY
Police Escorted Ride

Itinerary: Rte. 38 to American Legion in Groton
(Home of Medal of Honor Recipient 2nd Lt. Terrence Graves, USMC)
Rte. 38 to VFW/AMVETS Post Montezuma, NY
(Home of Medal of Honor Recipient SP4 F. Stryker, US Army)
Rte. 38 to Village of Fair Haven, NY

98 Mile Ride Open to the Public - Bikes, Cars, Trucks, Military Vehicles & Helicopters Welcome

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

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.

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Albany, NY 12247
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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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Rochester, New York

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Email: gtredlinkophotos@frontiernet.net
Rochester, New York

>>>/ photography and digital art to match your mood >>/>
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.
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Speakers Bureau ............... Geno Lenyk • gl3153@mtid.rit.edu • 423-0206
Veterans Affairs/Benefits ...... Pat Pudetti • patrickusmc1@yahoo.com • 753-6040
Veterans Walk .................... Chuck Macaluso • chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288

WEB SITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES
Veterans Widows International Network:
members@aol.com/vetwindows
NYS Department Health: www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets
Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park: www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/
The_Memorial.html
Operation Welcome Home: www.operationwelcomehome.org
VVA New York State Council:
www.nyvietnamvets.org

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
AND INFORMATION
Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial... 585-753-7275
(enter 9, enter 2 to leave a message)
Ira Jacobson American Legion
Post #474 ........................................... 663-7030
VA Clinic - 465 Westfall Road ........... 463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center .............. 546-1081
Vet Center ..................................... 232-5040
Veterans Administration .............. 800-827-1000
Monroe County Veterans Service
Agency .............................................. 753-6040
e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com
Veterans Benefits Hotline .............. 800-827-1000
Veterans Bill of Rights ................. 800-342-3358
VA Medical Center in Batavia ...... 585-297-1000
VA Hospital in Buffalo ................. 716-834-9200
VA Medical Center in Canandaigua... 394-2000
VA Medical Center in Bath ......... 607-664-4000
V.V. of America in Washington ....... 800-VVA-1316
V.V. Memorial Fund “The Wall” ...... 202-393-0090
Nat’l Lge. of Fam. MIA/POW
Updates .......................................... 202-223-6846
Richards House ........................... 506-9060
The Resource Center .................. 546-4250
Stars & Stripes ......................... 546-3524
Persian Gulf Vets, Inc. .............. 385-4097
Operation Welcome Home ............ 234-4694

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

P. O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612 • www.vva20.org • (585) 482-7396 • Fax (585) 482-5513

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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/year

Provides professional counseling to veterans, their family members or friends.

April 2010

MARCH
30 TUE
• Passover begins

APRIL
4 SUN
• Easter Sunday
5 MON
• Board of Directors, 7:00pm
8 THU
• Annual Election and Meeting – Starts at 6:00pm (buffet dinner will be served)
11 SUN
• Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire, 1991
13 TUE
• Battle of Pork Chop Hill began, 1953 (Korean War)
15 THU
• Income Taxes Due!
24 SAT
• Annual Dinner at Lakeshore Country Club, 7:00pm

Meetings

BOD
April 5
May 3

Membership
April 8 – Annual Meeting/Elections, 6 pm
(Annual BOD meeting at 5:30 pm) – Buffet Dinner served!

Special Events
April 24 – Annual Dinner (Lakeshore Country Club)
May 31 – Memorial Day Picnic
July 17 – 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor Tribute
Ride (more info to come in subsequent issues)
Aug 12 – Annual Picnic

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