Thanks from the Front
President's Message

Another month and we are closer to summer, warm weather and all that good stuff. I have been busy the month of January with meetings and events. Just a few quick things that I feel you need to know:

Veterans Court has continued to move along great. Chapter 20 leads the way with the mentor program and I can’t thank them enough for the time they donate each Monday and the support they show for our veterans. On January 25th the Court graduated 5 defendants who completed treatment, are free of their charges and can move on with their lives. I will travel to Orlando in March (not on the Chapter money) to do two presentations on the Veterans Court with Judge Marks and a few others at the GAINS conference on mental health in veterans.

January 20th Jerry McDermott and I went to the American Cancer Center to give a talk on Agent Orange and its related conditions.

In April we will again be having our Annual Dinner at Lakeshore Country Club. As always, part of that will be the presentations of awards. There are many great people in our chapter who have worked hard for all of us. Please recognize these efforts and put them in for one of the Chapter awards. (Forms are in this BTL.)

Lastly, in April we again will hold our annual elections for Directors and Officers of the Chapter. I encourage all of you to think about running. Also on the ballot will be a change we would like to make to the board members. I would ask you to vote in favor of us putting a Board spot for the sitting Chairman of The Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Thanks for another great month and I will see you at the next meeting. God Bless you, our Troops and this Great Nation we defend.

Ken Moore
Vietnam 1966-67
US Army Cavalry

POW-MIA

Joe Peck, Chairperson

New policies and procedures implemented by the Department of Defense and JPAC earlier this year have so far been very promising and successful. The new reports from the Department of Defense and DPMO have released four more names as being recovered, returned and identified through DNA testing, bringing the total number of missing US personnel to 1,720 and the number of Americans accounted for from the Vietnam war now at 926. They are as follows:

Major Russell Clemensen Goodman, USAF, from Salt Lake City, Utah. Listed as a MIA in North Vietnam on February 20, 1967. His remains were recovered about December 15, 1993, returned to the US on April 15, 2008 and identified on November 16, 2009. Major Goodman was a pilot of a F4 Phantom fighter jet with Ensign Gary L. Thornton on a bombing mission against a railroad siding in North Vietnam. The aircraft was hit with a surface to air missile about 8 miles from the city of Thanh Hoa. Ensign Thornton ejected and was captured and returned to the US in 1973. Major Goodman perished before the crash. In Jan 2010, his remains were flown to Nellis Air force base in Nevada to be honored by the Air Force Thunderbirds, from which he was a member from February 1964 to December 1965. He will be buried in Alaska at a date determined by his family.

Sgt. Melvin Dye

SFC Douglas Glover

Major Elton Perrine

Sergeant Melvin Carnils Dye, USA, from Carleton, Michigan and Sergeant First Class Douglas John Glover, USA, from Cortland, New York were listed as MIAs in Laos on February 19, 1968. Their remaines were recovered as part of a larger recovery effort on November 21, 2007. SFC Glover's remains were identified on October 2, 2008 and Sgt. Dye's remains were identified on February 4, 2009. Sgt, Melvin C. Dye was a crew chief on a UH1H helicopter while on a emergency extraction mission to rescue two Special Forces soldiers, one which was SFC Douglas J. Glover and four indigenous personnel assigned to MACV-SOG. As the Huey picked up the team and lifted off in the rugged jungle covered mountains along the boarder of Laos and South Vietnam, it received heavy volumes of enemy small arms fire causing the aircraft to crash and explode. As reported last month, Door Gunner SSGT Robert Smith Griffith's remains were recovered and identified from the same site.

And last but not least, One of Chapter 20’s own, Colonel Elton Lawrence Perrine, USAF, from Pittsford, New York was listed as MIA May 22, 1967. Maj. Perrine and Captain Kenneth F. Backus were pilots on a F4C Phantom fighter Jet on a combat mission in North Vietnam. At a point near the city of Nam Dinh, the F4C aircraft was struck by enemy ground fire and all communications were lost and presumed to have crashed.
In September of 1999, a suspected area was identified as a possible crash site near the city of Nam Dinh, North Vietnam. On July 25, 2007 the site was positively identified by artifacts as the crash site of Maj. Perrine’s aircraft.

Between March 4 and April 9 of 2008, human remains were recovered and returned to the US on Dec. 7, 2009. They were positively identified by Mitochondrial DNA testing as being those of Maj. Elton Lawrence Perrine. Information from the family states that Major Elton Lawrence Perrine will be laid to rest with full military honors from the US Air Force at Arlington National Cemetery on May 24, 2010 at 1pm. Chapter 20 of the Vietnam Veterans of America sends our condolences and prayers to the families of these brave men and especially to the family of our own Major Elton Lawrence Perrine. They are finally home.

Honor Guard
Chuck Macaluso, Commander

Greece Historical Society Vietnam Display
On Friday, February 12 the Chapter Honor Guard participated in the opening ceremony of their display dedicated to Vietnam Veterans and associated military items of that era. Although the Greece Historical Society “house” isn’t set up for huge crowds, dozens of attendees made do by filling several rooms. Kenny Moore and Pat Budetti did a great job working with the Society pulling together items for display. The presentations by Greece Town Officials and political representatives were heartfelt statements of how this Country deprived Vietnam Vets the honors due returning veterans. Hopefully we will never see that type treatment to anyone putting their “life on the line” for their Country. I would like to thank the following Honor Guard members for attending – Dick Oleksyn, Val Gatto, Ray Melens, Ed Jones, Tom Puff and Tom Heatherington. As usual great job by all!

Veterans Incarcerated Committee Report
Ron Trovato

Well, here we are in the winter doldrums and we all probably have a touch of cabin fever…

The Oneida Active Veterans continue to make strides and the group now has two staff advisors. According to Gene Edwards, both advisors are veterans who are very active with the group and understand what the group’s goals are. We hope they can develop outside volunteers to assist the veterans there on a regular basis. The guys are still collecting books for donation to the local VA Medical Centers and the first batch of over 300 books was to be sent out the end of January. Great job, guys! Hope to see you all over Memorial Day. I thank you so much for your recent donation to Chapter 20.

I also heard from Chapter 489 at the Attica Correctional Facility and we recognize Chapter President Charles Thibault and staff advisor Sgt. Mark Schiefer for all of their work there. Again, outside volunteers are needed to come in on a regular basis so the Chapter can conduct general membership meetings. It is easy to become a registered volunteer there with the help of Sgt. Schiefer. Any takers???

Chapter 190 at the Holman Correctional Facility, in Atmore, Alabama, has a veterans crafts committee which teaches job skills, cooperation, self-confidence and working with others. Most of the vets there have been in prison over 20 years and have helped many inmates over the years. These men have worked at wood and leather hobby crafts to support chapter projects and charities. Tip of the hat to Craig McLaren and crew there!

Chapter 205 at the Auburn Correctional Facility is currently awaiting the publishing of their latest newsletter, which is always nice to receive and we thank Dennis Conway and Chapter President Andy Restivo for all of their efforts. Their next general membership meeting is scheduled for March 5 and I appreciate the inclusion of their 2010 special events calendar in their latest correspondence. Good luck to you all, especially the crochet squad.

In closing, we start another fiscal year and I do appreciate and thank Chapter 20 for funding my committee once again. My days of collecting cans to fund my committee are officially over!

Nominating Committee
Chuck Macaluso, Chair

General Membership Meeting
March 11, 2010
Meet the Candidates
Each candidate will address the membership at this meeting stating their reasons for seeking an elected position. This year 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 Annual Meeting & Elections will be held April 8, 2010 at 6:00 PM - Ira Jacobson Post Home.

The “new” Nominating Committee will also be elected by the membership that evening. A “to date” slate of candidates and biographies 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...
Thanks from the Front

A U.S. Soldier from Bravo Troop, 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, watches local activity at an observation point during a cordon and search operation near Kirkuk, Iraq, Feb. 12, 2010. This particular search turned up several improvised explosive devices, as well as weapons and an explosive cache. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joel LeMaistre/Released)

“God Bless America”
Thank you so very much for the packages, it meant so much to both my soldiers and I. Thank you for your previous service. I know that when you served you received very little appreciation. You paved the way for both my soldiers and I today. Thanks again for your support & service.

CPT Patricia Watkins

I just wanted to say thank you so much for the care package you have sent to me. You have no idea how much I appreciate people like you as well as my fellow soldiers. Not really sure how you got my address but thank you so much for your support and letting us know that we’re not forgotten. I’m from Rochester too, graduated in 2006 from Greece Arcadia, really good education system and teachers. Miss Rochester and the U.S.A. a lot but I’m doing what I love and everything I’m going through is for you, your family and the rest of America. Just to let you know the Oreos and Slim Jims didn’t stand a chance. I’m working on the M&Ms right now, LOL. But I gotta go get back to cleaning my weapon (again). THANK YOU 4 EVERYTHING!!!

HOOAH!!!! It’s an Army thing

SPC Russell Kenneth

Fellow vets, Thank you for the care package. My men and I appreciate all the thought and effort that you all put into the box. It is an odd position for us now in Iraq. We are starting to transition out and the kinetic optempo is nothing like the last time I was here in ‘06 – ‘07. But rest assured we spend all our effort trying to gain and maintain contact with the enemy. These cowards still try to attack us on occasion, but they never make it too far before we nab them. I truly appreciate everything you do to support us here. Take Care.

Mike Centola

P.S. – I do post photos of various aspects of this deployment online at www.lifeandtimeofanarmyguy.blogspot.com. The account of my trip this time is no where near as “exciting” as my last time here but I try to get some cool photos.
To all who have heard and answered the call for the 2nd Annual Fit Vet Challenge, your efforts, energies and continued steps toward a healthier self are firmly entrenched by now. Your dedication to a new you will continue long after the 2010 Challenge results have been posted. So, heading into the final month of our competition don’t wimp out now! The finish line is in sight, your good daily habits are serving you well and all the small changes enacted are starting to show fantastic results. KEEP IT GOING, AND GOING AND GOING, until the final weigh-in at our April 8th general membership meeting. MOVE MORE...eat less! I know that our last year’s WINNERS, are looking over their shoulders to see who’s gaining on them, or in this case... actually losing more than them. Bragging rights being what they are, rally and encourage your fellow service branch buddies to the top of the BIGGEST loser scales. Congratulations to all who participated in this healthy and worthwhile event.

Fit Vet Update
Season 2

At the February weigh-in:
Initial weight – disappointing, no loss since last month
Boots removed – down 2 pounds
Sweater removed – down an additional pound
Final weight – Priceless!

Competition is Fierce
After the first month, each branch shows an average loss with the Marines leading the competition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRANCH</th>
<th>AVG LOSS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARMY</td>
<td>-9.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIR FORCE</td>
<td>-4.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVY</td>
<td>-16.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USMC</td>
<td>-27.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL</td>
<td>-14.50</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Here are some tips to help you get healthy and stay healthy!

1. Eat a health, hearty breakfast.
2. Small consistent steps toward exercise. (Three times a week for 20–30 minutes each time, then increase your activity gradually after a few weeks.)
3. Add fruits and vegetables, 5–7 servings every day.
4. Reduce your calories by 500 calories to help yourself lose that weight.
5. Drink water! Start your day with one to two 8-ounce glasses of water and drink an 8-ounce glass of water before each meal.
6. Don’t skip lunch.
7. Find a buddy – it’s easier to stay on track when you are accountable to someone else.

These tips for getting healthy and staying healthy are excerpted from the Rochester Healthy Living publication and are submitted by Jerry McDermott.

Healthy Eating...
Chili's Monterey Chicken

The full dinner with mashed potatoes and veggies on the side has almost 900 calories and close to FOUR DOZEN fat grams! Here are the stats:

Serving Size: 1 entrée, as served
Calories: 870  Fiber: 10g
Fat: 47g  Sugars: N/A
Sodium: 2,720mg  Protein: 65g
Carbs: 53g

Weight Watcher POINTS® value 21*

The Lighter Version Single Size Recipe

INGREDIENTS:
For Chicken
1 strip center-cut or turkey bacon
6 oz. raw boneless skinless lean chicken breast, pounded to 1/2-inch thickness
Dash each salt & black pepper, or more to taste
1 tbsp. BBQ sauce (about 45 calories per 2-tbsp. serving)
2 tbsp. shredded reduced-fat cheddar & Monterey Jack cheese (or 4-cheese blend)
1 tbsp. diced tomato
1 tbsp. chopped scallions

For Sides
3 oz. cubed red potato (1 - 2 small potatoes), not peeled
1 1/2 cups chopped cauliflower
1 1/2 tbsp. fat-free sour cream
1 tbsp. fat-free nondairy liquid creamer
Dash salt, or more to taste
1 1/2 cups frozen broccoli florets
1 tsp. dry country-style/white gravy mix
Dash black pepper, or more to taste
Optional: reduced-fat Parmesan-style grated topping

Directions:
In a covered microwave-safe bowl, nuke potatoes & cauliflower with 2 tbsp. water for 6 minutes, until very tender. Drain any excess water. Add sour cream, creamer, & salt. Mash well. If you like, add more salt. Cover to keep warm. Nuke broccoli in a covered microwave-safe bowl with 2 tbsp. water for 4 minutes, until thawed & hot. Drain excess water. Cover to keep warm.

Cook bacon per package directions (without added fat). Halve & set aside. Season chicken with salt & pepper. Bring a pan sprayed with non-stick spray to medium heat. Cook chicken for 5 minutes per side, until cooked through. Turn heat off, but keep chicken in the pan on the stove. Top with BBQ sauce, bacon, & cheese. Cover and let cheese melt.

Combine dry gravy mix with 1/3 cup water in a microwave-safe bowl. Nuke for 2 minutes. Stir well. Nuke for 1 - 2 more minutes, until thickened. Season with pepper, stir well, and set aside. Plate mashies & veggies, reheating if needed. Spoon gravy over mashies. If you like, sprinkle veggies with Parm-style topping, salt, and/or pepper. Plate chicken, and top with tomatoes & scallions. Eat!

MAKES 1 SERVING

Serving Size: entire meal
Calories: 468  Fiber: 9g
Fat: 8g  Sugars: 12.5g
Sodium: 1,010mg  Protein: 52g
Carbs: 39g

Weight Watcher POINTS® value 9*
Meet the Candidates from page 3
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 (as of 2/6) 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
Jesse Clemens
Juil Robinson, Jr.
Joe Peck
Tom Hetherington

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010
National Finance Committee Meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2010
Board of Directors’ Meeting

• Quentin Butcher reported that the Household Goods program has lost no buyers this year – the program will be expanding into Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Delaware, Philadelphia PA, Albany NY, Columbus OH, and expanding an existing program in Connecticut. The Car Program may partner with Household Goods for advertising

• AVVA is working with “Build A Bear” to supply a bear to every child of a deployed troop

• The 2013 Convention will be in Jacksonville, Florida

Leadership Conference Planning Committee

• Tom Burke (At-Large Director) suggested seminars on Public Speaking, Power Point presentations, and the production of an electronic newsletter

• Terry Hubert (Veterans Incarcerated Chair) suggested a seminar on the Veterans’ Court Programs

• Alan Oates (Agent Orange Chair) would like time for three seminars

• Veterans of Modern Warfare (VMW) would like to attend the conference

• There will be a raffle to raise funds for the Scholarship Program – prize to be a $500 gift card (donated by the Ohio State Council)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010
Board of Directors’ meeting

• President Rowan announced that the pictures of the recipients of the VVA Commendation Award that had been displayed in the Harbison room in the old offices would not be displayed at the new offices. He is looking for VVA State Council pins to create a display in the Harbison room as well as medals/ribbons presented by state governments to Vietnam Veterans for a second display. (I spoke against the Commendation Award recipients pictures not being on display.)

Membership Committee – would like to print a revised membership application – there is $35,000 available in the Membership Department printing budget

Veterans of Modern Warfare – VVA mentoring is invaluable – they are filing for 501(C) 4 status – establishing a 501 (C) 3 – have moved their headquarters from Kansas City to Silver Spring – hope to be incorporated in all 50 states by year end 2010

Veterans Health Council – VVA was the only Veterans Service Organization invited to attend the National Black Caucus meeting – it is important to get screened for bladder cancer – we are at twice the risk over the general population – VHC will present to the House Veterans Affairs Committee about health care to rural veterans on January 27 – the television show, Intervention, has contacted Tom Berger about Vietnam Veterans involvement

POW/MIA Committee – has collected 40 wheelchairs for veterans in Kiev – Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) is going to pay for the shipping

Veterans Incarcerated Committee – committee wants to change its name to Veterans Justice – Congressional bills S902 and HR 7149 are for funding of the Veterans Court programs. The VVA Constitution Committee will be reviewing the procedure necessary to change a national committee’s name.

Veterans Benefits Committee – appointed a sub-committee to review grant requests for service officer program funding – the sub-committee will be developing a checklist to use when reviewing the applications – guidelines are being developed for service
officers – basic training to “train the trainers” will be held February 8 – 12 at the national office
PTSD/Substance Abuse Committee – spousal suicides are increasing
Homeless Veterans Committee – the VA’s Homeless Veterans Hotline should be staffed by formerly homeless veterans
Veterans Healthcare Committee – developing VVA brochures on Parkinson’s Disease and Ischemic Heart Disease
Government Affairs Committee – VA accountability is now our #1 priority – outreach is #2 – comprehensive Agent Orange Act of 2010 is #3 – overhaul of the VA claims system is #4 – making a living (Veterans Economic Opportunity Administration) is #5
Agent Orange Committee – in 2006, the Institute of Medicine reported a connection between hypertension and herbicide exposure – the VA has not yet made a decision about that report

Editor’s Note: Due to space, this report was edited. For the full report, please contact Kathy Gleason.

Awards

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
The Community Service Award recognizes a group, organization or individual who has demonstrated a strong sense of community service and who favorably recognizes and relates to Vietnam Veterans’ issues.
My nomination for this award is ____________________________________ because ____________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

VETERANS’ SERVICE AWARD
The Veterans’ Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication in improving the condition of Vietnam Veterans and/or the community. (There may be up to 3 Veterans’ Service Awards presented annually.)
My nomination for this award is ____________________________________ because ____________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

THE ROGER ROBACH AWARD
The Roger Robach Award is given to an individual who has spent a minimum of ten years working for the betterment of all veterans in New York State.
My nomination for this award is ____________________________________ because ____________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

DON AND RORI MURRELL HUMANITARIAN AWARD
The Don and Rori Murrell Humanitarian Award is given to an individual who has accomplished an extraordinary effort on behalf of active duty military personnel and/or veterans and their families. (All individuals are to be considered for this reward regardless of Chapter or veteran affiliation.)
My nomination for this award is ____________________________________ because ____________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

With our Annual Dinner coming up in April, it is time to think about those who serve the Chapter as well as all veterans. There are several awards given each year – and we are fortunate to have many in both our Chapter and our community who work diligently to serve veterans. Consider those around you and nominate them for one or more of the following awards:

Please consider nominating those you feel are deserving and submit your nomination to our Chapter Office. You can also email Kathy Gleason at kathy14470@msn.com for an electronic version of these nomination forms. Deadline for nomination is March 20th.
These guys are insane! They’d been preparing and talking for weeks about this wonderful adventure we were all going to have, promising me I’d just love it. Hah!

What’s to love about camping if you’re in a Walmart parking lot with no heat. Just because I have a fur coat doesn’t mean I like to give up my creature comforts. You think they’d know you need electric for the propane heater to work. Really!

They might be seeing the sights, but all Jim and I see are the pictures they download to the computer. And experiences – well, just from their annoying chatter over dinner every night. Don’t they know I’m trying to catch a catnap?

OK, so they did Mammoth Caves and traveled the Natchez Trace. I did manage to escape at one point but they found me and put me back in the RV. Boy were they upset!

They saw Tupelo, Vicksburg, Natchez and several more Walmarts along the way. I don’t get what all the excitement is about. Spent Christmas in Houston, but at least Santa found us. Galveston, San Antonio (which of course meant the Alamo) and, you guessed it – another Walmart.

Big Bend National Park occupied their conversations for quite a while. They couldn’t get an internet connection which seemed to cramp their style. The rain made me quite sleepy and I think I slept most of those days – something nice about napping while the rain splashes against the windows. I remember some talk about illegal Mexicans and trinkets being traded – so Jim and I kind of hid, hoping the Federales wouldn’t knock on the door.

The rain interfered with their plans and they spent some time in the RV, which interfered with my plans. But, hey, they do fill the food bowls every day. We finally left Big Bend and put some miles under us.

They were all cutesy about Roswell, NM and I noticed this corny photo they downloaded, all scared about some phony UFO. They’re just Unidentified, not necessarily alien – right? Cutesy seemed to be the new pattern as they went on and on about playing poker with Doc Holliday and winding up in jail. I wonder if they expected you folks back home to send bail money…

Then on to Arizona, via more Walmarts. Something about a Ghost Town? And now, here we are in California. It’s about time. I have a face-to-face scheduled with Morris. He wants me to be his stand-in…

Editor’s Note: Wesley has been kind enough to keep us posted of the travels of Ralph Pascale and Barb. Isn’t this what everyone fought so hard for and worked so hard for – to be able to enjoy life and share it with someone special. At least that’s what Wesley says!
VA Issues List of Ships that Qualify for Presumptive Agent Orange Exposure

Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing information to assist with development in Haas related disability claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy Veterans. To date, we have received verification from various sources showing that a number of offshore “blue water” naval vessels conducted operations on the inland “brown water” rivers and delta areas of Vietnam. We have also identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. The ships and dates of inland waterway service are listed below. If a Veteran’s service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development.

- All vessels of Inshore Fire Support [IFS] Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour
- USS Carronade (IFS 1)
- USS Clarion River (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship, Medium, Rocket]
- USS Francis River (LSMR 525)
- USS White River (LSMR 536)
- All vessels with the designation LST [Landing Ship, Tank] during their entire tour [WWII ships converted to transport supplies on rivers and serve as barracks for brown water Mobile Riverine Forces]
- All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] during their entire tour
- All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland waterways and featured in the Vietnam film “Apocalypse Now”]
- USS Ingersoll (DD-652) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, October 24-25, 1965]
- USS Mansfield (00-728) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River August 8-19, 1967 and December 21-24, 1968]
- USS Richard E. Kraus (00-849) [Destroyer]

- All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Operated on coastal inlet north of Da Nang, June 2-5, 1966, protecting Marines holding a bridge]
- USS Baseline (00-824) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, May 24-25, 1966]
- USS Hamner (00-718) [Destroyer] [Operated on Song Lon Tao and Long Song Iao Rivers, August 15-September 1, 1966]
- USS Conway (00-507) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, early August 1966]
- USS Fiske (00-842) [Destroyer] [Operated on Mekong River, June 16-21, 1966]
- USS Black (00-666) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, July 13-19, 1966]
- USS Providence (CLG-6) [Cruiser, Light, Guided Missile] [Operated on Saigon River 3 days during January 1964]
- USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores Ship] [Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and Cam Rahn Bay, April 22-25, 1968]

VVA Veterans Benefits Committee Meeting

Present: J. Klein – Chairman; J. Margowski – Vice Chair; R. Levesque – Vice Chair/Sec’y; Ned Foote; Peter Bassigano; Pat Peduti; Sandie Wilson; M. Mudge; P. Richards; J. Jennings; R. Southern; N. Switzer. Absent: P. Pettrson; B. Huber; J. Kristek; J. Pace

Director’s Report:
David Houppert discussed the development of a new Duty To Assist letter per Vasquez-Flores – Schultz and the proper development of a new letter to be sent to veterans.

BVA decision which described Danang harbor as a “brown water” area for use in “Blue Water” cases.

Discussed VVA Basic Training session for Feb 8th to the 12th 2010. Approximately 12 persons have registered to attend. The “train the trainers” program will also be instituted at this training with 3-4 accredited service officers to train personnel.

Advanced training from November 2009 in Orlando Florida with USA was discussed and reviewed.

Advanced VVA training for the leadership conference in Orlando, FL was discussed.

MOU with VSF was discussed without comment. Tom Burke gave a presentation on the MOU and stated that if the sub-committee that was appointed in the Veterans Benefits Committee. The responsibilities of the VBC Subcommittee was discussed with all responsibilities to include receipt of copies of grant requests; review of grant proposals for completeness; determine that grant proposal rationale for seeking grant and explain plans to implement grants. Review whether required VSF reports have been submitted and which reports are missing; Review whether forfeiture of funds has occurred from each state; Review whether required statistics have been submitted (quarterly reports/monthly statistics); Assign amount to each State and justify reason for decision; Present to full VBC for approval.

General Session:
Rick Wideman came before the committee and discussed the meetings between VA and the National Service Organizations relative to VA’s attempts to streamline their services.

Discussed requirements for Volunteer VSO’s. That includes an updated list of all cases; Types of records kept to include paper records/files, computer files, US files, back-up files, where records are stored and who knows where the records are stored. Remote access and access to VA computers Trip Training. Also from VSO’s a list of pending claims, original and increase cases; claims pending/DR0 appeals; Remands; Cases at AMC; cases at CAVC.

Motion to Adjourn: 1:08 PM
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.

For more than twenty years our firm has served individuals, families and family owned businesses in the Greater Rochester community providing a full range of comprehensive legal representation and counsel.

In addition to our general legal practice we represent service members and veterans before military boards of corrections for all services.

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

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

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Paul.Ciminelli@CiminelliLaw.com

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

WETZEL ASSOCIATES
Telecommunications Engineering Consultation
Business Continuity Planning
Lawrence R. Wetzel, PE
21 Bridgewood Drive Fairport, New York 14450
(585) 474-4883 lwetzel42@frontiernet.net

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SURVIVOR
45 Drumcliff Way • Rochester, N.Y. 14612
1-585-225-0385
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
U.S.S. Liberty (AGTR-5)
Vietnam Veterans of America
WETZEL ASSOCIATES
Greece Memorial Post 206
Help Base Greater Rochester
William H. Wallace

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Thrift Store News
E-bay is going very well. They sold a clarinet for $300! The Thrift Store has been very generous to the community so far this year, donating over $4,000 worth of merchandise to Homeless Vet programs and over $2,000 to local schools. Stop in and see the new look to the front of the store!

Rochester Regional Veterans Business Council Launches Survey
The survey is aimed at documenting the number of veteran owned or operated businesses in the greater Rochester area. Veterans of military service who own, operate, or help manage area businesses or not-for-profit organizations are encouraged to take the survey by visiting www.veteransbusinesscouncil.org and selecting the link on the home page. The survey should take less than five minutes to complete and will be available at the website throughout March, 2010. Results of the survey will be distributed in early April and survey participants may opt to have the survey results emailed directly to them. For more information about the RRVBC visit www.veteransbusinesscouncil.org.

Road to Recovery Driver Needed at American Cancer Society
Every day thousands of cancer patients need transportation to hospitals or doctors’ offices for treatment. You can help save a life by becoming an American Cancer Society Road to Recovery driver. With just a few hours of your time a couple of days a week or month, you can make a positive impact on the lives of cancer patients and their families. To become a volunteer driver for the American Cancer Society, you must own a safe and reliable vehicle; have a current, valid driver’s license; have proof of adequate automobile insurance; have a good driving record; and attend a Road to Recovery volunteer training. If you have strengths in compassion, driving and love to work with people, please contact Ann Savastano at 585-288-1951 ext. 102, or at Ann.Savastano@cancer.org.

Vietnam and Era Veterans Stories Added to NYSC Chapter History Project
An area was created for those who would like a better understanding of what went on during the Vietnam Era and of the men and woman who have served. As you search for your Vietnam & Era Veterans Stories you will only see a short summary of who they are and their complete story. Visit http://nyvietnamvets.org/nysc_blog/vet-nysc/ to get started with your own story or go to the website (www.nyvietnamvets.org) and click on the “Chapter History Project” link on the main menu and look for the “Click Here” link. So let’s all get together, write your Vietnam Experiences and get it online along with our Chapter History Project. This is open to all New York State Vietnam Veterans not just chapter members. If you have a question on this feel free to email Dana at dhallfors@nyvietnamvets.org.

Suicide Prevention Hotline Update
You’ve all seen the Suicide Prevention ad in our newsletter and other publications. In the last year, this phone number has logged approximately 225,000 calls and has claimed 4,000 “saves.” Please – if you know someone in crisis – encourage them to call!

Recently Discharged?
Do you need a job? New York State’s Department of Labor oversees the implementation and development of New York’s workforce development system and administers programs that support veteran job seekers. Check out the Workforce New York Website at www.workforcenewyork.org. Need your resume converted into “civilian” language? Translating your military skills is critical to get the job you want. Go to www.military.com. Are you a disabled veteran? The Governor’s Program to Hire Veterans with Disabilities (“55c”) may be of interest to you. This program coordinates efforts to place individuals with disabilities in entry-level State jobs. How do you apply for eligibility under Section 55c? Visit www.cs.state.ny.us for more information.

Information courtesy of NYS Department of Veterans Affairs Bureau. For more information visit www.veterans.state.ny.us/whatsnext.html or call 1-888-VETS NYS (1-888-838-7697).
On Thursday, January 28, James (Jim) Carra, Director of the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency (and a member of Chapter 20) held an open forum for all veterans. Held at Monroe Community Hospital, it was an opportunity to learn what the agency does and to ask questions of the Director or make suggestions about things veterans would like the agency to do.

The Agency has a full time staff of four people; Director Jim Carra (over 30 years of service to veterans), Service Officer Pat Pudetti (16 years at the agency), Paula D’Angelo (17 years at the agency), and Receptionist Fawn Mattice (10 years at the agency). When necessary, they also have a part-time person available, retired agency service officer, John Edmunds. In 2009 the Agency saw 2,102 new clients and brought over $21 million in benefits into the community.

Director Carra spoke first to inform everyone about what the agency does and the benefits it has helped veterans and their families obtain. Deputy County Executive, Dan DeLaus spoke next to let everyone know that the County Executive is fully supportive of veterans and the Veterans Service Agency. Mr. Carra went on to explain the purpose of this and future open forums. He wants to have topical presentations in the future and is open to suggestions. To contact him call the Agency at 585-753-6040 or email Jim at JCarra@monroe County.gov.


The Agency is the focal point in Monroe County for veterans’ deaths. Through the efforts of the Agency, funeral directors in the county know to contact Paula at the Agency when a veteran passes away. Because of this process, the Agency was able to secure $68,558 in burial benefits for the families of deceased veterans.

The following items were brought up:
• Does the county have a policy on hiring veterans? According to the Deputy County Executive, there is no written policy but he will check to see if there is any informal policy.
• The recent city event for homeless people failed to mention veterans or provide notification to veterans organizations. Response – the event was not a veterans event but for all homeless people and likely attracted some homeless veterans. Also, the last two homeless veterans standdowns showed that all of the participants who registered for the events were already in the VA system and receiving benefits.
• The Agency is working to become a partner with the Rochester Veterans Business Council.
• A female veteran who said she is homeless suggested using federal grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to convert empty city houses into homes for veterans.
• It was suggested that the agency issue an annual report to the veterans organizations in the county.
• The Agency hopes to have an electronic newsletter up and running soon.

Future open forums should be held at local colleges like MCC to draw younger veterans to them.
• There is definitely a generational gap between today’s veterans and those of other eras. To reach out to today’s veterans it was suggested to get the word out to reserve units about these meetings; to contact Virginia Butler at R9 News, and to use Facebook to spread the word.

Although there is another session scheduled for May 13th, although it’s likely that one will be set up in March to allow those people who couldn’t attend this one because of the weather to get to a meeting soon.

Monroe County Veterans Service Agency Open Forum

by Fred Elliott

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

Invitations will be mailed in March.

VETERANS’ FORUM

Thursday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m.
Monroe Community Hospital-Auditorium A

Come Hear and Speak
News • Updates • Information

For all veterans, their families
and the Monroe County Community

Sponsored by
Monroe County Veterans Service Agency
Maggie Brooks, County Executive
James Carra, Director
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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New York state senate

Senator
Joseph E. Robach

2300 west ridge road
Rochester, NY 14626
(585) 225-3650

E-mail: Robach@senate.state.ny.us

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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.
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          Sue Oleksyn • soleksyn@yahoo.com • 663-5255
          Honor Guard ...........................................Chuck Macalus • 225-8288
Incarcerted Veterans .................................Ron Trovato • 544-8470
Marching Unit ........................................Hank Wallace • 334-5352 (h) • Valentino Gatto • 227-2741
Membership ............................................Ralph Pascale • 755-2560 (c) • Mike General • 227-4383 (h)
POW/MIA ..................................................Joe Peck • jpeck2@rochester.rr.com • 734-9046 (c)
Social Events ...........................................Dick Oleksyn • roleksyn@yahoo.com • 663-5255
Speakers Bureau ........................................Geno Lenyk • gnl3153@ntid.rit.edu • 423-0206
Veterans Affairs/Benefits ..........................Pat Pudetti • patrickusmc1@yahoo.com • 753-6040
Veterans Walk ..........................................Chuck Macalus • chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS
AND INFORMATION
Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial...585-753-7275
(enter 9, enter 2 to leave a message)
Ira Jacobson American Legion
Post #474 .................................................663-7030
VA Clinic - 465 Westfall Road ..................463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center ..........................546-1081
Vet Center .............................................232-5040
Veterans Administration ............................800-827-1000
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

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

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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

contact information: vva, chapter 20

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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.

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**BETWEEN THE LINES**

**March 2010**

**1 MON**  
- Board of Directors, 7:00 pm
- Meet the Candidates Night & Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm (Chili Cookoff - contact Dick Oleksyn if you’re bringing your special blend!)

**13 SAT**  
- St. Patrick’s Celebration – Gunny’s, North Greece Road, 11:00 am

**14 SUN**  
- Daylight Savings Time begins (2:00 am)

**15 MON**  
- American Legion founded, 1919
- St. Patrick’s Day

**18 THU**  
- Veterans Open Forum, 5:30 pm – Monroe Community Hospital Auditorium A
- Passover begins

**30 TUE**

**31 WED**

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**Meetings**

**BOD**  
March 1
April 5
May 3

**Membership**  
March 11 – Meet the Candidates Night, 7:30 pm
April 8 – Annual Meeting/Elections, 6 pm (Annual BOD meeting at 5:30 pm)
May 13

**Special Events**  
April 24 – Annual Dinner (Lake Shore Golf Course)
May 31 – Memorial Day Picnic
July 17 – 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor Tribute Ride