Happy Holidays

Petty Officer 1st Class Tracy Roach (bottom right), a religious program specialist, sings Christmas carols with a group of service members aboard Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. DOD photo taken by Cpl. Meg Murray
Well it looks like the end of summer is here and we will be getting ready for all that white stuff. Let me start by saying that budget time is again here. This year’s budget will be a challenge for the Board because of the poor business we have had this year at the Thrift Store and with our car business. We assure you that the budget will be in the best interest of the members of Chapter 20. The challenge is what to cut so we can continue to do the things we are accustomed to in supporting projects to help veterans. We will present the proposed budget to the membership at our January meeting.

Veterans Court is going great and a special thanks goes out to the mentors who volunteer their time each Monday before the Honorable Pat Marks. I can’t believe that in January it will be two years that the Court has been up and running.

On October 2nd and 3rd we had our trailer set up at the Hilton Apple Fest and we made contact with a lot of veterans, I’m just thankful the weather held and it was a great weekend. Thanks to all who volunteered their help.

Rich and I met with the Rochester Library to start planning the Oral History Project on the Vietnam War, interviewing Vietnam Vets from both in-country and not. We will be looking for vets to take part in this project, so stay tuned for more information.

On October 22nd I attended the unveiling of the Blue Star plaque in Charlotte. Nice event, so look for it at the entrance to Charlotte Beach Park.

Lastly, we held our GRVV Memorial meeting and it’s my pleasure to say that Chuck Macaluso was voted in as Chairman of the Memorial. We also voted on three new board members: Fred Elliott, Chapter 20’s 2nd VP; Paul Cordy, USMC League; Mike Palmeri. Congrats to all of them!
The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of one US Marine and three US Army Servicemen who were previously recovered and identified, have been positively identified and released to their families for burial.

PFC Samuel Eugene Hewitt, US Marine from Walkerton, Company L, 3rd Battalion of the 9th Marine Regiment was involved in night patrols and scouting missions in the Da Nang area near the de-militarized zone in South Vietnam. On March 22, 1966 while in a relatively secure area, Samuel stated that “he had to go see somebody” and left the area with an M-79 grenade launcher he had borrowed from his squad leader and a towel. He was thought by those who saw him to be heading for the showers or latrine. The next day he was assigned to a listening post for night duty but could not be located. A search of the company area was conducted without success. He was officially reported missing on March 23rd. Between 1992 and 2010, the JPAC teams visited and investigated leads from local villagers of the possible site of American remains nine different times. PFC Hewitt’s remains were recovered on June 24, 2010 and identified September 20, 2010. He was returned to his surviving family and buried with full Military Honors on November 19th at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in the town of Rittman, Ohio.

As previously reported, Staff Sgt. Robert S. Griffith of Hapeville, GA. (listed in the February issue of the BTL) was buried October 23, 2010 in Fairburn, GA. The group remains of Staff Sgt. Melvin C. Dye of Carleton, Michigan and Sgt 1st Class Douglas J. Glover of Cortland, New York (both listed in the March issue of the BTL) will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date, possibly in the spring. Welcome Home, Brothers.

The total number of personnel still missing from the Vietnam war is now 1,707. There are also reports of the recovery and identification of the following:

• U.S. Army Cpl. Floyd E. Hooper of Stratton, CO. was captured and listed as a POW on February 4, 1951 near Yangpyong, South Korea. After the 1953 Armistice, it was learned that Cpl. Hooper had died in captivity in Suan County, North Korea, of malnutrition and dysentery a few months earlier. His remains were returned by the North Koreans between 1991 and 1994. He was positively identified on November 5, 2010.

• U.S. Army Sgt. Donald M. LaForest of Bay City, MI, and Master Sgt. John G. Linkowski of Buffalo, N.Y. were reported missing November, 1950 in Unsan, N. Korea. The remains of both men were recovered in May, 2004 and identified October 8, 2010.

• U.S. Army Pfc. Lawrence N. Harris of Elkins, W.V. and Cpl. Judge C. Hellums of Paris, MS. Were reported missing October 9, 1944 in the Parroy Forest near Luneville, France. The remains of both men who were previously buried as unknowns in the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium were recovered in early 2008 and identified October 5, 2010.

• U.S. Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Arthur F. Parkurst of Evansville, IN. was reported missing March 12, 1945 near Leyte, Philippines. His remains and personal effects were recovered in 1989 and identified October, 14, 2010.

• U.S. Army Air Force Sgt. Michael A. Chiodo from Cleveland, OH. was reported missing on April 29, 1944 while on a bombing mission, near the village of Meitze, Germany. His remains were recovered between 2005 and 2007 and identified October 18, 2010.

• U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John R. Simonetti of Jackson Heights, N.Y. was reported missing near the town of St. Germain-d’Elle, France on June 16, 1944 following the invasion of Normandy. His remains were recovered May 2009 and identified Oct. 20, 2010.

• U.S. Army Air Force Staff Sgt. Claude A. Ray of Coffeyville, KS. And Staff Sgt. Claude G. Tyler of Landover, MD. were reported missing on October 27, 1943 while on a reconnaissance mission in a B24d Liberator on a Japanese redout in Rabaul, New Britain. Their remains were recovered near Papua, New Guinea from January to March of 2007 and identified October 26, 2010.

All these men have finally been returned to their families to be buried with full Military Honors. We all send our condolences to the families of these heroes. Let their sacrifices not be forgotten, and we must continue to pray for the return of those who are still missing.

Health Affairs Commitee

Jerry McDermott

Notes from the VA Consumer Council Committee Meeting, November 3, 2010.

The combined Canandaigua VA Medical Center and the Rochester Outpatient Clinic saw a total of 20,137 veteran patients during the past fiscal year that ended September 2010. This figure represents a decrease of 2% from the prior reporting year. More funding is being focused on the Homeless Veteran population, both nationally and locally in an effort to assist veterans who are in need of housing and shelter. There will be an increased effort to enroll veterans into the “My Healthy Veteran” program after redesign and refinements to the on-line service. This will enable veterans to download medical records, refill prescriptions, make appointments and e-mail primary care VA doctors via secure messaging systems. More details to follow concerning the My Healthy Vet initiative.

Note from the Editor:

Staff of Between the Lines wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!
OASIS Adaptive Sports, Inc. (Outdoor Adventures for Sacrifice in Service) offers instruction, equipment and support to disabled military veterans in a variety of sports activities to aid these veterans in reconnecting and resuming productive lines in society.

OASIS programs help veterans regain physical and mental health with the assistance of professionals. Each program phase has the enhancement of an evaluation and an advocacy phase which makes OASIS different from other organizations. But, did you know that this wonderful experience is located in Honeoye, NY?

According to statistics, Monroe, Livingston, Orleans, Ontario, Wayne and Genesee counties has approximately 3000 Guard, Reservist, and active duty soldiers who are presently serving or have served in the OIF, OEF wars. Approximately 50% of those returning will have physical disabilities, TBI or PTSD.

A skiing program was completed last year. Archery and sailing programs finished this past summer. Future programs planned include alpine skiing for the visually-impaired (Winter 2010-2011), golf, kayaking, horseback riding, snowboarding, nordic skiing, adaptive rowing, adaptive cycling and firearms.

OASIS is in need of financial support to purchase adaptive equipment and provide training for the instructors. Of your donation, 90% goes toward these items as well as lodging and meals for the program participants. The other 10% covers insurance and office supplies. All Board members and adaptive instructors are unpaid volunteers.

Check out their website at www.oasisadaptablesports.com or contact them at 585-367-9239 for more information.
Veterans Day events

A couple of salutes were offered in the front row. Twelve veterans, mostly US Army, were honored at the Episcopal Church Home in a Veterans Day celebration.

Never doubt for a moment the impact this extended family of Vietnam era Veterans has on our community. Many of our group attended two events before the holiday even got here and then several on the holiday itself. At each event there were smiles, tears, hugs, handshakes and heartfelt comments. These are just some of the photos taken at two of the events.

Far Left: Steven Palermo (US Army) of the Episcopal Church Home accepted his coin and certificate with a smile as his son and daughter looked on. Families were very appreciative of the honor paid to this generation of veterans.

Left: Jean Sexstone (US Navy) thought the coin was great but preferred a kiss from the handsome Fred Elliott, who coincidentally used to live in the same neighborhood as Jean years ago.

Above Left: Chapter 20’s Marching Unit, Ken Moore and County Executive Maggie Brooks watch as flag is raised at conclusion of the Veterans Day Memorial ceremony in Highland Park.

Left & Far Left: Roses and other remembrances were tucked near bollards and on various parts of the Memorial.
Santa Hat: $5.00
Trip to the VA: $15.00
The smile of a veteran: PRICELESS!

Join Santa Claus and all the other Chapter # 20 Elves for caroling at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center on Sunday, December 19th at 12:30 pm, Bldg # 5 (Auditorium) for a few hours of good cheer and the singing of old and favorite Christmas carols. The only requirements are your voices, smiles and Santa hats if you have them from years gone by. Looking for two dozen or more of my friends from Chapter #20, spouses and other family members or friends are welcome, too. No, I repeat NO “off key” carolers will be turned away. Instruments (like guitars) welcomed also. If you need directions, call Jerry McDermott (cell # 585-313-8188). There is no better way to get into the spirit of Christmas than helping others.

Volunteers are also needed at the Canandaigua VA for gift wrapping (December 8) and gift distribution (December 19, 12:30pm – 4:00pm). For more information please contact Patty at Patty.Ciancaglini@va.gov or Jerry McDermott, Chapter 20.
The mission of My HealtheVet (MHV) is to improve health care for ALL veterans, independent of where they receive care, by providing health information and health assessments via the Internet. MHV is a web site designed for veterans and their families with the goal of optimizing veterans’ health care. It is for all veterans and offers additional services to those receiving care at VA medical centers.

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

You can access the website at www.myhealth.va.gov. You will need to register to use key features and will be assigned a User ID and Password for return visits. Please note that in order to access enhanced options of this website, you must complete an “In Person Authentication” (IPA) at your local VA facility. This step provides for confidentiality of your information and is required by The Privacy Act, Title 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 552a, implemented by Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §575-1.584.
Rochester Public Library Hosts Chapter 20 Display

The Science and History Division of the Rochester Public Library hosted a display presented by Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20. Included were uniforms, weapons, food rations, and other artifacts used during the Vietnam conflict. Another section of the display honors the POW/MIA’s.

Also included was the Vietnam Learning Center that houses original battle maps and books, many of which are first person accounts written by soldiers serving in battle.

This display was part of The Big Read, sponsored by Writers and Books which this year featured Tim O’Brien’s "The Things They Carried," a fictionalized collection of stories about a platoon of American soldiers in Vietnam.

In other library news, Chapter 20’s Board of Directors approved funding of the Vietnam Veterans Oral History Project being coordinated through the Monroe County Central Library. Information will be in future BTL’s informing veterans how they can participate in the project.
Fit Vet Challenge III

We wanted to give you fair warning that the Fit Vet Challenge is back by popular demand. The 3rd Annual “Fit Vet Challenge” will start in January 2011 at the general membership meeting on January 13, 2011. All are invited to make the New Year a healthy and fit year not only for ourselves, but for some very worthy charities, too. So, go ahead and splurge during the holidays if you want to, but remember bragging rights and sweat equity are on the line.

As in the previous two years, we will compete and challenge not only ourselves but the other service branches, too. Of course we will let our friends in the Marine Corps think that this will be a cake walk (pun intended), but we can’t let these guys win three times in a row, NOW CAN WE????

Details will be provided to all at the January 2011 meeting, and the Marines will be given something extra special.

“Go ahead and splurge during the holidays if you want to, but remember bragging rights and sweat equity are on the line.
Our BOD has wholeheartedly agreed to allow the collection of items below in support of our hospitalized veterans, both men and women, currently receiving treatment at the Canandaigua MC. Volunteer Opportunities are always welcomed and you can make direct contact with Ms Robin Johnson, Manager of Voluntary Services, anytime at 585-393-7759. You can help out one time a year or whenever your schedule will permit. We will collect any items that are brought to the monthly membership meetings, and I will take responsibility to make the delivery to Canandaigua MC.

Thank you for your support, Jerry McDermott

- Comfort care items (deodorant, shampoo, shaving cream, lotions [for men/women vets at the Center] - travel size, full size, or complementary sizes from hotel/motel chains are great!)
- Coffee (regular and decaf)
- Creamer, sugar, sugar substitute
- Hot Chocolate mix
- Bowling/movie tickets
- Gift cards from stores like Walmart/Wegmans/Tops
- Baking items (cookies, bread mixes - for a homey effect in the wards, used as aromatherapy)
- Prepaid phone cards
- Tickets to sporting events, zoo
- Paper products (plates, napkins)
- New socks, tee shirts, sweatshirts (men and women's sizes... color white...tube socks are ideal!)
- Postage
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.

DAVID J. KAUFFMAN POST #41
JEWSH WAR VETERANS
THE OLDEST ACTIVE VETERANS ORGANIZATION
SUPPORTS THE VIETNAM VETS
LARRY SCHULMAN, QUARTERMASTER, 271-6967

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.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mary Anne Vitticore
Women Veterans Program Manager
400 Fort Hill Avenue
Canandaigua, NY 14424
Phone: 585-393-7621
Fax: 585-393-8255
Maryanne.Vitticore@va.gov

Rich Isaman, President, VVA Chapter 20 Thrift Store LLC

VVA Chapter 20 has a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) whose sole purpose is to raise income for the chapter to use to support programs. The reason for the LLC is to have a legal structure to protect the assets of the chapter in the event that a liability lawsuit were to be brought against the chapter through our fundraising efforts.

The LLC is managed by a board of managers who set direction and goals of the business and oversee the management of the company employees. There are 8 members authorized to be on the board of managers and the members have to be Vietnam Era Veterans and to be a member of the chapter. At no time can there be more that 2 members of the LLC board who also are members of the VVA Chapter 20 board of directors.

We are currently looking to add members to the board of managers and we are specifically looking for members willing to serve who have experience with retail management, human resources, or legal experience. If you are interested in being on the LLC board of managers please send a brief resume to me at risaman@frontiernet.net with a subject of ‘LLC Resume.’ The current LLC board of managers will then review the resumes to determine if your experience might assist us, and then may recommend your name for nomination as a member of the board of managers.

In advance I would like to thank anyone who might consider assisting us.
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.

Camps You Can Call:

**AFGHANISTAN**
- Bagram Airfield
- Ali Al Saleem Airbase

**IRAQ**
- Camp Taji
- Camp Baharia
- Camp Taqaddum
- Al Asad Airbase
- Camp Victory

Veterans Benefit Fair

December 11, 2010 • 9-11 am • Chili American Legion Post • Scottsville, NY

VVA Chapter 20 and the Chili American Legion Post, in cooperation with Monroe County and the Department of Veterans Affairs, are presenting a Veterans Benefit Fair on December 11, 2010 at the Chili American Legion Post, 450 Chili-Scottsville Road, Scottsville, NY, from 9:00am to 11:00am. On hand will be representatives from the VA and the Monroe County Veterans Agency to offer information and answer questions about benefits and compensation. This event is open to all veterans of any branch, Reserve, National Guard and their spouses. For more information call Jerry McDermott, 585-313-8188 or Ken Moore, 585-576-9000.
BETWEEN THE LINES

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.

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VA Offers Flu Shots
The VA Outpatient Clinic at 465 Westfall Road in Rochester is now offering flu shots. The clinic will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. To register, please call 585-463-2757. You must be current with your eligibility status. If you are scheduled for a follow up visit with your primary care provider there, you can have your shot during that visit — do not schedule a separate appointment in the flu shot clinic.

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RochesterHealth.com
Rochester’s gateway to local healthcare information.
A nonprofit community resource featuring content provided by local physicians, dentists, hospitals and allied-health professionals.

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Do you know a veteran who is homeless?

The VA’s National Homeless Veterans Hotline
The Hotline is staffed at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center in conjunction with the National Suicide Prevention services. Studies show a huge correlation with needs required by one or the other services provided at the time of the call.

1-877-424-3838
24/7 365 days/per year

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U.S. Army Captain Sharika Lahrie, a public health nurse, from Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, Preventive Medicine Section, administers an influenza vaccine to retired U.S. Army Warrant Officer 3 Troy Johnson, a logistics officer during Retiree Appreciation Day, at the Passenger Processing Center, on Fort Campbell, Ky., Oct. 30, 2010. Events of Fort Campbell’s Retiree Appreciation Day helped keep retired military personnel and their family members up to date on changes in their retirement rights, benefits and privileges, and also thanked them for their service. U.S. Army photo by Sam Shore/Released

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RochesterHealth.com
Rochester’s gateway to local healthcare information.
A nonprofit community resource featuring content provided by local physicians, dentists, hospitals and allied-health professionals.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 20

Name: __________________________________________________ Date of Birth: ________________________________
Sex: ☐ M ☐ F
Address: ______________________________________________ Home Phone: (_____ ) ____________________________
City: ______________________________________________ Work Phone: (_____ ) ____________________________
Zip: ___________________________________________ Country: _______________________________________
Chapter # (if known) ________________________________ Email Address: ________________________________ ☐ W ☐ H
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 ☐ $50 ☐ Other ($________)

Payment Options: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order


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

U.S.S. LIBERTY (AGTR-5)

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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

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Henrietta, NY 14467 585-334-5352

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Valentino G. Gatto
585-227-2741
cell 585-259-9605
vgatto@rochester.rr.com
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POW/MIA ................................. Joe Peck • jpeck2@rochester.rr.com • 734-9046 (c)
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Speakers Bureau ............................. Geno Leny • gnl3153@ntid.rit.edu • 423-0206
Veterans Affairs/Benefits ....... Pat Pudettii • patrickusmc1@yahoo.com • 753-6040
Veterans Walk .......................... Chuck Macaluso • chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288

v=cell h=home w=work
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Chapter 20, Rochester, NY
P.O. Box 12580
Rochester, NY 14612

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DECEMBER 2010

DEC 1 – DEC 9 • Hanukkah
6 MON • Board of Directors, 7:00pm
7 TUE • Anniversary of Japan bombing Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941
9 THU • General Membership Meeting, 7:30pm
16 THU • Battle of the Bulge began, 1944
25 SAT • Christmas

DEC 26 – JAN 1 • Kwanzaa
31 FRI • Official end of WWII, 1946
• New Year’s Eve

JANUARY
1 SAT • Happy New Year!

MEETINGS

BOD
Dec 6
Jan 3, 2011
Jan 3, 2011

Membership
Dec 9
Jan 15, 2011
Feb 10, 2011

Special Events
June 11, 2011 • Chapter 20’s 30th Anniversary Celebration

NYSC Meetings
Owego, NY
January 29, 2011
March 30, 2011
April 9, 2011
June 18, 2011
Sept 10, 2011

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

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.