Breast Cancer Awareness Month

When you think about it, what other choice is there but to hope? We have two options, medically and emotionally: give up or Fight Like Hell.

-Lance Armstrong
According to the American Cancer Society, there are now about 2.5 million breast cancer survivors living in the United States. When breast cancer is detected at an early stage of development, a number of effective treatment options are available. Our Chapter family has been touched by this disease many times. Some continue to survive, others have lost the battle. Please keep them all in your hearts this month – and please encourage those you love to have regular exams and testing.

“Anything is possible. You can be told that you have a 90-percent chance or a 50-percent chance or a 1-percent chance, but you have to believe, and you have to fight.
— Lance Armstrong

From the President: Leadership Conference Report

Ken Moore, President • Vietnam 1966-67 • US Army Cavalry

Tuesday was a great flight direct to Orlando for the Vietnam Veterans of America Leadership Conference. All that changed when we arrived in Orlando and made our way to ground transportation. The direct and best way to the Hotel was by van for a mere $14.00, but due to the recommendation and a little arm twisting of one of members (who shall remain nameless), we gave in to a 15 minute city transit ride to the Hotel for $2.00, per Jerry’s recommendation. Well, two and a half hours later we arrived at the Hotel. Oh, by the way it was the wrong hotel but, we finally ended up at the right place ready for the conference. What was really freaky was all around the Hotel were people dressed in Star Wars garb attending a convention next door.

Wednesday was the first day of the conference and after a great opening ceremony with songs by Rockie Lynne and some awards, we were ready for the work we came to do. The first session I attended was a class on leadership for Presidents.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE cont’d on page 11
On Saturday, September 11th the Chapter had its annual POW/MIA candlelight vigil at the memorial in Highland Park. It was a great turnout and the weather was very cooperative. I want to thank everyone who came and especially those who read the names of our missing Americans. Even though the candle flames have been extinguished, let us keep the flame burning in our hearts for our POW/MIAs. Friday, September 17th was National POW/MIA Awareness Day, which is recognized annually on the third Friday in September. The Chapter’s Honor Guard placed a wreath at the Ontario Beach Memorial during a brief ceremony there on that day. We HONOR, REMEMBER and PRAY, for you are not forgotten.

The National League of families and the Defense POW/MIA Office (DPMO) have indicated that two more Americans have been recovered and identified. They are:

1st Lt. Paul G. Magers, US Army from Sidney, Nebraska - As reported last month, on June 1, 1971, 1st Lt. Magers, the Co-Pilot on an AH1G Cobra gunship in the company of CW2 Donald Lynn Wann, was on a multi-aircraft extraction mission supporting the emergency extraction of a Ranger team on Hill 1015 near Dong Tri, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. As the gunship made its pass, it was hit repeatedly by enemy anti-aircraft fire and crashed with the possibility of no survivors. 1st Lt. Magers was recorded as a MIA and in 1973 his status changed to Killed/Body Not Recovered. From June 1-July 29, 2008 remains, life support items and personal effects were excavated from the crash site in the Ong Tri Mountain area of Quang Tri Province. On March 10, 2010, 1st Lt. Magers’ remains were positively identified and returned to his family and he was buried with full military honors at the Yellowstone County Veterans Cemetery in Laurel, Missouri on August 27th.

Capt. Clyde W. Campbell, USAF from Long View, Texas was a 602nd special ops squadron pilot of a A-1J Sky Raider. On March 1, 1969, Capt. Campbell was on a combat mission and was lost over targets in Housaphann Province in Laos. His remains were recovered and identified May 18, 2010. No other information was available.

There are 1711 Americans still listed by the DOD as Missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. There is also reports of the recovery and identification of the following:

- US Army Air Corp 1st Lt. Ray F. Fletcher of Westborough, Mass., who was reported missing on May 13, 1944. His remains were recovered Sept. 2005 in a mountainous region in Corsica, Italy and identified on Aug. 17, 2010.
- US Army Cpl. Roy Stewart of Jackson, Miss., was reported captured by enemy forces November 19, 1950 and died March 19, 1951 near Pyoktong, North Korea. His remains were exhumed in Sept. 2008 and identified August 13, 2010.
- US Army Cpl. Frank H. Smith of Liverpool, NY was killed July 25, 1951 near Kimhwa, South Korea. His remains were recovered June 2009 and identified in Aug. 2010.
- US Army Sgt. Charles P. Whitter of Cloverbler, Ky. was reported as being captured and killed Nov. 1950 in Umsan, North Korea. His remains were recovered May 2004 and identified Aug. 2010.

All these men were finally returned to their families for burial with full Military Honors.

“Welcome home brothers,” and for their families again, we send our condolences and prayers. May God Bless.

Veterans Incarcerated Committee Report

Ron Trovato, Chairperson

Can’t believe it’s the end of summer already. This last one was like a blur! August 21st found Pat Padetti, Ken Moore and I going to Auburn to attend the Stand Down for veterans there, organized by Emie Bullock. It was a beautiful day to get together with old friends, especially Ernie and Regina, as well as meeting many new ones. The event was held at Ernie’s home down the street from Auburn Prison and was well attended by area veterans and their families. The food was first rate (steaks!) and the company was even better. On a personal note, it is so nice to share in Ernie’s success. As the former president of VFA Chapter 205 at Auburn and the NYS Council Incarcerated Veterans Chairman, his experience is extensive. His ability to turn his life around and the example he sets for incarcerated veterans everywhere is the reason I have such respect for him. Redemption is his middle name. All of us, including myself, can learn a lot from him.

Chapter 205 is alive and well at Auburn, and Lawrence Wilson has kept in contact with us. He has been my most consistent contact there since 1988 and I appreciate all the years and volunteer hours he has given to Chapter 205. Every time I have ever been at Auburn for a veterans function Mr. Wilson has been present, and I would like to acknowledge the positive impact he has had on the vets there as well as this organization. There is a POW/MIA vigil scheduled there for September 6th and the Chapter is scheduled to celebrate their 25th Anniversary as New York State’s oldest incarcerated VFA Chapter on 11/13/10. I look forward to attending that event.

Chapter 563 is going strong at San Quentin State Prison in California. We appreciate all the information Jeff Langnese enclosed in his recent correspondence, and he will be continuing his outstanding duties as that Chapter’s outside coordinator. A new Executive Body of members was just elected and we thank all the guys there for volunteering to keep the Chapter humming along. Jeff, I know you just had a personal setback there, but if you keep going down the road you have traveled these last years, I know in the end things will work out for you. Good luck boss! Their last General Membership held on August 8 had 30 members present….Yes, they are alive and well too in San Quentin. And lastly, Veterans Court recently had a graduation here in Rochester and I would like to thank Judge Patricia Marks for all the help and encouragement she has given veterans here in Monroe County. I’d also like to thank Ken Moore, Jerry McDermott and the other volunteer mentors from our Chapter that make Veterans Court such a success. In every other aspect of Kenny’s life it is indeed all smoke and mirrors, however for some reason he pulled it together in Vets Court. I am amazed...amazed and confused...
Report by Jerry McDermott: Travels with Val (or What I Did at the National Leadership Conference)

I had the wonderful privilege to attend the VVA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, FL during the week of 08-10-10 through 08-15-10 with my fellow Chapter 20 members. Along with President Ken Moore, Directors Mike General, Julil Robinson, Tom Hetherington and Valentino Gatto, I attended numerous presentations that gave us all meaningful and worthwhile information that I know will help our Rochester Chapter in the years to come. Before I report some of my experiences from the conference, I think it is only fair to give proper credit to Val Gatto, who fulfilled a huge task in making all the travel arrangements and ensuring we all got to where we were supposed to be on time and ready for action. So I think it is only fitting to title my remarks...“Travels with Val,” not to be confused with the YNN segment “Travels with Val,” but our very own Chapter 20 version. Please see Val Gatto for more details.

So off we went, and welcome to hot, steamy, sunny Orlando and let the learning begin was the cry as we boarded a public transit bus, for an alleged 15 minute bus ride that our beloved President Ken Moore sanctioned on our way to the conference. Really Ken, you need to replace that Mickey Mouse watch of yours. That ride was well over an hour and although we did see a lot of Orlando, my guess is that Mickey’s house was nowhere near the route we took. Okay, all kidding aside, we met a terrific group of like-minded Vietnam veterans, their spouses and family members, many of our national VVA leaders, fantastic guest speakers and seminar instructors.

The business of the conference got going promptly with the opening ceremony, posting of the colors, and welcoming remarks by John Rowan, National President of the VVA. With John’s remarks, the tempo was set and the bar raised high by our keynote speaker Dr. Richard Pimentel, a Vietnam veteran who spoke about issues relating to disabled veterans and his career path after his service in Vietnam. Dr. Pimentel was one of the architects of the 1990 federal legislation for disability rights, and continues to advocate for veteran and disability issues on a national level. Dr. Pimentel’s remarks were a great inspiration to all and it was hard to believe that there were moments that he had us laughing and crying from hearing his life’s story and how he overcame his disability to become a national leader for veteran’s issues.

While at the conference I attended the following workshops and seminars: Leadership vs. Management – Building on Success; Flag Protocol – Myths and Misconceptions; Legalities for the NFP financial organizations; Duties of the President (aka What Ken Moore should really be doing in the corner office!); Duties of the Board of Directors (aka
What the rest of us should really be doing); Guide to Advocacy for Veterans issues; Finding Volunteers (not just looking for people lost that live in Tennessee); Substance Abuse and PTSD – intervention and treatments; and finally, New Agent Orange Presumptive Diseases and updates relating to A/O. I also attending a screening of the upcoming TV documentary entitled, “My Vietnam, Your Iraq” by Vietnam veteran Ron Osgood who wrote and produced this upcoming PBS program (scheduled to air on or about Veteran’s Day 2010 on local PBS stations nationally) about the lives of six Vietnam veterans and their families who also had children that served in Iraq or Afghanistan. A must see program if you can make the time to do so.

The conference closing ceremony paid special tribute and recognition to many veterans who have assisted veterans for many years. Our host, Mr. Harris Rosen, owner of the Rosen Inn and Conference Center, Judge Russell, the Buffalo area judge who started the first veterans’ court in the United States was another recipient of an award and honors. The Florida State Council of the VVA did an exceptional job coordinating all the events and activities and deserve our appreciation for the hospitality and friendliness extended to all attendees. President John Rowan presented Science and Artistic awards to the following Vietnam veterans: Michael B. Given, for his efforts in the new “quick clot” combat gauze used by today’s medical personnel and Michael Harris, author, journalist and broadcaster for over 40 years. Mr. Harris wrote, produced, and directed documentaries and specials for all the networks, and did the 1987 special for HBO entitled “Welcome Home, Vietnam Vets.” Some musical entertainment was provided by Ms. Julie Carr, singer who starred on TV, stage and in concerts plus Mark Farner, “the Grand Funk fame,” to send us all down the memory lane of our youth. That was a fitting end to a successful conference.

I want to thank the members of Chapter 20 for providing me the opportunity to attend this conference and gain more knowledge from my peers and national leaders at Orlando. I have been able to make more contacts to bring back to Chapter 20 that will assist our members, their families and our greater Rochester, NY community.

Report by Juil Robinson, Jr.

This was my first experience in attending such an event and I learned a great deal. Topics covered included how to conduct Chapter meetings and how to seek help from members and volunteers. I may have a chance to implement these in membership for minority members we hope to recruit into the Chapter.

I also attended sessions on reducing liabilities and risks, setting smart and obtainable goals and following them through, seeing and carrying out duties and managing the goals and responsibilities of managing the Chapter, winning attitudes and forming good relationships in order to maintain Chapter integrity, and about how to gain practical membership participation that will produce results.

We also learned that certain documents must meet a certain time criteria or your Chapter could be in a real pickle, but the best thing is to try and include as many members of the Chapter as possible. I now have a thorough and very worthwhile set of ambitions to meet in the coming future. Thanks for the opportunity of attending this worthwhile event.

Report by Tom Hetherington

This report will summarize a few seminars, and lessons learned at the conference in terms of leadership.

Dr. Richard Pimentel, the keynote speaker, has been involved for many years in activities associated with Americans with disabilities. He is an expert in helping to change attitude barriers toward special needs students, crisis and change in the workplace, disability and diversity, disability management, and assists disabled veterans with employment opportunities. His speech was extremely inspirational and combined his strong knowledge base on these issues with humor in a storytelling fashion. Lessons Learned - stick to your convictions and continually educate yourself on a particular topic. Be an advocate for change while placing the needs of other individuals before your own needs.

Dr. Pimentel also conducted a seminar on Leadership vs. Management - Building on Success. This seminar compared the qualities of leadership vs. the qualities of management. The highlight of this presentation was the leadership qualities exhibited by one individual who guided his team and others out of the World Trade center even though the police attempted to have everyone return to their offices. His leadership at a crucial time saved the lives of his entire team. Lessons Learned - gut feelings at critical times can overcome the prior fears of taking a leadership role. Once again, place others and their needs before your own needs.

Duties of The Board of Directors, by Dr Bridget Cooper - This seminar compared nonprofit organizations to for profit organizations. The nonprofit organization serves the members and makes money for the benefit of the group rather than individuals. Non-profits are member owned and make income which is reinvested in the organization. Volunteers set directions and decide on required resources. Lessons Learned - As a board member, understand, believe in and support the organization. Display enthusiasm in your role. Be responsible with respect to completing tasks on time. Support the President of the Chapter. Be a team player with actions which are honestly for the good of each chapter member.

Productive Meetings, by Dr Cooper - These two seminars focused on tips for running productive and effective meetings.

Flag Protocol - This seminar addressed the US Flag code and pointed out the lack of enforcement capabilities for people who violate this code, and how vague the code is.

Duties of the President and BODs (two seminars) – These pointed out the duties of the chapter presidents and board with an emphasis on displaying the best interests of the members by their actions.

Agent Orange - Outlined the new Agent Orange presumptive diseases.

My overall opinion of the seminar - Very professionally organized with excellent presentations.

Report by Mike General

The Leadership Conference was a great opportunity for me to see how the VVA actually works and to meet different personnel from other Chapters. It all started by all of our travel arrangements made by “Travel By Val.” Great job done by our own Valentino! Opening Ceremonies got us off to a great start from Dr. Richard K. Pimental as the Keynote Speaker to Rockie Lynne Singer/Vet (Great Voice). I attended 7 different Seminars, Opening/Closing Ceremonies, and the Awards Banquet. The Convention Delegate Training Seminar was mostly interesting, except for the part on Parliamentary Procedures.

The Membership Strategies and Finding/ Cultivating Chapter Volunteers could have been combined into one seminar instead of two. It was real interesting to hear what other Chapters are doing, and not doing.

The Flag Protocol Seminar was interesting, found out the US Government is breaking the Flag Code with its Flag Stamp. There is also no enforcement of any Flag Codes. We did get one Shop Owner to display His Flag correctly (He had the Flag Backwards).

This was a brief look at some of the happenings at the conference. It was really great to share many of our meals together and get to know each other a little.
It was also pointed out the Treasurer’s report isn’t office in your area to set up a meeting that no doubt will knowledgeable and be courteous. Start with the local this legislation. Professional attire is required to appear for them to understand the importance of advancing providing answers on specific items will make it easier method of visibility, involvement, and by being pleasing -antly persistent through regular contact with politicians to create bills that will become law on behalf of veterans. A legislative agenda is presented annually by VVA to members of congress and in state legislatures. It’s imperative to hold all politicians, regardless of their political affiliation, accountable for changes in structuring and managing health services for veterans through the VA. Every advocate should be meeting with local, state and federal representatives on an ongoing basis to develop a relationship with their staff to gain access to their legislator or member of congress. Be a resource for veteran bills in the house and senate and it was stressed to be knowledgeable or an expert on your topic. Staff members are the key to establishing a favorable working relationship when advancing veterans issues to your member of congress.

Another essential tool is to employ the VIP method of visibility, involvement, and by being pleasantly persistent through regular contact with politicians to promote issues that are important to all veterans. Providing answers on specific items will make it easier for them to understand the importance of advancing this legislation. Professional attire is required to appear knowledgeable and be courteous. Start with the local office in your area to set up a meeting that no doubt will be with a member of their staff since these individuals schedule time with your congressman. Be personal and friendly for them to remember you and veteran legislation that is being sought. Remember they work for you to advance issues important to all veterans and always thank your member of congress when they vote in favor of veterans. A thank you card or a certificate of appreciation is necessary to stimulate a favorable relationship. In social gatherings identify yourself and provide a business card to your member of congress and staff.

Focus on a few agenda items rather than a long list that may not receive the attention of a smaller one. Anyone can make a difference if you’re passionate about veteran’s issues because it will have a positive effect for providing vital services for all veterans. Build grassroots contacts with local veteran service organizations to show a united effort. Be persuasive and provide all proposals in writing to demonstrate you understand the topic. Ask your members of congress for their support. Hold them accountable with repeated visits because they will come to know and respect your commitment to your fellow veterans. Meet the key players, communicate with them, discuss veteran issues and stay focused on the goal to ensure all veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

After this was a session on the Combined Federal Campaign Kickoff. Due to recent budgetary constraints the Veteran’s Support Foundation, formerly Vietnam Veterans Assistance Foundation (VWAF) will not provide funding for the VWA Service Officer Program unless a chapter or state council solicits funding on behalf of VSF through the annual Combined Federal Campaign. All federal installations including the postal service are participants through employee pledges to a charitable not-for-profit 501(c) 3 group such as the Veteran’s Support Foundation. Each chapter or state council receiving funding must request VSF to be listed as a member agency during the annual fall campaign from August to December at any local federal installation. The amount of time is about 45 minutes to make a short presentation to all of the team leaders present who in turn make a pitch to the employees about the most worthy charitable groups. A poster will be displayed at the table along with VSF brochures. It’s necessary to provide the VSF Combined Federal Campaign Number to become listed as an eligible member agency. There is no set amount to be raised and VSF is only asking a chapter or state council to demonstrate an effort was made to have VSF listed as an eligible agency at federal installations in their local area or throughout the state.

The Veterans Treatment Court presentation was to inform those present about an outstanding concept developed by members of Buffalo, NY VVA Chapter 77, notably Jack O’Connor, and Judge Robert T. Russell Jr. It was modeled after Drug Treatment Court and began in January 2008. These men recognized veterans are a unique group of the population with special needs due to their military experiences. Consequently these men and women require understanding and assistance dealing with the court system after they are arrested for crimes up to non violent felonies. Along with Jack, Patrick Welch is a mentor, providing a shared military background counseling veterans who voluntarily agree to enter into this program. There are medical services provided by a VA social worker who will set up and make appointments to ensure each veteran receives the proper treatment. The VA Vet Center is another resource that can be utilized by veterans for mental health services. Veterans who adhere to the program’s guidelines will graduate in one year, but this time frame can be expanded up to two years for those who have relapses due to substance abuse or being arrested again.

In January 2009 a Veterans Treatment Court was started in Rochester, NY with Judge Patricia Marks. It was modeled after Buffalo’s very successful program. A distinct difference is the local Veterans Outreach Center works along with the VA to help these veterans become productive citizens and offers housing for those who are in treatment. As a former mentor I can attest to how beneficial this program is for veterans who make wise decisions that may be from self medicating or PTSD. Ken Moore coordinates the Monroe County program through Chapter 20 and strives to always promote VAA’s motto of “Never Again Shall A Generation of Veterans Abandon Another.” We cannot leave any veteran behind. I’d like to offer my sincere gratitude to Jack O’Connor, Patrick Welch, Honorable Judge Russell and all those from the Buffalo area who cared enough about their fellow citizens who faithfully served our country in the military by starting this court program for veterans. It will soon be expanded to 40 cities nationwide.

During the closing ceremonies a VVA Medal was awarded to Harris Rosen, owner of the Rosen Center where the leadership conference was held. Mr. Rosen discussed leadership qualities and noted his upbringing in Hell’s Kitchen in New York City. His message was simple and that was to give back to the community and stated it’s the best method to convey leadership while helping those who are most in need, especially in the areas near his hotels. Harris Rosen is to be commended for his efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of people locally, nationally and worldwide.

At the banquet a VVA Medal was presented to Marie Kvasnik, who served in Vietnam during the 1968 Tet Offensive. She’s a life member of Chapter 25 and recently turned 91 years old. Marie may be the most senior member of Vietnam Veterans of America and is an inspiration to those of us who had the opportunity to meet her. It was another great conference. We all must remain vigilant to ensure all men and women currently serving in the military receive the best health care and benefits from the VA.
NY State Vietnam Vets members of nearly 5300, the “hits” on the state website is less than 400 on average for any given week. Ned strongly encouraged all chapters to spread the word about using the NYS Council’s website (www.nyvietnamvets.org) to obtain valuable information, check on various state wide activities, link to national veteran information and generally keep informed. Please bookmark the site and use it regularly was the message to report back to all chapters.

The funding for our most highly visible and effective instrument for Vietnam veterans is under severe stress, and falling fast both in terms of this year and looking out in the future. The program Ned was talking about was the Service Officer Program, state and national funds that previously were budgeted are now either not available or are being drastically cut back to fund the dedicated personnel who process advocated our service connected claims before the VA at regional locations.

Dates for the National Convention have been announced as starting August 14-20, 2011 in Reno, Nevada.

Corrected dates for 2011 NYS Council meetings are as follows: January 29th, April 9th, June 18th, and September 10, 2011. Please double check and amend any previously stated dates for this revised schedule.

Congratulations are in order for President Ned Foote, who was selected as the first Vietnam veteran to be enshrined in the NYS Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. This award and ceremony will be held in November, 2010, date to be determined. Ned is the first and only Vietnam veteran to be awarded such an honor.

Western Director Ted Wilkinson reported that the VA is on the verge of announcing a final site location for a VA National Cemetery in western New York. The location could be in either Niagara, Erie, Wyoming, or Genesee counties. Currently the closest VA National Cemetery is in Bath, NY.

Ms. Dee Garcia, Service Officer at the Buffalo, NY regional VA site, gave a warning for any potential VA hospital patient being seen at the Buffalo, NY Medical Center to pay close attention to the traditional patient wrist band ID bracelet. Double check to ensure that “personal information” (such as full name, DOB and SSN in full) are not disposed of carelessly. Double check to properly redact such information from becoming an identify thief issue upon discharge from the facility. Ms. Garcia also reported new security measures are being instituted for staff access to various reports and on-line data retrieval requirements by only authorized individuals who have or will be fully screen and vetted for access to such records.

Finally, Ms Garcia, urged all chapter representatives to inform all members about the three new “presumptive diseases” - Parkinson’s, Ischemic Heart, and Hairy Cell Leukemia. Do not wait for a certain date to file a perspective claim, but to do so now! If prior claims were denied based upon the rulings at that time, to go back and revisit the action again.

Paul Narson, NYS Membership Chairman, reported that Vietnam Veterans of America nationally has 63,640 members and NYS has 5,269 members. The national figure reflects an increase in one month of 601 vets, statewide we grew by 21 vets over the prior month.

A report given by state VP Grant Coates concerning the current POW/MIA listed 1,711 service members still unaccounted, and site searches are continuing in an around the waters and land throughout southeast Asia.
This is a list of websites which provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file/ask for them. Accordingly, there are many sites that explain how to obtain books, military/medical records, information and how to appeal a denied claim with the VA. Please pass this information on to every Veteran you know. Nearly 100% of this information is free and available for all veterans, the only catch is: you have to ask for it, because they won't tell you about a specific benefit unless you ask for it. You need to know what questions to ask so the right doors open for you — and then be ready to have an advocate who is willing to work with and for you, stay in the process, and press for your rights and your best interests.
Turn your old car into a valuable gift. Donate it today. Call 224-8484
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.

Navy to Study Camp Lejeune Water

The Marine Corps is seeking participants for a study of the drinking water at Camp LeJeune, NC. All who lived or worked at the camp up to 1987 are encouraged to register online at www.marines.mil/clsurvey or call the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call center at 877-261-9782 from 8:30 am to 5 pm EST, Monday through Friday.

The Department of the Navy is funding two studies examining a possible association between exposure to Camp Lejeune’s drinking water and adverse health effects.

In the early 1980s, the Marine Corps found trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene in water systems serving the Tarawa Terrace and Hadnot Point areas and subsequently took them out of service. Currently, Camp Lejeune water meets or exceeds all environmental standards.

Welcome Home – Honor Flight

On Sunday, October 10th at approximately 12:30pm Chapter 20 is invited to gather at the Rochester Airport to welcome home a group from Honor Flight, returning after a visit to Washington DC. The Honor Guard has been asked to be present and it would be a great time to don those Chapter jackets, shirts and caps and join them! They are due in on Air Tran flight #465, ETA 1:00pm.

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.

VETERANS BUSINESS EXPO

Friday, October 8

Nazareth College. Tradeshow-style event, allowing vets to showcase their businesses to the community. There will be ongoing educational seminars throughout the day.

Contact Rochester Regional Veterans Business Council for more info.
thought to myself, after all these years what more can I learn? Well how wrong I was. I ended up with a good list of things that I need to look at in doing my job serving you as President and changes we can consider that will make the Chapter better for its members. Next was a class on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors and again, there were a lot of great ideas and things we need to consider, another list of things to do. I also attended classes on Effective Productive Meetings, Conflict of Interest, Rewarding Chapter Volunteers and Veterans Court (presented by the people from the Buffalo Veterans Court).

At the closing, I had the honor to spend some time with a VVA member from downstate who spent nearly 7 years as a POW in both Cambodia and the Hanoi Hilton. Richard Perricone is a true American hero and it was an honor to meet him.

In closing, it was a great conference. A time to get lots of work done, meet with old and new friends. Those who attended - Jerry, Jul, Mike and Vai - did a great job, attended lots of meetings and made many notes. I thank them for making the Chapter proud. Our friend Jul fell ill one of the days, but thank God after a night in the hospital he was back in good shape. The ride back to the airport was by cab, no city transit, 15 minutes in comfort and we arrived back home in Rochester around noon.

Much thanks to all for allowing us to represent you in Orlando. We look forward to the National Convention Reno in August 2011. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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

Canandaigua VA Medical Center
Hetherington Receives Additional Medals

With the aid of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and her assistant, Jeffery Sheridan, Petty Officer Second Class (ETN2) V. Thomas Hetherington received 8 replacement medals for his 4 ½ years of active duty, including two tours of duty aboard the USS Hornet off the coast of Vietnam. Petty Officer Hetherington was also informed that his Vietnam service medal had been upgraded indicating involvement in 7 of the 17 major campaigns of the Vietnam War. Two additional medals were awarded: the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross with Palm and Frame), awarded for support during the 7 major campaigns; and the Korean Defense Service medal, awarded for responding off the coast of Korea after North Korea shot down a US Navy observation plane in international air space killing all onboard. Based on his service in a combat theater New York State awarded Petty Officer Hetherington The Medal for Merit and the Conspicuous Service Star. Petty Officer Hetherington completed 6 years of naval service, active and Navy reserve, including the Vietnam tours, and participated in the Apollo 11 and 12 recoveries. He also served 1 year with the Army National Guard 209th Field artillery as a communication Sergeant (E5) with C Battery.

Petty Officer Hetherington is extremely grateful for the efforts of Louise Slaughter and her staff during the two year ordeal to replace his medals, which he had given to his family for his Marine brother Nick’s funeral three years ago. He is also thankful for the efforts to update his records for the medal upgrade, and the two new medal awards which were due 40 years ago.

Making Strides Cancer Walk

On Sunday, October 3, Chapter 20 will again be participating in the American Cancer Society’s walk in downtown Rochester at Frontier Field.

We will meet at Frontier Field; registration is at 9am and the walk starts at 10. (Look for the Chapter 20 sign.) Walkers will go from Frontier Field along city streets/sidewalks to the Liberty Pole and then back to Frontier Field. Plan on an hour for the walk.

Registration forms will be available at the Chapter meeting on September 9. Any additional questions may be sent to Marie Davias at mdavias@rochester.rr.com or see her at the Chapter meeting.
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.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 20

Name: __________________________________________________  Date of Birth: _________________________________ Sex: ☐ M ☐ F
Address: __________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________________ Country: _____________________________
Zip: _________________________ Chapter #: (if known) _____________________
I am not a Vietnam Vet, but I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families. Please accept my donation:
☐ AVVA Membership
☐ $10  ☐ $20  ☐ $50  ☐ Other ($________)


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Payment Options: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order

Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214, to:
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**Between The Lines**

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- Chapter Gear ......................... Tom Puff • tpuff@frontiernet.net • 227-3426 (h)
- Comm. Service/Pub. Affairs ..........
- Constitution ......................... Fred Elliott • felliott@rochester.rr.com • 288-5756 (c)
- Finance .......................... Hank Wallace • whmbt@rit.edu • 334-5352 (h)
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- Sue Oleksyn • soleksyn@yahoo.com • 663-5255 (c)
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- Incarcerated Veterans ................. Ron Trovato • Ronbo215@gmail.com • 544-8470 (h)
- Marching Unit ....................... Hank Wallace • 334-5352 (h) • Valentino Gatto • 227-2741 (h)
- Membership ......................... Ralph Pascale • 755-2560 (c) • Mike General • 227-4383 (h)
- Memorial ................................ Chuck Macaluso • chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288
- Minority Affairs ................... Juii Robinson • juirobinsonjr@yahoo.com • 775-3127 (h)
- NYSC Reps .......................... Ken Moore, Jerry McDermott, Fred Elliott, Nick DeLeo
- POW/MIA ............................... Joe Peck • jpeck2@rochester.rr.com • 734-9046 (c)
- Social Events ........................ Dick Oleksyn • roleksyn@yahoo.com • 663-5255 (c)
- Speakers Bureau ...................... Geno Leny • gln3153@ntid.rit.edu • 423-0206 (c)
- Veterans Affairs/Benefits ........ Pat Pudetti • patrickusmc1@yahoo.com • 753-6040 (w)
- 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 Highlight Park: www.rochestervietnammorial.org
- The_Memorial.html
- Operation Welcome Home: www.operationwelcomehome.org
- VVA New York State Council: www.vva20.org

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- VVA 20 Thrift Store, LLC Mgmt., Beth Affelot • 482-8036
- Donation Pick-up • 482-8016
- VVA Vehicle Donations • 224-8484
- VVA Chapter 20 • info@vva20.org • 482-7396
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 20, Rochester, NY
P.O. Box 12580
Rochester, NY 14612

October 2010

2 SAT & 3 SUN  •  29th National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend
4 MON  •  Board of Directors, 7:00 pm
6 WED  •  US Naval War College founded in Newport Rhode Island, 1884
7 THU  •  Daylight Savings Time Ends
9 SAT  •  Invasion of North Korea, 1950
10 SUN  •  Welcome Home to Honor Flight, Rochester Airport, 12:30 pm, AirTran Flight #465
11 MON  •  Columbus Day
12 TUE  •  Bombing of USS Cole, 2000
13 WED  •  Navy Day, US Navy established 1775
14 THU  •  Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm
15 FRI  •  National Mammography Day
31 SUN  •  Halloween

November

2 TUE  •  Election Day

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Meetings

BOD
Oct 4  •  Jan 3, 2011
Nov 1  •  Feb 7, 2011
Dec 6  •  

Membership
Oct 14  •  Jan 15, 2011
Nov 11  •  Feb 10, 2011
Dec 9  •  

Special Events
Oct 10, 2010  •  Cancer Walk, Frontier Field
Oct 8, 2010  •  Veterans’ Business Expo, Nazareth College
Oct 28, 2010  •  National Veterans Job Expo, 1-4 pm, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave.

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

The VA’s National Suicide Crisis Line
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24/7 365 days/per year

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

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24/7 365 days/per year

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