Ready for Visitors...
IN ACTION
ON THE HOME FRONT

“What makes greatness is starting something that lives after you.”
– Ralph Sockman

POW-MIA
Joe Peck, Chairperson

The report this month from the DPMO and JPAC indicates that five more missing servicemen from the Vietnam War have been located and identified, bringing the total missing Americans to 1,690.

- Lt. Col. Glenn David McElroy (No picture available). US Army from Sidney, Illinois and Capt. John Michel Nash, US Army from Tipton, Indiana. They were pilots of an OV1A Mohawk aircraft on a tigerhound operation on March 15, 1966. Their mission was a reconnaissance photo run along Rt. 91 on the west side of the Se NamKok river valley in Laos. The aircraft was hit, and crashed after it entered a line of fire from an enemy antiaircraft battery. On March 16th a search and rescue team flew over the crash site and found no signs of either Lt. Col. McElroy or Capt. Nash. In 1986 the crash site was examined and excavated by US teams. The remains and personal effects of Lt. Col Glenn David McElroy and Capt. John Michel Nash were located and they were identified on Feb. 5, 2010.

- Capt. Arnold Edward Holm, Jr. US Army from Waterford, Connecticut and Spec. 4 Robin Ray Yeakley, (No picture available) US Army from South Bend, Indiana. On June 11, 1972, Capt. Holm and his passenger Spec 4 Yeakley were on board an OH6A observation helicopter flying from Camp Eagle to the Northern Province of South Vietnam on a visual reconnaissance mission. Capt. Holm reported that he saw enemy living quarters, bunkers and numerous trails. On a
second pass over a ridged area, the aircraft was hit by enemy antiaircraft fire causing it to explode and burn from onboard ordinance. After the aircraft impacted the ground it exploded again. No one was seen exiting the damaged helicopter. No ground search was made for survivors or remains because of the hostile fire in the area. Excavation of the crash site was made in 2003 and recovery of the remains of Capt. Arnold Edward Holm Jr. and Spec 4 Robin Ray Yeakley were made on August 6, 2008. They were identified on February 7, 2011.

- Cpl. John W. Lutz, US Army was reported missing identification of the following:

- PFC. Samuel K. Watkins, US Army was reported missing February 14, 1951 at Chuam-ni, South Korea. His remains were identified January 18, 2011.

- Sgt. Wyatt H. Belton, US Army was reported missing November 28, 1950 near Unsan, North Korea. His remains were identified January 13, 2011.

- PFC. Arthur L. Hodapp, US Army was reported missing April 24, 1952 near Ukalgye, South Korea. His remains were identified November 15, 2010.

- PFC. James R. Stroup, US Army was reported missing February 12, 1951 near Hoengsong, South Korea. His remains were identified September 7, 2010.

- PFC. William F. Stehlin, US Army was lost November 20, 1944 in Geilenkirchen, Germany. His remains were identified September 7, 2010.

- 2nd Lt. Martin P. Murray, US Army Air Corps reported missing October 27, 1943 while on a bombing mission to Rabaul in New Britain. His remains were recovered March 2007 near Papua, New Guinea and identified April 12, 2011. He was buried April 16th in Marshallfield, MA.

- Tech. Sgt. James G. Maynard, US Army Air Corps reported missing March 12, 1945 near Leyte, Philippines. His remains were recovered in 1989 and identified April 19, 2011. He was buried April 22 at Arlington National Cemetery.

- PFC. Mervyn E. Sims, US Army Air Corps was reported missing April 24, 1943 in Burma. His remains were recovered in 2003 and identified November 12, 2010. He was buried April 22, 2011 in Petaluma, CA.

- PFC. Robert B. Bayne, US Army was reported missing March 28, 1945 while on patrol along the Rhine River in Schwegenheim, Germany. In 2010, his remains were exhumed from an unknown grave and identified May 3, 2011. He will be buried on May 7th in his home town of Dundalk, Md.

All these men have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and our way of life and for this we are forever thank full. They are finally home to rest in peace and to be honored by this great Nation. God bless them and their families. 

THEY WERE NEVER FORGOTTEN

Correction: May 2011 issue of the BTL, the names for the photos did not match correctly. We have reprinted these photos with the correct names and apologize that the error was not caught during our proofreading.

Veterans' Incarcerated Committee Report

Ron Trovato

Chapter 205 at Auburn Correctional is alive and well. The Domestic Violence proposal that was put together by the veterans there, remains pending with the Administration at this time. The veterans were approved to sell coffees and teas for a fundraiser and this project is just getting off the ground. There was a General Membership Meeting scheduled for 4/15 and we will share information from that gathering as we receive it. Finally, on a personal note, my sincere condolences to Dennis Conway for the loss he and his family recently suffered.

Chapter 489 at the Attica Correctional Facility has their Veterans Day Festival scheduled for 6/12, and I want to congratulate them on their re-establishing their most welcome newsletter. Job well done, guys.

I hear regularly from Craig McLaren of Chapter 190 in Atmore, “Alabammy”. The Veterans Craft Committee there is going very well. The wallets they make are indeed first rate and Craig seems to always enclose one in his correspondence to me. Thanks buddy! Large numbers of these wallets and other items have been donated to VVA National, Wounded Warriors, the 173rd Airborne Brigade National Association and other worthy groups. Chapter 190’s longtime inside liaison (comparable to the staff advisor position in the NYS Dept. of Corrections) was promoted and will be transferred to a different facility.

Chapter 563 at San Quentin, California is also keeping the faith, and per Jeff Langnese there, the date of their fundraising food sale has been VETERANS' INCARCERATED cont'd on page ___
A huge THANK YOU! to all who helped make our Memorial ready for visitors. Chapter 20 truly appreciates those who gave their time and muscle on the 2011 Day of Caring.

Day of Caring
Due to inclement weather in the past months and the resulting soil conditions, the dedication services and first burial at the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery are now scheduled for July 30th, the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery Association announced today.

Originally scheduled for May 21st, it has become increasingly apparent that the unusually harsh winter and wet spring has caused the need to delay the dedication, now scheduled for July 30th.

“As much as we would like to open earlier, Mother Nature did not cooperate,” said Rick Connors, President of the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery Association. “This has been a colder and wetter spring than normal, which has inhibited the ability to complete final preparations for the cemetery. However, we are very hopeful that the temporary postponement will allow all of the work to be completed and ensure that the site will truly be ready for burials on July 30th.”

New York State Senator Mike Nozzolio, in conjunction with the Cemetery Association, has announced the formation of a new Committee to identify and raise sources of private and public funding for the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

“Now that the opening and formal dedication is set for July 30th, I am pleased that efforts are being escalated to obtain funding for the long term operational and capital needs of the cemetery,” said Senator Nozzolio.

The Committee will be made up of business leaders and local, regional and State leaders of veterans organizations. Its efforts will be designed to identify and raise funds to ensure the future capital needs of the cemetery are met.

“The fundraising efforts will center around future infrastructure needs and establishing additional memorials to the valiant service of our veterans,” said Senator Nozzolio. “This committee will ensure that the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery will be a lasting testament in honor of the sacrifices made by our brave servicemen and women.”

Brian Schramm
Memorial
Steak Dinner

Saturday July 30, 2011
3:00 PM - ??
American Legion Post #468, 344 Dorsey Road in Greece
663-2091

Donation: $25/ticket

Proceeds go to Honor Flight & the Brian Schramm Scholarship Fund

Steak Dinner served from 3-7 pm

Pre-sale tickets ONLY. Available at the American Legion Post #468 until July 23
**NEWS & NOTES**

**VA to Take Applications for New Caregiver Program**
Staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published the interim final rule for implementing the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act 2010. This new rule will provide additional support to eligible post-9/11 Veterans who elect to receive their care in a home setting from a primary Family Caregiver. Additional services for primary Family Caregivers include a stipend, mental health services, and access to health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health care plan. Comprehensive Caregiver training and medical support are other key components of this program. Veterans and their Family Caregivers can apply for the new services at www.caregiver.va.gov. Nina Mottern, the Canandaigua VA Medical Center Caregiver Support Coordinator is also available to assist with the application process and direct Veterans and their Family Caregivers to more than two dozen other programs VA offers Family Caregivers for support. Assistance and information on additional resources are also available to Family Caregivers through VA’s National Caregiver Support Line, 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

**Attention All Veterans Enrolled in the VA Health Care System Using Hearing Aids**
The Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic located at 465 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14620 has “walk in service” available weekly on Thursday and Friday from 9:30-11:30 am. No appointment necessary for assistance with battery replacements. If you have any questions, you can call (585) 463-2701 additional information.

**FRONT & CENTER**

**VETERANS’ INCARCERATED from page 3**
scheduled. There is no rescheduling this event and the chapter relies on it for funds throughout the year. We hope there is no lockdown on that date. Keeping my fingers crossed, and good luck to all the vets at San Quentin.

Lastly, I heard that the Dept. of Veterans Affairs will extend post incarceration health care benefits to eligible veterans in a half way house or other temporary post-incarceration housing, in an attempt to cut down on repeat offenders. About 29,000 to 56,000 veterans are released annually from State and Federal Prisons, and approximately 90,000 from city and county jails according to the Dept. of Justice Bureau of Prisons statistics. This would go a long way towards helping these vets make a positive transition in difficult economic times.

**THEN & NOW**

Can you identify the soldier on the left?
Rochester, New York’s Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America, was founded by 50 Vietnam Veterans (all from the Agent Orange registry program) looking to make a difference in the Rochester area. “Forming our chapter was the way to find meaning, redemption and the honor of having served in Vietnam, as well as the camaraderie that was missing amongst most who didn’t respect where we’d been or what we’d done,” says Stirlin Harris, a founding member. Chapter 20 was chartered in 1981 and remains one of the largest and most active chapters.

With a service area covering Rochester and six nearby counties in Western NY, Chapter 20 is comprised of Vietnam-era veterans from all walks of life and all corners of the community, with a focus on maintaining a strong, united voice for resolving issues of vital importance to all Vietnam-era veterans – locally, statewide, and nationally. The Chapter also provides a positive local forum for social and emotional interaction among Chapter 20 members. In addition, Chapter 20 has "adopted" numerous community-based projects and causes. Through volunteer and charitable support they continue to help dozens of local organizations carry on all kinds of good work for children, the handicapped, the homeless, and many others.

In 1982, the VVA Chapter 20 Thrift Store was founded and became the model for the VVA National Household Goods Program. Then, in 1985 the vehicle donation program was formed and, despite changes in IRS laws, has continued to help fund numerous programs and organizations.

The Chapter has been an active participant in VVA from the start, attending the first NYS Council meeting and providing significant funding to National just one year after the Chapter’s inception. Chapter 20 members also provided major significant input to the first several National Conventions through the constitutional amendment process as well as the writing of significant convention resolutions. Additionally, Chapter members have always been willing to step up to the plate in terms of leadership positions within the organization at both the State and National levels.

Memorial Day 1984 was cold and rainy but presented an opportunity for Chapter 20 to show the community that our members would not be deterred from their mission. Outside (non-veteran) groups had applied for and received court permission to participate in the Memorial Day parade over the objection of the traditional veterans’ organizations. This so incensed those veterans’ groups that they refused to march, abandoning the memories of those that had made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. Chapter 20’s Board met and after three hours of debate and discussion agreed that to not march would be a travesty. Heads held high and flags proudly waving, the Chapter marched with some 100 members. This commitment to the memory of all veterans despite outside pressure gained the chapter respect from the community and other veterans groups.

Like most VVA chapters, Chapter 20 has a marching unit and honor guard to maintain visibility within the community. The Honor Guard, in conjunction with the Chapter’s POW/MIA chairperson and other members, has journeyed for the last 10 years to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., for National POW/MIA Recognition Day. They place a wreath at the apex and offer a prayer. The ceremony provides an opportunity to educate curious onlookers about the POW/MIA issue. After the ceremony at The Wall, the Honor Guard travels to Arlington National Cemetery to pay respect at the graves of Rochester area MIAs whose remains have been repatriated. On one of those trips, Chapter 20 took a local Gold Star Mother with them to see her son’s name on the Wall for the first time. She and her husband have since become regular participants at Chapter events.

In September 2006, Chapter 20 received news that James Edward Widener, a local Marine missing in action since 1967, had been identified. The Chapter 20 Honor Guard was invited by the family to participate in the burial service at Arlington National Cemetery. Chapter members and the local community donated money to cover the expenses of the trip. The following year, Chapter 20 helped to welcome home another Rochester MIA. Francis Graziosi had been listed as MIA for 37 years after his helicopter went down near Chu Lai on his nineteenth birthday. The Chapter 20 Honor Guard was on the tarmac to render a salute as the casket was removed from the plane. Honor Guard members participated in casket guard detail at the funeral home, and rendered military honors at the church services and cemetery.

In 1990, a group was formed to oversee the design and creation of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park in Rochester, NY. Chapter 20 provided significant funding for the construction of the Memorial and the Memorial was dedicated in 1996. The Chapter continues
to conduct Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies at this Memorial and many members of Chapter 20 conduct tours of the Memorial for local school groups.

When the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall, a traveling three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., came to Gates Memorial Park in September, 2007, Chapter 20 was there. A column of 200 motorcycles, including some Chapter 20 members, escorted the truck bringing the Wall to the park. The Chapter 20 Honor Guard and other chapter members participated in ceremonies, gave tours of the Wall to school children, and helped visitors locate names.

Chapter 20 has hosted a New York State convention, a replica of the Wall twice and has created a voucher program for veterans using the Chapter’s thrift store to provide them items that are needed, whether it be clothing, appliances or furniture.

“...joined when Chapter 20 was formed to help support local Vietnam Vets. I felt very fortunate to have survived my Vietnam tour and have the life I’ve had while others I knew did not and whose lives were cut short. I met some very capable, courageous, talented and patriotic people in Vietnam and felt such an organization and the dues I would pay would be put to good use in support of those veterans in need,” says Francis Mucha, another founding member.

Chapter publications have played an important part in the life of Chapter 20. The Forward Observer, created in the early 1980s, was a literary outlet for the chapter. Interviews for articles covered a wide range of topics, including Agent Orange, PTSD, the POW/MIA issue, and Southeast Asian refugees. Book and movie reviews, profiles of chapter members, and poetry were submitted by readers. This served a critical function during the 1980s when many vets were first coming to terms with their war experience and education on veterans’ issues was vitally needed. But Chapter 20 needed a vehicle to keep the members updated on what was going on in the Chapter and the Forward Observer came out too infrequently to serve this function. So another publication, Between the Lines, was started. It is sent out monthly and includes reports from the various committees and a calendar of events.

The two publications ran side by side for a time, but eventually the effort required to put out the Forward Observer could not be sustained and after 1988 the publication was discontinued. Between the Lines became larger and more sophisticated. Today’s “BTL” is a far cry from the simple newsletter it was when it started. It is mailed out to a mailing list larger than Chapter 20 membership, and can be seen on the Chapter website. Besides reports and photographs of Chapter 20 activities, it includes information from some incarcerated chapters. Between the Lines has received multiple VVA Newsletter of the Year awards.

Chapter 20 has been involved in a variety of service projects, such as veteran stand-downs, winter clothing distribution, distributing holiday food baskets, helping with the Special Olympics, and supporting a Cub Scout pack. A Veterans Health Outreach was held at a local mall, at which information was provided on veterans’ benefits, health issues, PTSD, and VVA membership. Chapter 20 has also sent packages to troops in the Middle East.

Chapter 20 members visit incarcerated VVA chapters at Auburn, Attica, and Groveland Correctional Facilities. In 2005, Chapter 20 members delivered hats and scarves knitted by members of Chapter 205 at the Auburn Correctional Facility to two schools in Rochester, where they were gratefully received.

Bill Reddy, founding member, sums it up best. “The formation of VVA Chapter 20 gave me and many others an outlet to discuss, without fear of criticism, our military experiences. It was, and is, a very healing organization.”

Editor’s Note: This article was written for VVA’s 30th Anniversary. It has been edited to reduce its size, but I thought it appropriate to reprint it now as Chapter 20 celebrates its 30th Anniversary.
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:**

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Car Donations 8:30am - 5:00pm
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All donations go to the Thrift Store at the address above.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO THE
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at Canandaigua VA Medical Center
Saturday, June 11, 2011
Courtyard 1 • 10 am – 2 pm
Activities include a flag ceremony at 10 am in courtyard, picnic lunch, DJ, antique cars, military vehicles, mini-golf, obstacle course and other children and family events!

DAVID J. KAUFFMAN POST #41
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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.

Mary Anne Vitticore
Women Veterans Program Manager

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Upstate New York
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Proceeds to Benefit Vietnam Veterans Chapter 20

Music by:
Turner Brown
8 Days a Week

Something Like That
Catch 22
Kid Kurry

Live the Mayor
Pete Kennedy

98.9 THE BUZZ
All Kinds of Rock

FORTE LEATHER
The Vietnam conflict remains an event in history that is largely misunderstood. A new project of the Rochester Public Library and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 seeks to promote a better understanding of this tumultuous episode in our nation’s history and to ensure that the people who served are never forgotten by recording oral interviews documenting veterans’ experiences.

Will you share your story with us?

We’re seeking veterans to be interviewed about their service during the conflict. Telling your story can be difficult, but it is important that future generations be able to learn from the people who experienced the conflict firsthand.

For more information or to sign up, contact Christine L. Ridansky at (585) 428-8095 or Christine.Ridansky@libraryweb.org or Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20.

Sponsored by the Rochester Public Library and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 in partnership with the Office of the Rochester City Historian, the Monroe County Historian’s Office, St. John Fisher College, and Nazareth College.

Do you know a veteran who is homeless?

The VA’s National Homeless Veterans Hotline

The Hotline is staffed at the Ganandaigua 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
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 20

Name: __________________________________________________ Date of Birth: _________________________________ Sex: □ M □ F
Address: __________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________________
Zip: __________________________ Country: __________________
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 □ $50 □ Other ($_______)


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

Home Phone: (____ ) __________________ Work Phone: (____ ) __________________
Email Address:__________________________________________ Sponsor:__________________________

Payment Options: □ Check □ Money Order
Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214, to:
Attn: Membership, 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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WEB SITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Veterans Widows International Network: members@aol.com/vetwindows
NYS Department Health: www.health.state.ny.us/vets
Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park: www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial.html
Operation Welcome Home: www.operationwelcomehome.org
VVA New York State Council: www.vyynewyorkvets.org

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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.
JUNE 2011

3 FRI  • Battle of Midway began, 1942
4 SAT  • Mendon Firemen’s Carnival, 6:30 pm
5 SUN  • National Cancer Survivors Day. Observed the first Sunday in June each year.  (Source: www.ncsdf.org)
6 MON  • Board of Directors, 7:00 pm
9 THU  • General Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm NEW LOCATION! Italian-American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road, between Howard Rd. and Rt. 390
11 SAT  • CHAPTER 20’S 30th Anniversary Dinner Celebration
14 TUE  • Flag Day, June 14 - Anniversary of adopting the flag in 1777
16 THU  • Spencerport Firemen’s Carnival, 7:00 PM
19 SUN  • Father’s Day
21 TUE  • 1st day of SUMMER!
22 WED  • Barnard Firemen’s Carnival, 7:00 PM
25 SUN  • Korean War began, 1950
28 TUE  • The Versailles Treaty - Officially ends World War I - Peace Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919 by Germany and the Allied powers at the Palace of Versailles
29 WED  • First U. S. ground forces arrived in Korea, 1950

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.”
– James Dent

MEETINGS

BOD
June 6  • October 3
July 11  • November 7
August 1  • December 5
September 12

Membership
June 9  • October 13
July 14  • November 10
August 11  • December 8
September 15

Special Events
June 11 - Chapter 20’s 30th Anniversary Celebration
June 11 – Family Fun Day
July 10 - Ride to the Dakota Poker Run
July 30 - Brian Schramm Memorial Steak Dinner

NYSC Meetings
June 18  • September 10

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June 11 - Chapter 20’s 30th Anniversary Celebration
June 11 – Family Fun Day
July 10 - Ride to the Dakota Poker Run
July 30 - Brian Schramm Memorial Steak Dinner

NYSC Meetings
June 18  • September 10

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

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 20, Rochester, NY
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