A U.S. Air Force Honor guard ceremonial guardsman marches with the POW/MIA flag during a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA on July 9. The funeral laid to rest the remains of the six Airmen who went missing when their Douglas AC–47 Spooky gunship crashed in Laos on Christmas Eve 1965 during a Vietnam combat mission. The Airmen were buried in Arlington after being identified through dental records, personal items and other circumstantial evidence. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Perry Aston).
From the President

Valentino Gatto

It is an honor and privilege to be elected as President of Chapter 20, to serve the Membership and the Community. In the month of April, I put together a great committee to organize our Annual Dinner and they did a fantastic job! I would like to thank my wife Ida, Joan and Chuck Macaluso, Marie and Fred Elliott, Suzann and Dick Oleksyn for their time and hard work. I also want to thank Luann and Joe Peck for presenting the POW/MIA table.

The month of May was very busy for me as my first full month as President. I received invitations to attend many meetings of other organizations and different events. The most important event was the Memorial Day Ceremony and also the fundraising of the Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day. I would like to thank Terry Hogan, Ralph Presciutti and Dave Taylor and Post #468.

On July 7th I had a great opportunity to participate to the repatriation of Joseph Christiano in Washington, DC, and to visit the Vietnam Veteran's Wall. I had an experience and I cannot find words to express my feeling and emotions that I personally felt. This was my first time, but it will not be the Last.

I want to thank Chuck Macaluso, Joe Peck, Tim Puff, Tim Sturm, Ray Melens, and Geno Lenyk, Gail Melens, Luann peck, Sue Puff and my wife, Ida.

Highlights

4 A Final Farewell
7 NY State Council Meeting Notes
10 POW/MIA Candlelight Vigil
12 Genesee County Park Memorial
14 Canandaigua VA Quarterly Meeting
POW-MIA

Joe Peck, Chairperson

The reports that I have received from the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), The Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action (JPAC) and the National League of Families has indicated that one more missing American serviceman from the Vietnam War has been located and identified. The number of Americans still missing from this war is now at 1,663.

SFC Gunther Herbert Wald, US Army from Bergen, New Jersey was a radio operator who was assigned to MACV-SOG under the command of the 5th Special Forces Group. SFC Wald was one of the three members of a special operations group along with six Montagnards who, while on patrol on November 3, 1969 was attacked by a superior numbered enemy force 30 miles inside Laos near Ban Chakevy Tai in the Saravane Province. Four of the Montagnards escaped and returned to the camp to report the ambush and capture of their comrades. It was stated that SFC Wald was killed by shrapnel wounds from a fragmentation grenade. The other two members of the team were also killed, SFC Donald Monroe Shue by shrapnel wounds and SFC William Theodore Brown by rifle fire. Recovery teams re-entered the area on the 11th of November but only found gear belonging to the three member team. In 1993, Joint US, Laos and Vietnamese teams correlated the site where the men were last seen. In March 2010 the site was excavated and on April 3rd, the remains of all three members of this group were recovered. SFC Gunther Herbert Wald was identified and accounted for on May 30, 2012. The other two members of his team, SFC William T. Brown was identified and accounted for on January 6, 2011 and SFC Donald M. Shue was identified and accounted for on May 1, 2012. With the return of these men, we can finally close the chapter on this fateful mission and lay to rest these brave men who gave their all for their Country.

In addition, there are also reports of the recovery and identification of the following from other wars:

Cpl. Pryor Gobble, US Army was lost on December 11, 1950 near Hagaru-ri, North Korea. He was accounted for on May 23, 2012.

Cpl. Kenneth R. Block, US Army was lost on December 3, 1950 near the Chosen Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on May 18, 2012.

1st Lt. Warren G. Moxley, US Army Air Corps was lost on March 15, 1945 near Neustadt, Germany. He was accounted for on May 22, 2012.

Radoman 1st Class Harry C. Scribner, US Navy was lost August 22, 1943 after his plane crashed on the island of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides (Vanuatu). He was accounted for on May 10, 2012.

1st Lt. Laverne A. Lallathin, 2nd Lt. Dwight D. Ekstam, 2nd Lt. Walter B. Vincent Jr., Tech Sgt. James A. Sisney, Cpl. Wayne R. Erickson, Cpl. John D. Yeager and Pfc. John A. Donovan, US Marines were lost on April 22, 1943 after their aircraft crashed over the island of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides (Vanuatu). They were all accounted for on May 7, March 28, March 6, May 9, March 7, March 14 and March 16 respectfully.

Our condolences to all of the families and friends of these brave men. You have spent years of waiting, wondering and praying for information on the fate of your missing loved ones. They have finally come home where they belong, and we honor their sacrifices.

We welcome you Home Brothers and May you all forever Rest in Peace.

Joseph Peck, Chair

Veterans Incarcerated Committee Report

by Ron Trovato

Greetings to everyone from hot, humid, sweaty Rochester!

The veterans at Attica have reorganized under the Attica Active Veterans Group and this has been approved by the Facility Superintendent there. Per Chapter 489 President Charles Thibeault, their goals are consistent with VVA’s in that they are organized to help veterans and to give back to the community. These goals are supported by both Chapter 20 and Chapter 77 (Leroy) and we will continue to support all veterans at Attica. The Veterans Festival was held there on June 10th and the vets are in the process of making hats and scarves for needy children in the Attica area. They are also having a “Heroes for Heroes” sub sale to raise funds and I want to thank Phil Glaser and staff advisor Sgt. Mark Schiefer for all their hard work on behalf of the vets there.

We recently heard from Shirley Martinez and Dan Waters who are regular volunteers at the Auburn Correctional Facility and work with the veterans from Chapter 205. Nine vets graduated from the treatment program there which deals with issues common to many veterans, and the crochet squad is branching out and making afghans now. Two queen size afghans and four pillows were made and recently raffled off in Ithaca, NY to raise money that was then donated to a local hospital. Shirley and Don are longtime volunteers at Auburn and they recently joined Chapter 20 so we welcome them to our family. They live in Auburn and have done so much for the vets there over the years, and I thank them too for their constant support of our endeavors there. We note also that a Memorial Day Service was held at the prison chapel at Auburn.

Chapter 190 in Atmore, Alabama invited Region 7 Director Allen Manuel and National Treasurer Wayne Reynolds in to visit and we hope that can be worked out. The veterans there are working on a community service project and are hosting Sports Events including pull ups and free throw contests. We are glad to hear that the leather shop is back in operation and that they were able to hold their Memorial Day Service...

One final note -- although several of the incarcerated chapters are currently under suspension and will in all likelihood never be the same, I will refer to the groups of veterans there at times under the chapter designation. I don’t want to forget the history of these chapters, what they have accomplished with minimal outside support and what they have done for me personally.

On a positive note, many Vietnam veterans are being paroled and transitioning to useful and productive lives, and that’s why these chapters were originally founded. OK, enough preaching.

Have a great summer!
On a hot and steamy weekend in Washington, DC (reminiscent to some as the same type of weather experienced in Vietnam) the families of six men came together from across the country to pay homage, honor and to say their good-byes. These families of the six who served together as brothers in the United States Air Force, waited 47 years for closure, 47 years to have their loved ones returned to American soil.

A contingent of the Chapter 20 Honor Guard traveled to Washington and had the privilege, at the request of the Christiano family, to attend this solemn ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery. The seven-member Honor Guard also had a chance to meet and talk with some of these family members, as well as the surviving members of the Spooky Association, the Unit to which these six men belonged.

On July 9th, the day of the repatriation for these men, a caisson carrying a single flag-draped casket with the remains of all six members from the AC47D gunship, code-named Spooky 21, was pulled by six white horses and escorted by the United States Air Force Honor Guard. Many family members followed the procession. With precision moves, the Air Force Honor Guard delivered the casket to its final resting place. As all stood at attention, presenting arms, a final 21-gun salute was rendered with the playing of Taps. Twelve Airmen respectfully presented family members with a flag honoring their service to a grateful Nation.

After the final ceremony, men from the Spooky Association filed along the casket, each placing a flower honoring those who were once amongst their ranks and never forgotten.

The Chapter 20 Honor Guard presented a final salute and proceeded to file out, leaving the POW/MIA flag alone in front of the casket and family members. Gail Melens, spoke of the significance of this act, “You will notice that after the Honor Guard left, the POW/MIA flag remained behind, standing alone, symbolizing our men who were left behind. They have been missed by family and friends and they are still missing from our ranks, but not forgotten. As the POW/MIA flag rejoins its ranks, this gives us the hope that our missing Americans are finally being returned to their loved ones and honored by their Country as is the case with Joseph Christiano, Derrell B. Jeffords, Dennis L. Eilers, William K. Colwell, Arden Hassenger and Larry C. Thorton.”

At the final point, a family member of the Christiano family walked up and sprinkled soil on the casket brought from the grave of Josephine Christiano, beloved wife of her husband, Joseph Christiano, thus reuniting them forever.

Submitted by Joe Peck
A Final Farewell

U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Perry Aston

continued on page 6
A Final Farewell

continued on page 8
The NYS Council Bi-Annual election for state and regional office holders was held at this meeting. All the current office holders ran for re-election and all were elected to retain their current positions:

President - Ned Foote  
VP - Grant Coates  
Secretary - Francisco Muniz III  
Treasurer - Nick Deleo (Chapter 20 member)  
Western NY District Director - Ted Wilkinson  

All other Directors were similarly returned to their respective District positions.

President Foote reminded all Chapter Presidents that reporting deadlines are fast approaching and timely remittance is critical to keep chapters in full compliance with State and National requirements.

Ted Wilkinson, Western District Director was also honored at NYS Veteran of Year and inducted into the NYS Veterans Hall of Fame.

Francisco Muniz urged Chapter representatives to submit reports, activity updates, and special event notices to the NYS web-page for all to see and publish throughout the state.

Nick Deleo, Treasurer, reported on the NYS year-to-date financial status.

Ms. Dee Garcia, VVA Veteran Service Officer at the VA-Buffalo Regional Office, our contact person for claims processing and related assistance, announced her departure (retirement). Her replacement, Mr. Robert Garcia (yes, Dee’s brother) will be taking over her duties and position at the Regional office. It was a mixed moment, happiness for all that Dee has provided the VVA and yes, a welcoming hand to her brother as replacement, for coming on board to continue to assist VVA members with the VA system. Thanks Dee for your service!

National President John Rowan spoke to the assembled representatives and made them aware that over the next 13 years there will continue to be various celebrations and activities throughout the country dedicated to the Vietnam War and those who served during that 13-year period now 50 years ago. Mr. Rowan also urged each and every state Chapter to get involved with other community organizations to spread the word and education for veterans benefits and services. He went on to state that national unions like the United Mine Workers were canvassing their members to identify veterans and provide them with information about their earned benefits. Organizations similar to unions, clubs, (like Rotary, Lions, Elks, PBOE, etc.) must have members who served in the military and may not be aware that their honorable service has earned them benefits. Many of these organizations are within NYS Chapter locations and could easily be contacted for collaboration on veteran information issues. National VP Fred Elliott (our very own Chapter 20 member) spoke to the meeting about various Agent Orange Town Hall meetings he has attended, and also urged the attendees to canvass our families to ensure that A/O effects are noted and reported to medical personnel (private or VA) concerning our children and grandchildren so they can be monitored.

Mr. Dana (Finn) Hallfors encouraged NYS Chapter members to forward events, photos, and related chapter activities to the “NYS electronic newsletter,” The Interchange for content and further enjoyment that can be shared by all statewide VVA members.

You gentlemen have always been and still are an important part of our journey. Having you there to support us meant so much to our family. You have fulfilled your dedication to remember our fallen men and their families. It’s impossible to convey fully how much you are appreciated. It was a pleasure to meet all of you and your wives and I’m so happy we had a chance to be among you. We would be delighted to see you in September - just give a call and we’ll be there. Please do stay in contact as you are our brothers!! Thank you again for all that you do and all that you have done. Love you guys!!

With gratitude and respect,  
Barbara (Annehino)  
On behalf of the family of Joseph Christiano
A Final Farewell
Photos: Valentino/Ida Gatto, Tom/Sue Puff, Joe/Luann Peck
I sit in this cell and watch the sky
I live from hour to hour...refusing to die
I question not why fate put me here
That I will be forgotten is my only fear
Surely, someone will come!

My body is weak, but my mind is alive..
Filled with memories of home with unshaken pride.
It is from God I ask the strength I need,
To fight off this hopelessness my captors see.

I have family who waits at home
With only the tears of not knowing...must they stand alone?
Please God I pray, comfort and ease their pain,
Until I can get to their side again,
Surely, someone will come!

I am a man of many names and faces,
A man of many religious beliefs and races.
I am not very special in any particular way,
Just a man who served America and now a POW/MIA.
Surely someone will come!

POW/MIA Candlelight Vigil
Saturday, September 22 at 7:30 PM.
Location is Vietnam Veterans Memorial
in Highland Park.
For more information, contact Joe Peck
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

**IRAQ**
- Camp Taji
- Camp Baharia
- Camp Taqaddum

**KUWAIT**
- Al Asad Airbase
- Camp Victory
- Camp Arifjan
- Ali Al Saleem Airbase
Remember
The Elliotts (Fred and Marie) were recently in Batavia, NY and noticed they had a memorial for Vietnam Veterans in the Genesee County Park. We’re pleased they took a few moments and caught pictures to shore. We encourage everyone to submit photos of memorials they find as they travel so we can share the ways other communities pay homage to their local heroes. ~ BTL Editorial staff
Between the Lines

New locations will be considered for the Rochester Outreach Clinic on Westfall Road as the need for consolidation of services at one location and the continued increase of services provided to veterans is growing. A target date of some lease space near the current location on Westfall Rd is what is desired by all interested parties.

Road constructions for the next several weeks will hamper travel times coming to and going from the Westfall Road Clinic so please plan accordingly.

There are two locations for “adult day care” that all veterans in the greater Rochester area can access. With the help of two (2) American Legion Posts, veteran care providers can take advantage of time during the day to run errands, do shopping or make personal appointments while veterans are cared for by trained VA staff. Recreational activities and other programs are made available at these locations. Each American Legion Post location has a specific day of the week, each and every week to provide the “adult day care” mobile van services.

The locations are:
- In Greece: American Legion Post 468, 344 Dorsey Rd., each Thursday.
- In Webster: American Legion Post 942, 818 Ridge Rd., each Tuesday.
- For more information, call Ms. Nina Mottern, 585-393-7514 at the Canandaigua VA MC.
- Information was also presented by the Veterans Service Center detailing increased veteran enrollments for the 2nd Quarter with 401 veterans, making this fiscal year’s total 870 veterans enrolled. The vast majority were veterans who attended our February 25, 2012 Kodak retiree benefits seminar.
- The VA Audiology Department is testing a new method for assisting veterans with hearing aid needs, something along the lines of “telehealth” links so that proper instructions can be provided to hearing assisted veterans.
- The Golden Ages Games are coming up in St. Louis, Missouri from 5-30-2012 through 6-06-2012. Veterans from the Canandaigua VA Medical Center will be attending. Chapter 20’s Jim McDermott will be part of the competition and group from our area attending the Games.

Canandaigua VA Medical Center May Quarterly Meeting by Jerry McDermott

New locations will be considered for the Rochester Outreach Clinic on Westfall Road as the need for consolidation of services at one location and the continued increase of services provided to veterans is growing. A target date of some lease space near the current location on Westfall Rd is what is desired by all interested parties.

Road constructions for the next several weeks will hamper travel times coming to and going from the Westfall Road Clinic so please plan accordingly.

There are two locations for “adult day care” that all veterans in the greater Rochester area can access. With the help of two (2) American Legion Posts, veteran care providers can take advantage of time during the day to run errands, do shopping or make personal appointments while veterans are cared for by trained VA staff. Recreational activities and other programs are made available at these locations. Each American Legion Post location has a specific day of the week, each and every week to provide the “adult day care” mobile van services.

The locations are:
- In Greece: American Legion Post 468, 344 Dorsey Rd., each Thursday.
- In Webster: American Legion Post 942, 818 Ridge Rd., each Tuesday.
- For more information, call Ms. Nina Mottern, 585-393-7514 at the Canandaigua VA MC.
- Information was also presented by the Veterans Service Center detailing increased veteran enrollments for the 2nd Quarter with 401 veterans, making this fiscal year’s total 870 veterans enrolled. The vast majority were veterans who attended our February 25, 2012 Kodak retiree benefits seminar.
- The VA Audiology Department is testing a new method for assisting veterans with hearing aid needs, something along the lines of “telehealth” links so that proper instructions can be provided to hearing assisted veterans.
- The Golden Ages Games are coming up in St. Louis, Missouri from 5-30-2012 through 6-06-2012. Veterans from the Canandaigua VA Medical Center will be attending. Chapter 20’s Jim McDermott will be part of the competition and group from our area attending the Games.
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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Valentino Gatto.........................vgatto@rochester.rr.com • 227-2741
Chuck Macaluso, GRVVM ............chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288 (h)
Joe Peck ...................................jpeck2@rochester.rr.com • 734-9046 (c)
Alan Frisa ...............................alanfrisa@gmail.com

DIRECTORS
Dan Corona..............................nycorona@juno.com • 406-6108 (c)
Mike General ............................mwgeneral@aol.com • 227-4383 (h)
Lynn Guruslin.........................352-0578 (h)
Jerry McDermott ......................jmcmdermott@murphynolan.com • 313-8188 (c)
Don Nealon .............................dnealon1@rochester.rr.com • 392-6052 (h)
Dick Oleksyn .........................roleksyn@yahoo.com • 663-5255 (h)
Stan Patykiewicz .....................247-4830 (h)
Pat Pugettito .........................patrickusmc1@yahoo.com • 753-6040 (w)
Rosemary Rossi-Williams ..........rossiwilliams@gmail.com • 736-6138 (c)
Ron Trovato ............................Ronbo215@gmail.com • 544-8470 (h)
Hank Wallace .........................whmbt@rit.edu • 334-5352 (h)

STATE COUNCIL
Nick DeLeo .............................nndeleo52@yahoo.com • 334-7043 (h)
Fred Elliott ..............................felliott@rochester.rr.com • 288-5756
Valentino Gatto .......................vgatto@rochester.rr.com • 227-2741
Chuck Macaluso, GRVVM ..........chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288 (h)
Ken Moore ..............................17CAV@rochester.rr.com • 392-0269 (h) • 576-9000 (c)
Jerry McDermott ......................jmcmdermott@murphynolan.com • 313-8188 (c)
Joe Peck ...................................jpeck2@rochester.rr.com • 734-9046 (c)
Pat Pugettito .........................patrickusmc1@yahoo.com • 753-6040 (w)

REGION 2 DIRECTOR
Herb Worthington .....................hworthington1@comcast.net

COMMITTEE CONTACTS
Between the Lines ........................................Lynn Guruslin • 352-0578 (h)
Editor: Kathy Gleason • kathy14470@msn.com • 978-1331
Chaplain........................................Tom Puff • tpuff@frontiernet.net • 227-3426 (h)
Chapter Gear ...............................Valentino Gatto • vgatto@rochester.rr.com • 227-2741
Comm. Service/Pub. Affairs .....................Freddy Elliott • felliott@rochester.rr.com • 227-2741
Constitution ..................................Freddy Elliott • felliott@rochester.rr.com • 288-5756
Finance .........................................Dan Coroa • nycorona@juno.com • 406-6108 (c)
Health Affairs.............................Jerry McDermott • jmcmdermott@murphynolan.com • 4196-4250
 Honor Guard ...............................Chuck Macaluso • chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288
Incarcerated Veterans ................Ron Trovato • Ronbo215@gmail.com • 544-8470
Marching Unit .......................Hank Wallace • 334-5352 (h) / Valentino Gatto • 227-2741
Membership ................................Mike General • 227-4383 (h) / Stan Patykiewicz
Memorial .....................................Chuck Macaluso • chuckmac66@yahoo.com • 225-8288
Minority Affairs ......................Calvin Joseph • 719-6138 (c)
POW/MIA .....................................Joe Peck • jpeck2@rochester.rr.com • 734-9046 (c)
Social Events .................................Geno Leny • gni3153@ntid.rit.edu • 423-0206
Speakers Bureau .........................Patrik General • 227-4383 (h)
Veterans Affairs/Benefits ..........Patrik General • 227-4383 (h)
Women's Affairs ....................Rosemary Rossi-Williams • 736-6138 (c)

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

MISCELLANEOUS
VVA Vehicle Donations ..................224-8484
VVA Chapter 20 ..........................info@vva20.org • 482-7396

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

---

**AUG/SEPT 2012**

**2 THU**  ·  Operation Desert Shield began, 1990

**4 SAT**  ·  Coast Guard Day - U. S. Coast Guard established, August 4, 1790

**6 MON**  ·  Bombing of Hiroshima, 1945

**7 TUE**  ·  Board of Directors, 7:00pm

**9 THU**  ·  Purple Heart Medal established, 1782

**9 FRI**  ·  Membership Meeting, Meeting starts at 6:30 PM

**10 TUE**  ·  Japan surrendered, ending World War II, 1945

**11 WED**  ·  Woodstock opened, 1969

**11 SAT**  ·  Labor Day

**18 SAT**  ·  Toronto Warriors’ Day parade (contact Tim Stumm for more information)

**19 SUN**  ·  World World II began, 1939 at 5:30AM when German troops invade Poland.

**23 SAT**  ·  World War II declared, 1939 when England and France declare war on Germany

**23 MON**  ·  Board of Directors, 7:00pm

**27 TUE**  ·  Board of Directors, 7:00pm

**31 WED**  ·  POW/MIA Recognition Day

**31 SAT**  ·  POW/MIA Candlelight Vigil, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Highland Park

---

**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/per year

---

**MEETINGS**

**BOD**

August 7, September 10, October 1, November 5, December 3
2013: January 7, February 4

**NYSC Meetings** Owego, NY

September 29

**Membership**

Now starting at 6:30 pm!

June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13