Together Then... Together Now

BETWEEN THE LINES

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Chapter 20

December 2012
Issue 163

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IN ACTION
ON THE HOME FRONT

A U.S. Army paratrooper gives a thumbs up while participating in a personnel drop at Fort Bragg, N.C., Oct. 11, 2012, during Joint Operational Access Exercise (JOAX) 13-01. A JOAX is designed to enhance service cohesiveness between U.S. Army and Air Force personnel, allowing both services an opportunity to properly execute large-scale heavy equipment and troop movement. (DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Rissmiller, U.S. Air Force/Released)

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Day of Hope

KB Cooper, WLGZ, Legends 102.7

Legends 102.7 is thrilled to be benefiting Vietnam Veterans Chapter 20 this year through our 2012 Day of Hope! As plans gel, it is becoming by far the biggest and most active 24-hour fundraising effort we’ve ever put together. Never before have we had so much indoor space to take advantage of...and we will! From December 6th at 5pm to December 7th at 5pm, I’ll be atop the Dick Ide Honda showroom on Panorama Trail in Penfield. Inside, we’ll invite our listeners to come over for live entertainment from single artists like Danny B, to local groups like the Sweet Adelines, to school choruses like the Greece Athena High School Show Choir. The Redwings’ mascot Spikes will be making an appearance, and we’re excited to have Gary Lewis (of Gary Lewis and the Playboys) stopping by!

We are gathering a number of items to auction off live on the air, from concert tickets, to a B & B stay, to dinner for four aboard the Colonial Belle, to gift certificates to the Fred Astaire Dance Studio! Bill Cosby has sent us autographed sweatshirts to auction off (more on that later!).

In addition, we’ll be holding a silent auction to offer listeners a chance to Christmas shop on-site! One Enchanted Evening has donated a gorgeous $1,300 wedding dress as well as a stunning prom dress. Listeners have responded already offering their time, as well as auction items like a diamond ring and a beautiful handmade quilt. It will be quite the place to be!

Our thanks to President Valentino Gatto, who has secured the use of the Freedom Calls Skype unit for the duration of the effort, so that families who have loved ones serving far away this holiday season can chat with them that day. And those who would like to bless a service person with mail can write a letter that we’ll send out.
I hope you’ll come and be part of **your** Day! Chat with one of our staff on-mike and tell our listeners how VVA and Chapter 20 have helped you; tell our audience when and where you served. Donate blood! The American Red Cross will be on-site conducting a drive, and Dr. Ted Eckermann has pledged $10 per pint drawn, to the cause!

Now about those Bill Cosby sweatsuits...in advance of his show in Rochester Nov 9th, he called me to do an interview. My mistake was thinking that I would be asking the questions, and that it would be about him! Instead, I unwittingly became a character in one of his comedy sketches! And the subject matter? The Day of Hope!! Please go on-line to legends1027.com and hear Bill Cosby pay you tribute. You’ll find the whole chat there on our homepage, just click on it.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity. Please have a wonderful Thanksgiving and know that our radio station – a God and Country station – is mobilizing our efforts to make sure VVA Chapter 20 remains strong.

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**POW-MIA**

Joe Peck, Chairperson

The reports that I have recently received from the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action (JPAC) and the National League of POW/MIA Families have indicated the recovery and identification of five more of our missing Americans from the Vietnam War. Currently there are 1654 Americans that are still unaccounted for. The Identified and returned are as follows:

**Capt. James Montgomery (Monty) Johnstone**, U.S. Army from Ft. Mill, South Carolina and **Maj. James Lafayette Whited**, U.S. Army from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, comprised the crew as Pilot and Co-Pilot on an OV1A Mohawk attack aircraft (Series 13115) call sign “Project 6” on November 19, 1966. Their mission was one of reconnaissance over southeast Laos in search of NVA troops and supplies that were known to be infiltrating through several possible routes. When the aircraft arrived on site, Capt. Johnstone immediately established radio contact with the Forward Air Controller (FAC) who was responsible for all air operations in that sector. Capt. Johnstone and Maj. Whited proceeded with their mission at hand and when completed, they began the task of additional reconnaissance of an area of high jagged ridges and valleys covered in dense jungle east off Rt. 96. The aircraft climbed steeply over the top of a ridge while flying just above the treetops. As a FAC watched Project 6 execute its mission, he observed the aircraft’s left wing clip into the trees causing the plane to flip over, crash and burn upon impact. The FAC did not see any of the crewmembers eject or deploy parachutes and no emergency beeper signals were heard from the jungle below. The wreckage of the aircraft was located and a visual examination of the area was made by the FAC for any signs of survivors but nothing was found. Due to the dense vegetation, difficult terrain and heavy enemy presence throughout the region, a ground search was not possible. Both Capt. Johnstone and Maj. Whited were reported as killed in action/body not recovered. Recent reports from JPAC indicate that the crash site was located in Laos and excavated for evidence of both men. On June 5, 2009 the remains of Capt. James M. Johnstone and Maj. James L. Whited were recovered and returned to American soil. They were positively identified on July 9, 2012 and officially accounted for on Sept 5th and 6th of 2012. Capt. James M. Johnstone will be laid to rest with full military honors in Arlington Nation Cemetery on December 12, 2012. Maj. James L. Whited was recovered and laid to rest with full military honors in his hometown of Norman, Oklahoma on November 2, 2012. Information on the interment of these brave men was graciously provided by some of the surviving members of these families.

**Airman 1st Class Jerry Mack Wall**, U.S. Air Force from Nacogdoches, Texas was a crewmember on a Fairchild C123B (Provider) that was dispatched on a candlestick mission on May 18, 1966. The aircraft was dropping flares about 45 miles east of the city of Pleik in Binh Dinh province, South Vietnam when it was hit by enemy ground fire and crashed. Among the crew of this aircraft, only Airman 1st Class Wall and another member were reported as missing. Nearby, U.S. ground troops reported seeing Wall’s aircraft being hit and crashing. Heavy enemy presence in the area prevented immediate search and rescue efforts. Later that day, the remains of 3 of the 5-crew members were recovered. Between 2007 and 2011 the site of the crash was located and excavated with the eventual discovery of military equipment, identification tags bearing Wall’s information and, of course, human remains. Airman Wall was recovered and returned on April 11, 2011. He was identified on August 13, 2012 and accounted for on the 30th. Airman 1st Class Jerry Mack Wall was laid to rest with full military honors in San Antonio, Texas on October 26, 2012.

**Ltc. Wendell Richard Keller**, U.S. Air Force from Fargo, North Dakota was a pilot on a 2-man crew of a F4D phantom jet assigned to the 433rd Tactical Fighter Squadron. On March 1, 1969, LTC. Keller and his navigator were sent on a combat mission near the Ban Karai Pass in the mountain regions bordering Laos and Vietnam. The aircraft was hit by hostile enemy fire and crashed. No parachutes were seen and no emergency beeper signals were heard. Both LTC Keller and his navigator Capt. Virgil Kersh Meroney III were listed as MIA. The remains of LTC Wendall Richard Keller were recovered and returned on November 29, 2011. He was identified on March 22, 2012 and accounted for on September 16, 2012. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on October 19, 2012. His Navigator, Capt. Virgil Kersh Meroney III was previously accounted for on April 11, 2012 and was buried in his hometown on June 9, 2012.

**POW-MIA cont’d on page 10**
To say it has been my privilege to serve as Editor of the Between the Lines for the past few years would be an understatement. Initially I started by helping Bruce McDaniel, then Editor of the BTL as well as the previous Forward Observer publication. He needed some help with proofreading, a bit of editing and an occasional article. I was honored and pleased to help. As his life took him in another direction and time he could commit to the BTL became difficult for him, I offered to step in and assume responsibility for the Editorial post. This evolved as the subtle changes in the Chapter itself evolved.

The mission of the publication became a goal to reach as many veterans as possible, of all generations, and insure they were informed of opportunities for benefits as a veteran, as well as continue to recognize all who served in the military, and all who were continuing to serve in their communities. We had the distinct recognition at National Conventions to be the recipient of the Chapter Newsletter Award for 8 consecutive presentations. President John Rowan himself joked that the name of the award should be changed to the Chapter 20 Newsletter Award.

From this point on, the BTL will continue, but in a different manner. The issue will be electronic only and will have a different look and a different feel. These changes were necessary due to our Board’s decision to protect dwindling Chapter funds to insure the Chapter remains able to operate as actively and proactively as possible. It has been an incredible burden on the Chapter to maintain the print publication of the BTL, but sadly one that is no longer feasible.

So, as you will read in various spots in this, the last issue, be sure you contact the Chapter and offer your email address so you will continue to receive notification of current issues. Or, if email is difficult (or non-existent) for you, remember once a month to visit the Chapter 20 website, www.vva20.org, and click on Current Newsletter and read it online, or download it to your computer.

It has been an honor to serve as your Editor and I step away from the position with great pride in what we have accomplished over the years.

Happiest of Holidays to you and yours – if you are traveling during the Holidays, travel safely!
In January 2013, the 5th Annual Fit Vet Challenge will begin!

All are welcome to participate and all are encouraged to join in this worthwhile event to lose some weight and become more aware of healthy choices. Not only will there be encouragement to lose what you gained over the holiday season in terms of pounds and inches, but there is the opportunity to start off the New Year of 2013 with a purpose and goal to set.

There is no pressure to join in — simply some good natured fun and joking around between the various service branches that develops during the Challenge.

In case you have not kept score, our first and second year winning service branch members were the Marines, and coincidentally the third and four year winners were from the Navy. So the repeaters of years 1 and 2 and years 3 and 4 are really showing up the rest of us!

So, enjoy the upcoming holidays with your family, friends and neighbors, but come the New Year 2013 the 5th Annual Challenge will begin!
Mark it on your calendar – Legends Day of Hope to benefit Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 starts Thursday, December 6th and 5pm at Dick Ide Honda in Penfield!

KB Cooper will once again be on the roof, this time on the roof of the Dick Ide Honda showroom, for 24 hours to raise money for our local VVA.

Please join us – to donate, to enjoy some of the musical groups that will be supporting our effort, to bid on silent auction items, and to donate blood to the Red Cross. Dr. Ted Eckermann will make a donation to the VVA for every gallon of blood given during the Red Cross blood drive on site.

Be part of the biggest Day of Hope in Legends history:
December 6 & 7 - 5pm-5pm

You can make an appointment now to donate blood then. Simply call 1-800-RED-CROSS and tell them you want to donate at the Day of Hope with Legends 102.7.

A special thanks to our sponsors:
Dr. Ted Eckermann
Bayles Leatherhouse Furniture
Perlo’s Italian Grill
Record Archive
Christie Carpets and Blinds
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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<tr>
<th>AFGHANISTAN</th>
<th>IRAQ</th>
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<td>Al Asad Airbase</td>
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(U.S. Marines with Quick Response Force, II Marine Expeditionary Force board a U.S. Army Chinook helicopter at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, while preparing for a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise at Forward Operating Base Rawah, Iraq. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Michael L. Haas/Released)
POS-MIA cont’d from page 3

**Pfc. James Joseph Jacques**, U.S. Marine Corps from Denver, Colorado. On May 12, 1975, the merchant ship MARYAGUEZ and its crew were seized by the Khmer Rouge forces in international waters in the Gulf of Siam off the coast of Cambodia. A battalion landing team of 1,100 Marines was ordered to the area for an assault and rescue mission on the island of Koh Tang, which is 35 miles off the coast of Cambodia. On May 15th, during the first wave of assault, A CH53A Helicopter (code names Knife 31) carrying 23 Marines and 2 Navy Corpsmen, which included PFC Jacques, was approaching the east side of the island when it was caught in a cross fire and hit by a rocket. The severely damaged helicopter crashed into the sea just off the coast of the island and exploded. To avoid enemy fire, 12 survivors of the crash were forced to swim out to sea for rescue. The remaining 13 members of the crew, which included PFC Jacques, were reported as missing. In 1995, U.S. salvage crews were permitted to visit the crash site of “Knife 31” where pieces of the aircraft were discovered and personal effects as well as remains were excavated. The remains of PFC Jacques as well as 2 other members of that crew (who were accounted for in my last report) were returned to the U.S. on December 6, 1995 and identified on January 23, 2012. PFC James Joseph Jacques was officially accounted for on September 1, 2012 and was laid to rest with full military honors in his hometown of Denver, Colorado on October 9, 2012.

**NOTE:** The names of the missing from this fateful mission on May 1975 are the final names of those killed from the war, located on panel W1 on the Vietnam Veterans Wall in Washington D.C.

In addition, there are reports of the recovery and identification of the following men from the Korean War.

- **Capt. Turnace H. Brown**, US Army reported lost on Dec. 6, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Aug. 17, 2012.
- **Cpl. Luther J. James**, US Army reported lost on Dec. 6, 1050 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Aug. 18, 2012.
- **Sgt. Chester L. Williams**, US Army reported lost on Dec. 6, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Aug. 28, 2012.
- **Pfc. Arthur W. Hopfensperger**, US Army reported lost on Nov. 28, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Sept. 12, 2012.
- **Lt. Don C. Faith Jr.**, US Army reported lost Dec. 2, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Oct. 11, 2012.
- **Cpl. Elmer C. Kidd**, US Army reported lost on Nov. 30, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Oct. 11, 2012.
- **Sgt. Stanley W. Bear**, US Army was lost on Sept. 4, 1950 near Haman, South Korea. He was accounted for on Oct. 15, 2012.
- **Sgt. Willard F. Williams**, US Army was lost on Nov. 28, 1950 just south of Usan, South Korea. He was accounted for on Oct. 23, 2012.

As our missing Americans are finally brought home to their families and Country, let us not forget the sacrifices that these and other men like them have made for our freedom and our way of life. This is what we as Americans are made of. We finally have you -- Welcome Home Brothers, and may you all rest in Peace.

And for those who are still missing, we will never stop searching, we will never forget, and we will bring you home.

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**Veterans Incarcerated Committee Report**

by Ron Trovato

Holiday Greetings to everyone! Lots going on with incarcerated veterans and that is always good to see.

The VVA Chapters have morphed into other veterans groups at the prisons and Vietnam veterans continue to take leadership roles in them. At the Auburn Correctional Facility, the Auburn Veterans Group held a POW/MIA Vigil at the prison chapel there on 9/3 and a general membership meeting was conducted 9/7 at the Osborn School there. Shirley Martinez and Dan Waters recently joined Chapter 20 and have been volunteers with the vets at Auburn for years. They have indicated that the Crochet Squad has been busy making items for kids, vets and the homeless there, and we will continue to support Dennis Conway and all the guys there who work so hard to make all those hats, scarves and blankets for the needy.

The Attica Active Veterans Group at the Attica Correctional Facility is off and running too, and voting for the Executive Board is scheduled for January. We are losing a great staff advisor there, Sgt. Mark Schiefer, and he will be really missed. A large mural in the chapel was recently completed by Phil Glazier and others from the vets group there and it came out just awesome. The guys continue to run 16-week program cycles for substance abuse, anger/violence and PTSD, and we thank Phil for all his work in those programs. On 11/10, Ken Moore, Pat Pudetti and myself met with about 30 vets at Attica for their Veterans Day Service there. We got to speak with the guys, and Kenny and Pat answered benefits questions. Afterwards we had pizza and wings that the vets paid for and a good time was had by all.

Longtime contact Craig McLaren from Chapter 190 in Atmore, Alabama has continued his work in the Leather Shop there after it was closed for over six months. The men there are once again making wallets and other leather goods for sale as a way to raise money for the chapter, which was recently certified as a tax exempt veterans service organization. Craig sent us a package containing wallets and some other leather craft items which were sold for donations at our general membership meeting in November. The quality of these wallets was just superb and the detail was first rate. We raised $86 for Chapter 20 and about half of the wallets were donated to the Canandaigua VA Medical Center for Christmas gifts for the guys and gals there. Craig made a special wallet for Joe Peck with his unit crest on it which was a big hit, and they also sent up some leather key chain CB’s. We heard too that Chapter 190 was approved to have VVA VIP’s come into the Holman Prison Unit there like they did with Chapter 205 at Auburn Prison here in NY last year. I spoke to National Incarcerated Veterans Chairman Terry Hubert about this recently and he hopes to be able to do this next spring. Terry was going into San Quentin prison over Veterans Day and we thank him for his continued commitment in helping incarcerated veterans. Like everyone else, his budget has been cut so his travel has to be planned well in advance.
Chapter 20 Membership
by Mike General, Chair

Greetings from your Membership Chair. As I write this column we have 545 Chapter 20 members and 42 Associate Members. I would really like to move forward with expanding our membership base for both groups. It would be great if each Chapter Member could recruit one new member, whether it is an In-Country or Era Vet. Membership is open to U.S. Armed Forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975. Membership Applications are available in the BTL, Chapter Website, or contact me and I can supply you with an application. Membership in VVA is the Right Choice.

VVA is a “home of our own” - a community of fellowship with people who share your experiences, needs and hopes for the future. Please join us for fellowship, volunteer opportunities, and community service and great Membership Meetings. Be as active as your time, talents, and interests allow. Or, simply be a proud member of VVA, knowing that your membership helps VVA work for you and your fellow Vietnam veterans. The VVA national organization keeps less than half of your membership dues. The rest stays at the state and local level to support programs and services for veterans and their families.

Membership includes a subscription to our award-winning newspapers: Between the Lines, The VVA Veteran, and The Interchange, bringing you updates on issues and legislation affecting veterans, as well as unique articles on the people, places, and history of the Vietnam experience.

Families, friends, supporters, and veterans of other eras can join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and receive the same benefits.

The BTL will be available only electronically after this December 2012 issue. Be sure you contact the Chapter and give them your email address if you want to receive it by email.

VAVS QUARTERLY MEETING:
Canandaigua VA Medical Center Community Council Meeting
by Jerry McDermott

Director C. Howard informed attendees about the new construction beginning for the transitional veteran housing units, called Cadence Square, located near the old Building #14 area. Approximately 15 community rooms and 17 apartments will be built for veterans seeking safe shelter while in or after receiving treatments at the Medical Center, as they gain strength to return to civilian status. Construction will take many more months to complete, but the need is great and it is anticipated to be full when construction is completed.

Donations are always welcome for patients living at the VA Medical Center campus — such things as comfort care items, personal hygiene for both male and female veterans, new socks, underwear. NOTE: Bring these items to Chapter 20’s monthly meetings and we will see that they get delivered to the VAMC in Canandaigua.

Rehabilitation services are available for eligible veterans at the VMIC in Canandaigua (e.g. - for assistance after surgeries performed at “outside” private practice hospitals, like Strong, Rochester General, Thompson, Unity) as an alternative to the assistance other non-VA facilities might provide. For an example, if a veteran needed some therapy for a recent knee replacement procedure, the VA may be an option to consider.

Any eligible veteran interested in a “quit smoking” program, who has not tried the VA before, should consider the VA, too!

Reminder about getting your shots. Flu shot is recommended for all. Shingles shot, for anyone who had chicken pox and is over 60 years old, is recommended. Pneumonia shot if you are over 65 years old also suggested.
Christmas Help Wanted

Canandaigua VA will be in need of some Santa Claus helpers to wrap Christmas gifts for the veterans in their care on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 1:00 pm, Bldg. # 5, at the VA Medical Center campus. For more info, contact Ms. Patty Ciancaglini, or e-mail questions to her at: Patty.Ciancagline@va.gov.

Carolers (good voices not required, just a willingness to see these veterans smile) to assist in passing out the wrapped Christmas gifts. You can join other like-talented helpers on Friday, December 21, 2012 at 12:30 pm, in Bldg. # 5 (Auditorium) for assignments to the various patient wards. Refreshments will be provided to the hospitalized vets in the spirit of the holiday season.

This year’s event is scheduled on a Friday. This date was chosen to accommodate more veterans who come to the Medical Center for various daily programs during the week and would not be available to participate if the events were held on Sundays as in most recent years.

If you have any questions, please call Jerry McDermott at 585-313-8188.

Thank you in advance for your assistance on behalf of all our hospitalized and medically needy veterans.

Happy Holidays!
Attention all members of Chapter 20. Beginning in February 2013 the BTL will be going the way of electronic mailing. All members are advised to contact the chapter via email info@vva20.org to verify your current email address. (You may also visit our website and submit information via the Contact Us link. Anyone who does not have email capability should call or mail their home address for a hard copy. You must do either to make sure you continue to receive our award-winning publication. The BTL will continue to be available through our web site.

The mission of My HealtheVet (MHV) is to improve health care for ALL veterans, independent of where they receive care, by providing health information and health assessments via the Internet. MHV is a web site designed for veterans and their families with the goal of optimizing veterans’ health care. It is for all veterans and offers additional services to those receiving care at VA medical centers.

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

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

MHV is a web site designed for veterans and their families with the goal of optimizing veterans’ health care.

My HealtheVet

MHV provides access to:
- Online prescription refills with the VA
- Trusted health information
- Links to Federal and VA benefits and resources
- Personal Health Journals and Health e-Logs

Driving Directions to the Italian American Sports Club
The Club is located at 1250 Buffalo Road close to the intersection of Howard Road, directly across from the stone quarry, next to the Eagles Club and the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

From the East: Heading west on 490, exit Mount Read Blvd and turn left; south on Mt. Read to Buffalo Road circle, turn right; west on Buffalo Road, 1.4 miles; the Italian-American Sports Club is on the right side.

From the West: Heading east on 490, exit 33 east, Buffalo Road (Gates Center); head east on Buffalo Road; continue past Howard Road; the Italian-American Sports Club will be on the left side in about .5 mile.

Monthly Membership Meetings will now start at... 6:30 PM
Italian American Sports Club 1250 Buffalo Rd, Rochester

Membership Meetings
6:30 PM
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

BETWEEN THE LINES

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),
□ 3 years: $50 $200 (ages 56-60), $175 (ages 61-65), $150 (ages 66 & over)

Date of Birth: ____________________________
Home Phone: (_____) ____________________________
Work Phone: (_____) ____________________________
Email Address: ______________________________________ □ W □ H
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.

I said INBOX, you maggot—not MAILBOX!!! The BTL can now be found in your INBOX, but only if you gave the Chapter your email address. DO YOU HEAR ME????????

This is the last printed/mailed BTL. If you wish to receive future issues, you MUST give the Chapter your email address. Visit the website and select Contact Us, or email info@vva20.org today!
CONTACT INFORMATION

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

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION

Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial ... 585-753-7275
(Enter 9; enter 2 to leave a message)
Ira Jacobson American Legion
Post #474 ........................................... 663-7030
VA Clinic - 465 Westfall Road ............ 463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center ................. 546-1081
Vet Center ........................................... 232-5040
Veterans Administration .................... 800-827-1000
Monroe County Veterans Service Agency .... 753-6040
e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com
Veterans Benefits Hotline ................. 800-827-1000
Veterans Bill of Rights ....................... 800-342-3358
VA Medical Center in Batavia .......... 585-297-1000
VA Hospital in Buffalo ....................... 716-834-9200
VA Medical Center in Canandaigua ...... 394-2000
VA Medical Center in Bath ............... 607-664-4000
V.V. of America in Washington ......... 800-VVA-1316
V.V. Memorial Fund “The Wall” ............ 202-393-0090
Nat’l Lge. of Fam. MIA/POW
Updates ............................................. 202-223-6846
Richards House ................................. 506-9060
The Resource Center ......................... 546-4250
Stars & Stripes .................................. 546-3524
Persian Gulf Vets, Inc. ..................... 385-4097
Operation Welcome Home ................. 234-4694
National Caregivers Support Line ....... 1-855-260-3274
Homeless Hotline ......................... 877-424-3838
Suicide Hotline ............................... 800-273-8255

WEB SITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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%c=cell h=home w=work
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 20, Rochester, NY
P.O. Box 12580
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Do you know a veteran who is homeless?

The VA’s National Homeless Veterans Hotline

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS

BOD
December 4
2013: January 8, February 5

NYSC Meetings Owego, NY
2013: January 26, April 6, June 15, September 21

Membership
Now starting at 6:30 pm!
December 13
2013: January 10, February 14

DECEMBER 2012

4 TUE • Board of Directors, 7:00pm
5–6 • Legends 102.7 Day of Hope (see article)
7 FRI • Pearl Harbor Day - Anniversary of Japan bombing Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941
13 THU • Membership Meeting, Meeting starts at 6:30 PM (Italian American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road)
8–16 • Hanukkah (Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the Festival of Lights)
16 SUN • Battle of the Bulge began, 1944
21 FRI • First Day of Winter
25 TUE • Christmas
26–1 • Kwanzaa (African American holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture)
31 MON • Official end of WWII, 1946
• New Year’s Eve
1 TUE • Happy New Year!

The VA’s National Suicide Crisis Line

1-800-273-TALK or 1-800-273-8255
24/7 365 days/per year