Female Engagement Team

The Female Engagement Team conducts outreach primarily through interaction with women and children to learn about and report information on the local population without violating cultural standards.

The Marines selected for the team are screened for strong leadership skills, physical fitness, and the ability to confidently interact with diverse groups of people.

Training consists of classes on culture and language, instruction on how to conduct engagements, and combat skills to include weapons handling, personnel searching and patrolling. FETs need to truly understand the culture, practice and ways of Afghani life, since making a sound connection within Afghan communities is key to their success.
POW-MIA

Joe Peck, Chairperson

I hope everyone enjoyed and survived our sweltering summer this year. It was definitely one for the books. Before I start my report, I want to take the time to tell you of an event that I was informed of which took place a few weeks ago.

I received a phone call the other day from a cousin who is an Army wife stationed with her husband in Kaiserslautern (K-Town) Germany, which by the way has the largest concentration of Americans outside of the U.S. She just had to tell me of an event she took part in that was so honorable and emotional no one would appreciate it more than me as a Veteran and the POW/MIA representative of Chapter 20. She proceeded to tell me that representatives from JPAC had approached American personnel at this base and had asked for any volunteers who would be willing to help with the excavation and recovery of a World War II Aircraft that had crashed near Allmuthen, Belgium on December 23, 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge.

My cousin Amy jumped at the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. During her days of working at the crash site she witnessed and participated in the recovery of pieces of the aircraft, military gear, personal artifacts such as dog tags, clothing and most memorably of all, the possible remains of the six crew members. At those moments, she felt the honor and the sadness of being a part of reconnecting missing service men with their families and loved ones after all these years. She also contemplated this event as she might feel if this were her own husband or family member. With so many years and thousands of tears, we as Americans can proudly say that every effort is finally being made to keep our promise that we will leave no man behind and finally bring them all home.

The reports 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 have indicated that four more missing American servicemen from the Vietnam War have been located and identified. The number of Americans still missing from this war is now at 1659.

The identified and returned are:

PFC Richard William Rivenburgh, from San Diego, California and PFC James Rickey Maxwell from Center Ridge, Arkansas were members of the U.S. Marine Corps. On May 12, 1975, the merchant ship MIRAGUEZ 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 were 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 Rivenburgh and Maxwell, were 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, twelve survivors of the crash were forced to swim out to sea for rescue. The remaining 13 members of the crew, including PFC Rivenburgh and Maxwell 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 Richard William Rivenburgh (accounted for on June 25, 2012) and PFC James Rickey Maxwell (accounted for on July 9, 2012) were returned to the U.S. on December 6, 1995 and identified on January 23, 2012. PFC James Rickey Maxwell was laid to rest in his hometown of Center Ridge Arkansas on August 30, 2012. (It is noted that 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.)

LTC. Clarence Finely Blanton, U.S. Air Force from El Reno, Oklahoma had volunteered for a secret sensitive assignment called "Project Heavy Green." LTC Blanton was to be temporarily relieved of duty to take a civilian job with Lockheed Aircraft. His secret job was to operate radar equipment at a radar base site called "LIMA 85" at the Peak of Phou Pha Thi Mountain near the village of Sam Neus, Laos. This mission was very important as it helped direct navigation over hostile areas of Laos for U.S. bombers headed for North Vietnam. This area was protected by sheer cliffs on three sides and 300 tribesmen working for the CIA. Other unarmed civilians operated the radar site, which swept from the Tonkin Delta to Hanoi. Intelligence was received in early 1968 that the communist troops were planning a major assault with heavy weapons on this base. The site was so important that orders were delayed on having the men evacuated until it was too late. When the attack came on March 11, 1968, enemy forces along with a rare Vietnamese Air Force air operations using AN-2 Colt aircraft, attempted bombing and strafing to aid in the overrun of the base. During the assault, some of the personnel were rescued by helicopter, but 11 men were missing, one of which included LTC Blanton. After Lima 85 had been overrun, the Air Force had to destroy this site to prevent the equipment from falling into enemy hands. LTC. Blanton was officially listed as KIA/Body not recovered. Information on this secret mission was officially declassified in 1983. LTC. Clarence Finely Blanton was returned to the U.S. on January 8, 2006. He was identified on July 12, 2012 and officially accounted for on July 26, 2012. Service was held in his hometown on Sept 15, 2012 followed by full Military Honors at the El Reno Cemetery.

Sgt. John Robert Jones, U.S. Army from El Paso, Texas was a member of MACV SOG Task Force 1, Advisory Element on a radio relay site called Hickory Hill which was on strategic hill 953 in the northwest Quang Tri Province near the DMZ. On June 3, 1971, heavy North Vietnamese artillery began battering the bunkered Hickory Hill defenses. On June 4th, five wounded Special Forces and ten indigent commandos were medically evacuated, leaving Sgt. Jones and SSG Jon R. Cavani along with 23 indigent Chinese commandos to defend the mountaintop. On June 5th, while in a bunker, a hand grenade was dropped through an air vent.

POW-MIA cont'd on page 10
Deep in the Heart of
TEXAS
Leadership Conference Wrap-Up
by Nick DeLeo, NYSC/VFA Treasurer

The 2012 VFA Leadership Conference in Irving, Texas was opened with a rendition of God Bless Texas by Country Music recording star Jolie Holiday and the posting of the colors by the Dallas area Marine Corps recruiting center. Steve Croft of CBS News was the keynote speaker who discussed his time in Vietnam as a US Army reporter with Stars and Stripes while being embedded with several units during his tour of duty. His homecoming was similar to all returning service personnel and he never mentioned his service when applying for civilian employment. Steve was humbled to be among those who had served in Vietnam and knew this group understood his feelings and strong emotions. He was presented with the VFA Excellence in the Media award by President John Rowan and Steve remained at the hotel conference center throughout the remainder of the first day.

The first session attended was Why Does It Say That in the Chapter/State Council Bylaws? It was presented by Leslie DeLong, VFA National Constitution Chair and Michael Swift, VFA National Parliamentarian. They stated a bylaw is a Chapter's/State Council's fundamental rule that structures these organizations. It's a rule that's too important to be suspended and can limit the rights of members they would otherwise have. There are principles of interpretation of bylaws that must comply with state corporation codes and the VFA constitution. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised Edition are the guidelines to follow when a statement is written to cover a particular situation. It's important not to use direct quotes from Robert's Rules in the bylaws.

Leslie and Michael provided several examples of what not to include in the Chapter/State Council Bylaws that covered 5 pages. The next area stated if it's written in the VFA Constitution, it's not a bylaw adopted by a Chapter or State Council. If it is written this is a National Bylaw in the VFA Constitution and applies to every Chapter or State Council. A list of VFA Constitution provisions were provided to select when writing bylaws at both levels and those to be used were boxed for clarity. This was a very informative presentation.

FlagPawl: Myths and Misconceptions were discussed by Marc Leepson and Wes Guidry on how most Americans don't know much about flag protocol. There was a handout written by the American Legion on the proper displaying of the flag of the United States. The Federal Law relating to displaying of the flag was included in the binder and they stated no one is ever prosecuted for violations of this code. It was explained about the myth by Betsy Ross sewing the first American flag that has been promoted by her descendants for over 150 years. United States flags shouldn't be worn or used as seating furniture, walked upon or appear as part of commercial products.

The next session was Boards of Directors: Your Role in Governance of the Association presented by Dr. Bridget Cooper of Leadership Outfitters, Inc. Characteristics of Effective Boards were listed and could include team player, effective communications, dedication to the goals, being responsible, and commitment to the organization. Tips on being a good Board Member were discussed and were closely related to the characteristics. An explanation between non-profit and for-profit groups were provided and the main differences were individuals make money in for-profit and business owners make decisions while a non-profit serves members and volunteers set strategic direction and decide resources.

One of the points stressed by Dr. Cooper was that members should not be allowed to attend any level of VFA meetings to avoid problems with misinformation. As a VFA member for over 31 years it was thought any member should be able to attend Board of Directors meetings. Her reasoning behind this is if a person is interested in the activities of the group they should chair a committee, join a committee or become a member of the Board of Directors to assist in the operation of their Chapter or State Council.

The governing board of the organization legally must comply with their state and federal laws while conforming to the organizations' articles of incorporation, constitution and bylaws. All directors and volunteers must act in good faith and must not gain personally from this association. It requires directors to be diligent and prudent in managing the organizations affairs. Good faith and forthright actions are required by everyone.

Issues of legal risks were explained with respect to antitrust, sexual harassment, apparent authority, defamation, unrelated business income tax for non-profits, confidentiality, American Corporate Accountability Act and conflict of interest. There's also a need to reduce personal liability risk while governing a non-profit due to potential legal issues especially with financial transactions.

Of particular interest to me was My Chapter Has Been Revoked by the IRS: What? How Come? Help! This information was presented by VFA National Treasurer Wayne Reynolds and VFA CFO Joe Sternburg. An interesting item provided is there are 27 different types of non-profit exemptions allowed by the federal government. Donations to VFA are allowed even though the organization is a 501 c 19 for membership due to being covered under section 170 c-3. Fidelity bonding is provided through VFA National for those authorized to write checks from Randy Miller as part of Hays Insurance Companies.

Election and Finance reports must be sent to the VFA National Membership Committee by the dates designated in the VFA Constitution. The July 15 date of each calendar year for financial reports was chosen because it's 5½ months after the end of the VFA fiscal year of February 28 or 29. They discussed restricted activities as listed on page 21 Section 3 of the VFA Constitution and how proposals for any activity listed must be sent to the Corporation at least 45 days before commencing such activity.

Filing of Forms 990-N, 990-EZ and 990 were discussed by Wayne and Joe and how it was the IRS that revoked the non-profit status of Chapters.
that didn't file these forms and not VVA National. It was pointed out Chapters can only be suspended by National, but both an election and finance reports must be provided to National and their respective State Council. This should be considered a serious task by each Chapter and the State Council President isn’t required to keep prodding delinquent Chapters to provide these annual statements. It’s the responsibility of the Chapter President to ensure they are in compliance with VVA rules and regulations.

Next was The VVA Veteran and Veterans: Media and VVA chaired by Michael Keating, Marc Leepson and Xande Anderer. They listed how the VVA Veteran is organized for the six printings each calendar year and the schedule for deadlines on all articles. History of Copyright was reviewed and how copyright affects all publications and those writing article to ensure they properly credit the original author for their work and that unauthorized use of a copyright for professional purposes is unlawful. Permission always must be granted before anyone including students decide to quote copyright materials.

Then they covered methods chapters can utilize when publishing their newsletters and what is required to provide balanced information to the membership. It was cited by Chapters mainly from the southeast and southwestern states about one third to one half of their members don’t use any form of communications. This adds to the cost of effectively communicating with the membership of these Chapters. Several of the VVA member participants offered various ways to overcome this issue without alienating members who choose not to have even an e-mail account or own a computer.

VVA National Vice President Fred Elliott was asked to provide insight into how Chapter 20 consistently produces an award-winning publication for numerous years since 2000. He stated this was the effort of Editor Kathy Gleason who searches the internet and veteran publications for articles that are of value to Vietnam veterans. Fred modestly decided not to inform those in attendance he was the member who came up with the name Between the Lines for the Chapter 20 newsletter over 20 years ago. It was stressed each Chapter has to determine the best form of communicating with members.

Dr. Bridget Cooper’s next presentation was titled Leading Energized, Effective, and Productive Meetings. When it’s determined a meeting is necessary it’s vital to know the keys to conduct and effective meeting instead of an ineffective one. Effective meetings must follow an agenda, have a specific purpose, focus on a topic, start and end on time and most importantly reach a consensus. There are keys to conducting an effective meeting such as preparation, structure/environment, and follow up and evaluation. She said it would be a good idea for each Chapter/State Council Board of Directors to state the VVA Mission and the start of their meetings.

Size of various meetings is necessary to meeting the needs for the topics of discussion. Small groups are generally at the committee level, while medium groups are usually Board of Directors, and large gatherings are for State Council or National meetings. Management of meetings is critical for the person conducting it to ensure they accomplish goals of their agenda. Preparation by all those who attend will make the meeting flow smoothly without unnecessary clarification for those unprepared. When an agenda item is to be discussed at the next meeting it’s postponed to the next meeting rather than being tabled. This is according to Robert Rules of Order Newly Revised Edition.

After this my next session attended was titled Got a minute or Two to Discover How to be an Effective Secretary since Don Francisco Muniz III was unable come out to Texas. It was presented by VVA National Secretary Bill Meeks and VVA National Parliamentarian Michael Swift. Their first order of business was to make several corrections to the material listed in the binder before listing the duties of the Secretary. They stated a Chapter can have a Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer, but not both.

Unscrupulous people often target mainly aging veterans due to military pensions, VA benefits, and Social Security. As such service members and veterans are disproportionately targeted by predatory lenders due to the ability to access their financial accounts and to use funds of veterans as their personal bank. If a person contacts an older veteran with an offer that’s too good to be true often it’s definitely nothing more than a scam.

Be vigilant about all of your bank accounts and never provide vital information to anyone who calls seeking to verify this personal identification. The Office for Older Americans is a special office within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau dedicated to helping Americans 62 and older make sound financial decisions. Older Americans face many challenges when managing their money since they want to keep their homes, but expenses continue to rise as retirement income remains the same. The Office for Older Americans is here to give seniors and their families the tools to navigate safely through the financial challenges of aging.

On Friday night Ned and Jane Foote, Grant and Kay Coates, Ted Wilkinson and myself attended a professional baseball game between the Texas Rangers and Detroit Tigers. Price of admission included an all professional baseball game between the Texas Rangers and Detroit Tigers. Price of admission included an all you could eat buffet. As an underdog Ted had his fair share of food and took pictures to send on his phone to Nyla. It was a great time even though the home team lost 6-2. The temperature at game time was a balmy 94 degrees. It was down to 88 at the end and this was the coolest day in Texas.
SNAPSHOTS

THANK YOU!

Family members of Joseph Christiano attended the September membership meeting to express their sincere gratitude for Chapter 20's diligence and vigilance for POW/MIA's and special thanks for their presence as they honored the remains of their loved one recently.

CEREMONY IN GREECE

In August an event was held at the Greece Post #468 on Dorsey Road to honor the 25 Greece men who died during the Vietnam War. Chapter 20's Honor Guard participated in the event.

IN MEMORIAM
Vietnam

DONALD E. BRATTY
JEFFREY BRATY
ROBERT BRATY
WAYNE R. CAMPBELL
DENNIS C. CANNAN
DAVID C. CRANE
ROBERT J. CRONGSTI
DAVID A. CURTIS
RICHARD F. DUNHAM
THOMAS J. EWELL
GEORGE FISHER, JR.
WILLIAM C. GEARING, JR.
DONALD L. GRAVES
JAMES HOCKRIDGE

GREGORIE HUGHES
DONALD J. JACQUES
GARY R. KOCHMAN
STEVEN K. LANCATCHER
RICHARD F. LAMORENA
DAVID G. LUPIN
WILLIAM E. MARASCO
PETER O. MASTRIZIO
CARL MCCARTHY, JR.
THEODORE A. PAPKE
RONALD C. QUINN
RICHARD A. SMITH
WILLIAM J. STEWART
GARY M. WEST

"A LAST MOMENT FOR FRIENDS"
Come One,
Come All

Upcoming Outreach Events

All community residents are invited to learn about veteran benefits and enrollment in the VA Health Care system. Please pass the word to your family, friends, coworkers, church congregations and others in your communities. For more information contact Jerry McDermott, Health Affairs Committee Chair.

October 13, 2012  Greece Town Hall Complex. Two sessions, morning and afternoon.
October 19, 2012  Marketplace Mall, Henrietta, NY. Friday evening.
October 20, 2012  Marketplace Mall, Henrietta, NY. Saturday all day.
October 27, 2012  Irondequoit Town Hall, Irondequoit, NY. Two sessions, morning and afternoon.
November 2, 2012  Greece Ridge Mall, Greece, NY. Friday evening.
November 3, 2012  Greece Ridge Mall, Greece, NY. Saturday all day.
November 17, 2012 Ogden Town Hall, Spencerport, NY. Two sessions, morning and afternoon.
December 1, 2012  Gates Town Hall, Gates, NY. Two sessions, morning and afternoon.
January 12, 2013  Monroe Community College, Brighton Campus. Veteran Fair - all day. Informal workshops, exhibits, service providers.
OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Look around you at the next membership meeting and recall those who have been touched by breast cancer. Many have struggled, first with the shock, then with treatment. Some have beaten this insidious disease; others have valiantly endured the aftermath of losing their loved ones.

Don’t stick your head in the sand. Do self exams, don’t forget that appointment for your annual mammogram, remind your daughters to do the same – and remind everyone that even men are susceptible to breast cancer.

We love you and want you to do the right thing in taking care of yourself. Remember those we have lost and those who continue to fight. Do what you can to support the cause.
BREAST CANCER MYTHS

The Myth  Finding a lump in your breast means you have breast cancer.
The Truth  If you discover a persistent lump in your breast or any changes in breast tissue, it is very important that you see a physician immediately. However, 8 out of 10 breast lumps are benign, or not cancerous. Sometimes women stay away from medical care because they fear what they might find. Take charge of your health by performing routine breast self-exams, establishing ongoing communication with your doctor, and scheduling regular mammograms.

The Myth  Men do not get breast cancer.
The Truth  Quite the contrary. Each year it is estimated that approximately 1,700 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 450 will die. While this percentage is still small, men should also give themselves regular breast self-exams and note any changes to their physicians.

The Myth  A mammogram can cause breast cancer to spread.
The Truth  A mammogram, or X-ray of the breast, is one of the best tools available for the early detection of breast cancer. It CANNOT cause cancer to spread, nor can the pressure put on the breast from the mammogram. Do not let tales of other people’s experiences keep you from having a mammogram. Base your decision on your physician’s recommendation and be sure to discuss any questions or concerns with your doctor.

The Myth  Having a family history of breast cancer means you will get it.
The Truth  While women who have a family history of breast cancer are in a higher risk group, most women who have breast cancer have no family history. If you have a mother, daughter, sister, or grandmother who had breast cancer, you should have a mammogram five years before the age of their diagnosis, or starting at age 35.

The Myth  Breast cancer is contagious.
The Truth  You cannot catch breast cancer or transfer it to someone else’s body. Breast cancer is the result of uncontrolled cell growth in your own body. However, you can protect yourself by being aware of the risk factors and following an early detection plan.

The Myth  Antiperspirants and deodorants cause breast cancer.
The Truth  Researchers at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) are not aware of any conclusive evidence linking the use of underarm antiperspirants or deodorants and the subsequent development of breast cancer.
POW-MIA cont’d from page 3
wounding Sgt. Jones in the leg. As Sgt. Jones was exiting the bunker he was shot in the chest by an NVA soldier. Hickory Hill was captured and burned by the NVA the same day, with many of its defending commandos who had survived, slipping away from being captured. Due to adverse weather conditions at that time, air support was unable to assist in the defense of that Hill. SSgt Cavaiani was captured by the NVA forces (he remained a POW until his release in 1973). The remains of Sgt. John Robert Jones were finally located with the help of coordinatates provided by SSgt Jon R. Cavaiani. They were returned to the U.S. on Sept. 9, 2011 and identified on July 23, 2012.

In addition, there are reports of the recovery and identification of the following from other wars:
- Sgt. Thomas J. Barksdale, U.S. Army, was lost on November 30, 1950 near Ch’ongch’on, North Korea. He was accounted for on June 22, 2012.
- Sgt. William T. Barker, U.S. Army was lost in February 1951 while in captivity in Pyokdong, North Korea. He was accounted for on June 30, 2012.
- PFC. Richard S. Gzik, U.S. Marine Corps was lost December 2, 1950 near the Chosen Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on July 11, 2012.
- Cpl. Clarence H. Huff Jr., U.S. Marine Corps was lost December 2, 1950 near the Chosen Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on July 13, 2012.
- Cpl. Francis J. Reimer, U.S. Army was lost on December 12, 1950 near the Chosen Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on July 19, 2012.

As always, we send our condolences to all of the families and friends of these brave men. They have been in our thoughts and prayers over the years and we make it our duty to remind every generation of the sacrifices that were made by these men in order to have the liberty and freedom that we all enjoy today.

We welcome you home Brothers, and may you all forever Rest in Peace.

Jerry McDermott, Committee Chair

Health Affairs Committee Report


There are many veteran issues covered in this new law, but certainly one of the most important issues deals with the 30-year period of contaminated water supply that is estimated to have affected over one million people - Veterans who may have served in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for not fewer than 30 days during the period beginning on January 1, 1957 and ending on December 31, 1987.

To summarize the content, a veteran may be eligible for hospital care and medical services under subsection (a)(2)(F) for any of the following illnesses or conditions, notwithstanding that there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that such illnesses or conditions are attributable to such service: esophageal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, leukemia, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, renal toxicity, hepatic steatosis, female infertility, miscarriage, scleroderma, neurobehavioral effects, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Health care of family members of veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC will be eligible for care and services as well, according to the conditions of the new law that criteria is met in accordance to all applicable guidelines.

Certainly anyone who believes they may be affected by this new law should visit their local VA facility and find out first hand if they are eligible for care and services. Further, if you seek guidance and follow up to any questions regarding any eligibility for VA services you can contact a Service Officer at County, State, or a Veteran Service Officer affiliated with service organizations such as American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc.

This notice does not imply any interpretations, merely offered as notice and information only. Please seek further information with designated and certified service officers for full details.

FREE FIRE ZONE

Several months ago, I received a phone call from a Life Member of Chapter 20. He just wanted to let me know how much he has enjoyed the BTL, especially some of my articles, and he wanted to welcome me home. I was totally blown away by this greeting, as I know this person and used to work with him many years ago. I also know that he served in the Marine Corps and went through a great deal while in Vietnam.

I replied to his original statement that as a brother I should be thanking him for his service and if anything, he deserves a true welcome home. He hasn’t attended any meetings or Chapter func-tions in quite some time, but nonetheless he is still a Chapter brother to all of us.

Through several more conversations, I brought him up to date on guys who are still active in the Chapter. Some he knew and many he did not. I made sure he had a Chapter coin and window sticker for his bike, which he proudly displays. He says he often keeps to himself and admits to having to still deal with effects of the war. I made sure that he knew that no matter what is going on, we as brothers will always be there for him and that some of us understand exactly what he is going through. You fought the battles then and we know that you are still fighting the battle today.

In any case I just wanted to let this gentle-man know that I am just a phone call away. We will meet someday when the time is right for coffee and a little more chitchat.

Semper Fi, My Friend
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 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
  - Al Asad Airbase
  - Camp Victory

- IRAQ
  - Camp Taji
  - Camp Baharia
  - Camp Taqaddum

- KUWAIT
  - Camp Arifjan
  - Ali Al Saleem Airbase
WREATH SALE

$23 EACH

Balsam Fir wreath with red, weather-proof, velvet bow, pine cones, and red holly berries. (supplied with hanging wire)

Wreaths can be ordered from Gail Melens at the October and November Membership meetings or by calling her at 585-392-2079. Deadline for all orders is November 10, 2012. Payment must accompany order, by cash or checks made payable to VVA Chapter 20. You may also use the coupon on the bottom of this page to order, including your payment with your order.

Wreaths may be picked up Saturday, November 17 at the Italian American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY (same location as our meetings) from 12 Noon-2:00 pm.

Name: _________________________ Phone: _________________________
Email: _________________________

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Mail order form and check made payable to **VVA Chapter 20** for amount due to: Gail Melens, 151 Curtis Road, Hilton, NY 14468. Orders with payment must be received by November 10.
MyHealthVet

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

The mission of My HealthVet (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.

ATTENTION
CHAPTER 20 MEMBERS

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.

Monthly Membership Meetings will now start at... 6:30 PM

Italian American Sports Club
1250 Buffalo Rd, Rochester

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 (Gales 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.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER 20

Name: __________________________________________________  Date of Birth: _________________________________ Sex: □ M □ F

Address: __________________________________________________

City: ____________________________________________________  Home Phone: ( _____ ) _________________________________

Zip: _________________________ Country: ____________________  Work Phone: ( _____ ) _________________________________

Chapter # (if known) _________________________________________  Email Address: ___________________________________

❑ M ❑ F

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  ❑ 3 years: $50

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.

Author Event

WHEN: Thursday, October 18, 2012

TIME: 7:00 PM

WHERE: Newman Riga Library, Churchville, NY

Join in as Nancy Lynch, author of Vietnam Mailbag: Voices from the War: 1968-1972, is hosted by the library. Author/Journalist Lynch afforded servicemen a unique opportunity to tell their stories from the combat zone with her column Nancy’s Vietnam Mailbag. With the publication of Vietnam Mailbag, Ms. Lynch, fulfills a decades-long desire to “properly salute my guys.”

Tom Daws, President, Vietnam Veterans of America in New Castle Delaware, said “Nancy’s book is a must read for all people—veterans and non-veterans alike. She has her finger on the pulse of a nation at war. Everything rings true. The honest dialogue and rich details provide an authentic read.”

The evening is meant as a tribute and salute to that lost generation of Veterans that were so ignored.

The Newman Riga Library is located in the Village of Churchville at the intersection of Main Street and Buffalo Road. For additional information, call Donna Haire at 293-2009. Space is limited.
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.

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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.nyvietnamvets.org
Honor Flight: www.honorflightrochester.org

MISCELLANEOUS
VVA Vehicle Donations .................., 224-8484
VVA Chapter 20 .................. info@vva20.org • 482-7396
Do you know a veteran who is homeless?

The VA's National Homeless Veterans Hotline

The Hotline is staffed at the VA (Veterans Affairs) Medical Centers in connection with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Studies show a huge correlation with suicide and rates of homelessness. The Veterans Affairs Medical Centers have been running the Homeless Veterans Hotline since 2005.

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

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

OCT/NOV 2012

2 TUE  •  Board of Directors, 7:00pm
6 SAT  •  The US Naval War College was founded in Newport, Rhode Island, October 6, 1884
8 MON  •  Columbus Day
9 TUE  •  Invasion of North Korea, 1950
11 THU  •  Membership Meeting, Meeting starts at 6:30pm (Italian American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road)
13 SAT  •  Navy Day: U.S. Navy established, 1775
21 SUN  •  National Mammography Day, first proclaimed by President Clinton in 1993. On this day, or throughout the month, women are encouraged to make a mammography appointment. In 2012, National Mammography Day will be celebrated on October 19.
28 SUN  •  Italy invades Greece, World War II, 1940
31 WED  •  Happy Halloween!

4 SUN  •  Daylight Savings Time Ends!
6 TUE  •  Election Day
8 THU  •  Membership Meeting, Meeting starts at 6:30pm (Italian American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road)
10 SAT  •  U.S. Marine Corps Day - U.S. Marine Corps established, November 10, 1775
11 SUN  •  Veterans Day Ceremony, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Highland Park at 6:00pm
12 MON  •  Veterans Day celebrated
22 THU  •  Thanksgiving Day

MEETINGS

BOD
October 2, November 6, December 4
2013: January 8, February 5

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

Membership
Now starting at 6:30 pm!
October 11, November 8, December 13
2013: January 10, February 14