45 Years Ago

The Tet Offensive

Hue City
Can Tho
Khe Sanh
Quan Long
Bein Hoa
Saigon

Khe Sanh Hill Fights

Hue City
Da Nang
Chu Lai
Nha Trang
Chau Phu
Quang Tri

“Pop a smoke”

Huey & C34’s
Ammunition resupply near Kontum during the Tet offensive.

“Resupply”

Battle Ground Vietnam

3.5 Rocket Launcher
The Tet Offensive

On January 21, 1968, an intense barrage of artillery hit the US Marine base at Khe Sanh in northwest South Vietnam. This presaged a siege and battle that would last for seventy-seven days and would see 6,000 Marines hold off 20,000 North Vietnamese. Anticipating that American forces would be drawn north to the fighting at Khe Sanh, Viet Cong units broke the traditional Tet (Lunar New Year) cease-fire on January 30, 1968, by launching major attacks against most cities in South Vietnam by forces of the Viet Cong also known as the National Liberation Front (NLF) and People’s Army of Vietnam (PAVN) against the forces of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), the United States, and their allies. The purpose of the offensive was to utilize the element of surprise and strike military and civilian command and control centers throughout South Vietnam, during a period when no attacks were supposed to take place.

The operations are referred to as the Tet Offensive because there was a prior agreement to “cease fire” during the Tet Lunar New Year celebrations. Both North and South Vietnam announced on national radio broadcasts that there would be a two-day cease-fire during the holiday. Nonetheless, the Viet Cong (hereafter, NLF) launched an attack that began during the early morning hours of 30 January 1968, on Tết Nguyên Đán. In Vietnamese, the offensive is called Cuộc Tổng tiến công và nổi dậy (“General Offensive and Uprising”), or Tết Mậu Thân (Tet, year of the monkey). The NLF attacks were concentrated in the I and II Corps Tactical Zones of South Vietnam. This early attack did not lead to widespread defensive measures. When the main NLF operation began the next morning, the offensive was countrywide in scope and well-coordinated, eventually more than 80,000 NLF and People’s Army of Vietnam communist troops striking more than 100 towns and cities, including 36 of 44 provincial capitals, five of the six autonomous cities, 72 of 245 district towns, and the southern capital. The offensive was the largest military operation yet conducted by either side up to that point in the war.

The initial attacks stunned the US and South Vietnamese armies and took them by surprise, but most were quickly contained and beaten back, inflicting massive casualties on communist forces. During the Battle of Huế intense fighting lasted for a month resulting in the destruction of the city by US forces while the NLF executed thousands of residents. Around the US combat base at Khe Sanh fighting continued for two more months. The attack on Khe Sanh was linked to the overall strategy. Once the general offensive was in full swing, the over-stretched American forces would be unable to come to the help of Khe Sanh and prevent the base from being overrun. In this way, Giap might indeed have repeated his triumph of Dien Bien Phu. But that was not the central idea. Actually, the Vietnamese were not trying to re-enact Dien Bien Phu, but had organised a very successful diversion to draw the Americans away from the big towns and cities, leaving them open to attack.

Westmoreland fell into the trap prepared by Giap. As a result, the Americans were caught off guard by the rapidity and scope of the offensive. Years later a West Point textbook compared the US intelligence failure to see what was happening with the shock of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941. A 1968 CIA report concluded: "The intensity, coordination and timing of the attacks were not fully anticipated," adding that the ability of the NLF guerrillas to hit so many targets simultaneously was "another major unexpected point". Although the offensive was a military defeat for the communists, it had a profound effect on the US government and shocked the US public, which had been led to believe by its political and military leaders that the communists were, due to previous defeats, incapable of launching such a massive effort.

The term "Tet offensive" usually refers to the January–February 1968 NLF offensive, but it can also include the so-called "mini-Tet" offensives that took place in May and August.
ATTENTION
January Membership Meeting

Proposed 2013 Chapter 20 Budget Presentation
Valentino Gatto, President, Chapter 20 – reflections of 2012

In April of 2012, I was elected president of our Chapter. As 2012 comes to an end, I would like to reflect on what we have achieved together. Serving as your President has been and continues to be an honor and privilege for me. As we move forward in 2013, I feel certain that we will continue to work together as a family for the continued success of Chapter 20.

As I look back on 2012, I am so proud of the work that we have done. Together, we have worked to bring a higher quality of life for our veterans through research, awareness, appreciation and hard work.

In May 2012, “Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day” was held at the American Legion Greece Post #468. This special fundraiser raised $5,000 and was a result of the collaboration of VVA Chapter 20, Legion Post #468, Danny and Donna Barnes, Terry Hogan, elected officials and the community. Also in May of 2012, Chapter 20’s Honor Guard welcomed home an Honor Flight at the Rochester Airport (as we did again in June and September). We marched in many parades this year, including the Irondequoit & the Rochester Memorial Day Parades.

In June 2012, we were asked by Monroe County Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo to present the colors at the Monroe County Naturalization Ceremony.

In July 2012, we had the great honor of attending the repatriation ceremony of Colonel Joseph Christiano in Arlington National Cemetery. During that trip I, for the first time, had the opportunity to visit the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial “The Wall.” It was a very emotional experience for me.

In August 2012, I went to the Biennial National Leadership Conference in Irving, Texas and attended many activities and seminars. The conference focused on leadership elements, membership recruitment, veterans’ healthcare and subjects.

In September 2012, we conducted a Town Hall Meeting at Monroe Community College with featured guest speaker Fred Elliott, National Vice President. The meeting addressed the dangers that Vietnam Veterans face due to Agent Orange exposure, how it can affect our families, information about research, legislation and claims.

Chapter 20, had a busy November. We honored veterans with a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial, participated in a flag pole dedication ceremony, presented the colors for the Vets’ Court Graduation ceremony and greeted veterans at the Episcopal Senior Life Communities.

In December 2012, Legends Radio Station joined together with Chapter 20 at Dick Ide Honda for the biggest “Day of Hope” yet. This fund raiser was a huge success mainly due to the efforts of K B Cooper.

Sadly, we attended many veteran funerals throughout the year.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for a wonderful 2012 and look forward to an even better 2013. I hope each of you understands that, for me, serving as the president of this wonderful family is truly my honor.
Greeting the Veterans at the Episcopal Senior Life Communities

Flag Pole Ceremony
Culver Auto & Detail Sales/Service
1387 Culver Road

DO YOU KNOW THESE CHARACTERS?

Honor Guard
Well this is it, our first “electronic” newsletter. From the number of calls the Chapter phone receives for Thrift Store “pick-ups,” I am sure many of you did not know that it went out-of-business last February. In doing so we really had to take a hard look at the 2013 Budget and “save” wherever we could and the hard-copy BTL was a “big ticket” item. The electronic BTL is a learning process for many of us and given some time we hope to bring it up to the same standard as past BTL publications. There are several advantages over hardcopy other than cost savings, members can now send to fellow vets and friends giving us a much larger distribution base. VVA National & State have newsletters and in the past have asked for our Chapter to forward articles and activities. They would now have the ability to “cut / paste” articles, pictures etc. for use in their publication. Via internet, distribution would be global. For Chapter members who do not have access to email we will send a “condensed” version containing news about upcoming events, benefits and Board & Committee Reports.

POW–MIA - Joe Peck, Chairman

There have been no recent reports 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 on any recoveries of missing Americans from the Vietnam War this month. Rest assured that every effort is being made by our Government to locate and return any and all missing Americans from foreign lands and sea and to have full accountability to the families of these brave men. The number of missing Americans presently stands at 1654. With the New Year starting, we shall face new challenges and follow all leads to the recovery of America’s lost heroes.

There are reports of the recovery and identification of the following from other wars:

- Pvt. William Yawney, US Army was lost on July 7, 1944 on the Island of Saipan in the Mariana Islands. He was accounted for on October 29, 2012.
- Sgt. Bobby B. King, US Army was lost on August 12, 1950 near Pongam-ri, South Korea. He was accounted for on November 7, 2012.
- SFC. Harold M. Brown, US Army was lost on December 12, 1950 near Sinhung-ri, North Korea. He was accounted for on November 26, 2012.
- Pfc. Edward V. Fuqua Jr., US Army was lost November 28, 1950 near Kujang, North Korea. He was accounted for on November 28, 2012.
- Sgt. Raymond B. Wellbrock, US Army was lost December 12, 1050 near Sinhung-ri, North Korea. He was accounted for on November 30, 2012.
- Cpl. William C. Knight, US Army was lost on December 6, 1950 near the Chosen Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on November 30, 2012.

As I stated in the last issue of the BTL, for those who are still missing, we will never stop searching, we will never forget and we will bring you home. Please keep them and their families in your prayers especially during the holiday season.
I believe that the founding mission statement of the VVA reads something like “never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.” Perhaps this is open to your interpretation, but for me, I take a very global view and make every effort possible to inform, educate, contact and reach out to any veteran, spouse or family member no matter where I meet them.

As Health Affairs Chairman, I look forward to finding opportunities to carry out our VVA mission. Of course, my first priority is to assist Chapter #20 members to “learn what their honorable service to our country has earned them” while serving in the US military. Certainly, Agent Orange related diseases plus behavioral health issues pertaining to PTSD exposures are a particular focus for our Chapter and veteran community. As a representative to the VA/VS quarterly committee meetings, held in at the Canandaigua VAMC, valuable information about “what’s going on” at our local and regional VA medical facilities is obtained and passed along to our membership and the community at large. As delegate to the NYS Council quarterly meetings, more knowledge and information is gained from state wide committee reports and experiences to further inform our Chapter #20 members about health related issues happening within our state affecting all veterans.

Health related topics and information to include handouts and items of general benefit issues are available at our monthly general membership meetings and provide on an ongoing basis from a table display. Whenever possible, every attempt is made to staff and maintain a presence at community wide events. Events like, town hall meetings conducted in partnership with the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency, the VA Health Benefits Agency (enrollment specialist for the VA Health Care Service), and local fire department carnival events have raised the awareness within the community to inform all veterans of health issues related to service in the military. Looking forward, the committee will continue the education process, will continue to expanding the information available for veteran health issues, and will continue to seeking out veterans and their families in an effort to take the myth and mystery out of veteran health issues.

5TH ANNUAL FIT VET CHALLENGE WILL START AT OUR JANUARY 10, 2013 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MEMBERSHIP - Mike General, Membership Chair

Greetings from your Membership Chair: Currently 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. Memberships Applications are available in the BTL, Chapter Web site, or contact me and I can supply you with an application. Membership in VVA is the Right Choice.

A reminder that we also have an Associate Group that is open to anyone. You do not have to be a Veteran to join as an associate.

Mike General, Membership Chair
mgeneral@aol.com
Phone # 227-4383

FREE FIRE ZONE

The New Year is upon us. This writer asks “What have we done to enhance the Chapter last year”. Have we attended the monthly meetings? Have we offered suggestions to promote the ideals of the Chapter? Have we actively participated in Chapter activities such as the Marching Unit, Honor Guard, Trailer Events, Health Issues Forums and Veterans’ Court, just to name a few of our programs? Have we worked behind the scene to help clean the storage locker or move the belongings to the new location? Did we participate in the closing of the Thrift Center? Have we recruited a new member, contacted a potential member, or passed out information which describes why we are in existence and how we try to promote veterans benefits? Have we taken a position of support for our financial well-being? Have we promoted an activity which will lead to financial success for the Chapter now that the Thrift Center has closed? What about the annual events, at the Highland Park Vietnam Veterans Memorial? Did we show our support by attending, or providing cleanup and spruce-up of the grounds? Have we attended a State or National meeting in support of Chapter 20? Did we show up to support the sick or dying or attend services for lost family members of the Chapter? Have we supported our Gold Star Mothers and Fathers? Have we been able to achieve success as an active elected officer of the Chapter? Have our BTL contributions been realized? As we age and as our health begins to wan, we realize that our own mortality is inevitable but, to some degree, we can all continue to actively participate at some level, be it manning a phone, providing transportation, attending forums, committees, holding an elected office or just working in the background in support of our platforms. Everyone understands that personal issues affect each of our decisions, and our ability to participate at a level we feel comfortable with. I hope to be able to participate this year with more members who become actively involved in our mutual goal to support Chapter 20.

Hope you each enjoyed a Blessed Holiday Season and I wish you all Good Health and Prosperity throughout 2013.

Yours in Camaraderie, Don Nealon
VETERANS BENEFIT FAIR

INFORMATION ON VETERANS BENEFITS
FOR ALL FORMER MILITARY

JANUARY 12, 2013

9:00 AM until 4:00 PM

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1000 EAST HENRIETTA RD
R.THOMAS FLYNN CENTER
2nd. FLOOR
Enjoying some free time are our President- Valentino Gatto, Treasurer- Alan Frisa, and the President’s wife- Ida Gatto. The bull was no longer a bull if you understand my meaning.

The President and Treasurer in a shoot-out at the Dude Ranch.
VVA’s National Vice President and Chapter 20 member, Frederick Elliott, organized an Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, September 22, 2012. The event was held at Monroe Community College and was attended by many...

Nancy VanApeldoorn, wife of Chapter member Bruce VanApeldoorn, speaks out on behalf of her family.

Our Distinguished Panel
Pat Pudetti, Monroe County Service Officer
Nancy Switzer, President, AVVA
Mokie Porter, VVA Director of Communications
Thomas Berger, PhD, Executive Director, the Veterans Health Council
Members and Friends:

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped with Memorial clean-ups and repairs over the past year. We all know it is one of the finest Vietnam memorials in the Country. It is with your help and service that keeps it looking that way. We have a special relationship with the Monroe County Parks Department, who oversees the maintenance and events that take place on this hallowed ground. Working hand and hand they assist us with tools and materials - we provide the volunteers, many skilled in trades that would require hiring of professionals to maintain. I would also like to thank the tour guides who not only provide on-site tours but, also are invited to many local schools to discuss the Vietnam “experience” with the next generation. With winter in full swing, our first meeting for 2013 will be the “Day-of-Caring,” that takes place in May just before the Lilac Festival. Anyone who is not on our Friends of the Memorial (FOTM) email list and would like to become a member of the team, please send your address to: chuckmac66@yahoo.com.

Chuck Macaluso,
President, GRVVM

Please remember to let us know when you change your email address so that you will continue to receive copies of the BTL.
**Donation to Canandaigua VA**

Robin Johnson (left), Supervisor of Voluntary Services, Matteo Gatto (center - Valentino’s grandson) and Valentino Gatto (right), President Chapter 20 Vietnam Veterans, delivered over 560 comfort items to the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. The items included shampoo, skin lotion, soap, shave gel and razor blades. The items were donated by Sam’s Club.

**American Legion Post #899**

On October 27, President Valentino Gatto and Vice President Chuck Macaluso were invited by Pat and Bill Rahn of Rayson-Miller American Legion Post #899 to receive a check for $500 presented by the President of the Auxiliary, Bobbie Haug. On behalf of Val, Chuck and the members of Chapter 20, we would like to thank the Post for their generous donation.

**GARY LEWIS and the PLAYBOYS CONCERT**

February 9, 2013 – tickets available online at mendonlibrary.org. Prices range from $40-$65. Concert to be held at the HFL Auditorium at 619 Quaker Meetinghouse Road, Honeoye Falls.
American Sewing Guild keeps veterans warm – by Megan DeMarco  Staff writer

When Nancy Van Apeldoorn saw a veteran shivering in his wheelchair at a Washington D.C. ceremony in 2007, she sprang into action to find the man a blanket.

“I have a soft spot for veterans because my husband is a veteran,” she said. Five years later, her random act of kindness has turned into a full blown initiative, a project spearheaded by the Rochester native to make “lap robes” for local veterans, blankets that keep wheelchair-bound vets warm. “That’s when I really became passionate,” she said. “It’s growing every year.” Van Apeldoorn sews with the Rochester Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, where a group of other women help her make the robes. She’s even funded some of the materials for the lap robes with her own money.

Over the past five years, the sewing guild has given lap robes to Vietnam veterans, put them in Thanksgiving baskets and brought them to local nursing homes. Lap robes have journeyed to Washington, D.C. on every Rochester Honor Flight this year. In April, the New York Gold Star mothers, mothers who have lost a child in the military, will have their annual convention in Rochester. The guild wants to give each mother a lap robe.

Each lap robe takes about three hours and the materials cost about $30. Van Apeldoorn said she’s focused on World War II and Vietnam vets. “When they came back, there was no ticker tape there was nothing for them,” she said. “These older ones, they didn’t have anything when they came back. It was very hard.” She said the sewing guild isn’t looking for credit. “Us girls want to thank our veterans for what they have given to our country,” she said.

Regardless, it’s still rewarding when the veterans react. “They get tears in their eyes,” she said.
Attention – AVVA Members

At our meeting on April 11, 2013, we will hold an AVVA Chapter Representative Election. For those that are interested in becoming our elected chapter representative, please send your letter of intent to Suzanne Oleksyn via email (soleksyn@yahoo.com) or at the Chapter address (VVA Chapter 20, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612). Your letter of intent must be sent or postmarked 30 days before the April 11th meeting. To be eligible for qualification as the chapter representative you must be an AVVA member in good standing, be 18 years of age and be an active participant in Chapter 20. Please include your AVVA Membership Number in your letter of intent. The voting will take place prior to the Chapter 20 elections on April 11, 2013. The ballots will be handed out by Suzanne Oleksyn who is our AVVA Election Representative.

For more information regarding the AVVA election process, please go their website www:AVVA.org/elections
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20

Name: _______________________________________
Address: ______________________________________
City:  ______  County _________________________
Zip:   ______   County _________________________

I am not a Vietnam Vet, but I want to help Vietnam Veterans and their families. Please accept my donation: ____________________
(     ) $10 (     ) $20 (     ) $50 (     ) Other ($__________)

Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975 (for Vietnam-era veterans)

Term: (     ) 1 year: $20 (     ) 3 years $50
(     ) Life Membership:
  $200 (ages 56-60),
  $175 (ages 61-65),
  $150 (ages 66 -71)
  $100 (ages 72+)

Date of Birth: ________________ Sex (     ) M (     ) F
Home Phone: (     ) _______________________
Work Phone: (     ) _______________________
Email Address: ___________________________
Sponsor: _________________________________
Payment Options: (     ) Check (     ) Money Order

Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214 to:
Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612
Attn: Membership

VVA is a non-profit service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.

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. Between the Lines can 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 chuckmac66@yahoo.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 .............................................. Dan Corona ~ nycorona@juno.com ~ 406-6108 (c)
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c = cell          h = home          w = work

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION
Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial ........................................... 585-753-7275
Ira Jacobson American Legion Post 474 ........................................... 663-7030
VA Clinic – 465 Westfall Road ........................................... 463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center ........................................... 546-1081
Vet Center .................................................. 232-6040
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
Vietnam Veterans of America National Office ........................................... 800-VVA-1316
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund “The Wall” ........................................... 202-393-0090
National League of Families
MIA/PW Updates .................................................. 202-223-6848
Richards House at VAC .................................................. 506-9060
The Resource Center at VAC .................................................. 546-4250
Stars & Stripes the Flag Store .................................................. 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/vetwidows
NYS Department of Health: ........................................... www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets
Vietnam Veterans at Highland Park: ........................................... www.rochestervietnamesемemorial.org/The_Memorial.html
Operation Welcome Home: ........................................... www.operationwelcomеomehome.org
VVA New York State Council: ........................................... www.nyvietnamvets.org

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

P.O. Box 12580 ~ www.vva20.org ~ (585) 482-7396
### Monthly Membership Meetings start at 6:30 pm

At the Italian American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road, 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 Mt. 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.
Upcoming Events (2013):

January 12  Veterans Benefit Fair at Monroe Community College – see page 11 for details
January 26  NYS Council Meeting
February 9  Gary Lewis and the Playboys – see page 15 for details
March      Presentation of Candidates
April 6    NYS Council Meeting
April 11   Chapter 20 Election Night – VVA & AVVA
April 20/21 Honor Flight Mission 27
May 18/19  Honor Flight Mission 28
June 15    NYS Council Meeting
June 15/16 Honor Flight Mission 29
August 14-17 National Convention – Jacksonville, FL.
September 21 NYS Council Meeting

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 website 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.