The History of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.
Exit of the Americans: 1973–1975

The United States began drastically reducing their troop support in South Vietnam during the final years of "Vietnamization". Many U.S. troops were removed from the region, and on 5 March 1971, the United States returned the 5th Special Forces Group, which was the first American unit deployed to South Vietnam, to its former base in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Under the Paris Peace Accords, between North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Lê Đức Thọ and U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and reluctantly signed by South Vietnamese president Thiệu, U.S. military forces withdrew from South Vietnam and prisoners were exchanged. North Vietnam was allowed to continue supplying communist troops in the South, but only to the extent of replacing materials that were consumed. Later that year the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Kissinger and Thọ, but the Vietnamese negotiator declined it saying that a true peace did not yet exist.

The communist leaders had expected that the ceasefire terms would favor their side. But Saigon, bolstered by a surge of U.S. aid received just before the ceasefire went into effect, began to roll back the Vietcong. The communists responded with a new strategy hammered out in a series of meetings in Hanoi in March 1973, according to the memoirs of Trần Văn Trà.

As the Vietcong's top commander, Trà participated in several of these meetings. With U.S. bombings suspended, work on the Ho Chi Minh Trail and other logistical structures could proceed unimpeded. Logistics would be upgraded until the North was in a position to launch a massive invasion of the South, projected for the 1975–76 dry season. Trà calculated that this date would be Hanoi's last opportunity to strike before Saigon's army could be fully trained.


In the November 1972 Election, Democrat nominee George McGovern lost 49 of 50 states to the incumbent president Richard Nixon. On 15 March 1973, President Nixon implied that the United States would intervene militarily if the communist side violated the ceasefire. Public and congressional reaction to Nixon's trial balloon was unfavorable and in April Nixon appointed Graham Martin as U.S. ambassador to Vietnam. Martin was a second stringer compared to previous U.S. ambassadors and his appointment was an early signal that Washington had given up on Vietnam. During his confirmation hearings in June 1973, Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger stated that he would recommend resumption of U.S. bombing in North Vietnam if North Vietnam launched a major offensive against South Vietnam. On 4 June 1973, the U.S. Senate passed the Case-Church Amendment to prohibit such intervention.
The oil price shock of October 1973 caused significant damage to the South Vietnamese economy. The Vietcong resumed offensive operations when dry season began and by January 1974 it had recaptured the territory it lost during the previous dry season. After two clashes that left 55 South Vietnamese soldiers dead, President Thiệu announced on 4 January that the war had restarted and that the Paris Peace Accord was no longer in effect. There had been over 25,000 South Vietnamese casualties during the ceasefire period.

Gerald Ford took over as U.S. president on 9 August 1974 after president Nixon resigned due to the Watergate scandal. At this time, Congress cut financial aid to South Vietnam from $1 billion a year to $700 million. The U.S. midterm elections in 1974 brought in a new Congress dominated by Democrats who were even more determined to confront the president on the war. Congress immediately voted in restrictions on funding and military activities to be phased in through 1975 and to culminate in a total cutoff of funding in 1976.

Recently released American POWs from North Vietnamese prison camps, 1973

On 13 December 1974, North Vietnamese forces attacked Route 14 in Phuoc Long Province. Phuoc Binh, the provincial capital, fell on 6 January 1975. Ford desperately asked Congress for funds to assist and re-supply the South before it was overrun. Congress refused. The fall of Phuoc Binh and the lack of an American response left the South Vietnamese elite demoralized.

At the start of 1975, the South Vietnamese had three times as much artillery and twice the number of tanks and armored cars as the opposition. They also had 1,400 aircraft and a two-to-one numerical superiority in combat troops over their Communist enemies. However, the rising oil prices meant that much of this could not be used. They faced a well-organized, highly determined and well-funded North Vietnam. Much of the North’s material and financial support came from the communist bloc. Within South Vietnam, there was increasing chaos. Their abandonment by the American military had compromised an economy dependent on U.S. financial support and the presence of a large number of U.S. troops. South Vietnam suffered from the global recession that followed the Arab oil embargo.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO FEMALE VETERANS FROM THE VIETNAM ERA

A letter was received by Rosemary Rossi-Williams from Pat Shaul, Parade & Float Committee Member for Female Veterans. Her committee would like to build a float commemorating female vets and obtain antique cars for women vets to ride in. If there are any female veterans in Chapter 20 who are interested in participating in this event, please contact Pat Shaul. Also, it is their wish to get support by borrowing service flags, donation of money for supplies and materials for the float and for magnetic signs. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated. Pat may be reached at 585-657-7224 or 585-880-9622.
CHAPTER 20 ANNUAL DINNER – April 20, 2013

The Annual Dinner was held at Golden Ponds Restaurant and Party House. Everyone had a good time, enjoyed the excellent food and the entertainment courtesy of “Happy Daze” (Angelo Ciresi is a member of Chapter 20). Below are some pictures of the event and the recipients of the awards.

Chapter 20 Honor Guard
(l-r) Ed Jones
Bruce VanApeldoorn
Lynn Gursslin
Jack Madigan
Mike General
Ed Kier
Larry Kindler

Community Service Award
Nancy Van Apeldoorn and the Rochester Chapter of the American Sewing Guild were presented the award by Chapter Secretary, Joe Peck. Nancy and the Guild made and presented over 200 lap robes to veterans and Gold Star Mothers.

Veterans Service Award
Jim McDermott receives his award from Chapter President, Valentino Gatto. Jim volunteers at the Canandaigua VA Hospital for up to 40 hours a week. He also finds time to volunteer at many chapter events.

Gerald Cunningham, Commander of the American Legion Honor Guard was unable to attend.
Glenn Peck received a **Special Recognition Award**. For many years, Glenn has volunteered his time and talent as the Chapter’s photographer. He also was presented with a Life Membership in AVVA.

State Senator Joseph Robach and his mother, Terry Robach attended the dinner and gave a brief explanation of the Roger Robach award before it was presented to Ron Trovato.

**Roger Robach Award**
Ron Trovato received this prestigious award. Ron is a founding member of the chapter and has devoted countless hours of his time working with incarcerated veterans. He has been known to write an occasional article for the BTL as his alter-ego, Ronbo.
The Don and Rori Murrell Humanitarian Award

Judge John Schwartz of the Vet Court was unable to attend to receive his award.

Pictured is Rori Murrell, widow of Don Murrell. Rori and Don were both Army veterans. Don was the first editor of the chapter newsletter and Rori worked at the Veterans Outreach Center for many years as a counselor to veterans and their families.

VIETNAM 50th ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY - June 22, 2013
VFW Post 202
8 Veterans Drive
Holley, NY
All Day 50/50 Raffles
$5.00 Donation – Entertainment Included
Food and Drink Available
For Information contact the VFW at 638-6306
MEMORIAL REPORT

Website http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Remembering our Fallen Heroes – June

Thomas George    King     6/5/1944
Charles          Wilkie    6/6/1934
Arthur Weimann   Herod     6/7/1943
Glenn            McCarthy  6/7/1943
Bruce Chalmers   Ducat     6/9/1941
Noel Michael     Bartolf   6/12/1942
Darrell Gene     Allison   6/12/1951
Stephen A.       Shortall  6/14/1945
Ronald Jackson   Gebbie    6/17/1948
James Clinton    DeFranco  6/18/1950
Gordon Joseph    Brule Jr.  6/19/1948
Abraham L.       Moore     6/20/1945
David Thomas     Fellows   6/21/1946
John Albert      Gioia     6/21/1948
Stephen Leslie   Boyd      6/21/1951
David Paul       Babey     6/24/1949
Theodore         Lamb      6/26/1939
Edward Clark     Caldwell III 6/28/1946
James Guinan     Scott     6/29/1949
Richard Alfred   Hill      6/30/1942
Charles Edward   Robena    6/30/1947
Thomas James     Ekwell    6/30/1948

Memorial Tours & Presentations
Persons interested in onsite tours or presentations at schools or organizations, contact: Chuck Macaluso
(H) 585-225-8288
chuckmac66@yahoo.com
In the past, I have tried to provide a photo of the missing servicemen to add a personal touch to my report when they have been officially accounted for. Sometimes the photos, if they are available, are of very poor quality. Nonetheless, every effort will be made, with the help of my contacts, to locate and display our missing heroes’ pictures when they are returned home.

The new reports 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 indicate that 3 more missing Military personnel has been recovered and recently accounted for. The total number of Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War is now at 1647.

They are as follows:

**Maj. James Elmo Sizemore**, San Diego, California & **Maj. Howard Vincent Andre Jr.**, Memphis, Tennessee both were officers in the US Air Force. On July 8, 1969, Maj. James E. Sizemore, Pilot; and Maj. Howard V. Andre Jr., Navigator; comprised the crew of a A26A Invader, Call sign NIMROD, that departed Nakhon Phanom Airfield in Thailand on a night armed reconnaissance mission along the Ho Chi Minh trail in southern Laos. After spotting enemy personnel on the ground deep in enemy held territory, their aircraft made a strafing pass on an entrenched communist target in the rugged jungle covered mountains on the north side of a mountain range. The aircraft was struck by enemy ground fire, continued downward and exploded on impact near Xiangkhouang, Laos in an area called the Plain of Jars. The region was a hot bed of communist activity so a ground search was impossible. No parachutes were seen nor were there any emergency beepers heard at the time of the downing so the formal search was terminated and both James E. Sizemore and Howard V. Andre were listed as Killed in Action/ Body not recovered. The wreckage was located and excavated in 1991 and the remains of both Maj. Sizemore and Maj. Andre were recovered and returned to the US on June 1, 2010. On March 25, 2013 they were both identified by DNA testing. Maj. James E. Sizemore was officially accounted for on April 9, 2013 and Maj. Howard V. Andre Jr. was accounted for on April 11, 2013.
Corpsman 3rd Class Michael B. Judd, U.S. Navy from Cleveland, Ohio was a member of a recon team on board a CH46A helicopter and was assigned to Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division. This aircraft while approaching for an insertion in a recently cleared landing zone near the city of Phu Bai, South Vietnam was unexpectedly hit by an enemy anti-tank round, rupturing the fuel lines which then caused the aircraft to explode. The helicopter then broke apart and crashed into the triple-canopy jungle below along the side of a ridge. The co-pilot, 2 crewmembers and 4 of the 8 recon team members survived the crash and were rescued. The pilot as well as 4 recon team members perished and their remains were never located due to the heavy enemy forces in the area. They were all listed as KIA/Body not recovered. The remains of Corpsman Judd were recovered on June 25th 2012 and returned to the U.S. He was identified and officially accounted for on February 27, 2013. Corpsman 3rd Class Michael Barry Judd will be laid to rest with full Military Honors in Arlington National Cemetery on July 15, 2013.

The remains of LCpl Merlin Raye Allen (BTL issue, April 2013) were recovered earlier this year. The Pilot and 2 recon team members are still unaccounted for at the present time.

Earlier this month it was posted on the DPMO web site that 4 members of a SH-3A Sea King Helicopter that was shot down in Ha Nam Province, North Vietnam on July 19, 1967, was buried with full military honors as a group on May 2nd in Arlington National Cemetery. Lt. Dennis W. Peterson was accounted for on March 30th 2012 (BTL issue, June 2012), Ensign Donald P. Fry and Technicians William B. Jackson and Donald P. McGrane were accounted for in 1982. These men were crewmembers from the USS Hornet and served with Chapter 20’s own V. Thomas Hetherington ETN2. After 46 years, this crew has been reunited and laid to rest on the soil that they gave their lives to protect. Your mission was accomplished brothers and we welcome you home.

There are also reports of the recoveries and identifications of individuals from the following wars:

- **Sgt. Charles Allen**, US Army was lost on March 31, 1951 near Pyoklong, North Korea. He was accounted for on April 19, 2013. He will be buried with full Military Honors in May 2013 in Dallas Texas.
- **Sgt. Jerome E. Kiger and Sgt. Charles R. Marshal**, US Army Air Corps were both reported lost on July 21, 1944 near Drebling, Germany. They were accounted for on April 9th and 10th 2013. They will be buried with full Military Honors on July 21, 2013 in Mannington, West Virginia and the spring of 2013 in Allen, Kentucky.
- **1st Lt. Robert G. Fenstermacher**, US Air Force was lost on Dec. 26, 1944 near Petergensfeld, Belgium. He was accounted for on April 30, 2013. He will be buried with full Military Honors in the fall of 2013 in Scranton, Pennsylvania.
- **Pfc. James L. Constant**, US Army was lost on Sept. 8, 1950 near Changnyong, South Korea. He was accounted for on May 1, 2013 and will be buried with full Military Honors on May 18, 2013 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- **Master Sgt. Olen B. Williams**, US Army was lost on Dec. 12, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on May 1, 2013 and will be buried with full Military Honors on June 9, 2013 in Clanton, Alabama.

These families now have the peace of mind as to where their loved one now rest. Not in foreign lands or in foreign seas but here on American soil. We have waited and prayed for our brothers and now we welcome you home.

“Rest in Peace, and let it be known that you were never forgotten.”
New benefits available for Agent Orange illnesses

Added to the list of presumptive conditions from exposure to Agent Orange-- the diseases include B-cell leukemias such as hairy-cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease, bringing a total of 14 conditions assumed to be associated with Agent Orange.
Recap of VA/VSS Quarterly Community Council Meeting held on 05-01-2013 at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. MC Director Mr. Craig Howard spoke to the progress of managing on-going projects at the Medical Center, the Cadence Square Transitional housing units are on tract and slated to be completed by October 2013, providing housing for veterans in various stages of transitions from the VA Medical Center. Professional staff hiring is on target, despite a $4 million reduction in funding from the Federal Budget that started beginning October 2012 and runs through 09/30/2013. Introductions were made for the Center of Excellence for Crisis Intervention, Dr. Ken Conner. Since 2007, this Center of Excellence has grown and expanded to meet the needs of veterans and family members who are reaching out for assistance on an “immediate basis” for crisis intervention and suicides preventions. Ms. Lisa Wild, Veterans Service Center reported that between Canandaigua and the Rochester Outpatient Clinic during the 2nd quarter (Jan-March 2013) 290 veterans enrolled for VA health services. Of the 290 veterans, 18% were OEF/OIF/ and the remainder were from other periods of military service. The trend in our VA health provided service area continues to see and treat the aging veteran population. Of the 18,000 veteran visits to Canandaigua and ROPC facilities for all medical needs, 60% are over the age of 65 years. Put another way, 10,800 medical service provided visits are for older veterans 65 years old and older. All Travel Pay reimbursements will be made via electronic deposit into a veterans financial account (some cases debit card) but no checks or cash will be issued for travel benefit reimbursements. New options and enhanced features are available for the “My Healthy Vet” program. Features like “secure messaging” allowing emails to your primary care VA doctor, down load ability to see appointments, and “progress notes” from any medical meeting can be obtained in this manner. There is an additional form to sign and these forms are available at either Canandaigua or ROPC when you due for a routine appointment or clinic visit and would like to add these features to your “My Healthy Vet” you can ask to see the My Healthy Vet coordinator for assistance (ask for Jennifer Travers or Tom Cipro). Meeting attended by Jerry McDermott, Healthy Affairs Committee.

FYI... Volunteers will be needed for a very busy upcoming Firemen’s Carnival and Festival season this summer. These volunteers are critical to continue our VVA National motto...“never again will one generation of veterans turn its back on another.” Please look for our e-mail announcements and respond if you can spare the time to assist. Training will be offered if requested. There is a critical need and all that is really required is your time. What your time provides is direct assistance in the education of veterans’ benefits that honorable military service has earned our fellow veteran living in our community. Remember, you won’t see this info on the cable channels! By word of mouth, and handing out literature piece by piece is how we accomplish this mission. Thank you!

To combat fear, the best strategy is to learn to bring your attention back to the present. Or as Mark Twain once said, “I have been through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened.” Keep your attention in the here and now!
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – Mike General, Membership Chair

Chapter 20 membership currently is at 560 members and AVVA is at 47 members as of 04/30/13. Thanks to all who made this possible by recruiting new members.

Renew your Membership: Please renew your membership when you get the notice from National. This way you will be kept on the Membership Roster, otherwise you will be dropped from membership. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact me.

Chapter 20 Membership is open to U.S. Veterans who served active duty (other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 07, 1975, or any duty location between August 05, 1964 and May 07, 1975.

Associate Membership is open to anyone, you do not need to be a Veteran.

I am asking all members of Chapter 20 and AVVA to keep in mind, when you meet people to ask them to join us. Membership Applications are available on our Website or by contacting me.

If you do not receive your emailed copy of the BTL by the end of the first week (each month) go to Chapter 20 website vva20.org and download from that site.
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's In Memory program honors those who died as a result of the Vietnam War, but whose deaths do not fit the Department of Defense criteria for inclusion upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Vietnam War was the most controversial and longest conflict in American history. From 1959 to 1975, many American soldiers and nurses lost their lives in Southeast Asia. As these brave service men and women began returning home they were met with anger and indifference on the part of the American public. Many of these veterans tried to forget about their experience in Vietnam, while they and their families struggled with the emotional and physical toll of the war. It was not until 1982, when The Wall was dedicated, that the veterans and their families were able to begin a healing process that was long overdue. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the organization that funded the construction of The Wall, wanted to have a place where veterans who had been ignored or embarrassed by their service could stand proud and where the public could embrace the sacrifices these soldiers made.

While The Wall shows the names of those soldiers who died in the war, veterans who suffered from medical issues caused by their service in Vietnam – exposure to defoliant spray and psychological wounds – absent from The Wall. VVMF believes that all those who serve should be honored in a similar way. Therefore, the In Memory program began in an effort to acknowledge the hardships these veterans and their families went through and the strengths they possessed after the war ended. The In Memory Day ceremony has become a place where families who faced similar hardships gather and help each other begin or continue their healing processes.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the In Memory 2013 Program please click here to fill out an application online.

OR

Download the In Memory application.

OR

Contact VVMF at (202) 393-0090 or via e-mail at inmemory@vvmf.org.

To have a loved one considered for the In Memory program in 2013, you must submit your application to VVMF by April 12th, 2013. Instructions for what to include and where to send the completed application are outlined on the application form.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20

Name: ______________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ________________________________________________
Zip: ________ County ________________________________

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.

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+)

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 10th of the preceding month. Exceptions may be granted by contacting the editor.
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17
Friends of the Memorial
To be placed on Volunteer Contact List
Contact: Chuck Macaluso
(h) 585-225-8288
chuckmac66@yahoo.com

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):

June 15       NYS Council Meeting
June 15/16    Honor Flight Mission 29
August 11     Sock Hop (details to follow)
August 14-17  National Convention in Jacksonville, FL.
September 14  Agent Orange Townhall Meeting
              Chapter 77
              (details to follow)
September 21  NYS Council Meeting

Do you know a veteran who is homeless?

The VA's National Homeless Veterans Hotline

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

MyHealtheVet

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 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 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.