“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.”
MEMORIAL REPORT

Website  http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Remembering our Fallen Heroes - January

Charles Ross       Manarel          1/1/1945
George Stephen    Balazy           1/2/1945
Gary Robert       Stahlecker       1/3/1949
Michael Eugene    Lawton           1/4/1949
Elton Lawrence    Perrine          1/6/1935
Kenneth Wayne     Lampman          1/6/1946
Daniel Joseph     Birmingham        1/9/1947
Ralph Joseph      Rizzi            1/9/1947
Francis G.        Graziosi         1/10/1951
Edwin Francis     Upright          1/11/1942
Raymond Gene      Miles            1/11/1949
Dennis Karl       Hoppough         1/12/1947
Leroy Henry       Keller           1/12/1948
Gerald Augustine  Culhane          1/16/1920
Paul Richard      Paduchowski      1/16/1947
Lonnie            Barber           1/18/1930
John Joseph       Ugino            1/19/1948
Thomas Henry      Green            1/21/1926
Walter H.         Hucks            1/22/1933
Raymond James     Harster          1/28/1950
Wesley George     Thurston         1/29/1942

Memorial Tours & Presentations
Persons interested in onsite tours or presentations at schools or organizations, contact:
Chuck Macaluso
(H) 585-225-8288
chuckmac66@yahoo.com

Members and Friends:

The electronic newsletter is one year old this month and I would just like to rerun this note that I entered in the first edition. Again 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. 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 we get a break until spring. Our first meeting for 2014 will be the “Day-of-Caring” that takes place in May just before the Lilac Festival. Anyone interested in helping please send your contact information to: chuckmac66@yahoo.com

Chuck Macaluso,  President, GRVVM
VETERANS WALK COMMITTEE
154 Mendota Drive
Rochester, New York 14626

From:
Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City/Zip: ________________________
Phone: __________________________

The Veterans Walk Committee of Chapter 20, VVA wants to thank you for your purchase of a personalized, engraved paver brick.

Each paver brick (4" x 8") can have from one to three lines of engraved information. The cost will be $50.00 per brick. Make checks or money order payable to:

VVA Chapter 20, Veterans Walk

The engraved line(s) can include any of the following information:

Full name
Branch of service, rank
Dates of service (1967-1969, etc.)
Conflict (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, etc.)

Please print the information you would like engraved on the brick below. (Maximum of 14 letters/numbers, including spaces per line).

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________

Return the completed form to the - Veterans Walk Committee, c/o Chuck Macaluso, 154 Mendota Drive, Rochester, New York 14626.

Include: Payment and “Proof of Service” for above recipient.

Please Note: Engraved bricks will be installed prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day (twice annually).

Questions please call Chuck or Joan Macaluso as 585-225-8288
With the passing of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year’s, the families of our missing Americans have endured another holiday without the peace of mind on the whereabouts of their loved ones. An empty spot at the table, a picture on the wall, the names spoken in prayer every night, at times these may be the only things that give their families any hope.

We have made a commitment that we will find our MIAs and bring them home. We must keep this promise. At this present time, there still has not been any 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. All of the websites have been stagnant and the total number of Americans missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War still stands at 1642.

About a month ago, I was contacted by a woman in California who wanted to know the status of a POW that she has honored for many years by wearing his bracelet. That POW/MIA was Elton Lawrence Perrine. I sent her pictures of his 2010 repatriation and funeral service in Arlington National Cemetery as well as newspaper coverage. She was so glad that he finally came home and that the family could now know what had happened to their beloved son/brother/uncle. This has given us the satisfaction of knowing that Larry has never been forgotten outside of his family after so many years. This woman has since sent me the bracelet that she so treasured and has requested for me to return it to the family. I will indeed do so after the holidays.

We will keep the promise
Until they are all home.

“Never give in – never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.” Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister, 1874 – 1965.
Christmas Gift Distribution at the Canandaigua VA on December 18th

Back row, l to r, Joe Peck, Rosemary Williams, Ron Trovato, Mike Williams; Front row, l to r, Vito Scarpetta, Fred Elliott, Marie Elliott, Diane General

Chapter member Dave Duncan was there with another group.
Dear Sir or Ma'am:

On December 4, 2013 the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) "Evaluation of exposure to contaminated drinking water and specific birth defects and childhood cancers at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina: a case--control study" was published (http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/update.html). You will receive a hard copy of the ATSDR fact sheet summarizing the results of this study in the mail in the coming weeks.

ATSDR's study evaluated whether or not maternal exposures to drinking water containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at Camp Lejeune increased the risk of certain health conditions. The study used ATSDR's previous water modeling efforts to estimate past exposures (http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/watermodeling.html). VOCs were commonly used as solvents for cleaning machinery and weapons, for dry cleaning, and some are found in fuels.

This study is the first of several health initiatives that ATSDR is expected to complete in the next several years. For more information about these studies, visit http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/ or call (800) 232-4636.

Since 1991, the Marine Corps has supported the health initiatives conducted by various scientific agencies. We are also working diligently to identify and notify individuals who, in the past, may have been exposed to the chemicals in drinking water. For more information about these efforts or to update your contact information, please see: http://www.marines.mil/clwater/, call (877) 261-9782 or e-mail clwater@usmc.mil.

For the complete report and for information about studies being conducted by ATSDR, visit http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/ or call (800) 232-4636.

To contact Veterans Affairs to learn more about health care benefits, please visit http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/ or call (877) 222-8387 (Healthcare) or (800) 827-1000 (Benefits).

Sincerely,
The Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Program
Camp Lejeune Health Studies

Birth Defects and Childhood Cancers Journal Article
Study Design and Outcomes

*Exposure to Contaminated Drinking Water and Specific Birth Defects and Childhood Cancers at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina*

**Study Purpose**
The purpose of this study was to determine if maternal exposures to the drinking water contaminants at Camp Lejeune increased the risk of neural tube defects (NTDs), oral clefts, and childhood hematopoietic cancers. This study also examined whether children exposed to contaminated drinking water during the first year of life had an increased risk of childhood cancers. Drinking water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), benzene, 1,2-dichloroethylene (DCE) and vinyl chloride from the 1950s through 1985.

**What Was Studied**
The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) surveyed the parents of 12,598 children during 1999-2002 to identify potential cases of birth defects and childhood cancers. ATSDR asked parents if their child had a birth defect or developed a childhood cancer. To be eligible for the survey, the mother had to reside on base some time during her pregnancy and children had to be born between 1968-1985.

The survey's participation rate was approximately 76% (ATSDR 2003). Survey participants reported 106 cases: 35 NTDs, 42 oral clefts, and 29 childhood hematopoietic cancers. ATSDR made extensive efforts to obtain medical information from health providers to confirm reported cases. ATSDR was able to confirm 15 NTDs, 24 oral clefts, and 13 cancers. Only confirmed cases from the survey were eligible for the study.

Based on the survey results, the study focused on NTDs (spina bifida and anencephaly), oral clefts (cleft lip and cleft palate), and childhood hematopoietic cancers (leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma [NHL]) diagnosed before 20 years of age.

**Features of this Study**
Due to the lack of exposure information, ATSDR used extensive water modeling to reconstruct exposures before 1987. This study is unique because it used this water modeling to thoroughly examine associations between monthly exposures to VOCs in drinking water at the residence and the risk of developing specific birth defects and childhood cancers. Most previous studies that have evaluated these associations have done so at the broad water system level versus drinking water at the residence.

Continued on next page

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Conclusion and Key Results

ATSDR’s study results suggested associations between TCE and benzene in Camp Lejeune drinking water and NTDs.

• In this study, these effects were seen in children born from 1968-1985 whose mothers were exposed to contaminated drinking water in their residences at Camp Lejeune.
  • During the first trimester of pregnancy, the risk of a NTD increased with increasing levels of exposure to TCE.
    o This finding is consistent with a previous study conducted in New Jersey, which found similar risk of NTDs when exposed to TCE during the first trimester.

• Investigators observed an association between NTDs and first trimester exposure to benzene. ATSDR was unable to evaluate whether increasing levels of exposure to benzene were associated with increased risk of NTDs because of small numbers of exposed cases.

ATSDR’s study results suggested weaker associations between 1st trimester exposure to PCE, vinyl chloride, and 1,2- DCE and childhood hematopoietic cancers such as leukemia.

• These associations are weaker than those found for NTDs.
• Researchers did not observe an increased risk for these cancers with increasing levels of exposure to the chemicals.

The study found no evidence suggesting any other associations between outcomes and exposures.

• For childhood cancers, ATSDR also looked at exposures during the second and third trimesters, the entire pregnancy as a whole, and exposures in the first year of life. The investigators did not see any associations between these chemicals with these time periods.
• Exposure to contaminants in Camp Lejeune drinking water did not increase the risk of oral clefts.

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Incarcerated Veterans by Ron Trovato

Unfortunately, Ron lost his favorite crayon and was unable to produce a report for this issue of the BTL. Hopefully, Crayola still makes an O.D.Green crayon and will send some to Ron in time for the February issue.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 26, 2014
Chapter 20’s Annual Dinner
Asbestos Related Diseases ➤ Veterans Guide To Mesothelioma

Because asbestos was heavily used on military bases, in equipment and vehicles, and in almost all sea vessels until the 1970’s, a disproportionate number of veterans have developed mesothelioma, lung cancer and other asbestos related diseases. Mesothelioma and lung cancer are deadly diseases, making it very important that people are able to recognize the symptoms early on and seek out the medical care they need as soon as possible. Emotional support is also important for those struggling with asbestos-related diseases. Emotional support, found through both local and online support groups, is also often cited as a necessary tool for family members who are also coping with the impacts of the ailments. The Veterans Guide To Mesothelioma developed by Cooney and Conway, found at http://www.cooneyconway.com/mesothelioma/Veterans-Guide-Mesothelioma-Asbestos-Lung-Cancer, will provide further information about the military risk of asbestos exposure, symptoms of mesothelioma and lung cancer, treatment for these diseases, as well as resources for support. These resources are not only available to the mesothelioma and lung cancer patients, but also for their family members. This guide offers information on finding local support groups, online chat rooms, and other options for finding the help you and your loved ones need. It will both provide information about asbestos exposure and the diseases it can cause, as well as help you find other kinds of assistance you may need, including medical and emotional, when dealing with asbestos-related diseases. [Source: Veteran Resources | Donnie La Curan | 17 Nov 2013 ]

VA ID Card Update 02 ➤ Susceptible to Identity Theft

Anyone with a smartphone and a bar code app can scan any VA identification card issued since 2004 and the cardholder's Social Security number immediately pops up on the screen. Tampa businessman and Army veteran Barry Landau wants answers. "I didn’t think that was possible.” Landau said. “The card is absolutely no good.” WFTS found Veterans Affairs published warnings about the veterans information, or VIC, cards on their website in 2011 and in July of this year. The alert states, “Some barcode readers, including those available as applications on cell phones, can scan the bar code on the front of the card, and reveal the veteran’s social security number." Thirty-year Navy veteran Walt Raysick, who holds a leadership position with the American Legion, said the VA failed to alert him of the card’s vulnerability. “That's my Social Security number. That’s terrible,” Raysick said. No one from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs would go on camera to answer questions.

A VA spokesperson did respond, saying they've begun work on the next-generation ID card, which will not contain a Social Security number. However, it's not being rolled out until next year. Dave Braun, co-chairman of the Veterans Memorial Park Museum Committee, said the VA should have done more to get the word out about the risk of identity theft if one these cards is lost or stolen. "Where is the distribution to notify everyone?” Braun said. “They are not telling anyone about it.” Congressmen Gus Bilirakis, vice chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, said it is “…unacceptable that nothing more immediate has been done to rectify this issue. ...The VA should take all precautions to make sure this information is protected." Meanwhile, veterans should treat their current ID cards as they do their Social Security card. Recommend leave it at home unless it is needed for a day-of appointment or you plan to use it for obtaining a veteran discount in those states that have not yet implemented placing veteran status on their driver
If you recall, at our December 12, 2013 meeting this issue was mentioned and a handout was pass out with information as a heads up, the above reference to VA ID card is meant to further highlight the issue and instill proper security and handling of this important ID card.

Finally, with the New Year of 2014, a reminder to all about making a New Year’s resolution. Try something new, something you would like to give a honest effort and just do it! I believe life is hard enough without trying to carry to much heavy baggage, so lighten up your burdens, and with the New Year “just do it”! What a segue into my persuasion about the 6th Annual Fit Vet Challenge starting up on January 9th, 2014. Sure, I’m trying to convince you do try this again, no matter what your previous efforts were, or if you’re the “new guy or gal” to the Chapter, the point is to perhaps think about yourself in terms of better health. No one thing is going to be the silver bullet, or magic pill, but this one piece of the puzzle where you active think about a more health life style can’t hurt one bit. So, yes I am shameless in suggestion that in a actual way we can lighten up, not just our mental baggage for the New Year, but pounds too, forgive me! I’m certainly not saint in this regards, but the New Year springs eternal hope for change and I’m going to help by Army brothers win this year’s bragging rights for the friendly completion we will start. Please join me, and try this one thing, resolve in year 2014 to “move more and eat less, to smile more and frown less” and to skip the second helping for at least one meal! Wishing you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year 2014 edition!

Speakers at the December membership meeting.

Sarah Gilbert, a registered dietician, spoke to the membership about the importance of diet, especially when a person is diabetic or has other health issues. Ms. Gilbert offered her services as a dietician to any Chapter member.

Captain Christopher Maginn (USAR) spoke to the membership about the widespread incidence of suicide among veterans and active-duty personnel. He works with Crisis Center at the Canandaigua VAMC.
Mike General, Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 565 members and AVVA is at 47 members as of 11/30/13. Chapter 20 Coin: One coin is given to each new member. If you lose the coin there is a $5.00 charge for a new one.

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

Membership in the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is open to anyone; you do not need to be a Veteran.

WE Need New Members! Membership Applications are available on our Website, in the BTL, or by contacting me. (mwgeneral@aol.com)

“A man good enough to shed his blood for his country, is good enough to receive a square deal afterwards ... “
Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States.

Spencer Christiano, nephew of Vietnam veterans and MIA, Joseph Christiano spoke to the membership at the December meeting.

Spencer has written and will be performing a play, MIA, at the MuCCC Theater, 142 Atlantic Avenue on January 3, 4, and 5.

Proceeds from the play will benefit Chapter 20.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 7, 2013

The Rochester Yacht Club
107 Year Old Veterans Meet for the First Time

AUSTIN, Texas – At age 107, World War II veterans Elmer Hill doesn’t have many elders left. That’s why meeting a fellow veteran and Texan who’s three months his senior was a bit of a shock Friday. Upon seeing Richard Overton for the first time, Hill suggested he might have to change his birthday. “He’s 107? Well, I better move mine up a little bit!” Hill exclaimed. The pair, who both fought in the war’s Pacific theater, met at an Austin senior center where they shook hands warmly, had lunch and were honored by Mayor Lee Leffingwell. Some have said that Overton and Hill are the oldest and second-oldest living veterans in the U.S., but others dispute the claim and there is no way to fully verify who is right.

Overton worked at a furniture store and is a former courier at the state Capitol who grew up in Austin, where he still lives. Hill, a retired high school principal, lives in the East Texas community of Henderson and was driven about 240 miles for the event, which was organized by Emeritus Senior Living. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs does not have a complete list of all Americans who have served in the armed forces, making it impossible to know for sure that Overton and Hill are the nation’s oldest veterans. Still, Overton went to Washington for Veterans Day this year and was personally recognized by President Barack Obama. Hill, meanwhile, is set to visit Washington on Saturday. His mind sharp and his wit quick, Overton quips about smoking cigars and having an occasional drink. As he stood outside the center amid chilly rain waiting for Hill’s car, he joked that he hoped his new friend was bringing whiskey. Both are black, and during lunch, Hill talked about being drafted in 1942 into the then-segregated armed forces, and serving in the Navy. He was a cook and gunner on an aircraft carrier. “I didn’t volunteer. They put me in there,” he said. Asked later what advice he had for younger generations, Hill said: “Be good to yourself and your master and be a good citizen, wherever you are, whether it’s Navy, Army or just as a person at the house.” He also joked, “I’m not that old. I’ve just been here a very long time.” Back then blacks were assigned to all-black units and, at the start of World War II, they were often relegated to noncombat duties. As fighting continued, the heavy number of casualties forced the military to assign black troops to combat, and their numbers there spiked by 1945.

Overton was already in his 30s when he volunteered and served in the Army’s 188th Aviation Engineer battalion. He was at Pearl Harbor just after the Japanese attack. “I want to ask him a few questions about the war,” Overton said of Hill. “You’re still fighting a war, you know. Now you’re just fighting one with yourself.” With both hard of hearing, however, conversation on specific topics proved difficult. Born May 11, 1906, Overton recalled as a youngster seeing soldiers preparing for World War I. He said he was on a bridge and watched thousands of enlisted men arriving at Austin after walking 90-plus miles from San Antonio because there was no room for them on overcrowded trains. Later, he found himself a soldier. “Some things you went through in that Army you will never forget,” he said. “Bit it’s too much to tell. You can’t tell it all.”
First Annual
LIGHTS OF HONOR
TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
DECEMBER 7, 2013

GREATER ROCHESTER
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
The Military History Society of Rochester

The Military History Society of Rochester is chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York as a historical society under not-for-profit Federal 501(C)3 guidelines. Their purpose is to keep alive and promote the rich military heritage of America and in particular that of Rochester and the surrounding communities. They cover all periods of United States military history from the Revolutionary War to the present and all branches of service. In addition, they recognize the industries and civilians who have contributed to the efforts of those who have served.

Membership is open to anyone who shares a common interest in Military History. It is not a re-enacting or living history organization, although it does support these groups and some of its members participate in those activities. MHS preserves the military heritage of past generations so that no one will forget the price of freedom.

What MHS Does:

Collection – the collection is open to the public, free of charge. In addition to permanent displays, special monthly exhibits open on the first Friday of each month (September – May). These exhibits highlight special items and themes. Often included are items on loan from private collections that are rarely seen.

Newsletter – published 4-6 times a year containing historical facts, profiles and accounts concerning American Military History, as well as updates concerning the Society.

Research Library – there are over 1,500 volumes relating to the American Military. The strongest areas are the Civil War and World War II. New additions are being made monthly. The library is open by appointment.

Traveling Display & Lectures – a traveling educational display containing many period artifacts and informational pieces has been assembled. This display is made available to schools, educational organizations and any other group with historical interests. Lectures are offered that can accompany the displays.

Veteran’s Registry – a special project to preserve the memory and recognize the service of those from our area who have served their country for “To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die.”

Web Site – rochestermilitary.com – visit often to keep up with exhibits and new additions.

Donations – are gratefully accepted – they keep the doors open.

Acquisitions – they are always looking for military items to add to the collection, especially those with a Rochester connection. Items are accepted as a donation or on loan to preserve them for future generations.

Volunteers – are always welcomed. There is a need for a wide variety of skills.

Location – The Anderson Arts Building (former Fabrics & Findings Building), 250 North Goodman Street, 2nd Floor, enter through the yellow doors at the rear of the building in the parking lot. Check the website for hours but generally open from noon to 4 on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

More Information – call or email Chuck Baylis, Executive Director at 585-730-4041, acwartillery@rochester.rr.com
THANKS TO CHUCK BAYLIS, ORTEN BEGNER, AND TIM IGOE FOR THE TOUR AND FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THIS VERY WORTHWHILE PROJECT.
Odds 'N Ends

A page written by Chapter member Fred Elliott. The opinions and/or positions expressed on this page are in no way the opinions or positions of Chapter 20. The author accepts full responsibility for the expression of his opinions and positions on the various items written about on this page.

Camp Leatherneck – Southwest Afghanistan – on this Marine base sits an empty, windowless, 64,000 square foot structure built by the Army at a cost of some $36 million. A senior Marine officer has referred to the structure as a “white elephant” that the Marines don’t need or want. A two-star Army general wants to move troops into the building after we spend more U.S. dollars to complete the work on the structure. In 2010, Marine Major General Richard Mills asked for a 30,000 square foot building and to cancel the larger structure. However, Army Major general Peter Vangjel at the Army’s Central Command HQ denied the request. An investigation by Major General James Richardson, the deputy commander of the U.S. troop-support HQ in Kabul, found no “act of omission, dereliction of duty, or any other violation of law by Vangjel or anyone else involved in the decision to construct the building. Vangjel has since been promoted to a three-star general. He is now the Army’s top inspector general, responsible for identifying waste, fraud, and abuse in the service. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko has re-started an investigation into this issue. (December 4& 5, www.stripes.com)

NEWS FLASH – According to Stars and Stripes (December 5, 2013) “The U.S. Defense Department lacks the resources and rigorous procedures it needs to properly keep tabs on the billions of dollars in direct aid it gives to Afghan security forces through the Kabul government, according to a report issues today by the U.S. government’s Afghanistan watchdog office.” (I don’t know about you, but I’m shocked by this revelation, shocked I tell you – editor)

Are you sitting down for this one? According to the Miami Herald (December 8, 2013), the U.S. military retracted a claim made to “60 Minutes” that guards at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay suffer nearly twice as much post-traumatic stress disorder as combat troops. The citing of such a statistic was surprising because, across years of inquiries, military spokesmen repeatedly said there was no way to quantify PTSD diagnoses of the thousands of troops who worked at the prison since it opened in January 2002. The military has conducted studies of stress on Guantanamo guards and none have supported the PTSD claim. In fact, Veterans Affairs spokesmen have said they have no way to know how many PTSD cases resulted from duty at the prison camp.

Apparently, the DOD’s inability to keep tabs on its spending extends to the Air Force. The Air Force’s new long-range bomber may cost as much as $81 BILLION for the 100 planes planned, 47 percent more than the $55 billion sticker price the service listed. Wait – it gets better. Remember the B-2 bomber – planned as 132 planes for about $571 million each the program got cut to 20 planes that cost the taxpayer about $2.2 Billion per bomber. And currently, the F-35 program has increased 68% for 409 fewer planes. Do you detect a pattern here?

The final straw – the Associated Press reports that the Pentagon has contracted with Russia, yes, Russia, to purchase dozens of Russian Mi-17 rotorcraft for more than $1 billion to outfit Afghanistan’s security forces. Pentagon officials claim that, according to a top-secret study in 2010, the Mi-17 is the superior choice. And yet, unclassified excerpts from that report state that the Chinook build by Boeing is “the most cost-effective single platform type fleet for the Afghan Air Force over a twenty year period”. Both Republicans and Democrats are asking why we are purchasing military gear from Russia. So far the DOD has refused to cooperate with reasonable inquiries about this purchase.
Honor Our Vietnam Vets at the...

**Sock Hop Appreciation Day**

- Pizza & Wings Buffet
- Cash Juice & Soda Bar available
- Poodle Skirt Contest
- Greasers Contest
- Raffles & Prizes

**SUNDAY, March 23rd, 2014**

3:00pm - 8:00pm

(Appreciation Ceremony: 3:00pm - 4:00pm)

Sock Hop begins immediately following

Golden Ponds Restaurant  500 Long Pond Road
Live entertainment provided by the 50’s & 60’s groups:
  Happy Daze and The Firebirds
  Special Guest appearance from DannyB

Tickets: $15 per person (on or before 2/28/14)
  $20 per person beginning 3/1/14

FOR TICKETS CALL 585-260-0585 or 585-227-2741

Presenting Sponsor: **MeTV**

www.OurVietnamVets.com

Proceeds to benefit: Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 20
The New York State Vietnam Veterans Memorial

On October 6th of last year, Marie and I were driving home from Connecticut and decided to stop in Albany to see the New York State Museum. Adjacent to the museum, in a mini-park, are the Purple Heart, Korean, and Women Veterans Memorials. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a block away in-between some other government buildings. We found it, but as much by luck as on purpose. The only sign we found indicating where the Memorial is located was on a fence at the entrance to the actual site. After viewing the first three memorials in their park-like setting, we found the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be a let-down.

There are also three plaques that address Honor, Courage, and Pride and how those each relate to Women Veterans.
There is also a low wall with five plaques mounted on it that give a brief history of the Korean War. And there are also four color replicas of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force Insignias.
That’s it, four plaques listing the names of the New Yorkers who lost their lives or are MIA in Vietnam. Nothing about the history of America’s most divisive war or the backgrounds of those who served.
In Memory Donations

When the simple act of placing flowers on a casket or placing stones on a headstone does not seem to be enough to honor the memory of a special someone who has passed away, one may choose to make a donation in his or her honor to commemorate the values and beliefs of the deceased. Chapter 20 VVA is committed to recognizing the sacrifices made by all military personnel in every branch of the armed forces. The memory of the deceased veteran is honored in the continuous work and service carried out by the dedicated Chapter members and associates. The monetary donations sent by individuals help make it possible to continue serving veterans and their families. The combined efforts of donors, lawmakers, members, and associates have far-reaching effects on the quality of all our lives.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 offers several ways of commemorating a special person. One of those ways is the Memorial Walk at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walk is a pathway of bricks inscribed with the names of individuals who have served their country with valor. Their names will forever remain a reminder of the dedication and tenacity demonstrated by the thousands of men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

If you wish to make a monetary donation directly to Chapter 20 in support of all the functions and services they provide to veterans and their families, send your check or money order payable to Chapter 20, VVA:

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 20
P.O. Box 12580
Rochester, NY 14612
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20

Name: ______________________________________
Address: ______________________________________
City: ______________________________________
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 felliott@rochester.rr.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.
Italian American Sports Club
1250 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY 14624
(585)464-9160
Save the Date!
Saturday, April 26, 2014
Chapter 20’s Annual Dinner
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Meetings</th>
<th>Membership Meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7, 2014</td>
<td>January 9, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4, 2014</td>
<td>February 13, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 2014</td>
<td>March 13, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Important Dates in January:

1st (1752) – Flag maker Betsy Ross’s Birthday

5th (1931) – Actor and Army veteran Robert Duvall’s Birthday

8th (1814) – General Andrew Jackson defeats the British in New Orleans to end the War of 1812

(1935) – Elvis Presley’s Birthday

9th (2014) – Chapter meeting

13th (1919) – Actor Robert Stack’s Birthday – he was a gunnery officer with the Navy in WWII and a world record skeet shooter

20th (1981) – Iran releases 52 American hostages

21st (1922) - Actor Telly (Kojak) Savalas’ Birthday – he served in the Army in WWII, receiving a Purple Heart

(1926) – Actor & bodybuilder Steve (Hercules) Reeves’ Birthday – he served in the Army in WWII

(1977) – President Jimmy Carter pardons Vietnam draft evaders

22nd(1973) – Vietnam War peace agreement signed

23rd (1968) – USS Pueblo seized by North Koreans

24th (1894) – First U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor awarded

27th (1973) – End of the military draft is announced

28th (1986) – Space shuttle Challenger explodes

30th (1968) – The TET Offensive begins in Vietnam
### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Valentino Gatto</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vga@rochester.rr.com">vga@rochester.rr.com</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. President</td>
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</table>

### DIRECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Email</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

### STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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<thead>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority Affairs</td>
<td>Calvin Joseph</td>
<td></td>
<td>719-6138 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POW/MIA</td>
<td>Joe Peck</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Events</td>
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<td>227-2741 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>423-0206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Benefits</td>
<td>Stan Patykiewicz</td>
<td></td>
<td>247-4830 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Walk</td>
<td>C. Macaluso</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chuckmac66@yahoo.com">chuckmac66@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>225-8288 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Affairs</td>
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<td>738-6138 c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Widows International Network</td>
<td><a href="mailto:members@aol.com">members@aol.com</a></td>
<td>546-4250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Department of Health</td>
<td></td>
<td>546-3524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam Veterans Memorial</td>
<td></td>
<td>385-4097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation Welcome Home</td>
<td></td>
<td>234-4694</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Caregivers Support Line</td>
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<td>855-260-3274</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless Hotline</td>
<td></td>
<td>877-424-3838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suicide Hotline</td>
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<td>800-273-8255</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women Veterans’ Hotline</td>
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### REGION 2 DIRECTOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herb Worthington</td>
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<td>732-849-5737</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION

- Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial 753-7275 (enter 9; enter 2 to leave a message)
- VA Outpatient Clinic 465 Westfall Rd 463-2600
- Veterans Outreach Center 459 South Avenue 546-1081
- VA Vet Center 232-5040
- Veterans Administration 800-827-1000
- Monroe County Veterans Service Agency 753-6040
- e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com
- VA Veterans Benefits Hotline 800-827-1000
- VA Veterans Bill of Rights 800-342-3358
- VA Medical Center in Batavia 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 800-882-1136
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund 202-393-0090
- National League of Families
- POW/MIA Updates 202-223-6846
- Richards House at VOC 506-9060
- The Resource Center at VOC 546-4250
- Stars & Stripes – The Flag Store 546-3524
- Persian Gulf Vets, Inc. 385-4097
- Operation Welcome Home 234-4694
- National Caregivers Support Line 855-260-3274
- Homeless Hotline 877-424-3838
- Suicide Hotline 800-273-8255
- Women Veterans’ Hotline 855-829-6636

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**VVA Chapter 20**

585-482-7396

P. O. Box 12580

Rochester, NY 14612

www.vva20.org