Flag Day Is June 14th
### Memorial Report

**Website**  [http://rochestervietnammemorial.org](http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/)

**Remembering our Fallen Heroes - June**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas George</td>
<td>King</td>
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<td>Arthur</td>
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<td>Glenn</td>
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<td>Bruce Chalmers</td>
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<td>Noel Michael</td>
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<td>Ronald Jackson</td>
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<td>James Clinton</td>
<td>DeFranco</td>
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<td>Gordon Joseph</td>
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<td>Abraham L.</td>
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<td>Charles Edward</td>
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<td>Thomas James</td>
<td>Ekwell</td>
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**Memorial Tours & Presentations**

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

**Friends of the Memorial**

To be placed on the volunteer contact list:

Contact – Chuck Macaluso
585-225-8288 (h)
Chuckmac66@yahoo.com
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
There still have been no reports this month 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. The total number of Americans missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War is still at 1641.

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

- Cpl. Richard Isbell, US Army was reported lost on April 25, 1951 in South Korea. He was accounted for on April 17, 2014 and will be buried with full military honors.
- Cpl. William N. Bonner, US Army was reported lost on May 31, 1951 in North Korea. He was accounted for on April 22, 2014. He will be buried with full military honors in the summer of 2014 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.
- Cpl. Harold W. Reed, US Marine Corps was reported lost on November 29, 1950. He was accounted for on April 22, 2014 and was buried with full military honors on May 24, 2014 in Toledo, Ohio.
- Sgt. Richard J. Archambeault, US Army was reported lost on November 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on April 29, 2014. He will be buried with full military honors. The date and place have not yet been determined.
- Cpl. Lucio R. Aguilar, US Army was lost on November 28, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on May 6, 2014 and will be buried with full military honors in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Until they are all home,
We must continue to have faith that our missing will be found and brought home to their families and a grateful Nation.
We will never forget them.
SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday August 9, 2014
Chapter 20 Leadership Seminar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 14 1775
Oct. 13 1775
Nov. 10 1775
Aug. 4 1790
Sept. 18 1947
Health Affairs
Jerry McDermott, Chairman

Fit Vet Challenge Final Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Participants</th>
<th>Avg Starting Weight</th>
<th>Avg End Weight</th>
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<td>Army</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>216.2</td>
<td>213.1</td>
<td>(3.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>210.0</td>
<td>207.6</td>
<td>(2.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>200.4</td>
<td>196.7</td>
<td>(3.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marines</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>206.3</td>
<td>203.4</td>
<td>(2.9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>210.9</td>
<td>207.9</td>
<td>(3.0)</td>
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42 Participants with at least 2 weigh-ins between January and April meetings.
Air Force – Congratulations to Linda Andersen for her loss of 13.6 pounds.
Army – Congratulations to Mike SanFilippo for his loss of 21 pounds and Gilles Bray for losing 13.6 pounds.
Navy – Congratulations to Vito Scarpetto for losing 10 pounds.
Marines – Congratulations to Ed Williams for losing 16.4 pounds.

Something that I read while waiting for an appointment at the VA recently made sense and I wanted to share the information with you. In an article written for the Texas school for the Deaf, Saleem Assaf an expert in hearing issues commented on the following question.
Q: My mother is in the early stages of dementia. Her doctor recommends testing her hearing in case she needs hearing aids. What’s the connection?
A: Your mother’s doctor may be aware of the scientific research that indicates physical and mental health relies partly on hearing as well as possible. Recent research from Johns Hopkins and the National Institute on Aging this year links hearing loss with increased loss of brain tissue. **The longer hearing loss is untreated, the more advanced the brain shrinkage becomes.**
Earlier studies have detailed connections between hearing loss and higher risk and faster progression of dementia, more falls, higher number of hospitalizations and diminished overall physical and mental health. Hearing loss increases confusion, frustration and isolation. Studies have also connected using properly adjusted hearing aids with better brain function, slowing down dementia’s progress and reducing many of the negative effects of hearing loss.
As her doctor is no doubt aware, if your mother can hear better with hearing aids, she will experience better communication skills, better social relationships and better brain activity.

I submit this for your review for several reasons. Perhaps this is something to keep in mind for our own parents, other members within your family or circle of friends we met regularly. Also, keep in mind that as former members of the US armed forces we may have experienced hearing loss based upon our service jobs, or duty station assignments. **The VA considers hearing loss to be the number one (1) service connected disability claim facing veterans.** If you think you need testing, I would certainly encourage you to do have your hearing tested. As opined by Mr. Saleem Assaf, there can be additional consequences to loss of hearing that can affect people beyond just turning up volume on the TV each night.
WE’RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEMBERS

Mike General, Chairman, Membership Affairs

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 575 members and AVVA is at 49 members as of 3/31/14. We are the 7th largest Chapter in VVA and the 2nd largest in New York State. Membership is dropping, mainly because current members are not renewing. This month we had 15 members not renew.

Please Renew Your Membership!

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)
Greetings from lilac infested Rochester! And a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped clean up the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park in time for the Lilac Festival. So much work and so many volunteers!.......The Attica Veterans Group at the Attica Correctional Facility is doing quite well and I thank C.R. and Phil Glazier for their efforts on behalf of the veterans there. Jack Michel from Chapter 77 went in on 5/10 and has picked up kites made by the guys there to raise funds for the homeless. “Kites For Vets” is a free event scheduled for 5/31 at Gratwick Riverside Park in North Tonawanda, NY from noon until 4pm. There are free kites for the kids and donations are accepted for the homeless. Check out the web site (www.kitesforvets.com) for info and this event was a big success last year. I want to thank Jack too for collecting yarn for the crochet squad at Attica and for buying several “How To” books for the vets there. There is the annual picnic for the veterans at Attica scheduled for 6/15 which I hope to attend and Chapter #20 is sending in a donation for that event.

Chapter 205 is also continuing its mission at the Auburn Correctional Facility and we have been in contact with Chapter President Bernard Hatch and longtime member Lawrence Wilson whom I’ve known since 1989. We have sent a letter in support of Gov. Cuomos proposal to expand college education and training for offenders in prison. The Cornell University Prison Education Program (CPEP) began March 5th and they give once per month guest lectures at the Auburn Prison Chapel. CPEP is an educational outreach effort on the part of Cornell University and Cayuga Community College that was started in 2008. Also in Auburn on 8/16 is Ernie Bullocks Standdown at Case Mansion in Auburn from 10am until 3pm. Ernie is a past President of Chapter #205 and was recently at our annual dinner. He is working with the VA on providing services to the homeless in the Auburn area and Gary Beikirch attended last year. This event, which gets bigger each year, is hosted by Pointman Ministries and Chapter 704 and Chapter #20 is a supporter among many veterans groups.

Finally, there is the recently proposed Justice for Our Veterans Act (Assembly Bill 7529, Senate Bill 5624) that would establish procedures to ensure that eligible veterans in the criminal justice system receive necessary treatment if they are suffering from physical or mental illnesses as a result of military service that may have played a role in a charged offense. The veteran would also have the opportunity to have pending charges dismissed or reduced following the successful completion of a court mandated treatment plan. This bill I believe is the natural extension of the success of Veterans Court. So far the American Legion has endorsed this legislation and I have advised the NY State Council that I would support it too.........And a big shout out and thank you to Chapter #20’s Jim White who gave me a cash donation to buy yarn for the prisons. Thank you my friend, it really does make a difference.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

President Gatto receives a donation from Barbara Stifter (l) and Mary Ellen Kier (r)

Spencer Christiano receives a Special Recognition Award for his play, MIA

112 People attended the meeting!

Richard King won the flag drawing

Branka Reichardt won the 50/50 drawing
THE FORGOTTEN HOMECOMING

More than 40 years have passed and the words have never been uttered
No songs, no banners, no gratitude just people who closed their shutters
No parades, no ticker-tape, no standing ovation
Only silence, and whispers of a protesting Nation

Although there were many who might care to stand,
To reach out with gratitude and shake my hand
There were many more who took FREEDOM for granted
No concern where my mission and feet had been planted

Many had been called upon by our great Nation
To bring hope and democracy for a new generation
I served diligently with honor, humbly fighting to stay alive
The taste of FREEDOM was always my main drive

Now 45 years later as I memorialize in my mind
The battles for FREEDOM and the friends left behind.
Some ungrateful, taking FREEDOM for granted - that's ignorance
They have no concept of the cost of battle for independence

Today as I reflect on the years that have passed
I still see how Patriotism is standing steadfast
As I celebrate and appreciate another year of life
Loving my friends, my children, my wife

I embrace a generation of those that I served
And a new generation that seem un-assured
I hope that democracy, truth and decency are still alive
And the FREEDOMS many have died for will continue to thrive

God Bless America and the men and women who have sacrificed
In the name of FREEDOM!
And may I not forget the reason that I wrote this poem -
WELCOME HOME WARRIOR,
WELCOME HOME!

FOR ALL THOSE WHO WERE NEVER WELCOMED HOME
(or never made it home) THANK YOU - YOU ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN

My family is GRATEFUL -
Written by Sandra Eichler-Gonzalez - aka - PATRIOTCHICK
Patriot Guard Riders - www.patriotguard.org
Chapter 20 Volunteers

Fred Elliott gives a tour to some of the volunteers

Grant Wideman (white beard) and his team of County Parks Department workers

John Kiereck

Chuck Macaluso thanking all the volunteers for their efforts (Chapter members, Harris Communications, and Kodak VetNet)
Memorial Day Photos
Veterans Resource Picnic
Saturday, June 21
2:00 - 5:00 PM
Veterans' Memorial Park, 3100 Atlantic Avenue

★ Food, Music, Games for the Kids, Antique Car Show ★

All veterans are entitled to a number of benefits and services. Veterans and their families are invited to join us for an afternoon of community fun and opportunities to speak with local representatives from veterans services such as Monroe County Veterans Agency, Veterans Administration, and local social organizations.

Lunch $3.00 - FREE for Veterans

Please register by June 18 for this event - call 340-8664. *Rain date June 28

Veterans please bring your DD214 form with you!
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.

The other day, on my way from here to there, I saw a woman on an expressway off-ramp with a sign saying “hungry” – shouldn’t she be outside a restaurant?

It’s Time For Answers – No More Excuses, No More Empty Promises

May 1st – Representative Jeff Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, sent a letter to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki concerning the “secret wait list” (interim list) at the Phoenix VA. Specifically, Rep. Miller requested that the Secretary “immediately provide information about the “interim list” referenced by Dr. Thomas Lynch, what it is, why it was created, when it was destroyed, who authorized its destruction and the legal basis for not preserving it”. Secondly, Chairman Miller asked the Secretary why the Chairman’s written (and hand delivered that day) request of April 9th to safeguard all documents at the Phoenix VA was not put into effect until April 17th.

May 7th – Secretary Shinseki responds to Chairman Miller’s letter of May 1st – Secretary Shinseki referred to the “interim list” as the Electronic Wait List (EWL) which is the official Veterans Health Administration (VHA) new patient appointment wait list. According to the Secretary’s letter, “…it does not appear that PVAHCS patients who were not able to be seen within 90 days were handled consistently prior to the arrival of the current leadership team in 2012. Patients appear to have been scheduled beyond 90 days and not placed on the EWL, contrary to VHA policy for new patients. When the existing leadership came on board in 2012, they initiated VHA’s current national standard policy and use of the EWL”. As to the destruction/shredding of the “interim list”, the Secretary stated that because the “interim list” was used for reference purposes and considered to be transitory notes, it was destroyed according to guidelines of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and VA Handbook 6300. Regarding the delay of the issuance of a litigation hold as requested by the Chairman, the Secretary felt that the delay of six business days was “appropriate and timely in light of the seriousness of the allegations and the best information available to the Office of the General Counsel at the time”. (Editor’s note: I would think that the Secretary would have thought to issue an order to stop all shredding/destruction of any documents related to the allegations without being told by someone outside the VA.)

May 14th – President Obama temporarily assigns White House Deputy Chief of Staff, Rob Nabors, to the VA to work on a review focused on policies for patient safety rules and the scheduling of patient appointments. Nabors is one of Obama’s closest advisors. He is the son of an Army veteran, was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff following Obama’s re-election and previously served at the President’s Chief Congressional Liaison and Deputy Budget Director. The review Nabors will oversee is separate from an inspector general’s investigation into the Phoenix allegations that is already underway. (This was reported on-line by Julie Pace for the Associated Press.)

May 15th – Senators point to 50 studies on VA problems. Secretary Shinseki said he is “mad as hell” that employees have falsified records on VA wait times and urged patience from lawmakers as his agency investigates allegations. Shinseki said various reports by the Inspector General (IG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) have been used by the VA to improve its system. The VA reacted to long treatment wait times at its facilities by last year requiring that all patients be seen within 14 days of requesting an appointment. (Editor’s note: I wonder if anyone checked to see if there was appropriate staffing to handle the shortened wait times for appointments.) Whistleblowers allege that VA employees falsified records to make month-long waits appear to fall within the 14 day rule. (Reported by Travis J. Tritten in the on-line Stars and Stripes.)
May 15th – The Project On Government Oversight (POGO) and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) team up to create the website, VAoversight.org. The site, which gives whistleblowers the option of providing contact information, features bold-face warnings to avoid using a government computer or phone to submit complaints. It also contains links to other online security tools to minimize detection. With this website, POGO and IAVA hope to encourage more whistleblowers to come forward. (Written by Chris Carroll in the online Stars and Stripes)

May 15th – Secretary Shinseki hopes to have a preliminary report within three weeks on how widespread treatment delays and falsified patient scheduling reports are at VA facilities nationwide. The Secretary also resisted calls from a Democratic Senator to bring in the Justice Department and FBI for a criminal investigation. Shinseki said he first wanted to see results of the audit and a report on the VA Inspector General’s office on its investigation of the Phoenix hospital. (Reported by Matthew Daly in the online Military & Foreign Affairs Journal, Veterans Today) (Editor’s note: Am I the only one who thinks a criminal investigation will never happen?)

May 16th – At a Senate hearing acting Inspector General for the VA Richard Griffin, stated that, “The review to date has pulled together an initial list of 17 people who experienced delays of care in Phoenix, although none conclusively show that the delays contributed to their deaths. It’s one thing to be on a waiting list, and it’s another thing to conclude that as a result of being on the waiting list that’s the cause of death, depending on what your illness might have been at the beginning. We didn’t conclude, so far, that the delay caused the death”. (Reported in the NYTimes, Navy Times, Wall Street Journal, and by the Associated Press.)

May 16th – Chairman Jeff Miller, House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs – “Today’s announcement from VA regarding Undersecretary for Health Robert Petzel’s ‘resignation’ is the pinnacle of disingenuous political doublespeak. Petzel was already scheduled to retire in 2014 and President Obama has already announced his intention to nominate Petzel’s replacement, so characterizing this as a ‘resignation’ just doesn’t pass the smell test. Desperate to get ahead of a delays-in-care crisis that is growing by the day, yet apparently unwilling to take substantive actions to hold any of its leaders accountable for negligence that harms veterans, VA has resorted to what it does best: splitting semantic hairs to create the illusion of accountability and progress. After yesterday’s out-of-touch performance from Secretary Shinseki, I was disappointed. Today, I am even more disillusioned”.

May 16th – Republican Representative Jerry Moran of Kansas, said in a news release that Undersecretary Robert Petzel wasn’t the only one who should be held accountable. “It is important to note that Undersecretary Petzel was the only VA witness at the Senate VA Committee hearing who admitted knowledge of IG reports – he should not shoulder the blame for VA’s failures,” Moran said. “Rather than the VA focusing on damage control, action should be taken immediately to change the bureaucratic culture of mediocrity at the VA and ensure the highest quality and most timely care for our nation’s heroes.” (Editor’s note: sounds like a sensible approach to me.)

May 18th – Concerns about dangerous delays for care and VA officials gaming the system are not new, and are not isolated to Phoenix. The U.S. Government Accountability Office in December 2012 released a review of the Dayton VA Medical Center as well as VA hospitals in Montana, California, and Washington, D.C. It found errors by schedulers at every hospital. “During our site visits, staff at some clinics told us they change medical appointment desired dates to show clinic wait times within VHA’s performance goals,” the report says. The VA responded that it would revise its scheduling policy by November 2013, but that it is hampered by staffing shortages among schedulers because of turnover due to high stress and low starting pay. An April 9 GAO report issued after a review of select VA centers across the country noted that approximately 2 million outpatient referrals were unresolved for more than 90 days in 2012. Inspectors found that three of 10 gastroenterology referrals they reviewed at one medical center had left veterans waiting 140 to 210 days. Four of 10 physical therapy referrals at another medical center took 108 to 152 days “with no apparent action taken to schedule an appointment for the veteran”. (The online Dayton Daily News by Josh Sweigart)

May 18th – A VA nurse in Cheyenne, Wyoming, was put on leave for allegedly telling employees to falsify appointment records. A VA investigation in December found that staffers at a Fort Collins, Colorado, clinic were trained to make it appear as if veterans got appointments within 14 days, as VA guidelines suggest. (Editor’s note: a nurse allegedly told, did it happen or not? placed on leave, not fired? What’s wrong with this picture?)
May 24th – Secretary Shinseki issued a statement that VA facilities are enhancing capacity of their clinics so veterans can get care sooner. Where capacity cannot be expanded, the DVA is “increasing the care we acquire in the community through non-VA care”, said Shinseki. Representative Jeff Miller of Florida has promised to introduce legislation that would give any veteran who is unable to obtain a VA appointment within 30 days the option to receive non-VA care at the VA’s expense. Senator John McCain of Arizona has called for the VA to allow more veterans to receive medical care at private hospitals. Representative Nancy Pelosi of California said that she was open to the idea of medical care at private hospitals. She said it was unacceptable to have a backlog of patients waiting for permission to go to a federally qualified clinic. (Matthew Daly for the Associated Press.)

May 27th – Interim Report: Review of VHA’s Patient Wait Times, Scheduling Practices, and Alleged Patient Deaths at the Phoenix Health Care System – “....... While the review is still underway, OIG has substantiated that significant delays in access to care negatively impacted the quality care at this medical facility.......Our reviews have identified multiple types of scheduling practices that are not in compliance with VHA policy. Since the multiple lists we found were something other than the official EWL, these additional lists may be the basis for allegations of creating “secret” waiting lists......Lastly, while conducting our work at the Phoenix HCS our on-site OIG staff and OIG Hotline receive numerous allegations daily of mismanagement, inappropriate hiring decisions, sexual harassment, and bullying behavior by mid- and senior-level managers at this facility. We are assessing the validity of these complaints and if true, the impact to the facility’s senior leadership’s ability to make effective improvements to patients’ access to care. We will make recommendations in our final report and ask the VA Secretary to submit target dates and implementation plans. We recommend the VA Secretary take immediate action to review and provide appropriate health care to the 1,700 veterans we identified as not being on any existing wait list. Also, we recommend a review of all existing wait lists at the Phoenix Health Care System to identify veterans who may be at greatest risk because of a delay in the delivery of health care. We recommend initiation of a nationwide review of veterans on wait lists to ensure that veterans are seen in an appropriate time, given their clinical condition. Finally, we recommend the VA Secretary direct the Health Eligibility Center to run a nationwide New Enrollee Appointment Request report by facility of all newly enrolled veterans and direct facility leadership to ensure all veterans have received appropriate care or are shown on the facility’s Electronic Wait List”. (For the full report go to www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-14-02603-178.pdf)

May 27th – Review of Alleged Mismanagement of VBA’s Eastern Area Fiduciary Hub – “OIG did this review to determine the merits of three allegations made to the VA Office of Inspector General Hotline in May 2013. The complainant alleged that the Eastern Area Fiduciary Hub (EAFH) in Indianapolis, Indiana, was not timely processing allegations of misuse of beneficiary funds, conducting field examinations, and processing some incoming mail. OIG substantiated the three allegations. EAFH did not complete merit reviews for 190 of 214 allegations of misuse of funds and did not complete 17 of 23 investigations of fiduciary misuse of funds within Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) performance standards. In addition, EAFH made 12 determinations concluding fiduciaries misused approximately $944,000 of beneficiary funds. However, EAFH did not timely complete required actions, such as replacing the fiduciary, requesting repayment from former fiduciaries, or determining if VA was negligent in its oversight of the fiduciaries. As a result, VA may be responsible for repayment of approximately $944,000 to the affected beneficiaries. We also substantiated that EAFH had more than 16,000 pending field examinations, including 11,000 pending field examinations that had exceeded VBA timeliness standards. As a result, the general health and well-being of beneficiaries are placed at increased and unnecessary risk. We also identified more than 3,200 pieces of mail that had yet to be processed and exceeded EAFH’s timeliness standards, some of which were time-critical. Delays in processing the 3,200 pieces of mail ranged from 11 to 486 workdays, with an average delay of 30 workdays. Without effective management of incoming mail, VA benefits may be affected. We recommend that the Under Secretary for Benefits require EAFH implement controls to ensure timely processing of allegations of misuse of beneficiary funds. In addition, we recommend the Under Secretary for Benefits ensures EAFH implements a plan to expedite completion of the backlog of field examinations, and to ensure implemented actions continue to reduce the backlog of mail during FY 2014”. (For the full report go to www.va.gov/oig/pubs/VAOIG-13-03018-159.pdf)

May 28th – Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania announces plans to introduce a bill that would allow patients at VA hospitals to sue VA employees who falsify or destroy health records. The bill would also allow the VA to fire employees who engage in such activities.
May 30th – After repeatedly stating that he would stay on and repair the broken VA, Secretary Shinseki, has resigned. The Secretary and President Obama agreed that without his resignation, the Secretary would be a “distraction” from the real problems. General Shinseki said, “I can’t explain the lack of integrity among some of the leaders of our healthcare facilities, and so I will not defend it, because it is indefensible. But I can take responsibility for it, and I do”. Shinseki acknowledged that he had been too trusting of the information he received from VA hospital employees, and he said that during his 38-year military career he always thought he could trust reports from the field.

May 30th – Until a successor can be nominated and confirmed by the Senate, the Deputy Secretary of VA, Sloan D. Gibson has been appointed by the President to serve as the acting Secretary. Mr. Gibson was confirmed as Deputy Secretary in February of this year. Before coming to the VA he served as President and CEO of the United Services Organization (USO) for five years. Prior to joining the USO, Mr. Gibson spent 20 years in the banking industry. Mr. Gibson is a 1975 graduate of West Point earning both Airborne and Ranger qualifications. He has a Masters in Economics and a Masters in Public Administration.

Editor’s Note: Now that Secretary Shinseki has resigned, we must be cautious to not let his leaving become the focal point of our discussions. The VA remains broken. We must now pay close attention to whoever President Obama nominates to become the new Secretary. It must be someone familiar with the VA and its unique customer base; a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces; a person of integrity with proven leadership abilities. However, we must also continue to follow the progress of the OIG and its reports and recommendations. It is not enough to merely accept the reports of the IG, the recommendations contained in those reports need to be implemented and followed through by the VA. We must make certain that Congress continues to give attention to this problem and that the proposed bills come to fruition. There has never been a better opportunity to revamp the VA than now.
LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Have you ever thought about becoming an Officer, Director, or Committee chair for Chapter 20? If so, join us on Saturday, August 9th from 9am to 3pm at the Golden Ponds Restaurant & Party House, 500 Long Pond Road.

We will be providing “seminars” on what is involved in becoming part of the leadership of Chapter 20. Information and hand-outs will be provided on all elected and appointed positions within the Chapter.

There will be plenty of time for questions and answers. Topics will include each of the Officer positions, being a Director, Committee Chairs and other appointees, as well as other items of interest.

No registration fees, free parking, hand-outs to take home, so if you plan on attending, contact Fred Elliott at felliott@rochester.rr.com or by phone at 585-317-7619. You must be a member of Vietnam Veterans of America to attend.

The Officers and Directors of Chapter 20.
MARCHING UNIT SCHEDULE

June 5 – Thursday – Firemen’s Parade – Spencerport – 7:00pm
June 18 – Wednesday – Firemen’s Parade – Barnard – 7:00pm

July 4 – Friday – 4th of July – Irondequoit – 11:00am
July 10 - Thursday – Firemen’s Parade – Webster – 6:30pm
July 11 – Friday – Firemen’s Parade – Kendall – 7:00pm
July 24 – Thursday – Firemen’s Parade – Hilton – 7:00pm

August 8 – Friday – Firemen’s Parade – Hamlin – 7:00pm
August 9 – Saturday – Firemen’s Parade – Hamlin – 7:00pm
August 16 – Saturday – NOT A VVA EVENT – Toronto – contact Tim Sturm p51flyer_3@yahoo.com

NOTE: times listed are start times; please plan to be at formation approximately 45-60 minutes PRIOR to the listed start time.
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.
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## Board Meetings

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## Monthly Membership Meetings

**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 June:

2nd (1924) – U.S. citizenship granted to all American Indians

5th (1968) – U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy shot in Los Angeles

6th (1944) – WWII – D-Day

12th (2014) – Chapter meeting

14th (1775) – U.S. Army’s Birthday
   (1777) – Stars & Stripes adopted as the American flag

15th (1864) – Arlington Cemetery established

20th (1924) – Birthday of Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier in WWII

22nd (1970) – Voting age is lowered to 18

25th (1876) – Battle of Little Big Horn

26th (1953) – Korean war ended

28th (1926) – Actor & WWII Army veteran Mel Brook’s Birthday