HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY!

Meet the Candidates for YOUR Board of Directors

Candidates’ Night at the March 13th Chapter Meeting
Nominating Committee

by Chuck Macaluso, Chair

General Membership Meeting March 13, 2014 - Meet the Candidates.

Location: Italian American Sports Club – 1250 Buffalo Road

Driving Directions - The Club is located on 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 bound on 490, exit Mount Read Blvd and turn left. South bound on Mt. Read to Buffalo Road circle, turn right Westbound on Buffalo Road. 1.4 miles Westbound on the right side North is 1250 Buffalo Rd.

From the West: Heading East bound on 490, exit 33 East bound, Buffalo Road (Gates Center). Head East bound on Buffalo Road. Pass Howard Road 1250 will be on the left North side about .5 miles.

Positions for nominations –
Four Executive (4) - President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer
Three Board (3) – Directors
New York State Council Representatives
The "new" Nominating Committee will also be elected by the membership that evening.

In order to vote in the Annual Election, voters must be a member for at least 30 days.
• Only paid members with a DD214 on file by 28 February of previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (For example - 28 February 2014 to vote April 2014).
• A quorum is defined as 10% of VVA 20 membership as of 28 February of the previous fiscal year. Voting for candidates will take place between 6:30 PM till 7:30 PM, after which no new ballots will be taken and votes will be tabulated.
• According to the National VVA Constitution, “Additional persons may be nominated by any member at the Annual Meeting.” These candidates will fall under the category of Floor Nominations.
• Floor nominated candidates can only receive votes from members present at Annual Meeting. (A “Special Note” stating such will be placed March and April BTL issues.)

The slated candidates for this year (as of 2/14) are as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Officer Positions</th>
<th>Director Positions</th>
<th>NYS Council Representatives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President – Valentino Gatto</td>
<td>Fred Elliott</td>
<td>Nick DeLeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President – Chuck Macaluso</td>
<td>Jerry McDermott</td>
<td>Valentino Gatto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary – Joe Peck</td>
<td>Ron Trovato</td>
<td>Jerry McDermott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer – Alan Frisa</td>
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<td>Ken Moore</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Any member interested in running for any of the above mentioned positions, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members:
Chuck Macaluso 225-8288, Dan Corona 406-6108, Pat Pudetti 753-6040
I was drafted into the United States Army, 5th Infantry Division, at Fort Carson Colorado from 1966 to 1968. I was injured during basic training and spent approximately nine months in the military hospital in Denver. My injuries required two major surgeries. During my recovery, I was assigned to work in the Chapel Center where I served as a chaplain’s assistant for about twelve months.

I have been an active member since 2007 and in 2009 was elected to the Chapter 20 Board of Directors. My responsibilities included the coordination and sale of Chapter 20 related apparel, commonly referred to as “Chapter Gear.” In 2009, I became a member of the Chapter 20 Honor Guard and in 2010 was appointed to the position of Assistant Commander of the Marching Unit and Honor Guard. In 2010, I was elected as a delegate to the New York State Council and appointed Coordinator of Social Events. In 2011, I was elected to the position of Vice President of the chapter. In 2012, I was elected president of Chapter 20. In the two years that I served the chapter along with the BOD, we made a lot of changes and resolved many problems. If re-elected president of Chapter 20 I will continue to better serve the interests of the chapter, its members and the community.

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My name is Chuck Macaluso and I would like to start out by giving you a little background about myself. I have served three years in the USMC with duty stations in the Mediterranean, Vietnam, Philippine Islands and Camp Pendleton, CA.

Graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology obtaining an A.A.S. Degree in Electronics. Retired from Eastman Kodak after thirty-seven years as a Process Control/Computer Systems Technician. I am a certified instructor for the Department of Environmental Conservation and teach Hunter Safety for students wishing to obtain a hunting license. I am currently a Life Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Marine Corps League, American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart and member of The Khe Sanh Veterans. Married for 44 years to my lovely wife Joan, we have two children Dawn & Brian along with two grandchildren, Kylie (Dawn & Mike Mitchell) and Jeffrey (Brian and Allison).

Past Service - I have been an active member of Chapter 20 for thirty-one years, member of the Marching Unit for the same assisting the Commander of the Unit when needed. I have served on the Board of Directors for twenty-five years, Nominating Committee for thirty holding the position of committee chair for past twenty-eight years. Currently President of the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial and have served on their Board for ten years. I am the founder and Chairman of the Veterans Walk at Highland Park. For the past three and a half years I have assumed the position of Honor Guard Commander.

The experience of serving on the Board and working on Chapter goals and activities is very rewarding. We must be actively involved with past and current veterans’ issues, laying the groundwork for future generations of veterans to follow.
I am presently running for re-election for the position of Secretary. I have been a proud member of Chapter 20 since August of 2004 as well as a board member since 2007 and Secretary since 2011. I served in the US Army from 1974 to 1976 and was assigned to the 5th Signal Command under STRATCOM and was stationed in Manheim, Germany. I am presently retired after 35 years of service from Xerox and will be celebrating 38 years of marriage this year and 43 years that my wife, LuAnn, and I first met. I have 2 wonderful children and one beautiful granddaughter who I spend a lot more time with. I have continuously worked to keep the integrity and functionality of the chapter at its highest standard. With your vote of confidence, I will continue to perform my duties with the executive committee to the best of my abilities. Thank you.

I was drafted in 1966 into the US Army, took basic training at Ft Dix, and went on to Ft Knox for armor training. I received orders for Germany where I was stationed in Schweinfurt, where I was a track mechanic. 3rd Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion, 64th Armor. My job was to keep the tanks running to protect the borders from the Russians. I would like to rerun for the position of Treasurer. I have taken care of the books for the chapter for the past 2 years. I find the job challenging and I am up for the task.

I have had the great pleasure of working with a great President Val, VP Chuck, and Secretary Joe. We got things done, and saved money for the chapter. Please consider me for the position of Treasurer.
I am an Army veteran, having served with both the 9th Infantry Division and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Having discovered Chapter 20 in 1983, I joined that same year and got involved right away by joining the Marching Unit, the Legislative Committee, and the Membership Committee. It wasn’t too long after that, when I was encouraged to run for the Chapter Board as a Director. I have also served in each of the Chapter Officer positions. Then in 1999, I ran as a National At-Large Director and began my 14 year run on the National Board of Directors.

I am running for the position of Director to increase my involvement with the Chapter. I believe I am qualified because of my previous experience as a Chapter Officer and Director as well as my 14 years of service on the National Board of Directors. As the current editor of the Chapter 20 newsletter, I am aware of those issues of interest to our Chapter membership as well as veterans in general. I have the time, energy, and interest to be a fully dedicated member of the Chapter Board of Directors.

I served in the US Army from March 1968 through March 1971. One year was served in Vietnam, from March 1969 through March 1970. I have been a VVA Chapter # 20 member since 2007 and a Life Member of VVA. I am running for my third term as director.

I currently chair the Health Affairs Committee and have been the on the NYS Council as a Chapter delegate since 2010. Since 2008, I was appointed to the VA/Volunteer Service Council, first as deputy representative, and since 2012 as a representative to the VA Canandaigua Medical Center.

Recalling my first election to the BOD in April 2008, I felt that I could contribute and make a difference. I was asked to increase our Chapter # 20 efforts in our outreach programs to further contact veterans within our area. I truly wanted to connect with my fellow veterans both within our family of Chapter #20 members and others not part of any veteran organization. I did not fully realize how big of an opportunity this could be and after six years I still feel there is still much more that can be done.

I would like to be able to continue the path that Chapter #20 has allowed me to take. I want to continue to expand my efforts to educate, advocate for, and inform as many veterans and their families within our community. I still want to assist veterans in their efforts to gain their earned benefits through honorable service to our great country. I look forward to your support in this upcoming election, and appreciate the support that you have given me in the past. Thank you all, and Welcome Home!
I'm a two tour Army veteran (69-71) and a founding member of Chapter #20. I have spent about half the time the Chapter has been around on the Board of Directors and I think it is important for Board members to have a link so to speak with the “old days”. I don’t want us to forget where we’ve come from as a Chapter because I think it helps us to see better where we should be going. During this time I have attended numerous National Conventions and State Council meetings and I have chaired this Chapters Incarcerated Veterans Committee since 1989. I presently serve on the Vietnam Memorial Board and have served as NY State Incarcerated Veterans Chair for the past three years. I also recently became involved through the Chapter in the Veterans to Veterans hospice program sponsored by Lifetime Care. I have experience and I also like working with the present Board and Executive Officers. During the past few years we have dealt successfully with several significant issues such as the closing of our thrift store and move from Ira Jacobsen. Additionally, I am proud that we have kept the Chapter financially viable after losing our primary source of income while developing other revenue sources. There remains much to be done and I would like to continue to represent our membership as a member of the Board of Directors. I would also like to continue to give a voice to incarcerated veterans, expand this chapters’ assistance to veterans in hospice and their families, and continue to raise funds so that veterans everywhere can benefit from our sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

The above seven individuals are making a commitment to your Chapter to run for a position of Leadership. Although they are running unopposed at this time, there may be people nominated from the floor on Election Night. Regardless, it would be a great show of support for their willingness to serve by your coming out to vote. There will also be the election of a new Nominating Committee, and delegates to the NYS State Council. So, come to the March 13th Candidates’ Night and again to the April 10th Election Meeting.
MEMORIAL REPORT
Website  http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Remembering our Fallen Heroes - March

Larry Duane              Metcalf             3-1-1942
Kenneth Edwin           Koch               3-4-1949
Theodore                Shorack            3-6-1929
Ralph Eugene            Schieb             3-6-1945
Sylvester               McFarland          3-8-1948
John Frank              Leone              3-9-1947
Robert B.               Beale              3-11-1939
James A.                Hockridge          3-12-1944
Richard Allen           Carapezza          3-13-1948
Lynn                     Bachmann, Jr.   3-15-1945
Wallace                  Roberts            3-17-1928
Harold Bradley          Nadeau             3-17-1947
Richard Lee             Malone             3-18-1950
David John              DeRue              3-19-1947
Leonard Ashworth        Coles              3-20-1945
Dennis Joseph           Keenan             3-22-1943
Michael Alexander       Nederlk            3-22-1948
Gary Roger              Kooman             3-23-1946
David Allen             Curtis             3-23-1949
Elwood D.               Covey, Jr.        3-29-1943
Martin L.               Siegwalt           3-30-1937
Nicholas Anthony        Natale             3-31-1948

Memorial Tours & Presentations
Persons interested in onsite tours or presentations at schools or organizations, contact:
Chuck Macaluso

(H) 585-225-8288
chuckmac66@yahoo.com

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
President Gatto receiving a check from Spencer Christiano, producer of the play M.I.A. and Great-nephew of Lt. Col. Joseph Christiano, the subject of the play.

President Gatto receiving a donation from Steve Nash, Chapter member and Director of the Vietnam Learning Center at the Rochester Public Library.

President Gatto with two checks received from Northside Salvage for donated vehicles.
It pains me to report that at this present time, there still have 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 concerning our missing servicemen. The total number of Americans missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War still stands at **1642**.

Here are reports of recoveries and identification of individuals from the following wars:

- **Pfc. James R. Holmes**, U.S. Army was lost on December 1, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on January 14, 2014 and will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in May 2014.

- **Cpl. Cristobal Romo**, US Army was lost December 12, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on January 13, 2014 and will be buried with full military honors in Riverside, California on March 22, 2014.

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.
Candidates’ Night - Come hear those people running for an elected position in your Chapter

Chapter Elections – Attend and vote for those people who will be governing your Chapter

Chapter 20’s Annual Dinner

Happy Birthday !  Nancy VanApeldoorn – March 23rd
Health Affairs Chair, Jerry McDermott

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th># of Vets</th>
<th>Avg Wgt</th>
<th># of Vets</th>
<th>Avg Gain/Loss</th>
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<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>207.6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>(1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>217.2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>208.2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>(0.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marines</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>206.3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(1.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>209.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
<td><strong>(0.9)</strong></td>
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VA/VS Quarterly Meeting Report 02/12/2014 by J. McDermott, Representative, VVA Chapter # 20

The Canandaigua VAMC was just recently awarded a special designation as a “National Care Services Center” for Research and Development grants/studies concerning Geriatric and Extended Care Clinical Center. This designation will provide more funds for research directed towards an aging veteran population going forward. Congratulations to our local VA Medical Center staff for this national award.

April is National Volunteer Recognition Month. With that in mind, a renewed effort is under way to recruit volunteers to assist at both the Rochester Outpatient Clinic (ROPC) on Westfall Road in Rochester, and the Canandaigua VA Medical Center campus. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at either location and representing VVA Chapter # 20 toward its commitment to continued support for all veterans can contact the VA/VS office at (585) 393-7757, ask for Mr. Utaw Vines and he will get you started. Training is provided; there are plenty of things that you can do to help at both locations. Certainly the need is great. If you become involved as a volunteer, the return for your time is priceless to the veterans who benefit from your support.

Continuing the need for donations throughout the year at the Medical Center, I have provided a list below that I will take to the VA MC after every monthly general membership meeting. These comfort care items are provided to veterans in need receiving treatment or services at Canandaigua VAMC. Ongoing items that are needed: denture grip, dry skin cream, slipper socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, comb/brushes, puzzle books, deodorant, crew socks (white) hand and body lotions, denture cleaner, shaving cream, underwear (S, M, L, XL) talcum powder, disposable razors, writing paper, envelopes and stamps, just to suggest a few. Both men and women veterans are served daily at Canandaigua.

**Fit Vet Challenge Halftime report**…keeping in our football analogy for this update. We are at halftime! So, even though you would like to take a break from the game, as any Coach would say…stay in the game! Don’t lose sight of your goal. So as we begin the 3rd quarter of our competition (March), let’s keep focused on what we are doing, small steps equal big results. We are through with two full months of repeating daily good habits, reading labels, checking out portion sizes, avoiding the second helping, or supersizing, and resisting the urge to keeping eating after we are full. These good habits have been reinforced during the first two months of our Fit Vet Challenge. Research studies claim that the longer you stick with something, the easier it becomes to do. Couple the small steps and modifying your eating habits with moving more. Certainly this winter has been brutal. Lots of snow, cold and windy conditions do not make for wanting to get up and get moving, but remember, the shopping malls all have “walker programs” as do most of the local school districts. Take the time to find a location and take your spouse or friend along, remember the “buddy system.” It can’t hurt one bit to try! I want to continue to encourage you all stay in the game since we only have two months left; don’t stop now. It may seem like winter is here forever, but pool and swim suit weather will be here in no time.
Mike General, Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 569 members and AVVA is at 48 members as of 1/31/14.

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)

Recent Chapter Members

Gary Hoad
U.S. Army

90 people attended the February General membership Meeting.
Jack Madigan won the 50/50 raffle.
Bill Wickum won the flag drawing.
Our hard-Working Congress

There are 6,712 bills and resolutions containing 3,128 amendments currently before the United States Congress. Of those, on average only about 5% will become law. They must be enacted before the end of the 2013-2015 session (the “113th Congress”). To date only 65 laws have been passed by both chambers and sent to the President for signature. As of 31 DEC, of the 3808 House and 1894 Senate bills introduced in the 113th Congress, the ones listed below as an attachment are of interest to the non-active duty veteran community. A good indication on the likelihood of a bill of being forwarded to the House or Senate for passage and subsequently being signed into law by the President is the number of cosponsors who have signed onto the bill. An alternate way for it to become law is if it is added as an addendum to another bill such as the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and survives the conference committee assigned to iron out the difference between the House and Senate bills.

The reality of politics is that bills are introduced by individual US Representatives and Senators in response to requests from their constituents or lobbying groups, or in response to the hot issue of the day such as Cost Of Living Adjustments (COLA) for veterans and military retirees. The elected official appears to be responsive to his or her constituency, but precious little follow up or active solicitation of other elected officials as co-sponsors occurs. Unfortunately veteran related bills end up in a sub-committee where it will be studied for months or years, with no chance of any specific bill ever being brought to the House or Senate floor for debate and vote.

Veteran Service Organizations focus on a handful of veteran related bills, and seek to educate lawmakers on the features, advantages, and benefits of this selective highly focused and prioritized legislation, and to influence the lawmakers into an active role in promoting the legislation. On a positive note, individual veterans can help this lobbying, education, and influencing process by calling or emailing their Representative and two US Senators, identifying themselves as a constituent, and asking for support for one or more specific bills. An active, involved grassroots veterans community can accomplish much, evidence what has been accomplished at the State level over the past eight plus years and four Texas Legislative Sessions. If you want legislation passed that positively impacts the veteran community, your personal, individual involvement is critical and essential. Get educated on the issues, become involved in the political process.

Respectfully: John A Miterko
Veterans Advocate
Texas State Council, VVA
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
The community Service Award recognizes a group, organization or individual who has demonstrated a strong sense of community service and who favorably recognizes and relates to the Vietnam Veterans issues.
My nomination for this award is__________________________ Because _____________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

VETERAN SERVICE AWARD
The Veteran Service Award recognizes and individual who demonstrated outstanding dedication in improving the conditions of the Vietnam Veterans and /or the Community. (There may be up to 3 awards presented annually).
My nomination for this award is__________________________ Because _____________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

THE ROGER ROBACH AWARD
The Roger Robach Award is given to an individual who has spent a minimum of ten years working for the betterment of all veterans in New York State.
My nomination for this award is__________________________ Because _____________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

DON AND RORI MURRELL HUMANITARIAN AWARD
The Don and Murrell Humanitarian Award is given to an individual who has accomplished and extraordinary effort on behalf of active duty personnel and /or veterans and their families. (All individuals are to be considered for this award regardless of Chapter or veteran affiliation).
My nomination for this award is__________________________ Because _____________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

Please consider nominating those who you feel go above and beyond their normal duties and submit your nominations to the Secretary, Joe Peck at jpeck2@rochester.rr.com
You can also email Fred Elliott at felliott@rochester.rr.com for an electronic version of these nomination forms. Deadline for all nominations is March 15th 2014.
Valentines for Veterans
at the Canal View Elementary School in Spencerport

Chapter 20 members Jerry Daniels, Alan Frisa, Lynn Gurrslin, Ed Kier, Chuck Macaluso, Dick Oleksyn, and Joe Peck were in attendance.
**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.

**From the February 10, 2014 Stars & Stripes** - Congress appears poised to tighten oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs in light of the ever-present backlog of claims and recent, high-profile medical errors, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday. A bipartisan group of top members of the congressional committees that oversee the VA are frustrated with the agency in the wake of incidents ranging from a patient’s death after an altercation with a nursing assistant in Louisiana to a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease in Pennsylvania. Lawmakers say these episodes reflect a lack of accountability at the 1,700 VA hospitals, clinics and other facilities.

Congress now appears likely to impose restrictions: The House last week unanimously passed a bill that included a five-year ban on bonuses for senior VA executives, which the Congressional Budget Office estimated would save $18 million. The Senate has not voted on the measure, yet. According to GovExec.com, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., said the bill’s passage is an important step forward to hold VA more accountable, as the department has failed to conduct the review of its performance appraisal system that the committee recommended. The chairman long has argued that no one at the department deserves bonuses while the backlog of benefits claims remains high.

The Senior Executives Association, a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation representing the interests of career federal executives, warned Miller not to eliminate the performance awards, as it would drive VA employees out of federal service, according to GovExec.com. SEA said in a letter to the committee that the bonuses are part of the pay structure for SES employees, and are awarded only after a “rigorous review of executives’ achievements against both individual and organizational performance goals.” The VA cares for 8.75 million patients, from nonagenarian World War II veterans to teenagers with brain injuries from Afghanistan. Vietnam-era vets are now heavy VA users.

In some ways, the VA is politically inviolate, wrote the Wall Street Journal. The report noted that since Fiscal 2000, its budget has tripled to $148 billion, with no serious talk of cuts despite general concern about government deficits. But that windfall and the influx of wounded vets have also drawn increased congressional scrutiny.

The dispute has taken a testy turn in recent weeks, with Miller and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki swapping comments about VA accountability practices, according to the Journal. In a Jan. 31 letter to Miller, the secretary defended the agency’s bonus and dismissal practices, even going so far as to explain bonuses given to particular employees. “Results, or lack thereof, for which employees and executives are responsible and accountable, are factors when evaluating performance,” wrote Shinseki, a former Army general.

Miller shot back Friday: “It’s becoming more apparent by the day that there seems to be just two types of people who think VA is properly holding its leaders accountable: VA executives who have received huge performance bonuses year after year despite failing in their jobs, and those who work in VA’s central office.” VA officials say the agency has spent less on bonuses than allowed by law.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent who chairs the Senate VA oversight committee and is one of the agency’s biggest allies on Capitol Hill, says most veterans are satisfied with VA care. “If you do an investigation of any given [civilian] hospital on any given day you’re going to see negative things coming out,” The Wall Street Journal reported Sanders as saying. However, he expressed some concern about the VA’s response when things go wrong. “When people are doing a bad job we don’t want them staying in the job; when they do a good job we want to see them rewarded,” Sanders said. “I’m not going to tell you that’s always the case with the VA.” (Editor – It’s about damn time Congress looks at those bonuses. How they have managed to justify bonuses in the light of in-hospital deaths, lost records, the claims backlog, and all of the other failures in the VA system is beyond this veteran’s comprehension.)

{ A helicopter pilot I met recently told me he was instructed to refer to the enemy not as Charlie, or gooks, but rather as “indigenous personnel of dubious political conviction”.}
ST. LOUIS -- More than 1,800 personnel records for U.S. veterans were destroyed or misfiled by two student employees of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis County, federal criminal court documents show.

One of the student employees, Lonnie Halkmon, 28, was sentenced Thursday to two years of probation and ordered to perform 40 hours of community service. The other, Stanley Engram, 21, is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 7. Both pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of destruction of government records and faced probation to six months in prison under federal sentencing guidelines. Engram's guilty plea says that 241 military records were found in the woods near the center on July 3, 2012, with 300 names and Social Security numbers visible on the documents. The records were traced to Engram, who admitted disposing of the records found in the woods, “abandoning” files in the center and throwing them away at home. In all, he admitted destroying or purposely misfiling more than 1,000 records. Halkmon's plea says that after an “incident,” the center conducted an audit of all records assigned to employees in 2011 and 2012.

From Dec. 7, 2011 to March 28, 2012, over 1,200 files were assigned to Halkmon, and 850 were reported missing. The audit covered 41 employees and Halkmon had the highest error rate. While most employees had an error rate of 3 percent, four other employees had disproportionate error rates, according to a state appellate court ruling. It's not clear the total number of files that are missing and many may never be located due to the huge volume of records at the center. Halkmon had worked at the center since 2005 and resigned rather than being terminated. The other four employees were offered the same deal. Some employees seeking to earn an incentive bonus were intentionally misfiling, or “stashing,” records to finish more quickly, state court files show. Although Halkmon denied stashing files and said he'd lacked proper training, a tribunal handling Halkmon's appeal of the rejection of his unemployment benefits said his claims were not credible.

In court Thursday, Halkmon's public defender Lucille Liggett said that he was "sincerely remorseful" for his actions, and stressed that none of Halkmon's records were destroyed or removed from the center. Halkmon did not make a statement, and Liggett declined to comment on the case after Thursday's hearing. U.S. Magistrate Judge Nanette Baker said that while she didn't know why Halkmon had misfiled the records, she said she hoped he "understood the seriousness" of the situation and the potential impact on veterans' lives. Engram's lawyer and federal officials could not be immediately reached for comment Thursday.

The National Personnel Records Center, long housed in a building in Overland, Mo., moved to a new building on Dunn Road, just east of Highway 367, in 2011. The $115 million center houses 100 million individual files dating from the 1800s in 4.2 million cardboard cartons. About 57 million of the files are for military personnel. In 1973, a fire destroyed or damaged the files of about 22 million Army veterans from 1912 to 1959 and Air Force veterans from 1947 to 1963.

### CANANDAIGUA VA LOCAL VETERANS ART SHOW

Artwork by Veterans will be on display to the public at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center on Wednesday March 5, 2014 from 10 AM to 1 PM. It is estimated that over 40 pieces of art from among 15 different categories will be exhibited. Categories consist of fine art such as painting, drawing, sculpture and photography; applied art that includes ceramics, woodcarving, needlework and leatherwork; and craft kits such as string art, fabric art and wood building. Local artists will judge the artwork to determine first, second and third place in each category. The first place winning pieces will advance on to the national level where they will compete with entries submitted by Veterans from other VA facilities around the country.

The competition is an annual event that provides Veterans receiving treatment at VA facilities the opportunity to participate in creative self-expression in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music as part of their therapy, and to gain recognition for these artistic accomplishments. First place winners from the national competition will be invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, hosted this year by the Milwaukee VA Medical Center in Milwaukee Wisconsin the week of October 27- November 2, 2014.
Report of the Canandaigua VAVS/Community Council Committee Meeting

The meeting was held on February 12th at the Canandaigua American Legion Post and attended by Fred Elliott, Jerry McDermott, and Rosemary Williams on behalf of the Chapter.

- Meetings are held quarterly
- At last year’s Christmas gift-wrap for the Veterans at the Canandaigua VAMC, there were 60 volunteers
- At last year’s Christmas gift distribution at the Canandaigua VAMC, there were 70 volunteers
- 937 Veterans received Christmas gifts from the VAVS; a 90-year old WWII Nurse sent a thank you note for the quilt she received
- VAVS can always use phone cards, gas cards, “comfort” items, swim trunks, belts, medium sized underwear, sweat shirts and pants, and sneakers to provide to the veterans
- Volunteers are needed for recreation therapy, to assist with the kiosk program at Canandaigua, and as mass escorts – contact the VAVS office at 585-393-7761 for details
- On May 15th there will be a fundraiser at Canandaigua VAMC from 9:30am to 2pm (pies, cakes, and other healthy items)
- Wednesday March 5th there will be an art show at Canandaigua in the Building 5 Auditorium of works done by veterans and entered in a national competition
- This year’s Golden Age Games will be in Fayetteville, Arkansas June 28 – July 2
- The VA has initiated a Behavioral Autopsy Program in an effort to further reduce suicides
- Yearly financial assessments will eliminated later this year for veterans using the VA
- New VA ID cards will not be mailed until April of this year
- The VA will be conducting a national phone survey – a letter will sent to all potential participants before they are called
- Canandaigua VAMC has 116 long-term care beds
- The drawings for the new Rochester Outpatient Clinic are almost complete – a 2016 opening is planned
- There is a GEROFIT (Geriatric Fitness) program for veterans age 65 or older (sorry Joe) – it is conducted in Rochester on M/W/F from 0830 to 10 and in Canandaigua those same days from 1:30 to 4pm – there are currently 14 participants – a consult is required from your VA primary care physician

# # #
VA Announces Rollout of Secure Veteran Health Identification Cards

February 20, 2014

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the phased roll out of newly designed, more secure Veteran Health Identification Cards. The new cards are distinguished by additional security features and will have a different look and feel. In addition to being more secure, the card has been transformed into a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC). Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC displays the Veteran’s Member ID, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID, reflecting the Veteran’s enrollment in VA health care. “VA is committed to providing high quality health care while ensuring the personal security of Veterans,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “These new identification cards are an important step forward in protecting our nation’s heroes from identity theft and other personal crimes.” The VHIC is personalized to display the emblem of the Veteran’s branch of service. It also provides features that make it easier to use, such as the addition of “VA” in Braille to help visually impaired Veterans, and the printing of VA phone numbers and emergency care instructions on the cards. The card replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was introduced in 2004. As part of a phased rollout, starting this month, the card will only be offered to newly enrolled and other Veterans who have not been issued a VIC. Then, in early April, VA will begin a three month effort to automatically issue the more secure VHIC to current VIC cardholders. VA recommends Veterans safeguard their VIC as they would a credit card, and cut up or shred the card once it is replaced. While not required to receive VA health care, all enrolled Veterans are encouraged to get a VHIC. Enrolled Veterans can get more information about the VHIC by visiting their VA medical facility enrollment coordinator or the website www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic, calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility. Veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health care system can apply for enrollment at any time by visiting www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, Calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility.

Study: Lejeune Marines had High Cancer Death Rate   UPI | Feb 21, 2014

The cancer death rate at Camp Lejeune, the Marine base in North Carolina, was significantly higher than at Camp Pendleton in California, a federal study found. The report released Wednesday by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry said the cancer death rate at Camp Lejeune was 10 percent higher than at Camp Pendleton, the Tampa Bay Times reported. Drinking water at Camp Lejeune contained toxic chemicals for about three decades before being cleaned up in 1987, while Camp Pendleton water was not contaminated.

Researchers said the death rate was much higher for some types of cancer with Marines based at Lejeune 68 percent more likely to die of multiple myeloma. Figures for kidney cancer, liver cancer, esophageal cancer, cervical cancer and Hodgkins lymphoma ranged from 33 percent to 47 percent higher.

"This mortality study has given a voice to the thousands of dead Marines and sailors needlessly poisoned by the gross negligence of their leadership," said Michael Partain, 46, who was born at Camp Lejeune and also serves on the advisory panel for the study. "Through their voices, maybe the living will have a fighting chance."

Researchers determined the cause of death of 8,964 veterans stationed at Lejeune between 1975 and 1985 and compared them with a similar group stationed at Pendleton during those years. Up to 1 million people lived at Camp Lejeune during the decades its water was contaminated.
Honor Our Vietnam Vets at the...

SOCK HOP

Pizza & Wings Buffet
Cash Juice & Soda Bar available

Poodle Skirt Contest
Greasers Contest
Raffles & Prizes

APPRECIATION DAY

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: www.OurVietnamVets.com

Proceeds to benefit: Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 20
TSA Revamps Screening Policy for Veteran Amputees

By Thom Wilborn

A letter sent to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) by National Commander Larry A. Polzin has led to greater leniency in the screening of active-duty and veteran amputees flying on the nation’s airlines.

Polzin objected to the TSA’s security screening procedures for veterans who use prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs and scooters boarding aircraft. “Some screeners have required these amputees to expose their prostheses when they lack the ability to reposition their clothing, and TSA agents are not allowed to help them, nor do they allow spouses or traveling companions to enter private search areas to assist the amputees,” Polzin said in a March 8 letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

As a result, the agency announced March 27 that it would offer expedited screening to severely injured veterans, allowing them to move through security checkpoints without having to remove shoes, light outerwear or hats. The TSA also said it would allow someone to accompany an amputee during a private screening.

Daniel McCann, the head of TSA’s Office of Security Operations, wrote Polzin on April 4 that amputees may have a companion accompany them into the private screening area and remain through the screening process to assist the veterans in repositioning any displaced clothing. “The Transportation Security Officers performing the pat-down will not require or ask the veteran to remove the prostheses,” McCann wrote. “However, the Transportation Security Officers may need to touch the prosthesis as part of the screening process.”

In his letter, Polzin cited a screening of National 4th Junior Vice Commander David Riley, a quadruple amputee, in which he was required to lower his trousers, removing his belt and suspenders. “He could not reattach them or pull his trousers up,” said Polzin. “On another occasion, a TSA agent asked him to remove one of his prosthetic legs. That is a shameful way to treat a veteran who has sacrificed so greatly for our nation.”

Polzin urged Napolitano to provide a “consistent, respectable and dignified way to allow veterans to undergo screening without having to prove their prosthetic devices pose no threat.”

“Mr. Riley is one of many who travel extensively on behalf of DAV,” he said. “He deserves all the respect and dignity that the TSA can afford him in all security screenings. He should not be asked to remove the prosthetic devices that give him mobility and then be left to his own devices to put them back on, using only the prosthetic claws available to him.”

Polzin urged Napolitano to provide special training for TSA screeners in dealing with veteran amputees and how they should be treated. McCann said the TSA has redesigned its new-hire training program to emphasize proper screening techniques for injured and ill active-duty service members and veterans.

McCann said the program would emphasize courtesy that will help new-hire Transportation Security Officers better assess veterans’ specific needs through the screening process.

“It is gratifying to see the TSA act quickly in response to our call to treat our veterans right, while at the same time, protecting the safety of our nation’s flying public,” Polzin said. “Never should a veteran be treated with such callous actions that Dave Riley and many others have encountered.”
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Meetings</th>
<th>Membership Meetings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 4, 2014</td>
<td>March 13, 2014 – Candidates’ Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1, 2014</td>
<td>April 10, 2014 – Chapter Elections</td>
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<td>May 6, 2014</td>
<td>May 8, 2014</td>
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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 March:

3rd (1931) – Star Spangled Banner adopted as national anthem

6th (1836) – Battle of the Alamo ends

7th (1918) – Army Distinguished Service Medal authorized

9th (1862) – USS Monitor & CSS Merrimack battle at Hampton Roads, Virginia

11th (1942) – General Douglas MacArthur declares, “I shall return” (to the Philippines)

13th (2014) – Chapter meeting-Candidates’ Night

16th (1802) – Congress authorizes the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY

17th (2014) – St. Patrick’s Day

18th (1926) – Actor & Air Force veteran Peter Graves’ Birthday

20th (1937) – Singer/Actor & Army veteran Jerry Reed’s Birthday

21st (2014) – Spring begins

25th (1918) – Sportscaster & WWII Army veteran Howard Cosell’s Birthday

27th (1794) – Congress creates the U.S. Navy

30th (1981) – the attempted assassination of President Reagan
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES**

- Veterans Widows International Network: members@aol.com
- NYS Department of Health: www.health.state.ny.us
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial: www.rochestervietnammemorial.org
- Operation Welcome Home: www.operationwelcomerhome.org
- VVA New York State Council: www.nyvietnammems.org

**Miscellaneous**

- VVA Vehicle Donations: 224-8484
- POW/MIA Updates: 202-223-6846
- VA Outpatient Clinic: 463-2600
- Veterans Outreach Center: 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: 800-877-1000
- 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: 800-882-1316
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund: 202-393-0090
- National League of Families: 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

**VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION**

- Greater Rochester Veterans Memorial: 753-7275
- POW/MIA Updates: 202-223-6846
- Operation Welcome Home: www.operationwelcomerhome.org
- Monroe County Veterans Service Agency: 753-6040
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- e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com
- VA Veterans Benefits Hotline: 800-877-1000
- 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: 800-882-1316
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund: 202-393-0090
- National League of Families: 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