THE ROCHESTER VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL AT HIGHLAND PARK

Thanks to Glenn Peck for the photos!
MEMORIAL REPORT

Website  http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Remembering our Fallen Heroes - May

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<td>Ronald Gene</td>
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<td>Carl R.</td>
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<td>James Edward</td>
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<td>George Joseph</td>
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<td>Rex Martin</td>
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<td>Lawrence C.</td>
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<td>Alexander Anthony</td>
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<td>Robert Caufeld</td>
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<td>Jeffrey David</td>
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<td>Thomas Clark</td>
<td>Cartwright</td>
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<td>David N.</td>
<td>Reed</td>
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<td>Walter Lee</td>
<td>Redding</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
On Memorial Day, we honor all those who have served and given their lives for this great Nation. We also honor those who served and have passed from our ranks here at Chapter 20. “They are our brothers forever”

VVA CHAPTER 20 MEMORIAL
Honoring our brothers who have passed; lest we forget.

Bob Behnke *  John Guarre  Ted Ives  Jerald T. Denny
Martin Driffill  Robert W. Livingstone  Richard E. Cummings  Lewis E. Weitzel
Wayne P. Soule  John M. Lavell  Garren Sparks  Gerhard McBride
John M. Harrigan  Allen J. Wiengartner  Charles E. Rupert  Daniel P. Englert
Donald B. Maclean  James Maartense  William T. Sprentall  William M. Anthony
Lynn A. Citron *  Donald H. Deverell  James A. Lester  Gerald F. Heath
Michael E. Young  Phil F. Brightman  Raymond P. Lincourt *  Carlton C. Covey
Jeffrey P. Lundberg  John M. Hrankowski  Robert A. Cenzi  Pat Marianetti
Jeffrey C. Hammond  Ralph A. Handley  David E. Hooker  Gregory J. Smith
Thomas L. Steinburg  Clarence A. Jovanelly  Thomas E. Ragland *  Michael Cooper
William J. DeHollender  Francis P. Burns  James S. Jenkins  Raymond P. Campbell
Frank Stephens  Richard L. Butchino  Carl R. Voght  Howard D. Silvers
Don Murrell  Paul Plaisted  Robert L. Novgrod  William (Bud) Hemmerick
Jim Cass  Wayne C. Hanson  Howard L. Davies  Lynn A. Lansberry
Eugene O. Ball  Timothy M. Heffer *  Wayne N. Sparks  Emmett E. Porter
Clyde Saxon *  Ronald J. Mummert  Barry D. Halcus  Robert M. Hale
Bradley C. Roth  David L. Wooding  Gary L. Schojan  Solomon A. Sherman
Ronald F. Popowich  Gary J. Nacca  James A. Sweeney  Alexander F. Soos
Peter G. Lambert  Gerald R. Dusel  Ronald A. Michalski  Charles M. Helberg
Robert Rudolph  Jerry Popen  Robert Anderson  Norbert (Zeke) D. Evans
Elton L. Bailey  David E. Johns  David G. Eng  William (Bill) Follett
David B. DeLola  Richard Beeley  William P. Cook  Kenneth J. DeLorme
Charles G. Holtz  James A. Huff  William G. Cahill  David F. Wido
Howard Lewczyk *  Roger W. Gaede  Ted Ives  Jim McDermott
Ervin J. Lewis  Michael P. Couture  Robert L. Hill  Patrick M. Jimenez
Steve Hess *  Michael T. Donlon  Gabe Dalmath  Thomas D. Tette
Peter J. Bendig  Keith M. Reitz  John Lennox  Yale Seils
John P. Henderson  Douglas M. McWilliams  Raymond Ware  Donald C. Lippens
John Claypoole  Dominic Bianchi  Fred Ostrom  Paul S. Halpern
Eric W. Bradshaw  Edward M. Hickey  David C. Byrns  Robert D. Harris
Martin L. Keymel  Don W. Webber  Jack Battaglia  Phillip P. Nicastro
David F. Nice  Gerald R. Mart  Gerard R. Ives  Bill Meminger
David A. Kogler  Gregory D. Carter  Gerald F. Sullivan  David Stamp
Stephen J. Lingl  John Arthur  Wally Gekoski

Names are in order of passing and (*) indicates a founding member. Respectfully presented by: Joe Peck
Please contact me at jpeck2@rochester.rr.com to record the passing of any chapter 20 members.
VETERANS WALK COMMITTEE
154 Mendota Drive
Rochester, New York 14626

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

Sample Brick

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
CONGRATULATIONS !!

BTL advertiser, R J Printing, received the “2014 Dream Big Award” from the Gates-Chili Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber’s April 30th Annual Gala Dinner held at the Diplomat Banquet Center.

What is there to say? A picture is worth a thousand words.
There 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:

- Pfc. William T. Carneal, US Army reported lost on July 7, 1944 in Saipan. He was accounted for on January 21, 2014 and was buried with full military honors on April 25, 2014 in Paducah, Kentucky.
- SFC. John C. Keller, US Army was reported lost on November 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on January 29, 2014 and will be buried with full military honors in May 2014 in Florida National Cemetery.
- Pfc. Donald C. Durfee, US Army was reported lost on December 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on January 30, 2014 and was buried with full military honors on March 6, 2014 in Rittman, Ohio.
- Sgt. Paul M. Gordon, US Army was reported lost on January 7, 1951 in South Korea. He was accounted for on February 12, 2014 and will be buried with full military honors on June 20, 2014 in Williamstown, Kentucky.
- Cpl. William F. Day, US Marine Corps was reported lost on December 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on March 6, 2014 and was buried with full military honors on April 5, 2014 in La Center, Kentucky.
- Cpl. William S. Blasdel, US Marine Corps was reported lost on October 28, 1953 in North Korea. He was accounted for on March 10, 2014 and will be buried with full military honors in the spring of 2014 at the National Memorial Cemetery for the Pacific.
- Pfc. Arthur Richardson, US Army was reported lost on January 1, 1951 in South Korea. He was accounted for on March 21, 2014 and will be buried with full military honors.

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!

**Thursday May 8, 2014**
Day of Caring

**Thursday May 15, 2014**
Annual Pie, Plant, and Ice Cream Sale- Canandaigua VAMC

**Saturday May 17, 2014**
Armed Forces Day

**Monday May 26, 2014**
Memorial Day (Observed)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*June 14 1775*

*Aug. 4 1790*

*Oct. 13 1775*

*Nov. 10 1775*

*Sept. 18 1947*
The 6th Annual Fit Vet Challenge is over! The service branch winners will be announced publicly at our May 2014 membership meeting. The winning service branch will “officially be recognized” as the biggest losers of Chapter #20 for 2014! But in reality, anyone who participated, or even started to think differently about food, nutrition, healthy habits, more exercises and focusing on better lifestyle habits are winners too!

No one said that this process would be an easy one; it is hard work to focus on what you should be doing more of all the time. Yes, I would be the first to agree it is easier to just to the same old, same old thing and not be fazed by poor or unhealthy habits. After all…that’s what magic pills and doctoring is all about, right! Well, not so much! We, you and I do have a personal responsibility to take care of ourselves. Actually, we should have more of an interest than anyone else concerning good health and wellness.

When we began this event six years ago, it was to try and focus some good natured teasing and common sense approaches to an every growing problem for not just veterans, but all who live in our community. Better health, better quality of life, and more awareness about how all things combine are related. Simply focusing on ways to eat a balance diet, or moving more in daily living are just a few of the many things that contribute to a better outcome for YOU! Until we meet again for the 7th Annual Fit Vet Challenge, starting in January 2015, remember the little things that you have been doing, and keep on keeping on that course. Thanks to all who participated within Chapter 20 this time, and a very special thank you, to Kathy Gleason, for running the stats, Fred Elliott for BTL editing, and Vito Scapetta and Jon Phelps for assisting at the monthly weigh in’s at the scales.

VA Care Impact on Medicare Coverage ► None

To qualify for Medicare, it involves how long you have worked and paid Social Security and Medicare taxes from your payroll check. One has to work only 10 years or 40 quarters to qualify for Medicare Part A at no cost. You have to enroll in Part B which has a premium of $104.90/monthly for 2014 this year. Being a Veteran and using a VA facility does not disqualify anyone from enrolling in and using Medicare. In fact, VA encourages Veterans to enroll in Part B, the medical/doctor part of Medicare. Granted you do not need Part B to receive medical care from the VA, but if you go outside of the VA for any medical treatment you do need Part B. For example, you might be ambulanced to another hospital that is not a VA facility for a medical emergency or you may need to go to a cancer center like MD Anderson for treatment where you will have to pay 100% of the medical charges without Part B.

For care not received at the VA Part B covers 80% of the cost of all of your outpatient needs, doctor services such as office visits and even surgery, MRIs, chemotherapy and the list can go on. Without Medicare Part B, a veteran’s liability could be in the $1,000s or hundreds of thousands of dollars. Those who do not enroll in Part B when they are first eligible for Medicare and not working, must pay a “late enrollment” penalty of 10% for each full 12-month period that they could have had Part B, but did not sign up for it.

For example, if you waited 55 months which is four full 12-month periods, then the Part B penalty is an additional 40% added to the current Part B Premium ($164.50 monthly for 2014) for as long as you have Medicare. Not enrolling in Part D (Medicare Prescription Drug plan) is another story. Medicare considers the VA credible coverage and when you enroll in Part D at a later date, you do not get the late enrollment penalty and … guess what… no Part D donut hole!
WE’RE LOOKING FOR A FEW MORE 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. Our Chapter membership has grown by 39.1% since 2008.

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)

New member Don Francis
U.S. Air Force
1968-1972

No, those are not for a BBQ!
Starting at 8 am on Thursday, May 8\textsuperscript{th} we will be doing the annual cleanup at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park.

What to bring: safety glasses; gloves; rakes; weed line-trimmers; extension cords (for electric trimmers); leaf blowers; wheel barrel (if you have room); and dress for the weather.

The County Parks Department will supply: bags; push lawnmowers; leaf blowers; wheel barrels; mulch; and a great bunch of guys to work with.

The Lilac Festival starts the next day (May 9\textsuperscript{th}) so a good turnout is essential.

Thanks everyone, Chuck.
Pfc. Joseph Petit injured both knees performing parachute landing falls during airborne training in March of 1991. For approximately 20 years, he suffered through the pain before seeking help at the VA. He went in with knee pain and depression and came out on a litany of powerful drugs that made him hallucinate. Petit killed himself at the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur, Ga. in November 2012, one of at least 31 preventable veteran deaths reported nationwide. Recent legislation proposed in Congress seeks to make it easier to punish the VA officials responsible.

Joseph Petit went to the VA hospital for knee pain and depression and came out on a litany of powerful drugs that he said made him hallucinate. He repeatedly asked doctors for help with the side effects, but he said they gave him more antipsychotics, antidepressants and anxiety drugs that made him feel worse.

Petit told his sister that he heard voices and felt bugs crawling under his skin. To keep from harming his family, he would chain himself up in his room at night, according to Brandie Petit. “I understand matters of the brain are extremely delicate,” she told Stars and Stripes last month. “But my brother was not crazy before that medicine.”

In November 2012, Petit went into the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur, Ga. He was hearing voices and was afraid he would harm his mother, Sandra, with whom he lived. Petit was discharged from the emergency department and told to see his regular psychiatrist, according to the medical examiner’s report obtained by Stars and Stripes. He never left the hospital. Petit’s body was found the next day in an eighth-floor bathroom. He had put a plastic bag over his head and asphyxiated himself in his wheelchair.

His death is one of four preventable patient deaths at the Atlanta VAMC and one of at least 31 nationwide, part of a growing systemic breakdown in care at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, according to House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Chairman Rep. Jeff Miller and the committee’s VA Accountability Watch website. A VA inspector general report regarding the Atlanta VAMC from April 2013 found mismanagement and a lack of oversight of the mental health department. It also substantiated allegations that there was inadequate coordination, monitoring and staffing for oversight of mental health patient care.

Mental health Service Line managers and staff “voiced numerous concerns including challenges in program oversight, inadequate clinical monitoring, staff burnout and compromised patient safety,” the report stated. “The lack of effective patient care management and program oversight by the facility contributed to problems with access to [mental health] care and contributed to ‘patients falling through the cracks.’” Atlanta VAMC officials did not respond to requests from Stars and Stripes seeking comment.

In February, Miller and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., introduced the VA Management Accountability Act of 2014 in the House and the Senate, respectively. The legislation by the Florida Republicans would give the VA secretary complete authority to fire or demote VA Senior Executive Service or equivalent employees based on performance — the same authority members of Congress have to fire their own staffers. Congress would then be notified for purposes of oversight. The legislation was introduced Feb. 11 and the committee heard stakeholder opinions during a March 25 hearing. It has 40 co-sponsors from both parties and the support of the major veterans’ service organizations. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, joined GOP leaders and representatives of several veterans’ service organizations Thursday in the Capitol to discuss the legislation.

“There are some serious problems over at the VA,” Boehner said during the news conference, and the legislation is “another tool” to hold VA facilities accountable. “What’s missing from the equation is not money or manpower, it’s accountability,” Miller told Stars and Stripes. VA officials in Washington declined to provide details regarding Petit’s death but said they met with his sister March 8 to discuss the path forward.
The Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to providing the care and benefits Veterans have earned and deserve,” VA spokesman Drew Brookie said in a statement to Stars and Stripes. “One suicide of a Veteran within our care is one too many. When an incident occurs in our system we aggressively identify, correct and work to prevent additional risks.”

Injury shattered dreams

Joseph Petit was born in 1970 and raised with faith and “old school values,” his sister said. “It was great being around him,” Brandie Petit said. “He was extremely compassionate. He was always trying to help somebody.” Petit wanted to join the Army, to go airborne to be “the best of the best,” she said.

Petit, who once had a 40-inch chest and was in such good shape that his sister said she thought he resembled Sylvester Stallone — enlisted as an infantryman in 1990. He got through basic and was scheduled to attend Airborne Training and Ranger Indoctrination Training before being assigned to a Ranger Battalion, according to a letter he wrote to then-Congressman Newt Gingrich in May 1992 that would later be entered into House testimony. Then his world collapsed. Petit injured both knees performing parachute-landing falls during airborne training in March 1991. In the letter to Gingrich, he complained that he had not been examined by an orthopedic surgeon until more than six months after his injury. The doctor would not allow a second opinion, corrective surgery, arthroscopy or magnetic resonance imaging, Petit wrote in the letter. He was being separated with a 10 percent disability rating, which entitled him to about four months’ pay and VA benefits. Petit asked for help in getting his knees repaired, and said if possible, after surgery, he wanted to continue to serve in the Army. “I still aspire to be an Airborne Ranger,” he wrote.

He never got help with his knees. For about 20 years, Petit sought help through various outlets before trying the VA, his sister said. But as Petit got older, the pain appeared to be gaining the upper hand, his sister said. He became depressed as he spent more and more time in a wheelchair. Petit’s VA doctors told him that the knee pain was in his head — somatoform pain disorder, according to the medical examiner’s report — where depression and stress manifest as chronic pain.

In September, the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held hearings on preventable deaths and other VA issues. In her testimony, Brandie Petit described how her brother was treated for trying to get help one day without an appointment. “The VA police physically removed Joseph and put a standing order into place to arrest him if he showed up again without an appointment,” she said. But Petit wanted to stick with the program. He wanted to stop taking the medications, she said, but he worried they would stop treating his knees if he did.

He spoke of suicide

No matter how much Petit tried to keep what was happening from his family and friends, things were getting worse, she said. At the hospital, Petit spoke of trying to asphyxiate himself with a plastic bag during appointments, according to the medical examiner’s report. He told friends that VA officials ignored him when he said he had thought about killing himself. Once before, he went into the bathroom at the VA and tried to asphyxiate himself, but he was found unconscious. The VA changed some of his medication and sent him home after a week or so, according to House testimony.

Questioning VA leaders

“I know he did what he did, where he did, when he did, for a reason,” Brandie Petit said. “He didn’t get the help he needed.” Miller first heard of Petit’s case in May 2013 after an oversight visit to the Atlanta VAMC, he said. He asked a room full of its leaders if there were other issues that Congress needed to know about. They didn’t tell him about the Petit case until “minutes” before it hit the local press four days later. “Seeing VA’s handling of the incident made me think, ‘If this is what it takes for VA leaders to be honest with Congress about what’s happening at their facilities, you can’t help but question how they operate when they think no one is paying attention,’ ” he said.
CONFIRMATION LETTER
2014 CITY OF ROCHESTER MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

February, 2014

This confirmation letter is being sent to you from Bing C. Reaves Sr. Memorial Day Parade Chairman, for the upcoming 2014 Parade in the City of Rochester. Your reply must be received (via email or postal service) no later than May 1, 2014.

It would assist us greatly if you would provide us with the correct information relative to your organization, as this is what will be announced from the reviewing stand.

Please provide us with (Please print clearly):
Name of Your Organization

Name of Point of Contact for your organization

Mailing Address ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ___________

Point of Contact Email: ________________________________

Contact Telephone # (_____) _______ _______ Contact Cell Phone # (_____) _______ _______

Name of Sponsoring Organization (i.e. Church Name/ Lodge/Business) ____________________________________________

Total Number of Marchers (on foot/not in vehicles) ___________

Total Number of Vehicles (Cars, trucks, etc.) ________________

Music:    Yes ______  No _______    Band /or Audio _________

Please note: This parade is in honor of those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

No Car horns, sirens or other blaring noises
The colors for the parade are Red, White and Blue
If you are NOT a Veteran group, please be sure to recognize those that are or have served our Veterans

The memorial week events scheduled in the City by the Veterans Memorial & Executive Council are as follows:

Sunday    May 18, 2014    Memorial Day Service at the Blue Cross Arena; 3:00p.m.

Sunday    May 25, 2014    Placing Flags at Rochester Cemeteries (By assigned Veterans Groups)

Monday    May 26, 2014    Memorial Day Parade City of Rochester
Assemble: 9:00 a.m., Parade Starts: 10:00 a.m.

The Veterans Memorial Executive Committee thank you and we appreciate your continued support.

1SG Bing C. Reaves Sr.  USAR, Retired
2014 Memorial Day Parade Chairman
57 Jones Avenue, Rochester, NY 14608-1226
(585) 217-7855
Email: rocememorialday@aol.com
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!
SAVE THE DATE

2014
Monroe County Probation Officer’s Association
CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
Friday July 25, 2014
Deerfield Country Club
Brockport, NY
1pm Shotgun Start

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 20
ROCHESTER NEW YORK

VVA’S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE
“Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another.”
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 fellott@rochester.rr.com or by phone at 585-317-7619. However, you must be a member of Vietnam Veterans of America to attend.

The Officers and Directors of Chapter 20.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

100 people were in attendance for the annual Election meeting.

Bob Harradine won the Flag Drawing.

Jim White won the 50/50 Drawing.

Nancy Vanapeldoorn was presented with a check for $128 for her Lap Robe Project. The money was raised by auctioning a lap robe at the Chapter Sock Hop.

Terry Hogan raised over $1,300 for the Chapter by holding the first annual Chapter Sock Hop.

Bing Reaves (Grand Marshal for this year’s Rochester Memorial Day Parade) spoke to the members about several events in May.
Annual Pie, Plant and Ice Cream Sale

Date: May 15, 2014  
Time: 9:30AM-2:00PM  
Location: Bldg. 5 Auditorium  
Canandaigua VAMC

✓ All monies raised from this sale will help to support programs such as National Volunteer Week, as well as to help absorb the costs of the annual Volunteer Awards Banquet.
✓ Pie slices are served with ice cream and coffee; whole pies are also available for sale.
✓ All pies, assorted baked goods and plants are donated by volunteers
✓ Donated, mature plants and bulbs are most appreciated
✓ Both house and garden plants are acceptable
✓ Don’t forget to clean out your closets for quality rummage sale items (no clothing or books, please).
✓ Marking your items with a sale price before donating would assist us greatly
✓ Donations should be dropped off in Bldg. 5 Auditorium on May 15 before 8:30AM or in Voluntary Service beginning May 12.

Please fill out the RSVP below and forward to Voluntary Service by May 5 so that we can get an idea of the amount of pies, etc that we can count on. Thank you!

RSVP for PIE, PLANT AND ICE CREAM SALE  
VA Medical Center, Volunteer Service (135), Canandaigua, NY 14424

I will donate: # of pies*: ___________________________  # of plants__________________________
I will donate Baked Goods*: What Kind? _______________  How much? ______________________
I will donate rummage sale items and price them: Yes: ______________  No: ______________
  I prefer to make a monetary donation. Enclosed is my check payable to “VAVS Executive Committee” ________

Name: ____________________________________________
Organization: ______________________________________

*Remember! If you are baking items to donate, you will need to attend a Food Safety Course (Please see upcoming Newsletter for scheduled dates) Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us to meet these safety mandates!

*Special thank you to the VA Employees Association for co-sponsoring this event.

Return this form to;  
VA Medical Center, Volunteer Service (532/135), 400 Fort Hill Avenue, Canandaigua, NY 14424-1188
Rochester Armed Forces Day Committee, Inc.
and
Monroe County Veteran’s Organizations

PRESENT AN

ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 17, 2014

The Luncheon will be held at
Diplomat Party House
1956 Lyell Avenue, Gates, NY 14606

Invited Guest Speaker

Rear Admiral Fred M. Midgette
Commander, 9th Coast Guard District, U.S. Coast Guard

There will be pre-luncheon music by the 198th Army Band

There will be military displays in and around the luncheon area. The luncheon will be from 12 Noon to 1:30. Following the luncheon there will also be additional viewing of the displays. Free parking is available for luncheon attendees.

For additional information please call 1-800-845-2412

________________________________________________________________________

Sponsored table $250.00 each table ________
(includes 8 tickets & recognition in the program book)

Single Tickets Only $25.00 each ________

Children (12 and under) $12.00 each ________

Contribution Only ________

Check enclosed for total amount ________

Name of Organization: __________________________ Your Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________ Your Phone: __________________________
City, State, ZIP: __________________________ No. of tickets paid for: ________
Email: __________________________

Make Checks payable to “Armed Forces Day Committee” Cut at the line and return this portion of the form to Caroline Ader, PO Box 93097, Rochester, NY 14692. Paid tickets will be picked up at the luncheon.

Tickets are limited - Purchase by May 4, 2014
ODDS N’ ENDS

A page 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.

We have to learn how to come home,' veteran says at conference

By Adam Ashton - The (Tacoma, Washington) News Tribune – March 8, 2014

TACOMA, Wash. — A well-timed bear hug from a Vietnam veteran persuaded Jonathan Wicks to put down the gun he’d raised to his head and start seeking therapy for the post-traumatic stress he developed after serving in Iraq.

Nine years later, Wicks is the one giving back to former military service members as a counselor at the Tacoma Vet Center. It’s rewarding work for a veteran inspired by his own therapists at the Department of Veterans Affairs. “PTSD showed me what my meaning is” in life, he said.

Wicks shared his story Friday with an audience of nearly 200 at the University of Washington Tacoma, urging them to show compassionate, nonjudgmental care for veterans leaving the military after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. His testimony was part of a conference on veterans and military families that was targeted at professionals in social work, counseling and human resources. They’re among those most likely to encounter veterans struggling to adjust to civilian living.

“We have to learn how to come home just as well as we learned how to go into the military,” said Stephen Robinson, a retired soldier who helped bring the conference together as vice president of external affairs for Prudential.

The caregivers at the conference aim to help veterans move on to fulfilling lives. In the South Sound, more than 9,000 troops are leaving the military out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord every year. Across the military, the Defense Department is shedding tens of thousands of positions for soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.

One former Lewis-McChord soldier said leaving the military made me feel as if “I didn’t know who I was.”

“I lived ‘hooah’ so long I didn’t know how to speak civilian,” said the 23-year Army veteran, Sean Lanegan. He left the military two years ago and is the volunteer coordinator at Operation Good Jobs for Goodwill.

Many of the professionals who attended the conference had personal connections to the military, either from their own service or a family member’s. They heard frank, heartfelt appeals from veterans and experts. “You may have deployed three times. You may not have left the wire. You were still away from your family for three years. That’s not good,” said Anthony Hassan, the conference’s keynote speaker.

Hassan, an Air Force veteran, now leads the Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families at the University of Southern California. He’s trying to share information around the country so behavioral health professionals have a basic understanding of how to help veterans feel comfortable and receptive to care.

“We went to war for 12 years, and we’re going to have problems. That’s the truth,” he said.

The turnout exceeded expectations for Diane Young, director of UWT’s social work program. She’s noticed more and more veterans taking classes in her program. “I’m so inspired,” she said.

Judging by applause, Wicks was a local favorite in the morning panels. He grew up in South King County and pursued education at Tacoma Community College and the UWT. He encouraged the audience to keep an open mind when they hear veterans’ stories, even if they don’t know the right thing to say. “The people who helped me the most were not combat veterans,” he said. “They just showed me compassion. They showed me compassion I didn’t know people had.”

Editor – some of us (Vietnam Veterans) struggled to come home but we made it. In my opinion, one of the best ways for us to help heal ourselves is by helping today’s veterans in their return home, their healing, and their re-introduction into a civilian world that doesn’t always understand them.
Recipient of the 2014 Roger Robach Award
Rosemary Rossi-Williams

Recipient of the 2014 Don & Rori Murrell Humanitarian Award
Jerry McDermott

Veterans Service Award Recipient
Hank Wallace

Veterans Service Award Recipient
Terry Hogan

Recipient of a Special Recognition Award
Tim Sturm
MORE PICTURES FROM THE ANNUAL DINNER

Chapter 20’s Odd Couple?
You decide......
PRELIMINARY MARCHING UNIT SCHEDULE

May 10 – Saturday – Lilac Parade – Rochester – 10:30am
May 25 – Sunday – Memorial Day – Irondequiot – 3:00pm
May 26 – Monday – Memorial Day – Rochester – 10:30am
May 26 – Monday – Memorial Day – Highland Park Vietnam Veterans Memorial – 1:00pm
May 31 – Saturday – Firemen’s Parade – Mendon – 6:30pm

June 5 – Thursday – Firemen’s Parade – Spencerport – 7:00pm
June 20 – Friday – Firemen’s Parade – Barnard – 7:00pm

July 4 – Friday – 4th of July – Irondequiot – 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 9 – Saturday – Firemen’s Parade – Hamlin – 7:00pm

HONOR GUARD EVENTS

May 17 – Saturday – Free Masons “Third Annual Spring Thing” – “All About Our Military” - Webster Firemen’s Field (where the Webster Parade ends) – be there at 2:15pm – Honor Guard uniform with sleeves up.
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: ________________________________ | Date of Birth: _______________ | Sex ( ) M ( ) F |
| Address: ______________________________ | Home Phone: ( ) ____________________ |
| City: _________________________________ | Work Phone: ( ) ____________________ |
| Zip: ________ County __________________ | Email Address: _____________________ |

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+)

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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**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 May:

1st (1960) – Gary Francis Powers’ U-2 spy plane is shot down over Russia

2nd (2011) – Osama Bin Laden is killed by U.S. Forces

4th (1970) – Four student anti-war protestors are killed at Kent State University in Ohio

5th (1865) – The first observation of Decoration Day

7th (1954) – The fall of Dien Bien Phu

8th (2014) – Chapter meeting

10th (1869) – Transcontinental railway is completed

12th (1925) – Baseball legend and WWII Navy veteran Yogi Berra’s Birthday

13th (1922) – Actress & WWII Marine veteran Bea (Maude) Arthur’s Birthday

14th (1942) – WWII – Act of Congress allows women to enlist for non-combat duties in the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Services (WAVES), Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the women’s reserve of the Marine Corps.

19th (1890) – Ho Chi Minh’s Birthday

21st (1881) – the American Red Cross is founded

29th (1917) – Birthday of John Fitzgerald Kennedy

30th (1922) – the Lincoln Memorial is dedicated
# Contact Information

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- **President Valentino Gatto**: vggatto@rochester.rr.com  227-2741 h
- **V. President Chuck Macaluso**: chuckmac66@yahoo.com  225-8288 h
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- **Veterans Walk – C. Macaluso**: chuckmac66@yahoo.com  225-8288 h
- **Women’s Affairs – Rosemary Rossi-Williams**: pefrose@gmail.com  738-6138 c

## VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION
- **Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial**: 753-7275 (enter 9; enter 2 to leave a message)
- **VA Outpatient Clinic**: 465 Westfall Rd  463-2600
- **Veterans Outreach Center**: 459 South Avenue  546-1081
- **VA Vet Center**: 232-5040
- **Veterans Administration**: 800-827-1000
- **Monroe County Veterans Service Agency**: 753-6040
- **VA Veterans Benefits Hotline**: 800-827-1000
- **VA Veterans Bill of Rights**: 800-342-3358
- **VA Medical Center in Batavia**: 297-1000
- **VA Hospital in Buffalo**: 716-834-9200
- **VA Medical Center in Canandaigua**: 394-2000
- **VA Medical Center in Bath**: 607-664-4000
- **Vietnam Veterans of America National Office**: 800-882-1316
- **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund**: 202-393-0090
- **National League of Families**: 1-800-389-4424
- **POW/MIA Updates**: 202-223-6846
- **Richards House at VOC**: 506-9060
- **The Resource Center at VOC**: 546-4250
- **Stars & Stripes – The Flag Store**: 546-3524
- **Persian Gulf Vets, Inc.**: 385-4097
- **Operation Welcome Home**: 234-4694
- **National Caregivers Support Line**: 855-260-3274
- **Homeless Hotline**: 877-424-3838
- **Suicide Hotline**: 800-273-8255

## WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES
- **Veterans Widows International Network**: members@aol.com/vetwidows
- **NYS Department of Health**: www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets
- **Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park**: www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial
- **Operation Welcome Home**: www.operationwelcomehome.org
- **VVA New York State Council**: www.nyvietnams.org
- **Honor Flight**: www.HonorFlightRochester.org