Merry Christmas
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MEMORIAL REPORT
Website http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/
Remembering our Fallen Heroes - December

Joseph Jeremiah Williams 12-1-1945
Frank P. Capuano 12-2-1946
John David Hamilton, Jr. 12-5-1948
Francis Paul Rosebrugh 12-6-1946
Richard Lee Bales 12-7-1947
Eugene Richardson 12-8-1942
Richard Floyd Smith 12-9-1944
Donald Edward Beatty 12-10-1942
Gerald Patrick Metott 12-10-1946
James William Schulz 12-11-1944
Stanley Tomaszewcki, Jr. 12-11-1947
Gary Dean Doctor 12-12-1946
Richard Allen Setter 12-13-1945
David Albert Semmler 12-13-1947
John Dewey Livingston 12-13-1949
Fred Krec 12-17-1943
Robert David Sage 12-18-1946
James Francis Saxby 12-19-1946
Peter Jon Kaulback 12-22-1942
Clarence Jay Hall 12-24-1948
Thomas Edward Welker 12-26-1944
Ronald Charles Boothe 12-26-1950
Donald James Priest 12-27-1942
John Leo Dengler 12-27-1946
Robert Charles Smith 12-27-1947
Robert Eugene Bryson 12-29-1944
Richard Thomas Wilhelm 12-29-1946
George Michael Underdown 12-29-1949

Friends of the Memorial
To be placed on the volunteer contact list, contact:
Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or
Chuckmac66@yahoo.com

Memorial Tours & Presentations
Persons interested in onsite tours or presentations at
schools or organizations, contact: Chuck Macaluso at
585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com
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
• In November 2015, besides my regular monthly duties, I met with Advantech and Nyra to work on the Ballard for the 20th Anniversary on September of 2016.
• I participated at the Memorial clean up.
• I attended the monthly meeting with the VM&EC.
• I attended the Webster Spry School interview with the students.
• I had a meeting with Ms. Linda Lovejoy at the Wegmans Corporate Office for a donation check to the chapter.
• I had a meeting with Legends 102.7 to discuss Public Service Announcement and also with Bill Auble and Mike Sanfilippo.

Presenting Gates Town Supervisor, Mark Assini, a framed picture of the time capsule that was dedicated at Gates Memorial Park.

Receiving a $1,500 donation from Wegman’s

Being interviewed on Veterans Day at the Memorial
With the passing of Veterans Day, we honor and remember all those who have served and are still serving our country today. We also reflect on those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms that we all truly cherish but we must also remember those who never returned to their families or to a grateful Nation.

There have been no reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the National League of Families this month. The total number of Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War now stands at 1626.

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

- Pvt. John H. Klopp, US Army was lost December 5, 1942 in Papua, New Guinea. He was accounted for on October 15, 2015 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.

- SFC. Dean D. Chaney, US Army was listed as a POW on November 28, 1950 near Yongsan-dong, North Korea. He was reported to have died in Camp #5 in North Korea in April 1951. He was accounted for on October 8, 2015 and was laid to rest in Bloomville, Ohio on November 13, 2015 with full military honors.

- Cpl. Charles E. Ivey, US Army was lost November 29, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on August 21, 2015 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.

- Cpl. David J. Wishon Jr., US Army was lost December 1, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on August 5, 2015 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.

We will keep our promise to never forget our missing servicemen and women nor the sacrifices that they have made.
In case you missed it on the news or in the newspaper .........................

A 72-year old male driver headed north on Lake Avenue in the City didn’t make the turn at Charlotte Beach and proceeded down the walkway to the POW/MIA Memorial and crashed his pickup.
WE’RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEMBERS

MIKE GENERAL, CHAIRMAN, MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 602 members and AVVA is at 42 members as of 10/31/15. Membership is growing, but we still need your help in recruiting new members. Don’t forget to renew on time. Don’t let your membership expire.

Please Renew Your Membership!

If you are renewing as a “Life Member”, please remember to include a copy of your DD-214 with your application. PLEASE NOTE: Time payment option (Charge Card) for “Life Membership” has been dropped by National. New “Life Membership for $90.00 is here! Contact Mike General for details!

When you have an address change, please notify Mike General so we can keep our Roster up to date and notify National.

Need your help in recruiting new members.

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.

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

WE Need New Members!

Membership Applications are available on our Website, in this issue of the BTL, or by contacting me at (mwgeneral@aol.com)

NEW: We are offering an “Honorary Membership” to Chapter 20 to all spouses who husbands have passed away. If you know of someone who has lost their loved one, please contact Mike General.

ATTENTION AVVA MEMBERS: The AVVA National Board has announced that once again “The VVA Veteran” will be made available to AVVA members who don’t have a VVA member spouse. Please contact the National Membership Chair at 717-259-5716 to request the VVA Veteran.
Veterans' Day - 2015

President Gatto speaks at the War Memorial

Chapter member Gayle Marshall

Veterans’ Day morning at the Rochester War Memorial

County Legislator Pete Lawrence, State Assemblyman Mark Johns, and State Senator Rich Funke

County Exec Maggie Brooks and County Veteran Service Agency Director, Laura Stradley
Veterans’ Day morning at the Rochester War Memorial

Chapter member Mike Palmeri places a wreath for the Combat Infantryman’s Association

Chapter President Gatto, Secretary Peck, and Membership Chair Mike General

Chapter Chaplain Tom Puff
Veterans’ Day evening at the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park

Dear Veterans and their Families:

Thank you for all that you have done for us. You put yourself at risk so that we can safely live in the greatest country in the world. You have sacrificed more than we can ever begin to imagine. There is no way that we can begin to thank you. But we do remember you, even when it may seem that the country has forgotten you. Please take one of these as a small token of our gratitude. God bless you and God Bless America.

Love,
The Second Grade Students at #44 School
and their teachers:
Mrs. Ketchum
Mrs. Shepard &
Mr. McMichael

November 2016
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Happy 240th Birthday

The oldest and youngest Marines: Lee Kauffman and Ray Melens

Marine Dave Freundschuh won a USMC Lap robe and the 50/50 drawing
Army Vietnam Vet, Bill Allen spoke about his battle with Hepatitis C

Christine Panek of MedMatRx spoke about Hepatitis C

Marine Nick Bianchi won the Flag drawing

Marine Cliff Wiley spoke about Toys for Tots

Lap Robes for Veterans (Nancy Vanapeldoorn) Received a $1,000 donation from VFW Post 9483

118 People Attended the Meeting
One Time Special Offer
August 1 – December 31, 2015

Life Membership Application

New:____ Renewal:____ Membership #:__________ Chapter #:______

Name:_____________________________________________________________________________________
Address:____________________________________________________________________________________
City:________________ State:____________ Zip:________________
Telephone #: ________________ E-Mail:________________________________________

Life Membership Dues $100.00

Life Membership Payment: Check _____ Money Order _____
Credit Card: Visa_____ MasterCard______ Amex _____ Discover _____
Card Number: ____________________________ Exp. Date:__________

Signature: ____________________________ Date:________________

Eligibility: Membership is to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purpose) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975. You MUST submit a copy of your DD214 with this application.

Send To: Vietnam Veterans of America, PO Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299
Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

* SPECIAL ONE-TIME LIFE MEMBERSHIP OFFER *

*This application is for the Life Membership Special being offered from November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 only. The application must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2015 to be accepted.

This application can be filled in online and printed to sign and mail, or it can be printed blank and filled out by hand.

State: ___________________ Chapter: ___________________ At-Large? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Are You a Veteran? Yes [ ] No [ ] Are you eligible for VVA? Yes [ ] No [ ]

I am a new member: [ ] I am renewing a current membership: [ ]

Member #_______________

Name: ___________________________________________ Sex: M [ ] F [ ]

Address: ___________________________________________ Date of Birth: ____________

City: ___________________ State: ___________ Zip: ___________

Phone (Home): ___________________ Phone (Cell): ___________________

Email: (please print clearly) __________________________

Payment must be made in full for $100.00. No payment plans are offered with this special.

DO NOT SEND CASH
(Checks, money orders or credit cards accepted)

Payment Method (Credit Card)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check</th>
<th>Money Order</th>
<th>Visa</th>
<th>American Express</th>
<th>Master Card</th>
<th>Discover</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Card #: ___________________ Expiration Date: ___________________

Cardholder Signature: ___________________________________________

MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO AVVA, AND MAIL WITH APPLICATION TO:

Monument Bank, AVVA Lock Box | 8602 Colesville Road | Silver Spring, MD 20910
In an attempt to fix some of the problems at the VA, the House of Representatives, in July of this year, passed (256 to 170) H.R.1994 – VA Accountability Act of 2015. In summary, this Bill would provide the Secretary of the VA with the authority to fire any employee for either misconduct or performance. Within 45 days of an appeal, the Merit Systems Protection Board would have to render a decision. This same authority would be limited if the employee claimed whistleblower protection through the Office of Special Counsel. The Bill was sponsored by Jeff Miller of Florida (Republican) and has 98 co-sponsors; three of whom are from New York; Lee Zeldin, Christopher Gibson, and John Katko – all Republicans. President Obama threatened to veto the Bill saying that while he believes federal employees should be accountable, the proposed Bill fails to further that goal, and in fact would be counter-productive. And in a surprise move, VA Officials have also registered opposition. And even though the Bill has wide support from Veterans’ organizations, the American Federation of Government Employees has requested that lawmakers oppose the Bill, as it stands to endanger its employees. The Senate companion Bill, S.1082 is sponsored by Senator Marco Rubio, a Republican, and has 17 co-sponsors, none of them from New York. (Editor’s comment - Congress likes to talk about fixing the VA and treating America’s Veterans right, but given the opportunity to take action, they fall flat.)

Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut blocked a vote to pass the VA Accountability legislation. It should be noted that the Senator had previously proposed his own version of accountability legislation. VA officials have stated that the VA Accountability Act would reduce the Department’s ability to retain top-notch talent. The American Federation of Government Employees said the legislation represented a “sad excuse for accountability at the VA” as it would take away workers’ rights and set a bad precedent for other government agencies. (Editor’s comment – are these guys kidding? Maybe accountability will help attract top-notch talent. Set a bad precedent? Oh right, other agencies might decide to hold their employees accountable and we can’t have that, can we?)

According to internal documents, Phoenix VA Hospital Director, Glen Grippen told an investigative team sent by DVA HQ to leave facility premises and that “he decides what’s going to happen around here”. The team was sent to Phoenix to initiate reforms at the facility. According to a VA report, the Human Resources Restoration and Revitalization Task Force helped the facility achieve significant improvement even though there appeared to be obstruction and defiance of processes and changes that were implemented. For example, Human Resources refused to move from paper to computer systems, and when new systems were introduced, employees would flat-out refuse to adapt. As soon as the team had left the facility, all the work they had accomplished was undone in about two months. The VA rushed the team back to Phoenix to repair the disintegrating system but within a month, every single attempt to fix the personnel system was blocked by hospital management. (Editor’s comment – thanks to Senator Blumenthal and other blockheads in Congress nobody has lost their job over this.)

MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE
Democratic Congressman Tim Walz says that the recent relocation bonus scandal at the VA is so bad that he is willing to work with Republicans to tackle public sector unions. Walz is so upset with a recent hearing — a hearing on senior officials pressuring subordinates out of jobs and then taking them for themselves to secure bonuses and relocation expenses — that he’s collaborating with House Veterans Affairs Committee Chair, Republican Jeff Miller. The objective is to fix the VA, not to eliminate the unions. At the hearing on the relocation scandal, two senior VA officials, Diana Rubens and Kimberly Graves pled the Fifth Amendment to avoid answering any questions from the committee. An Inspector General (IG) report found that Graves misused her position of authority to receive a job with fewer responsibilities, the same high-level salary of $173,949, and a total of $129,467 in moving-related expenses.

At the hearing, Robert McKenrick, one of the employees reportedly forced out of his position, dodged any suggestions that there was significant and undue pressure to relocate. Chairman Miller reminded McKenrick of the penalties for perjury but McKenrick stuck to his story.

However, Antoine Waller, who was moved to the Baltimore Regional Office, was much more cooperative. “I do believe there was pressure for me to take another assignment,” Waller told the Committee. “It started with telephone conversations with Mrs. Graves. At the time I was approached about the Baltimore Office, I was not willing to voluntarily accept the transfer.” “So what happened,” asked Democratic Congresswoman Corrine Brown. “I was reassigned,” Waller said.

The VA Inspector General made criminal referrals to the Department of Justice for Rubens, who was Director of the Philadelphia Regional Office, and Graves, who was Director of the St. Paul Regional Office. Both were demoted to assistant Director positions at other regional offices and returned to work immediately. “Rubens and Graves clearly should have been fired,” Chairman Miller said in a statement. “The fact that VA leaders refused to do so gives me no hope the department will do the right thing and take steps to recover the more than $400,000 taxpayer dollars Rubens and Graves fraudulently obtained.” A committee staffer said the VA is not taking steps to recoup the relocation benefits and both executives will continue to earn well over $100,000 a year.

Chairman Miller intends to form a bipartisan consensus around reform at the VA.

**Editor’s comments** – The VA has a new Secretary, Robert McDonald, who, like his predecessors, has promised to “fix the VA”. Unfortunately, only three employees have lost their jobs for manipulating wait times; of the remaining 21 disciplinary cases for waitlist manipulation, some received lighter punishment than the original proposals – a medical assistant was recommended for firing but received a two-week suspension instead.

The Accountability Act stalls in Congress because one Senator blocks a vote. Officials at the Phoenix VA refuse to cooperate, senior officials plead the fifth amendment (you know, the one against self-incrimination) at a Congressional Hearing, And meanwhile, veterans are dying, not getting the services they earned, and pretty-much being ignored by Congress and the voting public.

Locally, the proposed new clinic to replace the one on Westfall Road seems to be in limbo. Local VA Officials have repeatedly told us that everyone thing is on schedule and yet no one can tell us where the new clinic will be built, when it will be built, why it will not include Behavioral Health services, or why local veterans are not included in the decision-making process for the new clinic.

I’ll do what I can to keep you all informed about these issues but we all need to pay close attention to what people are telling us and challenge them when we feel we are being fed a line of b.s..

Because 2016 is an election year, we may be able to get some positive results if we stick together and challenge the political status quo as regards the VA and veterans’ health.
Executive Summary

New York State offers a variety of programs, services and benefits for the nearly 900,000 veterans living in the State. These programs are intended to help veterans address any challenges they may face as a result of their military service, while honoring their dedication and the sacrifices they have made on behalf of our country.

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014-15 budget provided more than $21.2 million for a diverse range of programs and services designed for veterans, including $12.8 million through the Division of Veterans’ Affairs. Health-related services are available to eligible veterans through five State-operated veterans nursing homes, and the Medicaid program. Other programs and initiatives provide benefits associated with higher education costs, housing and property taxes, doing business with the State, civil service employment, small business loans, and support services such as counseling and peer-to-peer programs.

Overall federal spending targeted at veterans exceeded $6.1 billion in New York during Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014, including funding for health care services, various compensation and pension payments, and educational, vocational rehabilitation and employment services, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

While there are many initiatives intended to assist veterans and their families, policy makers should continuously seek to determine whether the needs of New York’s veterans are being adequately met by the available programs and services. Enhancing efforts to engage with veterans’ organizations, in order to assess existing programs and determine whether any needs are not being met, could result in more effective use of available resources and greater success in helping veterans.

State Support for Veterans

Key programs in the 2014-15 State Budget included:
- $12.8 million for veterans’ counseling, benefit payments and other assistance
- $6.3 million for veterans’ tuition awards, military service recognition scholarships, and Regents awards for the children of deceased and disabled veterans
- $2.1 million for mental health services for returning combat veterans and their families

State Division of Veterans’ Affairs

The DVA’s largest program – veterans’ counseling – accounted for $6.7 million spent by DVA in 2014-15. Under this program, it filed 9,815 compensation and pension claims for veterans and their families in 2014, which generated $89.1 million in new and recurring VA compensation and pension payments.

The DVA provided $5.6 million in annuity payments to legally blind wartime veterans and their un-remarried surviving spouses living in New York in 2014-15. 4,200 veterans and surviving spouses received blind annuity payments in 2014.

(continued on next page)
State Veterans’ Homes

NYS operates five nursing homes for veterans and their dependents. Veterans’ homes at Oxford (Chenango County), St. Albans (Queens County), Batavia (Genesee County), and Montrose (Westchester County) are operated by the State Department of Health. The fifth, the Long Island Veterans’ Home at Stony Brook (Suffolk County), is operated by the State University of New York (SUNY). These five nursing homes served approximately 2,100 veterans, spouses, widows and Gold Star parents in 2013-14.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veterans’ Homes</th>
<th>Total Beds</th>
<th>Patients Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stony Brook</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montrose</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Albans</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batavia</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Veterans’ Homes Beds</td>
<td>1,220</td>
<td>2,106</td>
</tr>
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</table>

New York’s Veteran Population

The VA estimates there were just over 892,000 veterans living in New York in 2014
- 92.6% were men and 7.4% were women
- 15.1% were in the 65 to 69 age group
- 31.2% served during the Vietnam era
- 71% are war-time veterans (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number of Veterans</th>
<th>Vets per 1,000 population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>44,093</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>8,347</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>7,338</td>
<td>79.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>4,994</td>
<td>77.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee</td>
<td>4,244</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orleans</td>
<td>3,239</td>
<td>77.1</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total Expenditures</th>
<th>Compensation &amp; Pension</th>
<th>Medical Care</th>
<th>Patients Served</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>216,403</td>
<td>105,014</td>
<td>87,502</td>
<td>11,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>74,176</td>
<td>23,803</td>
<td>45,723</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>39,698</td>
<td>18,563</td>
<td>18,416</td>
<td>2,117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>24,468</td>
<td>11,561</td>
<td>11,116</td>
<td>1,271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genesee</td>
<td>55,614</td>
<td>16,794</td>
<td>35,326</td>
<td>1,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orleans</td>
<td>20,361</td>
<td>11,467</td>
<td>7,961</td>
<td>949</td>
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</table>

Expenditures in thousands of dollars
December 3 - In a memorandum to President Johnson, Secretary McNamara estimated total communist forces in South Vietnam as having increased to 230,000, including 71,000 Viet Cong main force, 40,000 political cadre, 110,000 guerrillas, and 20,000 North Vietnamese soldiers. McNamara anticipated that these totals would increase.

December 18 – Operation Game Warden (Task force 116) began. It was an U.S. and South Vietnamese Navy operation in the Mekong Delta and near Saigon to patrol the rivers and coastal waters of South Vietnam, prevent the infiltration of soldiers and supplies from North Vietnam, and deny the Viet Cong access to the waterways.

December 24 - President Johnson announced a halt in the bombing of North Vietnam and initiated a world-wide diplomatic effort to persuade North Vietnam to negotiate an end to the war. The Department of Defense opposed the bombing halt.

December 27 - North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh addressed the Communist Party Central Committee in Hanoi. Ho said that "politics" was the weak point of the American and South Vietnamese enemy and the domestic situation of the United States will not permit the U.S. to utilize its military and economic power in South Vietnam. The Committee decided that the communist forces in South Vietnam should seek a "decisive victory within a relatively short period of time" but must prepare to defend itself if the U.S. expands its war effort.

December 31 - The number of U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam totaled 184,314 compared to 23,310 at the end of 1964. U.S. casualties in 1965 totaled 1,928 dead compared to 216 in the previous year. South Vietnamese military forces totaled 514,000 including the Army and the Popular Force and Regional Force militias. The South Vietnamese armed forces suffered 11,242 killed in action, a five-fold increase in battle deaths since 1960. 93,000 persons deserted from South Vietnam's armed forces in 1965.

The North Vietnamese army at year's end numbered 400,000 compared to 195,000 at the end of 1964. Air force and air defense capabilities also were greatly expanded. 50,000 North Vietnamese cadre and soldiers infiltrated South Vietnam during 1965, equal to the total number infiltrated from 1959 through 1964. Group 559, charged with transporting supplies down the Ho Chi Minh Trail to supply communist troops in both South Vietnam and Laos, was expanded to 24,400 personnel and moved almost as much tonnage south in 1965 as it had in the preceding six years.

The draft into the United States armed forces in 1965 was 230,991 men compared to 112,386 in 1964.

The Allied Forces

United States
South Vietnam
South Korea
Thailand
Australia
Philippines
New Zealand
The President of the United States
in the name of The Congress
takes pleasure in presenting the
Medal of Honor
to

Barnum, Harvey C., JR.


Citation:
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. When the company was suddenly pinned down by a hail of extremely accurate enemy fire and was quickly separated from the remainder of the battalion by over 500 meters of open and fire-swept ground, and casualties mounted rapidly. Lt. Barnum quickly made a hazardous reconnaissance of the area, seeking targets for his artillery. Finding the rifle company commander mortally wounded and the radio operator killed, he, with complete disregard for his safety, gave aid to the dying commander, then removed the radio from the dead operator and strapped it to himself. He immediately assumed command of the rifle company, and moving at once into the midst of the heavy fire, rallying and giving encouragement to all units, reorganized them to replace the loss of key personnel and led their attack on enemy positions from which deadly fire continued to come. His sound and swift decisions and his obvious calm served to stabilize the badly decimated units and his gallant example as he stood exposed repeatedly to point out targets served as an inspiration to all. Provided with 2 armed helicopters, he moved fearlessly through enemy fire to control the air attack against the firmly entrenched enemy while skillfully directing 1 platoon in a successful counterattack on the key enemy positions. Having thus cleared a small area, he requested and directed the landing of 2 transport helicopters for the evacuation of the dead and wounded. He then assisted in the mopping up and final seizure of the battalion’s objective. His gallant initiative and heroic conduct reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service.
On October 10 a Duathlon was held to benefit the Veterans Outreach Center.

Our very own Dick Lewandowski and Bill Heinrich participated!
In August of 2013, Chapter member Ron Jones was at Mt. Rushmore. This is his story..........................

For those that have not been to Mt. Rushmore, between where you park and the monument there is an amphitheater with a large stage. The seating faces the stage with the monument in the background. In the evening, just prior to the colors being lowered, the Park Ranger asks if there are any veterans or current service members in the audience. He asks all of them to come down to the stage. On this day there were about 80 or so veterans present standing shoulder-to-shoulder on the stage; facing the crowd with the presidents at our backs. The microphone was then passed to the first man; he stated his name, branch of service and how many years served. The microphone then went from person to person until everyone had spoken of their service to America. Once completed, the crowd broke out in applause, whistles, and verbal accolades for the men and women standing before them. When the amphitheater got quiet we all turned to the flag and saluted while Old Glory was lowered for the night. To my understanding this is done every night.

To be standing in front of Mt. Rushmore for such a simple ceremony as this is a memory I will never forget.
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: ( 555 )________________________

City: _____________________________________

Work Phone: ( 555 )________________________

Zip: ___________  County: ____________________

Email Address: _______________________

I am not a Vietnam Veteran, but I want to help
Vietnam Veterans and their families.
Please accept my donation:
(     ) $10  (     ) $20  (     ) $50    Other ($__________)

Payment Options: (    ) Check (    ) Money Order

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+)

Term: (     ) 1 Year $20   (    ) 3 Years $50
      (     ) Life Membership:
      $200 (ages 56-60),
      $175 (ages 61-65),
      $150 (ages 66-71),
      $100 (ages 72+)

VVA is a non-profit veterans service
organization. Programs and services are funded
by member dues and public donations.

Return this application, along with a copy of your
DD214 to:

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

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, Inc., 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 granting 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.
Your business card could be here. Contact Chapter Treasurer, Alan Frisa (afrisa@rochester.rr.com), for details.
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VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION

Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial  753-7275
(enter 9; enter 2 to leave a message)
VA Outpatient Clinic  465 Westfall Rd  463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center  459 South Avenue  546-1081
VA Vet Center  232-5040
Veterans Administration  800-827-1000
Monroe County Veterans Service Agency  753-6040
e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com
VA Veterans Benefits Hotline  800-827-1000
VA Veterans Bill of Rights  800-342-3358
VA Medical Center in Batavia  297-1000
VA Hospital in Buffalo  716-834-9200
VA Medical Center in Canandaigua  394-2000
VA Medical Center in Bath  607-664-4000
Vietnam Veterans of America National Office  800-882-1316
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund  202-393-0090
National League of Families
POW/MIA Updates  202-223-6846
Richards House at VOC  506-9060
The Resource Center at VOC  546-4250
Stars & Stripes – The Flag Store  546-3524
National Caregivers Support Line  855-260-3274
Homeless Hotline  877-424-3838
Crisis Hotline  800-273-8255

WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES

Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park
www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial
VVA New York State Council
www.nyvietnamvets.org
Honor Flight
www.HonorFlightRochester.org

VVA Chapter 20  585-482-7396
P.O. Box 12580  www.vva20.org
Rochester, NY 14612

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Nancy Rekowski  nrekowski@avva.org

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Cherie Steers  csvva@optonline.net  516-822-5938

HOMELESS HOTLINE
1-866-494-HOme (1-866-494-4663)

NATIONAL CAREGIVERS SUPPORT LINE
1-888-838-8383

STARS & STRIPES – THE FLAG STORE
1-877-424-3838

VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
1-800-882-1316

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
1-800-336-5040

NATIONAL CAREGIVERS SUPPORT LINE
1-888-838-8383

HOMELESS HOTLINE
1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)