Candidate’s Night March 12th

1st Day of Spring March 19th

Set Your Clocks Ahead on March 8th

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day March 27th
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Nominating Committee
Chuck Macaluso, Chair

The Annual Meeting & Elections will be held April 9, 2015 at 6:00 PM –

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 westbound on 490, exit at Mt. Read Blvd and turn left. Southbound on Mt. Read Blvd to Buffalo Road traffic circle, turn right (westbound) on Buffalo Road. Continue 1.4 miles to 1250 Buffalo Road on the right (North) side.

From the West: Heading eastbound on 490, take exit 33 eastbound (Buffalo Road – Gates Center). Continue eastbound on Buffalo Road. Cross Howard Road and continue about ½ mile to 1250 Buffalo Road on the left (North) side.

Positions for nominations:

- Three Board positions (Directors)
- The “new” Nominating Committee will also be elected by the membership that evening.
- A “to date” slate of candidates will be finalized by February 15th and published in the March BTL.
- 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 the previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (For example – 28 February 2014 to vote April 2015.)
- 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 until 7:30 PM, after which no new ballots will be taken and votes will be tabulated.
- According to the VVA National 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 in the March and April BTL issues.)

Each candidate will address the membership at the March meeting stating their reasons for seeking an elected position.

Any member interested in running for any of the above mentioned positions, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members: Chuck Macaluso 585-225-8288 or Dan Corona 585-406-6108.
I am a 68 year old USMC Vietnam veteran, who served “in country” between December of 1966 to January 1968. I was a radio operator most of the time in Nam but had a Combat Engineers’ MOS. During my time in Nam I was in the 1st Marine Division and my Unit supported the 7th Marine Regiment and I was usually attached to the 3rd Battalion. The first half of my tour I spent pulling Ops around the Chu Lai area. The second half of my tour I spent in the Da Nang area pulling Ops there.

I was discharged from the Marine Corp in May of 1968 and returned to my hometown Rochester, N.Y. I worked as a machinist apprentice at the D&C and the Times Union, a Gannett newspaper. I didn’t care to work nights and inside work all the time, so I applied for a construction electrical apprenticeship and was accepted. I remained an Electrician until my retirement in 2005.

Prior to my retirement I had been active in my American Legion Post # 1830 serving on various committees, Board of Directors and was instrumental in getting a NYS grant for an electronic sign so our Post could advertise our various functions, which helped raised monies for our charitable contributions, to our members and our surrounding community.

About seven years ago I was appointed the Legislative Chairman for Monroe County American Legion and have been active informing the County legionnaires about the current Federal and State legislation that affects our Veteran community. I also serve on the Monroe County American Legion Executive Committee. After my retirement I wanted to become more involved with the Veteran community in our area and in the latter part of 2008 there was a call out to the Veteran community for Mentors in a newly founding Veterans Treatment Court with Judge Patricia Marks as the sitting Judge. The majority of mentors that were serving in the beginning of the Court were members of VVA Chapter #20 and I was impressed with them and was invited to attend a few meeting. Shortly thereafter I became a member of the Chapter.

Once I became a member I was invited to help at the trailer that we have at various fairs and carnivals and enjoyed spending time with my fellow members and informing those Vet that stopped by of the benefits they were entitled to through the VA. It is surprising how many Nam Vet who are suffering from some of the presumptive diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure don’t know of the coverage they have through the health system of the VA. I have served at numerous Veterans Benefits fair throughout the years for both the Chapter and the Monroe County Veterans Services.

I recently became a hospice Veteran volunteer for Lifetime Care and joined the many Chapter members who visit a very special group of Veterans in our area. If you were to ask any of us that serve them, I am sure that we would all tell how meaningful it is to have them in our lives and serve them and their families at life’s end.

It is my commitment to our Veteran community that I want bring to our Chapter’s Board of Directors and to share whatever life skills and experiences that I have acquired. I hope that you will entrust me with the responsibilities of being a Chapter Board Member with your vote in April.
DAN CORONA CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR

This will be my 24th year with Chapter #20. I have been a member of the Marching unit for as long, and have been with the Honor Guard for several years. I am running for the Board of Directors to continue the work of this great Chapter. Over the years I have been a member of the LLC Board for the thrift store and car donation business, currently oversee the Chapter web site, member of the Finance Committee, and the Election Committee. I have gone to several VVA conventions to represent the Chapter. Participated in many events such as the 20th anniversary of the Wall in Washington D.C., two visits to the area of the Moving Wall, represent the Chapter at Armed Forces Day. I am married to Diane, have two grown boys and one granddaughter, oh yeah, and a cat.

GEORGE SANFORD CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR

Lifetime member Vietnam Veterans of America.

Married to Charlotte Sanford 33 years, four children and six grandchildren.


Active Duty Bases Lackland AFB TX, Kelly AFB TX, Ft Monmouth NJ, Cam Ranh Bay RVN, Mildenhall UK.


Reserve Bases Youngstown ARB OH, Cryptographic Depot ESC TX, Shaw AFB SC, Ft Meade MD, NSA Special assignment.

AF Civilian Service, 1975-2003 WG -12 Communication Equipment Specialist, GS 12 Civilian Personnel Officer, GS 13 Classification Specialist, GS 12 Communication Manager, Chief Communications Plans Tyndall AFB FL F-22 Bed Down Communications Infrastructure, $7 Million annual Budget.

Other interests Game Bird Propagation, Hunting Guide, Shooting, Fishing, Weight lifting, Certified District Lay Stewart Genesee Valley United Methodist Church, Assistant Football Coach Charles Finney HS. Rush Henrietta Young Life Committee member and Substitute High School Teacher.
I will be 73 in August. Born in Athens, GA but raised in Jacksonville, FL. After college, I was commissioned in the Army (Infantry). During my four years, I served in Colorado, Kansas and Florida. I spent one of those years in Vietnam in the 2d Batt., 503rd Inf., a part of the 173rd Airborne. After the service, I got a master’s degree in business using the GI Bill, from SUNY Binghamton. Since graduating in ’72 I have worked primarily as a college teacher, primarily teaching accounting at RIT’s Deaf program. As a CPA, I do taxes, mainly personal forms. I joined Chapter 20 in 2007 after the death of my wife. I have served Chapter 20 in various positions, most importantly on the Board of Directors and as Commander of the Marching Unit. If re-elected to the Board or not, I will continue to do my best to support the Chapter and my fellow members in a positive manner.

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<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
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<td>Vets</td>
<td>Avg Wgt</td>
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<td>Avg Wgt</td>
<td>Avg Loss/(Gain)</td>
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<td><strong>Army</strong></td>
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<td>214.4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>209.9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Air Force</strong></td>
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<td>229.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>231.6</td>
<td>(2.6)</td>
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<td><strong>Marines</strong></td>
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<td>207.3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>202.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Navy</strong></td>
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<td>188.3</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
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<td>855.2</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>832.2</td>
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MEMORIAL REPORT

Website  http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Remembering Our Fallen Heroes in 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
Marlin 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 at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com

Friends of the Memorial
To be placed on the volunteer contact list, contact: Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or 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
The beleaguered Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hawaii and the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) in Washington, D.C. as well as some functions of the Air Force’s Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory in Ohio has merged into a new agency, now named the “The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)”. This new agency will continue its commitment to the families of service members who have lost loved ones and who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and still remain unaccounted for to this day.

There are reports from the New Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the National League of Families that 2 more missing Americans has been located and returned to their families this month. The total number of Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War still stands unofficially at 1635.

Sgt. 1st Class James William Holt, U.S. Army from Hot Springs, Arkansas was a member of Company C of the 5th Special Forces Group stationed at Lang Vei along Rt. 9 about a mile from the Laotian boarder in the North Western section of South Vietnam. This camp over the last year or so had suffered many attacks and had been destroyed by the North Vietnamese forces and was in the process of being rebuilt and reinforced in January 1968 during the battle of Khe Sanh. Shortly after midnight on February 7, 1968 a combined NVA infantry-tank assault force drove into Lang Vei. Two PT-76 tanks threatened the outer perimeter of the camp as enemy infantry followed behind them. SFC. James W. Holt destroyed both tanks with his 106mm recoilless rifle. Several other tanks came around the hulks and rolled over the defense position. SFC Holt reloaded and destroyed the 3rd approaching tank. After this shot, SFC Holt and another member of the team left their position just before it was destroyed by returning cannon fire. SFC Holt was noticed by other members of his team while running towards the ammunition bunker to look for some hand-held light Anti-tank weapons (LAWs). This was the last time SFC James W. Holt was seen. The remaining team of Special Forces and members of the Mobile Strike Forces fought valiantly to destroy the remaining tanks and enemy forces but many were killed and severely wounded and it became apparent that the camp had been overrun. There were several counter attacks and assaults by rescue forces of Laotian and Special Force commando’s from the MACV-SOG base at Khe Sahn as well as American airstrikes on the NVA defensive line all of which had forced the NVA to withdraw its positions. This intern enabled the survivors of that battle to evacuate the bunkers at Lang Vei with many of its wounded. A few days later, US forces once again were in control of Lang Vei and through extensive searches of the camp and surrounding areas showed no signs of SFC James W. Holt and 4 other members of his team all of which were immediately listed as Missing in Action. The remains of SFC James W. Holt were finally returned to the US on June 21, 1989 and identified on December 8, 2014. His family was notified and he was officially accounted for on January 10, 2015. He will be buried with full military honors.
Capt. David Richard Chorlins, U.S. Air Force from University City, Missouri was a pilot of an A-1H aircraft in the 602nd Special Operations Squadron from Nakhom Phenom RTAFB in Thailand. On January 11, 1970, while on an operational mission over Laos, it was reported that Capt. Chorlins aircraft was struck by hostile fire and crashed into the side of the mountainous terrain in Laos. No parachute was seen and no beeper heard. He was listed as killed in action 2 days later. Capt. David R. Chorlins was unilaterally recovered by US and Vietnamese recovery teams on June 21, 1989 and returned to the US on February 11, 2003. He was identified on December 17, 2014 and officially accounted for on January 17, 2015. He will be buried with full military honors.

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

- Cpl. Robert Higgins, US Army was lost on February 13, 1951 in South Korea. He was accounted for on January 6, 2015 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.
- 1st Lt. James F. Gatlin Jr., US Army Air Force was lost December 23, 1944 near Ahrweiler, Germany. He was accounted for on January 9, 2015 and was laid to rest with full military honors on January 30, 2015 at Bushnell, Florida.
- SFC Donald R. Strum, US Army was lost on November 4, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on January 13, 2015 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.
- Cpl. C. G. Bolden, US Army was lost January 5, 1951 in North Korea. He was accounted for on January 16, 2015 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.

To all of these men, we welcome you home brothers.
We never gave up hope or prayers. You have finally been returned to your families and to a grateful Nation.
Rest in Peace brothers.
WE’RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEMBERS

MIKE GENERAL, CHAIRMAN, MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS

Chapter 20 membership is currently at 589 members and AVVA is at 44 members as of 1/31/15. Membership is dropping mainly due to members not renewing.

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 for Life Membership has been dropped by National.

When your address changes, please notify Mike General so we can keep our roster up to date.

We Need Your Help in Recruiting New Members

Chapter 20 membership is open to U.S. Veterans who served on active duty (other than for 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, Between the Lines, 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 Associate of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) 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 newsletter, or by contacting me, Mike General (mwgeneral@aol.com).

NEW: We are offering an “Honorary Membership” to Chapter 20 to all spouses whose husbands have passed away. If you know of someone who has lost their loved one, please contact Mike General.
Marisa Zeppieri-Caruana, Mrs. New York State/USA Universal, and her husband Mickey spoke to the membership about Marisa’s current reign as Mrs. NYS for 2015 and Mickey’s work as a physical therapist for veterans. (He is a Navy veteran ’90-’96.)

Jim LoDolce won the 50/50 drawing.

Fred Elliott won the flag drawing.

Jim Visconte won a drawing for a blanket donated by the “Lap Robes for Veterans Project”

Ralph Presciutti, Post Commander for American Legion Post 468, spoke to the membership about the veterans’ school tax exemption.
Members of the Chapter Honor Guard received gift cards for their participation in events in 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alan Frisa</th>
<th>Bill Heinrich</th>
<th>Bruce VanApeldoorn</th>
<th>Chuck Macaluso</th>
<th>Dan Corona</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dick Lewandowski</td>
<td>Dick Oleksyn</td>
<td>Ed Kier</td>
<td>Fred Elliott</td>
<td>Hank Wallace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Madigan</td>
<td>Jerry McDermott</td>
<td>Joe Peck</td>
<td>Larry Camp</td>
<td>Larry Kindler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Gursslin</td>
<td>Mick Cole</td>
<td>Mike General</td>
<td>Ralph Pascale</td>
<td>Tom Puff</td>
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<td>Val Gatto</td>
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Other Honor Guard members who will receive gift cards but were not at the meeting: Glenn Peck, Ken Allocco, Tim Sturm, Gerry Daniels, Ray Melens, Bill Wickum, Mike Riley, and Roger Burkhart.
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 ________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Special Recognition Award
The Special Recognition award is given to an individual, group or organization that through their single or continuous actions has favorably benefited Vietnam or other Veteran issues.
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 14th 2015.
Marisa will be in Reno, Nevada in June competing for the title of Mrs. USA.

In addition to her duties as Mrs. NY/USA Universal, and her work to bring awareness about Lupus to the forefront, she is also a journalist for USNews and the Huffington Post.

Her husband, Mickey Caruana, is involved with Rochester’s Shared Adventures at 1044 University Avenue. They use adventure, recreation, re-evaluation peer-coaching and non-traditional strategies to assist combat veterans with re-integration and re-adjustment to civilian life. Many events are purely recreational and for fun. Some of their internships and educational activities are planned to promote positive, evidence-based success.
VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

At Canal View School in Spencerport
Vietnam veterans pay tribute in Owego ceremony

Anthony Borrelli, aborrelli@pressconnects.com | @PSBABorrelli
5:16 p.m. EST January 24, 2015

With an honor guard and solemn tribute, Vietnam veterans converged in Owego on Saturday in a remembrance service for more than 800 of their deceased comrades.

Story Highlights

- The 12-year tradition also evokes memories of the Vietnam war's divisiveness at home.
- There are 37 Vietnam Veterans of America chapters statewide, with a total of 5,500 members.

OWEGO – With pride, John VanDenburg remembers spending four years in his early twenties serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. The Cortland County man, now 67, enlisted at age 19 and would earn a Purple Heart during his service. He doesn't offer much detail of his wartime experience, but he is willing to explain why it mattered. "I left my blood in Vietnam," he said. "When we first got out of the service, we were being treated badly, but now all Vietnam veterans are standing up for themselves."

On Saturday, VanDenburg was among 50 fellow veterans of that war who attended an annual veterans remembrance service in Owego. The service at the Treadway Inn & Conference Center on Route 17C was held by the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council. The organization coordinates programs for Vietnam veterans, as well as others from past and present wars.

More than 800 deceased members of the state's Vietnam Veterans of America chapters were honored during Saturday's service. After the showing of names and the reading of a prayer, an honor guard marched outside, shots were fired in honor of the deceased, and the solemn notes of "Taps" played as veterans stood and saluted.

The service has been a tradition for 12 years, said Ned Foote, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council. There are 37 VVA chapters statewide, with a combined 5,500 members. Foote, who was drafted at age 19 and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during Vietnam, said he knows the sacrifices that can come with serving one's country. He lost his left leg in combat in 1969.

Members of the state's VVA chapters said Saturday that some wars — whether fought in Vietnam or in the Middle East — might be divisive for those at home, but there should always be unity among veterans. "It's even more at the forefront today because of (Vietnam veterans) not being recognized in the past," Foote said. "We're recognizing the new folks coming out, and that helps show we're still around."

Follow Anthony Borrelli on Twitter @PSBABorrelli

March 6 – Two battalions of U.S. Marines land at Da Nang to guard the U.S. air base there.

March 7 – Two batteries of the 1st Light Antiaircraft Missile Battalion fly into Da Nang to set up an air defense of the perimeter.

March 8 – The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) arrives off the coast of Da Nang from Okinawa. This brings the total of U.S. Marine strength in Da Nang to 5,000.

March 10 – The Seventh Fleet receives approval to use its carrier-based air units against enemy units in Vietnam.

March 11 – The Seventh Fleet starts a joint U.S.-South Vietnamese Navy coastal patrol operation. This will be known as Market Time.

March 15 – President Johnson relaxes some of the restrictions of Rolling Thunder so that it becomes militarily more effective.

March 20 – President Johnson concurs with the Joint Chiefs and General Westmoreland that additional Marines should be sent to Vietnam and an Army Division to the central highlands.

March 26 – General Westmoreland stresses that either a regular Army Infantry Division or preferably, the new Airmobile Division should either go to the region between Qui Nhon and Pleiku, or to enclaves along the coast in the same area. In addition, a separate Army Brigade is needed to conduct mobile operations in support of efforts to provide security for locals and to secure the airfields at Bien Hoa and Vung Tau. Westmoreland warns that additional deployments should be considered in the middle of the year if Operation Rolling Thunder fails.

March 29 – Two bombs explode outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon causing severe damage but no casualties.
Pitsenbarger, William H.

_Citation:_
Airman First Class Pitsenbarger distinguished himself by extreme valor on 11 April 1966 near Cam My, Republic of Vietnam, while assigned as a Pararescue Crew Member, Detachment 6, 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron. On that date, Airman Pitsenbarger was aboard a rescue helicopter responding to a call for evacuation of casualties incurred in an on-going firefight between elements of the United States Army's 1st Infantry Division and a sizable enemy force approximately 35 miles east of Saigon. With complete disregard for personal safety, Airman Pitsenbarger volunteered to ride a hoist more than one hundred feet through the jungle, to the ground. On the ground, he organized and coordinated rescue efforts, cared for the wounded, prepared casualties for evacuation, and insured that the recovery operation continued in a smooth and orderly fashion. Through his personal efforts, the evacuation of the wounded was greatly expedited. As each of the nine casualties evacuated that day were recovered, Pitsenbarger refused evacuation in order to get one more wounded soldier to safety. After several pick-ups, one of the two rescue helicopters involved in the evacuation was struck by heavy enemy ground fire and was forced to leave the scene for an emergency landing. Airman Pitsenbarger stayed behind, on the ground, to perform medical duties. Shortly thereafter, the area came under sniper and mortar fire. During a subsequent attempt to evacuate the site, American forces came under heavy assault by a large Viet Cong force. When the enemy launched the assault, the evacuation was called off and Airman Pitsenbarger took up arms with the besieged infantrymen. He courageously resisted the enemy, braving intense gunfire to gather and distribute vital ammunition to American defenders. As the battle raged on, he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to care for the wounded, pull them out of the line of fire, and return fire whenever he could, during which time, he was wounded three times. Despite his wounds, he valiantly fought on, simultaneously treating as many wounded as possible. In the vicious fighting which followed, the American forces suffered 80 percent casualties as their perimeter was breached, and airman Pitsenbarger was finally fatally wounded. Airman Pitsenbarger exposed himself to almost certain death by staying on the ground, and perished while saving the lives of wounded infantrymen. His bravery and determination exemplify the highest professional standards and traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Air Force.
Rant #1 – (Thanks to Mike Sanfillipo for this) – We all know what a great job is being done at the Canandaigua VA Call Center with the Crisis Line. What is not being talked about is the report done by the VA Office of Inspector General, Office of Audits and Evaluations, Veterans Health Administration; “Audit of the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans”. (December 3, 2014, no. 13-01859-42) The audit was conducted because “the Call Center is VA’s primary vehicle for communicating the availability of VA homeless programs and services to veterans and community providers”.

What was found – of the estimated 79,500 homeless veterans who contacted the call center in FY2013:

- Twenty-seven percent (about 21,200) could only leave messages on an answering machine – counselors were unavailable to take calls.
- Sixteen percent (about 13,000) could not be referred to VA medical facilities – their messages were inaudible or lacked contact information.
- Four percent (about 3,300) were not referred to VA medical facilities – despite having provided all the necessary information.
- Referred homeless veterans did not always receive the services needed because there was no follow-up on referrals to medical facilities. Of the approximately 51,500 referrals made in FY2013, the Call Center provided no feedback or improvements to ensure the quality of the homeless services.
- Eighty-five percent of the 60 veterans’ records reviewed lacked documentation to prove the veterans had received needed support services.
- 40,500 missed opportunities were identified where the Call Center either did not refer the homeless veterans’ calls to medical facilities or it closed referrals without ensuring homeless veterans had received needed services from VA medical facilities.

Conclusion – The Call Center lacked adequate management and operational controls to ensure Homeless Veterans had around-the-clock access to counselors and received needed homeless support services. The Call Center’s use of answering machine technology to provide coverage when counselors were unavailable significantly increased the risk of Homeless Veterans’ calls being lost due to inaudible messages or missing contact information.

Further, the Call Center did not properly manage referrals after Homeless Veterans completed the intake process. Counselors did not always properly manage Homeless Veterans’ calls and refer them to VA medical facilities for action. In addition, the Call Center, contrary to VA policy, did not monitor the referrals it made to VA medical facilities. Thus, the Call Center closed the referrals without monitoring the VA medical facilities’ actions; providing feedback, corrections, and recommendations for improvement; and ensuring Homeless Veterans received needed services. As a result, VHA lacks reasonable assurance that 40,500 of the estimated 79,500 Homeless Veterans (51 percent) who contacted the Call Center in FY2013 received needed homelessness assistance and support services. (The full 35 page report can be found at VAOIG-13-01859-42)

Editor- I find it almost beyond belief that in the 21st century, the Call Center was using “answering machine technology”; don’t they know about voice mail? And no follow-ups on referrals? Why can’t they get it right the first time? I wonder how many of these homeless veterans who received no answers, no services, or even a call-back became one of the 22 suicides per day among veterans and active-duty personnel.
**Rant #2** – According to the NYTimes, Robert McDonald, secretary of the DVA, apologized for falsely claiming last month that he had served in the Special Forces. ([http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/02/24/v-a-secretary-apologizes-for-embellishing-military-record/](http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/02/24/v-a-secretary-apologizes-for-embellishing-military-record/))

Some people might argue that it was a simple error by the Secretary and that he meant no harm and that no veterans suffered because of it. And those same people may also refer to the Secretary’s statement as an embellishment of his record.

While I agree that this episode should not detract from the Secretary’s prime mission of fixing the VA, it should serve as fair warning that we, the veteran, need to keep a close watch on Mr. McDonald. After all, the Secretary graduated from West Point in 1975, served in the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division, and completed Ranger training. This is not a man unfamiliar with the military or its protocols. For a man of his caliber, one would not expect such a screwup.

But wait, it doesn’t stop here, on NBC the Secretary stated that 60 people had been fired over the recent scandals over wait-times and other serious problems. However, the fact-checking website, PolitiFact.com rated his statement as “false”, saying that fewer than 20 people had been dismissed and that others had been disciplined. The VA acknowledged that the Secretary’s claim that his department has “fired” 60 people was incorrect. Is the Secretary a fool or are his underlings feeding him just what they think he wants to hear? In either case, something needs to change, and quickly.

“Regarding the 60 figure, it is most accurate to say that ‘VA has proposed disciplinary action related to data manipulation or patient care against more than 60 employees nationwide,’ “ an official said. That includes “the full range of accountability actions including admonishments, demotions, reprimands, and termination.”

Only 20 people fired? Admonishments, reprimands? Are you kidding!? Veterans were kept from making appointments, records were falsified for personal financial gain, veterans died, and the public, Congress, and veterans were lied to. For this you get reprimanded, admonished – do you think that after their boss got done yelling at them (or maybe only talking sternly so as not to hurt their feelings), something was put in their permanent file? What is wrong with this system that people are not or cannot be fired? Do we need to change the rules within the VA or do we just need to get some people with a backbone in management?

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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Chapter 20 is in need of any of the old Forward Observer issues that were produced from 1982-1986. We are currently scanning and recording all these issues as well as the early to present Between the Lines for the Chapter history. Any help will be greatly appreciated. The issues will be scanned and recorded and returned to the owner once completed. This is important that we keep this record as it will be part of our legacy. Please contact Joe Peck (jpeck2@rochester.rr.com) or call 585-734-9046.
PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP
For Men to Share Their Experience

The Prostate Cancer Group is an opportunity for men interested in talking to others about prostate cancer. Common issues, information, and experiences related to living with prostate cancer will be discussed.

When: 2\textsuperscript{nd} & 4\textsuperscript{th} Tuesday of Each Month from 6-7:30 PM

Where: Gilda’s Club Rochester
255 Alexander Street
Rochester, NY  14607
For more information, please call (585) 423-9700.
Web site: gildasclubrochester/for-men.cfm
Come Join Us at the 70th Anniversary of the end of

WWII REMEMBRANCE

honoring all WWII Veterans
and
Holocaust survivors and victims.
Thursday, April 2nd, 2015 at 12:00pm until 2:00pm
SUNY Polytechnic Institute Field House
880 Wildcat Drive Utica, NY

Guest speaker
WWII Combat Veteran
and
“Concentration Camp” Liberator
Mr. Alan Moskin

Please RSVP at www.sunypolysvc.weebly.com or
call 315-351-4238 by March 20th.
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: ____________________________________
City: _____________________________________
Zip: ________ County: ____________________

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

Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214 to:
Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 12580
Rochester, NY 14612


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.

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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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WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES

Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial  753-7275
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

WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION

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

Miscellaneous

VVA Vehicle Donations  738-2870
VVA Chapter 20  info@vva20.org  482-7396