MEMORIAL DAY – MAY 25TH

And the Winners Are:

Bill Auble
Dan Corona
Hank Wallace

Congratulations to the newly elected Chapter Directors.
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MEMORIAL REPORT

Website   http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Remembering our Fallen Heroes - May

Thomas David               Neidermeier     5-1-1947
Thomas                     Petramalo       5-6-1936
Ronald Gene                Quinn           5-6-1943
Carl R.                    McCarthy, Jr.   5-6-1950
James Edward               Pringle         5-8-1949
George Joseph              Parker, Jr.     5-10-1941
Rex Martin                 Daniels         5-10-1950
Frank Joseph               Beltran         5-11-1948
Lawrence C.                Kleinhans       5-14-1947
Larry George               Ludwig          5-15-1947
Alexander Anthony          Roczen          5-16-1947
Robert Caufeld             Henderson       5-17-1947
Jeffrey David              Schumacher      5-17-1950
Thomas Clark               Cartwright      5-18-1943
David N.                   Reed            5-28-1951
Walter Lee                 Redding         5-30-1949

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
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
I was asked to speak at the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Day put on by Monroe County on April 27th. My remarks are below:

WELCOME HOME BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

Each and every one of us can stand and proudly say “I am a Vietnam Veteran.” We served and sacrificed for the sake of a great nation. We have fought in an effort to secure a peaceful place for our children, our grandchildren, our families, our friends, and our neighbors; to keep them free of harm, of dictatorships, and of communism and terrorism. We have fought to ensure that there are avenues of opportunity and the freedom to choose our own path. And we forget none of our own, especially those that have made the ultimate sacrifice, as we continue to honor them at every event and every day, and always keep them in our hearts.

We have built a memorial so that no Vietnam veteran will ever be forgotten, a place to educate future generations, and hopefully provide a comforting place for Vietnam veterans to visit, and a place where their families and friends can honor them today, tomorrow, and always.

Today, my brothers and sisters is a day of pride and for recognizing what we stand for and what we have accomplished. Whether we are marching together in the St. Patrick’s Day, Memorial Day or Veteran’s Day parades, helping our homeless, sick or dying, advocating for the things that we have earned, the things that no veteran should be denied, or folding our American flag and handing it to the family that is saying a final good-bye to one of their own, and one of our own, we stand united. We are bonded together forever. For we have lived through war and through hell to protect the things that are so dear to us; our families, our citizens, and the love of our country. And we would do it all over again. This is what being a veteran means to me, means to us.

No Vietnam veteran shall ever be forgotten. Today is our day. I am so proud and honored to belong to this brave family, a family of dignity that I will always be there for and I know will always be there for me. So welcome home brothers and sisters and thank you for your service and your sacrifice!
During the month of April, the Chapter President:

- Chaired the Monthly Chapter Board of Directors meeting
- Shopped for supplies for the April membership meeting
- Met with the Chapter Treasurer and the Chapter accountant to finalize our tax filing and then mail the forms
- Picked up the programs for the annual dinner from the printer
- Attended the Veterans Memorial & Executive Council meeting to represent the Chapter
- Picked up the invitations for the annual dinner at the post office because the Treasurer was out of town
- Ordered the cake at Sam’s Club for the annual dinner
- Placed an order at Big City Sportswear for the shirts for the convention delegates
- Facilitated the monthly Chapter membership meeting.
- Picked up the cake for the annual dinner and brought it to Golden Ponds
- Met with the Chapter Treasurer to pay for the annual dinner and resolve some financial problems
- Attended the meeting of the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee as the Chapter representative
- Was part of the Honor Guard at the Little Theater for the documentary “Last Days of Vietnam”
- Participated in a Chapter speakers’ group at Churchville High School
- Met with Chapter member John Kiereck at State Senator Joe Robach’s office to discuss a proposal to create a bill to acquire license plates for the Cuban Missile Crisis. While there, I asked Senator Robach if he would donate small flags for the Memorial at Highland Park.
- Picked up the small American flags from Senator Robach’s office.
- Working with National VVA to obtain certificates and/or packages to use for our new widow/widowers honorary Chapter membership program.
There are new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the National League of Families that 2 more missing Americans from the Vietnam War have been located, accounted for and returned to their families this month. The total number of Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War now stands unofficially at 1626.

**SGT. Rodney Lynn Griffin, US Army from Centralia, Missouri** and **Major Dale Wayne Richardson, US Army from Cashton, Wisconsin.** On May 2, 1970, both men were members of a team of 8 from the 34th Armor, 25th Infantry Division and a flight crew from the 1st Air Cavalry Division on board a UH1H helicopter from Tay Ninh, South Vietnam. They were on a logistics mission to fire support base Bruiser in South Vietnam with the attempt to stop North Vietnamese forces from gaining strongholds in nearby Cambodia. During this mission, the aircraft encountered heavy blinding rains and strayed off course and was then hit with anti-aircraft (AAA) machine gun fire by enemy ground forces. The heavily damaged aircraft was forced to land in a rice paddy near the city of Memot, Cambodia just over the boarder of South Vietnam. All those on board survived the crash but only had 30-40 seconds to decide what to do especially with the approaching enemy. They all attempted to evade, each in different directions to find cover in the surrounding elephant grass. One member made his escape back to US lines while several others were captured by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces as well as possibly the Khmer forces. Sgt. Rodney Griffin was seen running into the jungle while firing his weapon at the enemy and was later killed. Maj. Dale Richardson was captured with 2 others by the Viet Cong Forces. He was said to have been interrogated and probably died at the hands of his captors. There was a search and rescue attempt made shortly after the crash but nothing was found at the site. Sgt. Griffin and MAJ. Richardson were officially listed as missing in action (MIA) for many years. In February of 2012, the remains of Sgt. Rodney Lynn Griffin along with some military gear were located in a shallow grave and recovered near the crash site. He was returned on April 3, 2014, identified on January 1, 2015 and accounted for on March 30, 2015. He will be laid to rest at a private ceremony next to his parents with full military honors in Mexico, Missouri. The remains of Maj. Dale Wayne Richardson were returned on March 3, 2014 and identified on January 27, 2015. He will be laid to rest with full military honors at a later date.
There are also reports of the recoveries and identifications of individuals from the following wars:

- **Pfc. Kenneth P. Darden**, US Army was lost February 13, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on March 23, 2015 and will be buried with full military honors.

- **Sgt. John McLaughlin**, US Marine Corps was lost December 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on April 4, 2015 and will be buried with full military honors.

- **Cpl. Elmer P. Richard**, US Army was lost December 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on April 11, 2015 and will be buried with full military honors.

- **Pfc. Eugene L. Erickson**, US Army was lost May 18, 1951 in North Korea. He was accounted for on April 13, 2015 and will be buried with full military honors.

For all of these men, you have finally been returned to your families.
We have prayed for your return and now you can finally Rest in Peace for they no longer have you.

“Welcome Home Brothers”
### 2015 Parade Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>May 9th</td>
<td>Lilac Parade</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>May 24th</td>
<td>Irondequoit</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>May 25th</td>
<td>Rochester</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
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The Downtown Rochester Memorial Day Parade (above) is open to all family members of veterans and all veterans, regardless of era. No uniform is required. We will form up on Scio Street beginning at 9:30am.

| Thursday    | June 11th | Spencerport   | 7:00pm |
| Wednesday   | June 17th | Barnard       | 7:00pm |
| Saturday    | July 4th  | Irondequoit   | 11:00am|
| Friday      | July 10th | Kendall       | 7:00pm |
| Thursday    | July 16th | Webster       | 6:30pm |
| Friday      | August 7th| Hamlin        | 7:00pm |

Times listed are parade start times; participants are asked to be on-site 45-60 minutes earlier.
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 3/31/15. Membership is not growing, 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 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.

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 newsletter, or by contacting me, Mike General (mwgeneral@aol.com).

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

New Member

Jim Palermo
U.S. Army
**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Tony DeBellis won the 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings to Jack for the Fly a Kite Event!

Robin Johnson of VA Voluntary Services spoke about volunteer opportunities.

106 people were in attendance!

Bill Wickum won the flag drawing.

Ray Melens won a drawing for a blanket donated by the “Lap Robes for Veterans Project”

Louise Motyka also represented VA Voluntary Services.

Jack Michel spoke about the Fly a Kite for Homeless Veterans Event.

On June 6th from 1pm to 3pm the Rundel Library (3rd floor auditorium) will open a 3-month display of Vietnam War memorabilia, veteran health issues, POW/MIA, and more.

The Greece Chamber of Commerce thanked the Chapter for participating in their Health Fair.
The Veterans Advisor

The Veterans Service Agency is excited to announce a brand new collaboration with five towns around the outer perimeter of Monroe County! For the first time, we are now delivering claims service closer to home for veterans who live in Parma, Webster, Wheatland, Mendon, and north Greece. We’ve teamed up with town halls, senior centers, and a nursing home to position one of our Service Officers on-site once a month. The goal is to reach veterans and their spouses who may have transportation issues or who would simply prefer not to drive downtown. The hours of operation will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at each of the locations listed below. Our trained, accredited staff will be available to facilitate applications for service-connected disability compensation, discharge upgrades, VA pensions, replacement of military medals, property tax reductions, veterans discount cards and much more. We will also present a brief overview of veterans’ benefits at 9:00 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m., both of which will be open to the public. No appointments are necessary and walk-ins are welcome. Please bring any information that may pertain to the issue for which you want to file. Veterans are also asked to bring their DD214’s (if they have them). See the list that follows for locations and on-site dates of our Mobile Veterans Service Agency. Our main facility at 125 Westfall Road will continue normal hours of operation, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Outreach Schedule**

Town of Parma: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the Town Hall, 1300 Hilton-Parma Corners, Hilton, NY

Town of Mendon: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each Month at the Town Hall, 16 W. Main Street, Honeoye Falls, NY

Town of Wheatland: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month at the Town Hall, 22 Main Street, Scottsville, NY

Town of Webster: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month at the Webster Recreation Center, 1350 Chiyoda Drive, Webster, NY

North Greece: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month at The Villages at Unity, 1471 Long Pond Road, Greece, NY

Monroe County Veterans Service agency looks forward to providing these services to each and every veteran in Monroe County. County Executive Maggie Brooks and the staff of Monroe County Service Agency thank you for your service to our country.

###

The information on this page is provided as a service by the Chapter 20 Veterans Benefits Committee; Chair – Stan Patykiewicz; contact Stan by email at SNMPATYK@rochester.rr.com or by telephone at 585-721-4669
May 4 – President Johnson requests $700 million in supplemental appropriations for the war effort.

May 5 to 7 – The bulk of the Army’s 173rd Airborne Brigade and of the 101st Airborne Division arrives at Bien Hoa Air Base.

May 6 – Two additional Marine battalions are sent to Vietnam. This is the first deployment of troops to be used specifically in combat operations.

May 7 – The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force becomes the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force to delete any negative connotations for the South Vietnamese.

May 12 – Soldiers of the Army’s 173rd Airborne Brigade conduct combat operations near the Bien Hoa Air Base. They encounter no enemy contact.

May 13 – Bombing missions over North Vietnam are temporarily suspended.

May 15 – The 173rd Airborne Brigade conducts its first combat air assaults flying in Hueys (UH-1s).

May 19 – Air attacks are resumed on North Vietnam targets.

May 26 to 27 – Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade conduct a large-scale operation engaging the Vietcong in a series of battles. The Vietcong break off after suffering seven dead or wounded. The 173rd suffered eight wounded, none seriously.
The President of the United States
in the name of The Congress
takes pleasure in presenting the
Medal of Honor
to

Shields, Marvin G.


Citation:
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Although wounded when the compound of Detachment A342, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, came under intense fire from an estimated reinforced Viet Cong regiment employing machineguns, heavy weapons and small arms, Shields continued to resupply his fellow Americans who needed ammunition and to return the enemy fire for a period of approximately 3 hours, at which time the Viet Cong launched a massive attack at close range with flame-throwers, hand grenades and small-arms fire. Wounded a second time during this attack, Shields nevertheless assisted in carrying a more critically wounded man to safety, and then resumed firing at the enemy for 4 more hours. When the commander asked for a volunteer to accompany him in an attempt to knock out an enemy machinegun emplacement which was endangering the lives of all personnel in the compound because of the accuracy of its fire, Shields unhesitatingly volunteered for this extremely hazardous mission. Proceeding toward their objective with a 3.5-inch rocket launcher, they succeeded in destroying the enemy machinegun emplacement, thus undoubtedly saving the lives of many of their fellow servicemen in the compound. Shields was mortally wounded by hostile fire while returning to his defensive position. His heroic initiative and great personal valor in the face of intense enemy fire sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

Editor’s note: Seabee Shields was the first U.S. Navy sailor to receive the MOH in Vietnam.
On Memorial Day, we honor all those who have served and given their lives for this great Nation. At this time we will 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*
Martin Driffill
Dennis D. Rinkus
Patrick C. Parker
Joseph P. Terzo, Jr.
Wayne P. Soule
John M. Harrigan
Donald B. Maclean
Lynn A. Citron*
Michael E. Young
Jeffrey P. Lundberg
Wayne Morris
Jeffrey C. Hammond
Thomas L. Steinberg
William J. DeHollender
Larry P. Davenport
Frank Stephens
David T. Hilbert
Don Murrell
Jim Cass
Eugene O. Ball
Clyde Saxon*
Bradley C. Roth
Ronald F. Popowich
Peter G. Lambert
Robert Rudolph
william maxion
Elton L. Bailey
David B. DeLola
Charles G. Holtz
Howard Lewczyk*
Ervin J. Lewis
Steve Hess*
Peter J. Bendig
John P. Henderson
John Claypoole
Eric W. Bradshaw
Richard L. Butchino
Charles H. Carey
Paul Paisted
Wayne C. Hanson
Timothy M. Heffer*
Ronald J. Mumert
David L. Wooding
Gary J. Nacca

Gerald R. Dusel
Jerry Popen
Edward F. McLaughlin, Jr.
Gerald J. Pruonto
David E. Johns
Richard E. Beeley
James A. Huff
Roger W. Gaede
Michael P. Couture
Michael T. Donlon
Keith M. Reitz
Douglas M. McWilliams
Dominic Bianchi
Edward M. Hickey
Don W. Webber
Dale R. Aiello
Gerald R. Mart
Gregory D. Carter
John Arthur
George Stevens
Ted Ives
Richard E. Cummings
Ronald F. LaBeau
Garren Sparks
Charles E. Rupert
William T. Sprentall
James A. Lester
Raymond R. Lincourt*
William G. Cahill
Robert L. Hill
William D. Peterson
Gabe Dalmath
John Lennox
Raymond Ware
Fred Ostrom
David C. Byrns
Jack Battaglia
Robbie S. Stevenson*
Gerard R. Ives
John C. Magee
Gerald F. Sullivan
Wally Gekoski
Lafayette L. Green
Jerald T. Denny
Lewis E. Weitzel

Gerald C. Fuchs
James B. Gilmore
Gerhard McBride
Melvin J. Cass
Daniel P. Englert
William M. Anthony
Gerald F. Heath
Carlton C. Covey
Pat Marianetti
David R. Mulay
Gregory J. Smith
Michael Cooper
Raymond P. Campbell
Gary E. Hallston
Howard D. Silvers
John L. Doles
Frankie D. Lawhorn
Lynn A. Lansberry
William (Bud) Hemmerick
Emmett E. Porter
Robert M. Hale
Richard P. Chenaille
George W. Malone
Solomon A. Sherman
Alexander F. Soos
Martin L. Keymel
John P. McCabe
J. Max Lill, Jr.
David F. Nice
David A. Kogler
Stephen J. Lingl
Elwood L. Hart
John Guarre
Robert W. Livingstone
Ronald L. Mullins
Ernest J. Hegadorn
John M. Lavell
Allen J. Weingartner
James Maartense
Donald H. Deverell
Phil F. Brightman
James E. Carter
Mark J. Tamkus
John M. Hrankowski
Ralph A. Handley
Clarence A. Jovanelly
Francis P. Burns
Jeremiah L. Peck
Robert A. Cenzi
David E. Hooker
Thomas E. Ragland*
James S. Jenkins
Albert S. Marciano, Jr.
Carl R. Voght
Richard C. Lamagran
Robert L. Novgrod
Howard L. Davies
Wayne N. Sparks
Barry D. Halcus
Gary L. Schojan
Ronald A. Michalski
Robert Anderson
Richard L. Holton
David G. Eng
William P. Cook
Charles M. Helberg
Norbert (Zeke) D. Evans
Joseph J. Alban, Jr.
William (Bill) Follett
Kenneth J. DeLorme
David F. Wido
Jim McDermott
Patrick M. Jimenez
Thomas D. Tette
Yale Seils
Donald C. Lippens
Paul S. Halpern
Robert D. Harris
Phillip P. Nicastro
Keith A. Turner
Bill Meminger
Dave Stamp
John N. Thompson
Gerald A. Irland
Bill Ludwig
Ed Jones
The Annual Dinner on April 18th at the Golden Ponds Restaurant.

Gold Star Mother, June Martin

Joe Peck & Val Gatto

Posting of the colors

Dick Lewandowski

Mike General at the POW Table

Rori Murrell presents the Murrell Humanitarian Award to the Men and Women of the VA Crisis Line

Terry Robach and her son, Senator Joe Robach. Joe received the Robach Award

Ed Kier received a Veterans Service Award

Ken Allocco received a Veterans Service Award

Lee Kauffman received a Special Recognition Award

The oath of office being administered to the new Directors.

Debbie Arnaud and Lindsay Brown accept the Community Service Award for Lifetime Cares Vet-to-Vet Program.
On April 21st there was a free screening of the academy award nominated film “Last Days In Vietnam” at the Little Theater.

The Chapter Honor Guard was on hand for the event.

Chapter member William Schrader attended with his wife Nguyet who was in Vietnam during those Last Days.

There was a panel of distinguished speakers that included Chapter member and Medal of Honor recipient, Gary Beikirch.
A recent editorial in the *Washington Post* suggested that we do not need the Veterans Health Administration in its current form. Imagine if you will, that you have been tasked with creating a health care system for veterans. Would you even consider a bureaucracy like the current VA? An organization that is rife with incompetence, falsified records, over-long wait times, medical misconduct, dishonesty, and an overall lack of accountability. I hope not. And that doesn’t even take into account the incompetence and mismanagement in VA construction. Why, you might ask, does not the Army Corps of Engineers handle the construction needs of the VA.

And why isn’t the new Choice Program expanded to allow any veteran eligible for VA health care to use the health care provider of his or her choice? Did I say that out loud? Even to suggest the partial or full-privatization of veteran health care is to draw accusations of being insensitive to the special health needs of veterans. But 59% of the current patient population at the VA do not have a service-connected disability.

The recently passed *Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act* authorizes $10 billion to help some veterans bypass the VA system and use private healthcare providers. And if Congress is willing to spend $10 billion for veterans to receive care outside the VA, doesn’t that send a message that the VA is possibly outdated and overloaded? Unfortunately that measure is only good for three years. But are additional dollars really the answer? Since 2006, the VA budget has grown by $91 billion and they have added some 100,000 employees. And yet, we are still faced with the same problems.

Concerned Veterans for America (a 501c(4) political advocacy group founded in 2012) convened a bipartisan task force, Fixing Veterans Health Care. The Task Force was charged with identifying challenges to veterans’ health care, and propose concrete fixes centered on the veteran, not the VHA bureaucracy. The Task Force developed three major reforms:

- Give veterans the option to seek private health coverage using VA funds. Veterans should have the choice to spend their service-connected funding wherever they choose. Veterans’ education benefits are an attractive model for the type of reform we propose. Through the GI Bill, eligible veterans can use taxpayer dollars to pursue education at the accredited academic institution of their choice. The VA determines eligibility, ensures that academic institutions meet certain standards and monitors the payment process. The VA does not, however, require veterans to receive their education through a “Veterans University” or otherwise specify which schools veterans can attend.

- We should restructure the VHA as an independent, government-chartered nonprofit corporation. Today the VHA has to deliver health care while constrained by bureaucratic and political priorities. Becoming an independent entity that competes for customers would liberate the VHA to make its own decisions on personnel, facilities and priorities – all in the interest of serving eligible veterans better. In addition, separating the VHA into two entities – as a provider of health care services and as a separate payer of health-insurance premiums and claims – would streamline operations and eliminate perverse incentives.
Refocus veterans’ health care on those with health needs connected to their military service. The VA’s original mission was to provide health care for those who bear the physical and mental scars of war. However, for decades, often in order to justify its existence, the VHA has expanded eligibility beyond service-related health needs. We strongly believe veterans with service-connected health needs should be prioritized, permitting the VHA to focus on providing quality and timely care to eligible veterans who need it most.

Retired U.S. Army General, Peter W. Chiarelli has proposed that one of the biggest disconnects in veterans’ health care is the disparity between effective treatment identified by the Department of Defense for a service member and the treatment provided by the VA for that same individual as a veteran enrolled in the VA health care system. The problem, as seen by General Chiarelli, is that the DOD has an all-inclusive formulary that allows clinicians to prescribe almost any medication approved by the FDA while the VA has a very limited formulary, primarily to control costs. This disconnect is particularly noticeable in cases where the diagnosis is for PTSD. Many times the veteran, upon finding out that the VA cannot continue treatment using the same drugs, the veteran will seek out private health care providers to fill prescriptions. Now the veteran is forced to use his own funds to pay for his prescriptions. This situation must not be allowed to continue. All too often VA medical centers have substituted drugs to cut costs without making a clinical determination about the possible health effects.

I believe that these recommendations for reform make sense. And yet, we are not hearing similar calls for reform from any of the major veterans’ service organizations. They all seem to be concentrating on “fixing” the existing VA. These problems are nothing new, veterans have been struggling for decades with the bureaucracy that is the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA was elevated to a cabinet-level Department, secretaries have come and gone, budgets have increased, staffing has increased, shortcomings, incompetence, falsified records, and numerous other problems have been identified and yet nothing seems to change for the better. Sure, the bureaucrats cite statistics that “prove” things are better but not if you ask the veteran who has waited far too long for an appointment, the patient who gets shuffled between facilities because of some archaic VA rule, the PTSD sufferer who must go outside the VA to get the medications necessary to treat her condition.

My suggestion is twofold, first, that we petition VVA at the State and National levels to review the work done by the task force for Fixing Veterans Health Care as well as General Chiarelli’s concerns about the VA formulary; second, that we make the same requests of our federal legislators in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. It is time we become proactive in this struggle to “fix the VA”. For too long we have been willing to sit back and wait for others to carry the torch.
Look, I know a lot of people are hyping Don Murrell these days. The guy becomes ex-editor of the Forward Observer and already people are treating him as a media event, like some kinda cult figure. Wouldn’t be surprised if he gets an appearance on the Phil Donahue Show or fills in for Dr. Ruth. He’s got a good public relations man now, the same guy that made Haldeman look like a social worker.

Well, let me tell you, I know the REAL Don Murrell, not the one you read about in Readers Digest. He’s nothing like Walter Cronkite or Lou Grant. In fact, my returned articles looked like John Madden edited them. He ran this paper with an iron hand and ramrodded gifted writers like myself. But I got no axe to grind. I just want to set the record straight. I submit the following documented examples of Don Murrell the Myth and Don Murrell the Man. You make the call.

1. **The Myth.** – Don Murrell’s ability to cultivate professional writers to donate time and talent during the critical period of the Forward Observer’s inception enabled the paper to take a firm hold in the veteran’s community.
   **The Man.** – “Hey, what about that guy over there? Yeah, the one reading the coloring book and drinking out of the paper bag. He looks like he’s got a great mind.” (Don Murrell sizing up Ron Trovato inside the waiting room of the Manpower Day Labor Office – 1981.)

2. **The Myth** – Murrell’s objectivity and professionalism in reporting gained the Forward Observer credibility as it covered diverse political opinions and veterans issues.
   **The Man** – “Today the President addressed the Congress and elaborated on his proposed V.A. budget cuts. Wearing a smart dark brown suit over what reliable sources have indicated are women’s undergarments, the Chief Executive spoke about...” (Excerpt from Murrell’s first Forward Observer article – 1981)

3. **The Myth** – Murrell’s development of reliable news sources and informants alerts him to fast breaking stories and enables the paper to scoop the competition.
   **The Man** – “Hey! Did ya hear the news! McKinley’s been shot! McKinley’s been shot!” (Don Murrell bursting into the Board of Directors meeting – May, 1982)

4. **The Myth** – Don Murrell’s dynamic vision and willingness to change allowed the Forward Observer to grow from a four page newsletter to a polished twenty-four page publication while expanding circulation at the same time.
   **The Man** – “So I propose a playmate of the month, preferably dressed in Donna Reed stockings, right after Trovato’s hard hitting editorial on the Heartbreak of Psoriasis...” (Quote from Murrell’s appeal for a new Forward Observer format at the Board of Directors meeting – June, 1983)

5. **The Myth** – Don Murrell’s ability to maintain a flexible deadline for articles allowed an expanding and changing staff to cover a wide range of subjects.
   **The Man** – “Get me that article or I’ll slap you around like a step-child !!” (Murrell gently chiding a volunteer behind Nick Tahou’s restaurant – 1983)
6. **The Myth** – Articles were submitted to Don Murrell exposing problems of a sensitive and personal nature. Murrell guaranteed the writers of these stories absolute anonymity and never violated this confidentiality.

**The Man** – “Why, one of my own staff even told me of a personal problem of his so I suggested to Ron that a more appropriate forum was Bondage Today magazine which printed his confession in the ....” (Excerpt from Murrell’s speech at VVA National Convention – April, 1984)

7. **The Myth** – Don Murrell’s unflinching support and backing of his staff writers enabled them to publish articles professing unpopular and minority opinions.

**The Man** – “I may not agree with Trovato’s opinions, but I’ll defend to the death his right to print his delusions.” (Murrell defending Trovato’s scathing and controversial review of “The Cat in the Hat” – 1984)

8. **The Myth** – The VVA had experienced many funding crises, yet by innovative fund raising techniques, Don Murrell kept the *Forward Observer* financially viable from 1981 to 1986.

**The Man** – “And then (sob) these two guys trap me in a chair and (sob) put a cassette in my VCR and they (sob) ... they force me to watch non-stop “My Three Sons” re-runs until I (sob) break down and agree to fund the Outreach Center and ... (sob) ... and ... I ... I ... I can’t go on ... “ (David Stockman’s emotional testimony during the extortion trial of Murrell and Trovato – 1985)

9. **The Myth** – Don Murrell resigned his position as Editor of the *Forward Observer* to pursue a more lucrative offer in private business.

**The Man** – “My leaving the *Forward Observer* to work for the *Weekly Reader* in Billings, Montana has absolutely nothing to do with the allegations regarding my conduct at the Rochester Home for Wayward Girls. There is absolutely no truth to Trovato’s spurious charges and I categorically deny dressing up in a Pinocchio costume during bedchecks and .....” (Excerpt from “60 Minutes” interview with Don Murrell – 1986)

*Editor* – Hopefully, this has cleared up any misconceptions about Mr. Murrell or even Mr. Trovato.
The Canandaigua VA Medical Center is actively pursuing the construction of a replacement lease for the Rochester CBOC (Rochester Outpatient Clinic). Many obstacles and processes have needed to be overcome to reach the current state relative to getting the replacement site constructed.

The initial project was broken into two phases near the end of 2014 due to a discrepancy in the required net usable square feet approved by Congress. The result was a redesign of space to fit within a smaller footprint. This redesign has forced us to define what services will be housed in phase 1 and what services will be moved into temporary rental spaces until phase 2 can be approved for construction (lengthy process, 4 to 6 years).

We are currently waiting for the last piece of the process required to solicit construction of phase 1. That is a delegation of authority from GSA to proceed with the solicitation. We are hopeful to receive that in the near future. Our goal is to have the new site constructed sometime in 2018.

Phase 1 will be the hub of Primary Care (PACT) and Specialty Care in Rochester. It will also house the Veterans Service Center, Dental, Radiology (including a new CT), Pharmacy Endoscopy, Sterile Processing and Administration as well as other necessary support functions.

Other existing services will be housed in short-term leased spaces (5-year with extensions as needed). These services will ultimately be housed in phase 2 once completed but may be moved to short-term leases sooner to align and prepare for completion of Phase 1. The short-term leases will house behavioral health, PRRC (Day Treatment), Homeless, Rehab Services, KT Clinic, Chiropractic/Acupuncture, and HBPC (Home Based Primary Care). These services will all move into the Phase 2 construction when complete in addition to a new Ambulatory Surgery Suite.

In effort to assist veterans in accessing different services at the varying sites in Rochester, a plan is being developed to augment our shuttle services between the different Rochester sites of care.

4-21-15
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<th>All Who Fought Are Honorable</th>
<th>Don’t Diminish Draftee Service</th>
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| In a recent letter to the *Democrat and Chronicle*, a self-described Vietnam Veteran referred to military draftees as a “bunch of misfits” detrimental to the “morale or effectiveness of a fighting force,’ who “didn’t want to be in the military in the first place.”  
As a Vietnam combat “draftee,” I not only am offended by these unfounded remarks, but also embarrassed for the more than 600,000 fellow draftees who fought, and the 17,000 plus draftees who died serving their country in the Vietnam War.  
Whether they were “draftees” or regular Army enlisted men, we Vietnam vets welcome home all those who honorably served, as our brothers. We mourn all who made the ultimate sacrifice – as our heroes.  
George E. Wegman |
| Following up on last week’s letter, “All who fought are honorable,” I am amazed that anyone who survived the Vietnam War would try to diminish all the contributions of those who fought and died by separating if they were drafted or enlisted. I served in South Vietnam from 1967 through 1969 – 4th Infantry Division – as a draftee Purple Heart combat recipient, and I want to tell all who will listen that none of the penetrating bullets, exploding bombs or human wave attacks separated draftees from enlisted. We all fought and died equally.  
Enough said.  
Curley Gavin |

*(published April 20th)*

*(published April 21st)*
We need YOU!

Are you bored at home?
Do you have some spare time?
Do you want to make a difference?

Volunteer Today

The DAV/Volunteer Transportation Program is in desperate need of drivers in the Rochester area!

No amount of time is too little
Free lunch on us
Use a government van for transport
We pay the gas!

If you are interested, call Louise Motyka at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center at 585-393-7729.
**Annual Pie, Plant and Ice Cream Sale**

*Date: May 14, 2015*
*Time: 9:30AM-1:30PM*
*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 14 before 8:30AM or in Voluntary Service beginning May 11.

*Please fill out the RSVP below and forward to Voluntary Service by May 4 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, Voluntary 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.*
Come Fly A Kite For Homeless Veterans

Please join us for a Free Family Event on

Saturday May 30th, 2015 at
Gratwick Waterfront Park
North Tonawanda, NY
12:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Food & refreshments will be available
(Please do not bring any alcohol)

To reserve a kite please pre-register at
www.kitesforvets.com

You may also reserve kites by calling
(716) 435-7210 or (716) 515-5844

Sponsored by:
WNY Veterans Housing Coalition, Inc. - VetsHerd - VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program

Donations will be accepted. All proceeds will go to help Homeless Veterans in WNY
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+)

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.
Board Meetings | Membership Meetings
---|---
May 5, 2015 | May 14, 2015
June 2, 2015 | June 11, 2015
July 7, 2017 | July 9, 2015

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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Women’s Affairs – Rosemary Rossi-Williams  pefrose@gmail.com 738-6138 c

REGION 2 DIRECTOR
Herb Worthington  hworthington@comcast.net 732-849-5737

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
POM/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  877-424-3883
Crisis Hotline  800-273-8255

WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES
NYS Department of Labor  www.labof.rr.gov/vets/vetintropage.shtm
NYS Department of Health  www.health.state.ny.us/myvets
Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park  www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial
Operation Welcome Home  www.operationwelcomerhome.org
VVA New York State Council  www.nyvietnammvets.org
Honor Flight  www.HonorFlightRochester.org

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