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# MEMORIAL REPORT

Website  [http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/](http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/)

Remembering our Fallen Heroes - September

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Surname</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Michael</td>
<td>Draper</td>
<td>9-3-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willy R.</td>
<td>Michalik</td>
<td>9-4-1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Ernest</td>
<td>Albanese, Jr.</td>
<td>9-5-1946</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Newton</td>
<td>Sweet</td>
<td>9-8-1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernest Estell</td>
<td>Lesure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Blaine</td>
<td>Riccione</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Edwin</td>
<td>Brady</td>
<td>9-8-1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Frederick</td>
<td>Kohlrusch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>Green, Jr.</td>
<td>9-9-1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rexford John</td>
<td>DeWispeleare</td>
<td>9-9-1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenneth David</td>
<td>Costanza</td>
<td>9-9-1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Alfred</td>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>9-12-1940</td>
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<td>Jerald Frederick</td>
<td>DeLooze</td>
<td>9-13-1943</td>
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<td>Robert Edward</td>
<td>Hentschel</td>
<td>9-16-1948</td>
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<td>Robert Lawrence</td>
<td>Zornow</td>
<td>9-17-1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary E.</td>
<td>Bullock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas William</td>
<td>Matteson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edgar Peter</td>
<td>Beck, Jr.</td>
<td>9-18-1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>John E.</td>
<td>Ehrmentraut, Jr.</td>
<td>9-19-1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Powers</td>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>9-20-1934</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jose Anton</td>
<td>Robles-Miranda</td>
<td>9-20-1941</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard M.</td>
<td>Luckenbach, Jr.</td>
<td>9-24-1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Edward</td>
<td>Crowley</td>
<td>9-25-1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Todd Whitney</td>
<td>Ottman</td>
<td>9-27-1948</td>
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## 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
President Gatto

In May of this year I started to gather information to attend the 2015 National Convention in Springfield, Illinois. Eleven Chapter Members attended as delegates. It was very challenging to book flights because they kept changing the itinerary. Booking the rooms for eleven delegates and four ladies was a big challenge.

The Convention was very educational and interesting. I met new delegates from other states. Amendments and resolutions were passed to benefit the veteran. The delegates that never attended a convention told me that they were very pleased and saw firsthand how a convention operates.

Each day the delegates chose a different seminar if they wanted information on a specific topic. In my opinion it was a great convention.

Bill Auble

I would like to thank the members of Chapter # 20 for the opportunity to represent you as a delegate at the Vietnam Veterans of America’s 2015 National Convention in Springfield, Illinois. It gave me a chance to meet and talk to many Nam Veterans from all over our Country, build new relationships with our Chapter Delegates and their wives and learn more about our National organization.

We arrived on July 21st and most of that day was spent on travel, getting our rooms and Delegate credentials, and attending a very nice Jefferson Starship Concert. Wednesday the Convention started the opening session at 9 AM with the Presentation of the Colors, National Anthem, Pledge, introduction of Officers and listened to several speakers. We were given a brief break and started on the process of voting on the amendments of the Constitution, and Resolutions of the Convention. At that time we broke for lunch for an hour and immediately after lunch started attending seminars. I attended the Agent Orange and Public Affairs seminars. The seminars that I attended were definitely not a waste of time. Those that were giving the seminars were well versed in the subject matter and spoke of it with a passion, especially the one on Agent Orange. We went to supper where most of the Chapters delegates broke bread together. Back we went to attend the Regional caucus were the twenty five or so candidates for National Officers answered questions on what their thoughts were about the future of the VVA and how they may set out to accomplish them. We finally broke for the day at about 10:30 PM, just in time before I turned into a pumpkin.

Thursday was basically the same as Wednesday session without the seminars and the Regional caucus. We were able to finish the amendments, resolutions, listen to few more speakers and get reports from the various Committees. The session ended about 5 PM.

On Friday morning seven hundred and fifty three delegates voted on our Officers for next two years. Later in morning the Convention opened into a General session and the winners of the various races were announced. The top three National Officers remained the same.

Continued on the next page
On Saturday the Convention opened again for a General Session with a few speakers, announcements of VVA Awards, recognitions and introductions. The Convention concluded at noon. We had the opportunity to see some of the sights in Springfield, the home of Abraham Lincoln, and I visited his museum. It was very nicely done. Saturday evening our Delegates attended the banquet, which surprisingly, the food was well prepared and hot when served. Sunday morning we were up early to head back home. We arrived in Rochester at around 4 PM.

I’m sorry that this account may seem lengthy, but I wanted, you who have not been, to get some idea of the necessary work that is done at these Conventions.

Larry Camp

I spent the most extraordinary time every day from 9 to 6, some days to 9pm or later, going over things like amendments to the Constitution and proposed convention resolutions. Sometimes changing one word, or phrases and sentences, to make it read better.

We also saw a movie on how Vietnam Veterans of America started. It blew me away.

I also spent time in two caucuses. The first, discussing PTSD and its effects and the struggle to help all veterans. Dr. Thomas Joines wrote a book on why people commit suicide. The second was on membership – things such as dates, how to get more members, the special deal on Life Membership, and other stuff. It would be a good idea to talk to Mike General who has updated information. We are in excess of 75,000 members which is good, but could be better.

Ed Kier

My grateful thanks to the Board of Directors of Chapter 20 for asking me to be a delegate at the 2015 National Convention in Springfield, Illinois. I was overwhelmed as I discovered how important my one delegate vote can change the proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions and how important it is for us all to attend committee meetings to discuss and prepare for our position to vote on the amendments. I thank Chapter 20 and pray that I stay healthy enough to be able to represent Chapter 20 at the next convention.

Joe Peck

I had the privilege of attending this year’s 17th National Convention in Springfield, Illinois and paid particular interest in the resolutions and amendments concerning the POW/MIA issues almost all of which had been passed. One interesting proposal was the renewal of the old POW/MIA stamp to become a forever stamp and the public awareness and education of the POW flag and its presentation and placement during public and honor guard ceremonies. All other resolutions dealt with the continued search efforts and declassification of information in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia for the full accountability of our missing. On Friday of that week, Lynn Gursslin, Hank Wallace, Stan Patykiewicz, Mike Sanfilippo and myself attended the early morning ceremony by the local Marine Corps league honoring our POW/MIA’s who are still unaccounted for. After which they had 2 former POW’s briefly speak about their experiences during their 6 year captivity at the infamous Hanoi Hilton. They were Bill Robinson from chapter 1078 in Knoxville, Tennessee and Gary Sigler. This was an honor as these are our true American hero’s.

Continued on the next page
One other item that I must mention. During the convention proceedings of awards and presentations, it was mentioned that Grant Coates who is on the POW/MIA committee for National, received from a former North Vietnamese soldier, item’s that he kept as war relics for many years. They were the personal items (a wrist watch and knife) of Capt. John Brooks Sherman who was shot down on March 25, 1966, and whose remains were returned in 1993, Identified and accounted for in 1998. He has no current or surviving family members left to receive these items so they were presented to John Rowan and the Vietnam Veterans of America for safekeeping. This is very important as we have been requesting those who served in Vietnam to bring forth war relics and information that they had acquired, to hopefully be passed on and returned to the Vietnamese families of their loved ones who had perished during the war.
I attended the Women Veterans and Minority Affairs Committee hearings and the Women Veterans breakfast.

VVA has 75,373 members and 1,201 are women. The Women Veteran resolutions focused on getting woman program managers in all the VA’s and getting the reporting of military sexual trauma out of the chain of command as the majority of victims are in the lower ranks and the majority of assailants are of higher rank. The threat of retaliation silences many survivors. Resolution WV-7, adopted in 2013 led to a bill by NY Senator Gillibrand which did not succeed but will be brought back in the next session of Congress.

This year we are pushing for better reporting from the VA in collecting, analyzing and publishing data by gender and minority status for every program to improve understanding, monitoring, and oversight of programs serving women veterans.

Minority Resolutions included support for an American Indian Veterans Memorial (AIVMI) in raising money for the new Education Center at the Wall which will include an exhibit honoring Native American, Alaskan, and Pacific Islander veterans. There was also support for a vote by Puerto Rico to either become a state or independent.

Our delegates included three chapter members who attended the national convention for the first time. It is always interesting to see how these events are orchestrated. Springfield is the capital of Illinois but surprisingly is a city of about 217,000 people. It is smaller than Rochester and has an airport with only three airlines and a staff who seem to work only part time. The city’s theme is definitely Abe Lincoln which seems to provide their biggest draw. It was a nice clean city and the people were very friendly and helpful. The weather was very good and my biggest fear of going to Illinois was being scooped up and blown into oblivion from a Midwest tornado. I did however notice the “Emergency Shelter Rooms” in the airport for that specific reason. The highlight of the first day after registration and a nice meal at an Italian Restaurant with Ken Moore, Nick DeLeo and our group was a great concert put on by Jefferson Starship. We figured there are at least three original members. The band now has a woman who does Grace Slick’s songs and is fabulous.

I attended two Committee Hearings on Resolutions. The first one I attended was with the Veterans Incarcerated Committee. The chairman was a gentleman named Dominic Yezzo who is from the state of Oregon and was referred to as a judge. Also in attendance was Wayne Miller. Mr. Yezzo seemed very sharp to me as a lay person. I assumed he is very versed in the penal laws of this country. It was noted that one of the biggest problems in the state prison systems is that each warden governs his/her own prison which hinders starting programs for veterans. The session turned out to be a combination of establishing veteran’s rights and the starting up and using of Veterans Courts.

The next session I attended was the Membership Affairs Committee. At the Convention it was noted there are 75,373 members in the VVA. The National Membership Committee does not appear to be up to par and we again told “it will be straightened out soon”. The current chair is Charlie Hobbs (Val’s Buddy) from TN. Also present was National Secretary Bill Meeks. It was noted that DD214’s can be stored on PDF files. It was further noted the National Secretary and a committee are reviewing vendors who currently handle the renewal process. Many chapter membership chairs were lodging complaints about National not getting back to them. Bill Meeks wants chapter membership chairs to email them personally with any problems.

Continued on the next page
It was awesome having the National Anthem sung by Jefferson Starship at the opening Ceremony, but the best moment for me personally was shaking hands and welcoming home former POW’s and VVA members Bill Robinson and Gary Sigler. Both men spent many years in POW camps in N. Vietnam and were cellmates in the Hanoi Hilton. Bill Robinson was the Guest Speaker and it was a very moving presentation of the life of a POW.

**Hank Wallace**

This was my fourth and least productive convention. The primary reasons were simple, there was very little completion for the positions to be elected (except at-large directors) and almost no difference in opinions related to resolutions or policy.

As a national organization we should consider doing more via e-mail to reduce cost and obtain real opinions from the members. On the Chapter 20 level, we should consider reducing cost by leaving the convention on Friday after voting (as many other chapters do) to save two nights of hotel and other expenses resulting from staying until Sunday for the Saturday night banquet.

I did enjoy the opportunity to get to better know both the local members and the state and national members attending. The best thing that happen was at a session regarding how to increase chapter participation. Valentino was dynamic in encouraging attendance by using the Chapter 20 method, Feed the Troops. Our over 20% attendance was better than most.

Based on airport size, Springfield is about 15% to 20% the size of Rochester. On my early morning and lunch walks around downtown Springfield, I found some interesting sites. Lincoln’s House and neighborhood were interesting and well preserved as were both the old (1820s) and new (1880s) state capital buildings. They have preserved or still use the three railroad stations (only one for trains) in the downtown area. Saturday a group of us visited Lincoln’s Tomb and the local (or maybe state) Vietnam and other war memorials as well as the Illinois Guard’s museum, all very interesting. The Rochester Memorial is both larger and better.

**Lynn Gursslin**

The convention was very good. We started out with the opening ceremonies. The color guard did a very nice job. I will not go into all the details of the convention. Joe Peck and myself went to the POW/MIA meeting. There were some very good things that came out of the meeting. There are still 1,626 missing. They still have people that go over there and look for remains.

On some of our free time we went to the Lincoln Monument and the house where Lincoln stayed in Springfield.

My sweet wife also went and had a good time with the rest of the ladies. I would like to thank Chapter 20 for allowing us to go to the convention this year. God bless to all.
There still have not been any published changes from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and or the National League of Families, to the number of Americans still missing, since April of this year. For various reasons including wishes from the families, the DOD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates. All others are more likely pending. The total number of Americans missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War still stands unofficially at 1626.

Even though the progress of recovering our missing is slow and at times hopeless, our mission still stands to account for and bring all our men back home.

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

- Lt. William O. Pile, US Army Air Corps was reported lost on December 23, 1944 over Germany. He was accounted for June 13, 2015 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.

- PFC George L. Rights, US Army was reported missing on February 13, 1951 and was later reported to have died at a POW camp known as Bean Camp in Suan, North Korea in May of 1951. He was accounted for on July 22, 2015 and was laid to rest with full military honors on August 9, 2015 in his home town of Winston Salem, North Carolina.

- Cpl. Grant H. Ewing, US Army was reported lost on February 28, 1951 in North Korea. He was accounted for on July 29, 2015 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.

Until they are all home!
We will never forget those who are still missing.
WE’RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEMBERS

MIKE GENERAL, CHAIRMAN, MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 591 members and AVVA is at 43 members as of 05/31/15. 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 a 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 $100.00 is here!

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.
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
Highlights of the AUGUST Membership Meeting

Guest (future member?) Jim Scheid – US Air Force 1964-68

Bonnie Gekowski and Kathy Jones receive Honorary Life Memberships in Chapter 20 from President Gatto in honor of their deceased spouses.

Chapter member Dick Grube spoke about the Veterans’ Court and the need for mentors

Barry Orlando received a certificate of appreciation for all the work he does to maintain our web site and distribute the BTL electronically.

116 people attended the meeting

Continued on the next page
NY State Council Treasurer and Chapter 20 member, Nick DeLeo, presented a check to President Gatto for the increased Household Goods money.

Juil Robinson won the 50/50 drawing.

Lynn Gursslin won the flag drawing.

Richard King won a lap robe.

Ron Hibbard won a lap robe.
Greetings everyone! All is well with my little ol’ committee. I forgot to mention in my last article that the Superintendent of Attica and the Deputy Superintendent of Programs attended the veterans picnic when I was there on Fathers Day along with 69 Attica vets. Since I’ve been going into prisons (1989) that’s only the second time that has ever happened at a veterans event. The Attica crochet squad had already made 100 hats and scarves for kids and that number surpassed all they made last year……On June 30th VA Re-entry specialist Cindy Thayer met with vets within six months of release at Attica to help with their transition back to the real world. The Attica Active Veterans Group has elections coming up and their terms will be three years. Jack Michel who is a Chapter 20 member went into the correctional facility on August 8th and I want to thank him for all he does for me and the men there........Trying to make arrangements for a benefits outreach at the Brighton Library on N.Winton Rd. and Jerry McDermott has been kind enough to offer his expertise. Will keep you posted on that and I also want to thank Mike Sanfilippo for attending the Veterans Incarcerated Committee Hearings at the recent National Convention.

On 8/15 I went to Auburn for Ernie Bullocks Veterans Stand Down. This was the seventh year and as always it was well attended. Many veterans groups from the Auburn area helped out and the featured speakers included Rev. Dana Morgan, national Director of Point Man Ministries and Will Horner, a veteran in recovery. The food and music were great and it was so meaningful to reconnect with Ernie and Regina Bullock, Nick Valenti from Chapter #704 who retired from Auburn Prison and Dan Waters and Shirley Martinez who have done so much for the vets at Auburn. Time well spent......Thank you Rosemary Williams for the yarn donation. Every little bit helps and you got the right colors!........Still doing hospice with veterans and my bereavement group the second and fourth Mondays of the month at Lifetime Care. I meet the most amazing vets in hospice, mostly World War II folks. Sometimes it takes awhile to piece their memories and lives together. I will tell you one thing though, almost every one of them have led lives that really mattered and that is what I find so inspiring.
September 7 – Marines launch Operation Piranha in the Batangan Peninsula where a buildup of the remnants of the 1st Vietcong Regiment is rumored to be taking place. During the operation, the Marines killed over 183 VC while the South Vietnamese Units accounted for 66 additional VC killed.

September 13 - Columnist Joseph Alsop said in the Washington Post said that, with the U.S. military build-up in South Vietnam, "at last there is light at the end of the tunnel."

September 18 - In Operation Gibraltar 224 soldiers of the First Brigade of the 101st Airborne landed by helicopter near An Khe in the Central Highlands in an area in which 2 Viet Cong battalions were located. The Viet Cong attacked and killed 13 Americans. Air strikes forced the Viet Cong to retreat with losses estimated by the U.S. at between 226 to 257. General Westmoreland called the operation "a great victory." Others, including Colonel David H. Hackworth, considered the battle "not...a great victory."

September 19 – The Department of Defense reports that 561 Americans have been killed, 3,024 have been wounded, and 44 are Missing In Action between January 1 and August 16, 1965.

September 20 - Seven U.S. warplanes were shot down over North and South Vietnam.

September 22 - General Westmoreland requested 35,000 additional American troops which would bring the total military personnel authorized in South Vietnam to 210,000. President Johnson and Secretary of Defense McNamara set a limit of the total number of U.S. soldiers of 195,000.
Olive, Milton L. III


Citation:
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Pfc. Olive was a member of the 3d Platoon of Company B, as it moved through the jungle to find the Viet Cong operating in the area. Although the platoon was subjected to a heavy volume of enemy gunfire and pinned down temporarily, it retaliated by assaulting the Viet Cong positions, causing the enemy to flee. As the platoon pursued the insurgents, Pfc. Olive and 4 other soldiers were moving through the jungle together when a grenade was thrown into their midst. Pfc. Olive saw the grenade, and then saved the lives of his fellow soldiers at the sacrifice of his by grabbing the grenade in his hand and falling on it to absorb the blast with his body. Through his bravery, unhesitating actions, and complete disregard for his safety, he prevented additional loss of life or injury to the members of his platoon. Pfc. Olive's extraordinary heroism, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.
Agent Orange + PTSD = Extra Dementia Risk

For Vietnam Vets, defoliant exposure “may exacerbate effects of other risk factors”.

By Kristina Fiore / Staff Writer, MedPage Today

Exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War doesn’t seem to increase the risk of dementia on its own, but it may exacerbate the effects of other risk factors like PTSD, researchers reported.

In an analysis of Veterans Affairs data, having been exposed to Agent Orange and having PTSD together was associated with a significantly increased risk of dementia according to Deborah Barnes, PhD, MPD, of the University of California San Francisco and the San Francisco VA Medical Center.

They reported their findings at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Washington.

Some 8% of veterans were exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, where it was used as an herbicide to clear dense areas of forest. It comprised two major ingredients: 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) and 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T); dioxin was an unintended contaminant, as it’s highly toxic and a known human carcinogen.

Many other studies have looked at the health effects of Agent Orange exposure, and there have been mixed results regarding its neurological effects. Some studies found no adverse neurologic effects, while several recent studies have found worse cognitive function with greater exposure. Other studies have shown that verbal memory is the most affected neurocognitive region among Vietnam Veterans.

Yet there haven’t been any studies specifically looking at the relationship between Agent Orange and the risk of dementia among these veterans, Barnes said. Consequently, she and colleagues accessed VA electronic medical record data on 46,737 Vietnam Veterans over age 55 who had at least one baseline visit and one follow-up visit, and who did not have dementia at baseline. They looked at Agent Orange exposure alone and in combination with PTSD. They used Fine-Grey proportional hazards models to account for competing risk of death.

Barnes noted that there was a significant difference between the exposed and unexposed populations at baseline. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange were younger and had more comorbidities including diabetes, hypertension, cerebrovascular disease, depression, and PTSD. In an unadjusted analysis, the researchers found that having been exposed to Agent Orange was associated with an increased risk of dementia. However, that risk disappeared in unadjusted models, Barnes said.

When they looked at PTSD and dementia risk, however, they did find a significant association — and having both Agent Orange exposure and PTSD together was associated with a larger increase in risk of dementia.

“Agent Orange alone doesn’t appear to increase the risk of dementia,” Barnes said, “but it may exacerbate the effects of other risk factors such as PTSD.”

She cautioned that the findings were limited because the researchers weren’t able to measure the actual exposure to Agent Orange; they had to rely on patients’ own reports of exposure. Future studies should aim for verification of exposure, she said.

###
VETERANS BENEFITS AND JOB FAIR

1. JOBS
2. BENEFITS
3. EDUCATION

Which road will you take?

September 17, 2015  Time: 12:00 to 4:00 pm
Canandaigua VA Medical Center  400 Fort Hill Avenue
Location: Auditorium  Building 5

* Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
* Education Benefits  * Filing for service connection status

**BRING YOUR DD-214, PHOTO ID, AND COPY OF YOUR RESUME**
Yes, we’re gearing up already for the Holiday season, and we’re asking for your help. The Stockings For Veterans Program was a big hit last year, so this year we would like to provide every Veteran in our structured outpatient programs a Holiday Stocking filled to the brim with unwrapped treats. The numbers are always increasing, our goal this year is to have 1,200 jam-packed stockings (1,100 Male, 100 Female). Suggested items would include:

- Hairbrush/Comb sets
- Assorted Toiletry items
- Puzzle books
- Travel games/Novelties
- Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Socks
- Playing Cards, Pocket Games
- Music CDs, DVDs
- Stationary Sets
- Cologne, Perfumes
- Non-perishable snacks
- A Greeting Card/Thank You
- NO RAZORS or GLASS

Stockings filled with unwrapped items need to be delivered to the Voluntary Service Office no later than December 12.

RSVP to 585-393-7761 if you will be able to assist

Thanks for helping to make the Holiday Season memorable for our Veterans.
The Veterans Affairs Department could start processing applications for the new veteran identification card by the second half of September.

Created by an act of Congress last month, the card is intended as a way for veterans to prove they served in the military without having to carry around and present a DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. Card details and costs -- the law permits the VA to set a fee for the ID -- have yet to be established.

"The working group is addressing several aspects of the new ID cards, from design to cost estimates, etc., so I don't think we yet know what they will look like or what to expect the costs to be," VA spokesman Randy Noller said on Friday.

The new veteran ID had broad support among lawmakers and passed both the House and Senate by wide margins. Support for the card has not been universal, however. After it was passed in July the VFW called the move unnecessary, pointing out that many states will include veteran's status on a driver's license.

Veterans made the case that producing a DD-214 in order to prove veteran's status was more than a hassle, but also created wear and tear on the valuable paper document. The document is needed when applying for federal benefits, not only from the VA but when applying for federal job and claiming veteran's preference.

House Majority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-California, noted that the card would ensure veterans have timely access to proper identification "so that [they] can prove their service and capitalize on service-related discounts in the marketplace."

In emails to Military.com, several veterans said they don't like carrying around the DD-214 to get a sales discount and that state-issued veteran's IDs are not always recognized as proof of service once you've crossed to another state.

"I have a Virginia issued ID card," one veteran wrote. "In the state of South Carolina national chain stores such as Home Depot, Lowe's do not always accept [it]." A federally issued card valid in all states would remedy that, he said.

The VA already issues identification cards to veterans receiving agency health care. Those cards include the veteran's name and photo, VA number and the health care plan in which they are enrolled.

But the ID also includes information that Albert A.L. Hockaday, a retired Air Force colonel who served as a chaplain, would like to see on the new card. This includes the veteran's service branch, identified by the appropriate emblem, and space beneath the photo to list several military awards and decorations.

"I do think that the kind of information that's presently included on the VA Health Care ID card - minus the 'Plan ID' info -- is something I'd like to see on the new card," he said.
The Mistreatment Of Female Veterans Is Not Just A Women’s Issue

By Jennifer Dolsen on August 11, 2015

Women face numerous military transition challenges on top of the misconceptions closely tied to being a female veteran.

In 1966, at 26 years old, decorated nurse and Vietnam veteran Sarah Blum joined the U.S. Army, drawn to serve by the daily news reports on the radio. The Atlantic City, New Jersey, native joined as an operating room nurse and was eventually assigned to the 12th Evacuation Hospital in Củ Chi, a district outside Ho Chi Minh City — the location of several military campaigns, and most notably, the base of operations for the Viet Cong’s violent Tết Offensive in 1968.

“My year in Vietnam changed everything,” said Blum, now a nurse psychotherapist treating post-traumatic stress and author of the book, “Women Under Fire: Abuse in the Military,” a collection of women veterans’ accounts ranging from World War II to present day. “I had lived through war and its effects in a life-threatening situation for a full year and was used to high intensity.” “My own transition was very difficult,” she told Task & Purpose. “I was five months pregnant and a qualified nurse from a high leadership position in the military, but could not get a job at home. When I got out … I was completely out of sync with society.” Not much has changed for veterans today.

While both male and female veterans face similar transition issues or trauma experienced during combat, as well as a culture of sexual violence — 5% active-duty women and 1% of men reported being the victim of sexual assault in the active-duty military last year — the long-term effects and homecoming for women is significantly different. Nearly 280,000 women have served since Sept. 11, and almost 9% of those women are unemployed, facing homelessness at twice the rate of non-veteran women. The VA estimates younger female veterans kill themselves 12 times as often as non-veterans, rapidly approaching the male veteran suicide rate.

A survey published last year by Disabled American Veterans offered some insight into why these numbers are so high, despite the major gender shift of post-9/11 veterans engaged in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Female veterans often have higher rates of mental health issues due to trauma-related experiences, more child care responsibilities, and the added stressors that come with a lack of sustainable employment.

Female veterans who develop post-traumatic stress may also face higher rates of heart disease, suggesting that the effects of a traumatic event go far beyond mental health. Many of these challenges are exacerbated by civilian populations that don’t understand the problems female veterans face specifically, or the more generally, fail to understand women’s increasing presence in the military.

“It’s a regular thing to be told I’m too pretty to have served in the military, let alone war,” said a respondent in a recent survey released by nonprofit veterans organization The Mission Continues. The survey addresses the common perception and misconception of females in the military.

In my own experience, I regularly receive misguided comments about my military service and veteran status: mystified confusion, filled with highly subjective, backhanded compliments on why my physical appearance discredits me as a service member, especially if I deployed to a warzone.

Women have served our country since its beginning. Women were never subjected to the draft; they have always volunteered during wartime. Nearly 10 years ago, Army veteran and author Kayla Williams addressed
the issues surrounding the public’s perception of female veterans in her book, “Love My Rifle More than You.” A decade later, servicewomen have excelled in male-dominated career fields, are regularly awarded medals for bravery, and have proven themselves competent in combat zones where they faced the same risks as their male counterparts. So, how is it still so unbelievable and unexpected among many communities at the possibility of a woman being a veteran?

Journalist Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, who recently wrote a book about a team of servicewomen recruited by special operations to serve on combat missions in Afghanistan, says while a record number of women have been going to war since the Sept. 11 attacks, their war stories have yet to catch up with pop culture. “Pop culture plays a huge part for any kind of change and America listening to the different story,” she told Task & Purpose.

Lemmon’s recent article in The Atlantic explores this cultural gap when it comes to women in uniform as reflected in television, movies, and literature. The culture of sexual violence in the military trumps the story of the women serving their country bravely and honorably. As the military grapples with the very real epidemic of sexual violence and harassment in its ranks, women veterans’ active presence down range is rarely seen in the handful of male-dominated, non-fiction war stories from the Iraq and Afghan wars.

“The reality of what it’s like to be a deployed soldier and on the battlefield has not been reflected in the way we see veterans,” said Lemmon. “Between [veterans] reality and our perception; the reality of women in the military is even further divorced from the American public.”

For a country where less than 1% have served in the military, this limited view has consequences in how a society relates and understands its military.

“Whether you’re male or female transitioning out of the military is challenging,” Lemmon added. “But from what I’ve seen, it’s just that much harder when you’re female. People don’t think you’ve seen combat and that couldn’t be further from the truth in some cases.”

An equally sad reality is the dismissive mentality and invisibility women experience at VA centers. On a regular basis, I’m mistaken for a spouse of a male veteran, completely overlooked by healthcare staff, or cut in line by male patients oblivious to my presence.

“I have heard many women complain that when they are waiting to be served in line at the VA, the person taking down information will literally look past the woman in line to the men, as though, in their mind, only men are veterans,” said Blum.

“Imagine being a woman who served in the military and needing to see a doctor for a gynecological condition and having to tell that to a man with several men behind listening. Imagine being a woman who was sexually assaulted in the military, feeling vulnerable as she stands in a line full of men, some of whom could be rapists.” Blum added.

Possibly more insulting and humiliating is the higher burden of proof the Veterans Benefits Administration imposes on service members in order to attach military sexual trauma to a claim for disability benefits. According to the administration’s rules, military sexual trauma is not a diagnosis, but rather an “experience” in which post-traumatic stress is the result of military sexual trauma.
For service members managing the effects of unwarranted and unwanted sexual violence and trauma, recent research by the Service Women’s Action Network shows only 32% of military sexual trauma-related post-traumatic stress claims are approved compared to 54% of other post-traumatic stress claims.

Today’s female veterans also experience challenges in reclaiming a sense of self after years spent in uniform. “My transition was similar to any combat veteran’s. I initially found myself in an angry place, trying to integrate myself into a world of non-veterans who had never served in a war.” veteran Amber Robinson told Task & Purpose. “I was angry to hear people complain about mundane things in their lives. Meanwhile, I was comparing everything in my life to war.”

Robinson, a resident of San Diego and a former Army staff sergeant with multiple deployments to Afghanistan, said on top of the struggles to reintegrate, she had to learn to be a woman again after years in male-dominated units. “I had depended on being ‘tough’ and aggressive in the service to get respect. Women in the service don’t realize they essentially learn to operate like a man,” said Robinson, who now is vice president and communications director for San Diego-based nonprofit American History Theater, which raises awareness of veterans issues, specifically issues affecting female vets.

While being tough and aggressive isn’t exclusive to one gender, they are a few of the characteristics necessary for anyone’s success in the military. Empowerment and support from strong women of all ranks was crucial to my success as a service member. It’s equally crucial to success outside the military.

Relating to other women and men who never served, or have little to no concept of the military, is challenging and often isolating. Even the most supportive and military-minded friends and family can be difficult to connect with. Personally, I was unable to effectively communicate my needs. I didn’t acknowledge and confront any of my combat-related and non-combat-related trauma. As a result I didn’t understand why I wasn’t functioning at my best.

Many veterans experience this hardship. For women, accessing female-specific health care, quality employment, and trauma-informed care come with some challenges when women struggle to even be seen as veterans in communities and aren’t functioning as the competent, highly skilled, and empowered teammates they served as.

“I think women veterans need a visible presence in their communities and a connection to the closest military base and create a liaison between them,” said Blum. “Any woman transitioning out of the military has a support group ready and waiting. That group of women veterans needs to have some kind of community presentation regularly about who they are and the needs of women veterans in the community.”

Depending on where you live and how close you are to a military base, some local outreach programs are meeting the needs of female veterans. Most outreach programs are at the national level, but often partner with local groups to serve veterans in transition.

Service Women’s Action Network aims to reform health care and benefits for women and their families, offering legal services and domestic and sexual violence support. Free, confidential mental health counseling can also be found here.

The nonprofit American Women Veterans advocates for awareness of the challenges women face when transitioning from the military offering childcare and housing resources, while Grace After Fire nationally assists with accessing education benefits and military peer networking support.
Volunteers of America offers supportive services and reintegration programs for homeless veterans, with local resources available. Employment opportunities for women can also be found at Hirepurpose, which connects veterans with military-friendly employers and partners.

While there are many more organizations available to assist female veterans, the biggest challenge may be taking the first step to reach out for help and support. Like many veterans, the pride felt as a service member is the same pride that may keep them from admitting and recognizing support is needed.

Every veteran transitions on their own terms with varying needs for themselves and their families. So to approach veteran transition issues with one-size-fits-all solutions ignores the diversity of the military community and the unique challenges they face during and after their service.

Women are a valuable part of that diversity that add positive growth and support, and bridge a deeper understanding of our military within the communities they return. Advocating for female veterans to ensure they are fully recognized and cared for is not just a women’s issue, it’s everyone’s issue.

Jennifer Dolsen
Jennifer Dolsen is a former U.S. Army multimedia journalist and public affairs soldier with deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Follow Jennifer Dolsen on Twitter @JKDolsen.
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

Could someone you know be in crisis?
The VA’s National Suicide Crisis Line
1-800-273-TALK or 1-800-273-8255
24/7 365 days/year
Provides professional counseling to veterans, their family members or friends.

Do you know a veteran who is homeless?
The VA’s National Homeless Veterans Hotline
The hotline is staffed by the Syracuse VA Medical Center in conjunction with the National Call Center’s homeless services. Studies show a huge correlation with needs reported by vets to the other services provided at the time of the call.
1-877-424-3838
24/7 365 days/year
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

Sponsor: ________________________________

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.

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
--- | ---
September 1, 2015 | September 10, 2015
October 6, 2015 | October 8, 2015
November 3, 2015 | November 12, 2015

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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.
INCOME TAX
Maximizing Your Return
Tom Davis
Income Tax Preparation/Consultation
1732 Winton Rd. N.
Irondequoit NY 14609
585-288-8465
intern22@frontiernet.net

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

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- VA Outpatient Clinic: 465 Westfall Rd, 753-7275
- 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
- National League of Families: 202-393-0090
- POW/MIA Updates: 202-223-6846
- Richards House at VOC: 506-9060
- The Resource Center at VOC: 546-4250
- Stars & Stripes – The Flag Store: 546-3524
- Persian Gulf Vets, Inc.: 385-4097
- Operation Welcome Home: 234-4694
- National Caregivers Support Line: 855-260-3274
- Homeless Hotline: 877-424-3838
- Crisis Hotline: 800-273-8255

## WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES

- NYS Department of Labor: [www.labor.ny.gov/vets/vetintropage.shtm](http://www.labor.ny.gov/vets/vetintropage.shtm)
- NYS Department of Health: [www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets)
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park: [www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial](http://www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial)
- Operation Welcome Home: [www.operationwelcomehome.org](http://www.operationwelcomehome.org)
- VVA New York State Council: [www.nyvietnamvets.org](http://www.nyvietnamvets.org)

## Miscellaneous

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