Give your
HEART
(and lungs and stuff)
for Valentine’s Day.
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The Annual Meeting & Elections will be held April 14, 2016 at 6:00 PM -
Location: Italian American Sports Club - 1250 Buffalo Road

Driving Directions - The Club is located on Buffalo Road close to the intersection of Howard Road. Directly across from the stone quarry, next to the Eagles Club and the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

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

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

Positions for nominations:

- Four Officer positions
- Five Board positions (Directors)
- State Council delegates and alternates will also be elected by the membership that evening.
- The “new” Nominating Committee will also be elected by the membership that evening.
- A “to date” slate of candidates will be finalized by February 15th and published in the March BTL.
- In order to vote in the Annual Election, voters must be a member for at least 30 days.
- Only paid members with a DD214 on file by 28 February of the previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (For example – 28 February 2014 to vote April 2015.)
- A quorum is defined as 10% of VVA 20 membership as of 28 February of the previous fiscal year. Voting for candidates will take place between 6:30 PM until 7:30 PM, after which no new ballots will be taken and votes will be tabulated.
- According to the VVA National Constitution, “Additional persons may be nominated by any member at the Annual Meeting.” These candidates will fall under the category of Floor Nominations.
- Floor nominated candidates can only receive votes from members present at Annual Meeting. (A “Special Note” stating such will be placed in the March and April BTL issues.)

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

Any member interested in running for any of the above mentioned positions, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members: Chuck Macaluso 585-225-8288 or Dan Corona 585-406-6108.
Remembering February’s Fallen Heroes

Website – http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Dunham, Richard Francis 2-1-1945
Marasco, William Frederick 2-4-1949
Webber, Frederick Carl 2-5-1947
Forbush, Jr., Robert Waldron 2-5-1948
Burns, Rocky August 2-5-1951
Hoff, Michael Gordon 2-9-1945
Fegan, Ronald James 2-11-1941
Moore, John Bigelow 2-12-1937
Thacker, James 2-12-1938
Smith, Richard Albert 2-12-1945
Grassi, Ernest Joseph 2-13-1947
Hughes, Graham 2-13-1949
Luker, Russell B. 2-17-1933
Ellsworth, Elmer Edward 2-18-1948
Matarazzo, Peter David 2-20-1949
French, Albert Leroy 2-23-1928
Fusco, Paul Richard 2-23-1947
Strassner, Cornelius William 2-24-1947
Colburn, Richard Eugene 2-24-1950
Fischer, Jr., George Warren 2-25-1945
Harden, John 2-26-1945
Marks, Jr., George Alfred 2-27-1945
Marsh, John Robert 2-27-1949
Dennison, James Richard 2-28-1934
VETERANS WALK COMMITTEE
154 Mendota Drive
Rochester, New York 14626

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

The Veterans Walk Committee of Chapter 20, VVA wants to thank you for your purchase of a personalized, engraved paver brick.

Each paver brick (4” x 8”) can have from one to three lines of engraved information. The cost will be $50.00 per brick. Make checks or money order payable to:

VVA Chapter 20, Veterans Walk

The engraved line(s) can include any of the following information:

Full name
Branch of service, rank
Dates of service (1967-1969, etc.)
Conflict (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, etc.)

Please print the information you would like engraved on the brick below. (Maximum of 14 letters/numbers, including spaces per line).

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________

Return the completed form to the - Veterans Walk Committee, c/o Chuck Macaluso, 154 Mendota Drive, Rochester, New York 14626.
Include: Payment and “Proof of Service” for above recipient.

Please Note: Engraved bricks will be installed prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day (twice annually).
Questions please call Chuck or Joan Macaluso as 585-225-8288
February 1986 – Plans to build a memorial in Rochester are revealed

1987 – The Vietnam Veterans Memorial of Greater Rochester all-volunteer organization was officially formed

May 1990 – Monroe County Legislature gave two acres of land in Highland Park for the siting of the Memorial

June 1990 – An all-day motorcycle show is held at the Henrietta Dome Center as a fundraiser for the Memorial – between 5,000 and 7,000 people attended

July 1990 – Chet Catallo and the Cats, Lickety Split, and Top Secret were the featured groups at a benefit concert for the Memorial at Highland Bowl

July 1991 – The Memorial Committee brought the Traveling Wall to Rochester

September 1992 – A ground breaking ceremony was held at the site in Highland Park

June 1993 – Eight hundred people marched in Highland Park in support of the Memorial

October 1993 – Forty cadets along with local Boy Scouts and other volunteers plant over 150 trees and shrubs at the Memorial site

October 1993 – The Memorial Board received a proposal for a life-size statue of a soldier walking into a black-granite wall

April 1994 – The Congressional Medal of Honor Society and American Forests planted the first of 3,401 trees to memorialize each recipient of the Medal of Honor

May 1994 – A 6.5 mile walk took place on Memorial Day weekend as a fundraiser for the Memorial

June 1995 – Eight hundred people walk to raise money for the Memorial

June 1995 – Bollards at the Memorial were found smeared with blood, apparently the work of vandals

June 1995 – The Festival of Vets was held as a fundraiser for the Memorial

July 1996 – A local Veteran walked 50 miles from the Memorial to Holley, NY and back to raise funds for the Memorial

![Vietnam Veterans Memorial](image1)

![Bollards](image2)

![Pathway](image3)
In December 2015, besides my regular monthly duties, I put together 3 different meetings with the financial committee to work on the budget for 2016-2017 year.

I participated with the Honor Guard at Pearl Harbor ceremony.

I attended the monthly meeting with the VM&EC.

I attended the ceremony at the Gates town Hall for WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA. This ceremony is a long time tradition across the nation to honor our veterans. The ceremonies are held at 12 noon across the nation to coincide with the laying of the wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. There are roughly 500 ceremonies taking place nationally and overseas that hold a moment of silence all at the same time.

In January of 2016, I performed my monthly duties and attended a few meeting to represent the chapter.

On January 2nd, I participated with the honor guard at the swearing in ceremony for Cheryl Dinolfo as County Executive.

On January 8th, Alan and I met with the insurance agent to resolve insurance payments.

On January 19th, I attended the Rochester Memorial Meeting which I represent the chapter and I was put in charge to work on few items for the 20th anniversary of the Memorial.

On the 22nd, I met with Mike Sanfilippo and the D&C representative to discuss a few ideas for the chapter.

On the 23rd, Jerry McDermott and I attended the NYSC meeting and Todd Baxter director of the VOC was the guest speaker.
There are no new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the National League of Families this month. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War still stands at 1624.

Last month an error was made in the BTL concerning the photos of PFC. Kenneth Leroy Cunningham and SFC. Billy David Hill. They were mistakenly reversed. The proper photos and names are listed below:

SFC. Billy David Hill  
PFC. Kenneth Leroy Cunningham

*New information was recently released on PFC. Kenneth Leroy Cunningham that was not available for last months report. Kenneth was flown to Louisville, Kentucky on January 19, 2016. From there his remains were escorted back to his home town of Albion, Illinois were funeral services took place. He was finally laid to rest with full military honors at the Little Christian church in Albion on the 21st of January.

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

- Cpl. Kenneth R. Sluck, US Army was lost November 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on January 8, 2016 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.
- Chief Petty Officer Duff Gordon, US Navy Reserve (Accounted-for 12/18/2015)
- Seaman 2nd Class, Dale F. Pearce, US Navy (Accounted-for 12/16/2015)
- Chief Petty Officer Albert E. Hayden, US Navy (Accounted-for 12/7/2015)

They were all members on board the USS Oklahoma and were reported lost when their ship was sunk at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. They were accounted-for, according to the above dates and will be laid to rest with full military honors.

"Welcome Home Brothers"

This New Year, let us hope and pray that we can finally find and return more of our missing Americans. For this is an issue that is near and dear to all of us and their families.

We shall never give up hope until they are all home
Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 595 members and AVVA is at 43 members as of 12/31/15. Membership is growing, but we still need your help in recruiting new members. Don’t forget to renew on time. Don’t let your membership expire.

Please Renew Your Membership!

If you are renewing as a “Life Member”, please remember to include a copy of your DD-214 with your application. PLEASE NOTE: LIFE MEMBERSHIP IS NOW $100 FOR ANY MEMBER.

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.
Highlights of the January Membership Meeting

Kim DiProietto – VA Certified Health Benefits Coordinator

Bruce Powell
U.S. Army 1968-71

Dan Paprocki
U.S. Army 1965-66

George Marciano
U.S. Army 1968-70

John Swatrzenerberg
USMC 1968-70

104 people attended the meeting

Continued on next page
Dan Corona won the Flag drawing

Dale Webster won the 50/50

Gene Judge won a replica AR-15
Donated by Tim Sturm

Mark Thomas won a DVD about the Medal of Honor
Donated by Dick Oleksyn

Thanks to the generosity of those people attending the Chapter meetings, the Flag drawings have raised $1,124 for the Chapter to date. Thank you.

Thanks to Ken Allocco and all those who participate!!
Well the winter doldrums are upon us but VVA Chapter #20 is alive and well with 595 members as per January’s General Membership meeting. There were over 100 members at the meeting and it felt so good to give my committee report. I like to think I’ve done a lot for the Chapter over the years but as I was speaking I had one of those moments of clarity where it was apparent the Chapter has done much more for me and I am really grateful for that. Thank you, you are an amazing group of friends.

At the General Membership meeting 12/12 at the Attica Correctional Facility there were 41 vets present and Chapter 20 member Jack Michel was there. The next meeting was scheduled for 1/9 and the crochet squad there has already made 100 hats and scarves for needy kids and I want to thank all of you who have donated yarn recently because as you can see, it does make a difference. As of November last year the men made 222 hats, scarves, and lap blankets so you can tell that they are firing on all eight cylinders now. They have also made kites for Jack’s homeless fundraiser which raised $15,000 last year. No small change there and Jack’s 4th Annual Fly A Kite fundraiser is scheduled for May 22nd. Twenty one vets and 11 non-vets successfully completed Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse and the PTSD Pilot Program at Attica and we are proud of that accomplishment. My best and longstanding contact at the Auburn Correctional Facility, Lawrence Wilson, was recently transferred to Wende and I am going to miss him at Auburn. He was the Treasurer of Chapter 205 there for 16 years and Veteran Peer Counselor for 12 years. I know of no veterans programs at Wende and he represented the last of the real leadership at Auburn......Jerry McDermott, Fred Elliott and myself did a Veterans Outreach at the Rochester Library satellite at 611 N. Winton Rd. on January 11th and I want to thank librarian Diane Premo for her help and hospitality in organizing the event. Fred and I pretty much sat back and watched Jerry’s smooth delivery of tons of benefits information and marital counseling. One of the wives present couldn’t understand her veteran husbands not enrolling in the VA Healthcare system and we checked the D&C the next day for homicides. Absolutely a great presentation by Jerry.......I want to take a moment just to encourage anyone who is thinking about running for the Board or for an Officer position or even interested in being a Committee Chair. We have a very competent Board of Directors where the Directors speak their mind and business gets done. It is one of the best Boards I have ever been a part of. We are on a firm financial footing and there is a wealth of experience that will help you transition into any position. There is a leadership conference coming up (7/23) and we have Joe Peck. Enough said although I guarantee you will get more out of it than you put in.

Once again I want to thank all of you who help make my committee a success. Ken Moore for going into the prisons with me when he thinks we’re going to the movies, Nancy VanApeldoorn for the hospice lap blankets which are such a big hit with veterans and their families, all the yarn donations this past year that are warming up little kids and every member of this great chapter that year after year approves my budget and supports what I do. Thank you!
Effective January 13, 2016 all veterans with service connected ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease can now receive a cash grant to purchase a vehicle.

Eligibility Requirements for the VA Automobile Grant:

Military members and veterans with service-connected:

- Loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both feet, OR
- Loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands, OR
- Permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to a certain degree, OR
- Severe burn injury, OR
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

are eligible for up to $20,174.68 for the purchase of a new or used vehicle.

The grant is paid directly to the seller of the automobile for the total price (up to $20,174.68) of the automobile. The veteran or servicemember may only receive the automobile grant once in his/her lifetime.

Eligibility Requirements for the VA Automobile Special Adaptive Equipment Grant

Those qualified for the automobile grant, and veterans or servicemembers with immobility of the joint (ankylosis) of one or both knees or hips resulting from an injury or disease incurred or aggravated by active military service may also qualify for the adaptive equipment grant.

Adaptive equipment includes, but is not limited to, power steering, power brakes, power windows, power seats, and special equipment necessary to assist the eligible person into and out of the vehicle. Contact should be made with your local VA medical center's Prosthetic Department prior to purchasing any equipment.

The adaptive equipment grant may be paid more than once, and it may be paid to either the seller or the veteran.

How to Apply for the Automobile and/or Special Adaptive Equipment Grant

Veterans and servicemembers can apply for the automobile and/or the special adaptive equipment grant by completing VA Form 21-4502, Application for Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment and submitting it to your local VA regional office. The instructions on the VA Form 21-4502 contain a list of adaptive equipment that has been pre-approved for particular disabilities. Visit http://www.va.gov/vaforms/ to find VA forms and applications.

Note: After you complete and submit Section I of the application, VA will complete Section II and return the original to you. You are responsible for obtaining the invoice from the seller, updating Section III, and submitting the form to your local VA regional office for payment.

If you are entitled to adaptive equipment only (i.e., service connected for ankylosis of knees or hips) you should complete VA Form 10-1394, Application for Adaptive Equipment -- Motor Vehicle and submit it to your local VA medical center. Additionally, VA Form 10-1394 should be completed for approval of equipment not specified on the VA Form 21-4502.
With our Annual Dinner approaching, it’s time to think about those who serve the Chapter as well as all veterans. There are several awards given each year and we are fortunate to have many people in both our Chapter and the community who work diligently above and beyond their normal duties to serve Veterans. Consider those around you and nominate them for one or more of the following awards.

Awards

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
This Award recognizes a group, organization or individual who has demonstrated a strong sense of community service and who favorably recognizes and relates to Vietnam Veterans’ issues.
My nomination for this award is____________________________ Because_____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

VETERAN SERVICE AWARD
This Award recognizes an individual who demonstrated outstanding dedication in improving the conditions of Vietnam Veterans and/or the Community. (There may be up to 3 awards presented annually.)
My nomination for this award is____________________________ Because_____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

ROGER ROBACH AWARD
This Award is given to an individual who has spent a minimum of ten years working for the betterment of all veterans in New York State.
My nomination for this award is____________________________ Because_____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

DON AND RORI MURRELL HUMANITARIAN AWARD
This Award is given to an individual who has accomplished an extraordinary effort on behalf of active duty personnel and/or veterans and their families. (All individuals are to be considered for this award regardless of Chapter or veteran affiliation.)
My nomination for this award is____________________________ Because_____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
This Award is given to an individual, group or organization that, through their single or continuous action, has favorably benefitted Vietnam or other Veteran issues.
My nomination for this award is____________________________ Because_____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please consider nominating those who you feel go above and beyond their normal duties and submit your nominations to the Secretary, Joe Peck, at jpeck2@rochester.rr.com Deadline for all nominations is March 12th, 2016.
February 1 – U.S. Intelligence identifies two regular North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Divisions threatening to invade across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into Quang Tri.

February 6 – At a conference in Hawaii, President Johnson declares that those who “counsel retreat” from the war in Vietnam “belong to a group that has always been blind to experience and deaf to hope.”

February 8 – Again at the conference in Hawaii, President Johnson states his determination to stay the course in Vietnam and to fight not only the battle of aggression in South Vietnam but also the battle against both poverty and ignorance there also.

February 11 – Operation Rolling Stone begins to provide security for the Army’s 1st Engineer Battalion as it builds an all-weather road connecting Highway 13 with Route 16 north of Saigon in Bing Duong Province.

February 23/24 - The Battle of Suoi Bong Trang was a major action fought between US and Australian troops, and the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army. (This was a part of Operation Rolling Stone.)

February 27 – Operation New York begins in I Corps when the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, is alerted that the 1st Battalion, 3rd ARVN Regiment has been ambushed by the Viet Cong’s 810th Main Force Battalion northwest of Phu Bai.

February 28 – Three U.S. Marine rifle companies attack across the Phu Thu Peninsula to assist the 3rd ARVN Regiment against the Viet Cong 810th. The operation concluded on March 3rd with over 122 VC killed.
According to internal emails at the New Mexico VAMC, consults (appointments) over a year old are being cancelled from the system and re-entered as new consults. In 2014, the VA Inspector General found the same problem at two different VA facilities. The House Veterans Affairs Committee is currently looking into the problem and has noted that the VA needs to be fully upfront about its consult-closing practices and hold responsible officials accountable. Wow, I feel better already!

In December of last year, legislation was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President that provides legal protection for VA whistleblowers. For the first time, VA doctors and nurses will enjoy full protection against retaliation if they report misconduct within the VA. Let’s see if it makes a difference.

Also last December, the VA decided that it wants to consolidate seven different programs that allow veterans to receive care from private doctors. VA Deputy Secretary Gibson said veterans are getting confused by the many programs, all with different eligibility rules. Therefore some veterans are not using programs that could help them. But, they have a new plan, that for just $421 million in start-up money, will clear up the confusion. Wait, what? Didn’t the VA create these seven plans to begin with? And now, with just some more money, they have another plan that will fix the previous plans. Confused, you should be.

Here is what is reported to be one of the current Presidential candidates’ plan for fixing the VA – “VA must embrace comprehensive process and systems integration across its health care enterprise to ensure a fully-networked and financially-sustainable organization that is dedicated to best practices and continual improvement in everything it does.” WTF? Another candidate thinks the way to improve the VA is through accountability, transparency, and expanded health care choices. Veterans need to have the option to seek care from private providers in a way that also preserves traditional VA services. And VA employees who are corrupt or negligent must be fired, and the system should publicly report metrics such as timeliness and cost-effectiveness of patient care. I’ll let you figure out who said what, I’m sure you can find it on the internet.

If you’re in Alexandria, Louisiana and need to go to the VA hospital you might want to consider a different hospital or at least avoid Fredrick Kevin Harris, a nurse’s aide at the Alexandria facility. Mr. Harris is awaiting trial on manslaughter charges for the beating death of a 70-year old veteran who was a patient at the hospital. The VA has said the death was accidental and has kept Mr. Harris on the payroll while he awaits trial this March. I don’t know about you, but I tend to side with the local prosecutors, the coroner, and the Inspector General who agree that the death was anything but accidental. The hospital has stated that their “number one priority is the safety and health of our Veterans and employees”. Sure it is.

Continued on next page
According to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by NBC4 in Washington, DC, a total of 300 employees in West Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia were disciplined but not fired. It’s entirely possible that not all 300 deserved to be fired but surely the West Virginia employees who had sex at the hospital, the Maryland employee who did not treat a veteran who suffered a head injury at the hospital, the employee who was found to be high on cocaine, and the employee who was dealing heroin and arrested deserved more than just a reprimand. The VA issued a statement to NBC4 saying that “where performance or conduct issues warrant removal, VA takes appropriate action to terminate employment”. Apparently, dealing drugs, using drugs on the job, and not treating a patient are not serious enough offenses to be fired.

On January 4th, VA announced new proposed guidelines intended to lower the copay for veterans buying prescription drugs. According to the VA, 80% of veterans would save money, 6% would see an increase, and I guess the other 14% would remain the same because they aren’t mentioned. The new system would be comprised of three tiers with copays of $5, $8, and $11 respectively. These new guidelines, which would go into effect in January of 2017, would also reduce the copay cap from its current $960 to $700. Much more detail is needed, but I seriously doubt the veteran will see the savings the VA is predicting. If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it is my mantra and the drug copay system seems to be working fine.

The good news is that in December of last year, Congress passed a law entitling each of the Iranian Crisis hostages to $4.4 million - $10,000 for every day of captivity in Tehran. The money is from a fund established with penalties paid by sanctions-busting banks. The bad news is that the USS Pueblo crew members who were taken hostage by the North Koreans in 1968 for eleven months are still being ignored. Oh wait, they did get $800 each from the Government for food they did not eat while they were held captive. Maybe it’s me but it just doesn’t seem fair that one group gets millions while the other gets hundreds.

~~~~~~

And now the story you’ve all been waiting for – On February 3rd, in U.S. Federal Court for the Central District of California, begins the trial of 73-year old U.S. Army veteran Robert L. Rosebrock. His crime? Displaying the American flag in front of the Los Angeles VA’s National Veterans Home. How can this be, you ask. What fool could possibly consider displaying the American flag a crime? Who else but the veterans’ friend, the VA.

Every Sunday afternoon since May 31, 2015 Mr. Rosebrock has been displaying two American flags in front of the VA Veterans Home to honor those men and women who have defended Old Glory. On October 25, two VA police officers ordered Mr. Rosebrock to remove the flags because he was violating: 36C.F.R Security and law enforcement at VA facilities; 1.218 a) 9) Distribution of handbills. The distributing of materials such as pamphlets, handbills, and/or flyers, and the displaying of placards or posting of materials on bulletin boards or elsewhere on property is prohibited, except as authorized by the head of the facility or designee or when such distribution or displays are conducted as part of authorized Government activities.

Mr. Rosebrock noticed that the CFR he was being accused of violating does not mention flags and he pointed this out to the officers and refused to remove his flags. The officers proceeded to cite Mr. Rosebrock for his “criminal behavior”, removed his flags and impounded them as “evidence”. Really?

If found guilty, Mr. Rosebrock could face imprisonment of not more than six months for each citation he has received (four so far). Maybe we haven’t heard all of the story but it seems ludicrous to me that a better solution couldn’t have been mutually agreed upon.

###
Each year in New York alone, thousands of patients receive kidneys, livers, and heart transplants from hundreds of donors. At this time, there are 10,000 recipients on the waiting list in the Empire State. Every 13 hours, another patient dies waiting for an organ transplant.

*Signing up for organ donation can make a big difference in the lives of many patients in need.*

If you register as an organ donor, you could save up to 8 lives when you die. Your tissue can improve the lives of more than 50 people by restoring eyesight, helping burn patients, and preventing disability.

Here are other important facts about being an organ donor in New York:

- The medical treatment you receive as a donor is not affected by your donor status.
- Donating tissue or organs will not interfere with having an open casket at your funeral.
- Being a donor won’t cost you or your family anything.

To find out about some of the most misconceptions regarding organ donation, visit our page about The 10 Most Common Myths About Organ Donation. ( www.dmv.org/organ-donation-myths.php )

**How to Register as an Organ Donor**

In New York, you can register as an organ donor in person, by mail, or online.

You must be at least 18 years old.

When you register as an organ donor in New York, you provide legal consent for the retrieval of your organs, tissues, and eyes upon your death.

**In Person**

You may indicate your desire to become a donor at the New York Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when you obtain or renew your driver’s license or state ID card. For more information, visit our Driver License & ID section. ( www.dmv.org/drivers-license.php )

The New York Board of Elections allows you to sign up as an organ donor when you complete your voter registration. For more information, visit our Voter Registration page. ( www.dmv.org/ny-new-york/voter-registration.php )

**NOTE:** If you registered to be a donor before July 23, 2008, you’re in the old registry. This means your next-of-kin must give his or her consent before your donation request can be carried out. To change your donation preferences, you must enroll in the updated New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry by one of the methods outlined below.

*Continued on the next page*
Online

**NOTE**: You must have a valid New York driver’s license or ID card to register online.

You may register **online** for organ donation at the following websites:

- Visit MyDMV.
  - You will need to create an account to register.
  - You may also sign up when you renew/replace your license.
- Go to the NYS Donate Life Registry.
  - You will be able to complete the form online, print and mail it to the address listed on the form.

For more information, visit the website of the [New York Organ Donor Network](https://www.organdonor.ny.gov).

By Mail

You can also complete your registration as an organ donor **by mail**.

Simply complete the [NYS Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry Specification Form](https://www.organdonor.ny.gov) and mail it to the address listed on the application.

On your application, you are able to select your preferences on what your organs and tissues will be used for, including:

- Transplantation and research.
- Transplantation only.
- Research only.

**How You Can Help With Organ Donation**

Besides registering yourself as an organ donor, you can:

- Encourage your friends and family to register. Share this link with your friends!
- Volunteer with the [New York State Donate Life Registry](https://www.organdonor.ny.gov).
- Make a financial contribution to the [New York Organ Donor Network](https://www.organdonor.ny.gov).
On January 21st, the VA made a presentation about the proposed National Veterans Cemetery for Western NY. For 90 minutes, VA officials spoke to a crowd of over 100 about the specifics of the new cemetery. The location will be on a plot of land purchased by the VA in Pembroke, NY. The exact location is 1232 Indian Falls Road, just north of Thruway Exit 48A. $625,000 was spent to purchase the land but the full cost of the cemetery won’t be known until bids are solicited for the actual construction. However, typical national cemeteries have a cost of $15 to $35 million.

James R. Metcalfe II, a Nunda, NY native, is expected to be the director of the new cemetery. He hopes to see construction begin as soon as the spring of 2017. It is expected that the design phase will end in the first quarter of this year and then cost estimates can be prepared so that Congress can appropriate the funding in the next Fiscal Year budget for the VA. Because it typically takes +/- 30 months for the construction of a national cemetery, the earliest the first phase of the cemetery would be completed is year-end 2019 if all goes well.

However, the first burials could be much sooner than that as they are scheduled to take place one year after the start of construction. The cemetery will be built to accommodate 60 years of burials. Those eligible for burial at a National Veterans Cemetery:

- Servicemen and women who die in active duty
- Servicemen and women who are honorably discharged
- National Guard and Reservists for 20 years of qualifying service and are entitled to retired pay
- Spouses, minor children, and certain parents

A deceased veteran’s discharge papers are all that is needed to show eligibility. The no-cost benefits include a gravesite with dignified burial, opening and closing of the grave, grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, a headstone, memorial certificate, U.S. Flag, and if requested, military funeral honors. In addition to the usual gravesites there will also be a columbarium to accept cremated remains.
LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Have you ever thought about becoming an Officer, Director, or Committee chair for Chapter 20? If so, join us on Saturday, July 23rd from 9am to 3pm at the Chili American Legion Post #1830, 450 Chili-Scottsville Rd.

We will be providing “seminars” on what is involved in becoming part of the leadership of Chapter 20. Information and hand-outs will be provided on all elected and appointed postions within the Chapter.

There will be plenty of time for questions and answers. Topics will include the Chapter Policies and Procedures, each of the Officer positions, being a Director, Committee Chairs and other appointees, as well as other items of interest.

No registration fees, free parking, and hand-outs to take home; so if you plan on attending, contact Fred Elliott at felliott@rochester.rr.com or by phone at 585-317-7619. You must be a member of Vietnam Veterans of America to attend.

Sponsored by the Officers and Directors of Chapter 20.

This Seminar is open to all current members of Chapter 20.
If you served in the U.S. Armed Forces, you either rode in, drove, or at least saw a Jeep at some point in your time in the service. They were everywhere and generally all in the same color, olive-drab.

The U.S. Army began testing a four-wheel-drive Ford prototype in November of 1940. It was known as GP-1. It quickly became a favorite among GIs. They liked the small size of the vehicle, its toughness, and the ease of maintenance and repairs.

War correspondent, Ernie Pyle reportedly said, “…..I don’t think we could continue the war without the Jeep. It does everything, it goes everywhere. It’s as faithful as a dog, strong as a mule, and as agile as a goat.” Ironically, Pyle was killed by a sniper while he was riding in a Jeep on an island in the Pacific in 1945.

The Veteran’s Memorial Museum in Huntsville, Alabama now has GP-1 on display. Of the five original prototypes provided for testing, GP-1 is the only one known to exist in North America.

Surprise, surprise, but the Government didn’t really know what it wanted when development of the vehicle began. The Army began work on specifications for a light four-wheel-drive reconnaissance vehicle in 1937 with American Bantam of Butler, Pennsylvania. A majority of the credit for developing the basic concept and capabilities that ultimately became the Jeep belongs to Bantam.

It was Edsel Ford that spearheaded the project for the GP-1 that would eventually see Ford become a vital supplier of wartime equipment. Eventually, Willys would build 363,000 wartime Jeeps, Ford would build 286,000 and Bantam, who started the concept, only built 2,700 Jeeps. However, the Army did give Bantam a contract to build those little trailers that hauled equipment behind the Jeep.

**Specifications of the 1940 prototype GP-1 “Jeep”**

**Vehicle Type:** Quarter-ton four-wheel-drive reconnaissance truck

**Curb Weight:** Approximately 2,150 pounds

**Engine:** 42 horsepower Ford, 199.5 cubic inch four-cylinder modified tractor engine

**Drivetrain:** Spicer transfer case and axles

**Suspension:** Beam axles on leaf springs

**Length:** 133 inches

**Width:** 59 inches

**Height:** 59 inches
On January 12 of this year, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that a federal appeals court ruled a law that prohibited people from wearing military medals they didn’t earn was unconstitutional.

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco claims the now-repealed law was a ban on a type of “symbolic speech”. Judge Sandra Ikuta said, “wearing a medal has no purpose other than to communicate a message”. The 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down the law that prohibited lying about receiving a military honor was also cited by Judge Ikuta. However, the U. S. Congress, in its infinite wisdom passed a law making it a crime to lie about military honors, but ONLY if the liar intended to profit or defraud someone. I feel better already.

Dissenting Judges of the Court of Appeals claimed the wearing of medals should be considered “conduct” and not “speech”. Unfortunately, they were in the minority. I happen to agree with the minority on this issue. No matter the intent, the wearing of any military award that you did not legitimately receive is wrong. And should be punishable by law no matter what the wearer’s intent is.

I strongly disagree with Judge Ikuta when she stated that the wearing of a medal has no purpose other than to communicate a message. In my opinion, there are many reasons for wearing a medal. Certainly communicating a message is one. But there is also personal pride for accomplishing something that others weren’t able to (an expert marksmanship badge for example). To let others know that the limp you have, or the limb you are missing is a result of serving your country (Purple Heart). Some may be worn to simply remind yourself of the person you once were. Or to allow other veterans to see your record of service. After all, isn’t the display of medals the first thing a veteran looks at when he/she sees a military person in uniform. We can immediately discern if that veteran served in combat, was physically wounded, the era in which the person served, and many other things.

I believe the Court got it wrong, seriously wrong. There are common sense reasons why a person should not be allowed to wear a medal, a uniform, or identification that they have not earned. The biggest being that even with no words being spoken, the wearer is conveying an image of being more than he or she actually is. Like it or not, people automatically make certain assumptions about others by their mode of dress, overall appearance, mannerisms, etc.. Doesn’t this constitute fraud in that the wearer is pretending to be something they are not thus allowing others to falsely believe the person to be more than they are?

And it’s not just civilians who wear medals they are not entitled to wear. Occasionally a veteran does so either by mistake or even sometimes intentionally. However, when a veteran is advised of the mistake, they usually correct it almost immediately. Unfortunately, companies like Medals of America make it easier than ever for a person to become something they are not. Not only can you order actual military medals and ribbons but they now have something referred to as “U.S. Commemorative Medals” that typically have a ribbon offered as well as the medal. For less than $100, a person can build an impressive looking “rack of medals” that looks impressive.

I don’t propose to have any answers to this problem but hopefully I can convince the court that I was merely expressing my freedom of symbolic speech when I ripped the offending items off the shirt of the wearer.
ALL ACTIVE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, RESERVES, AND VETERANS WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE ONE COMPLIMENTARY TICKET TO EACH KNIGHTHAWKS REGULAR SEASON HOME GAME THROUGHOUT THE 2016 SEASON BY PRESENTING THEIR MILITARY ID AT THE BLUE CROSS ARENA BOX OFFICE ON THE NIGHT OF THE GAME. INCLUDING ALL MILITARY MEMBERS IN UNIFORM

ADDITIONAL TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

PLEASE CALL CHARLIE RAGUSA AT (585) 454-4295 EXT 3032 WITH ANY QUESTIONS

Thank You for your service
In Memory Donations

When the simple act of placing flowers on a casket or placing stones on a headstone does not seem to be enough to honor the memory of a special someone who has passed away, one may choose to make a donation in his or her honor to commemorate the values and beliefs of the deceased. Chapter 20 VVA is committed to recognizing the sacrifices made by all military personnel in every branch of the armed forces. The memory of the deceased veteran is honored in the continuous work and service carried out by the dedicated Chapter members and associates. The monetary donations sent by individuals help make it possible to continue serving veterans and their families. The combined efforts of donors, lawmakers, members, and associates have far-reaching effects on the quality of all our lives.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 offers several ways of commemorating a special person. One of those ways is the Memorial Walk at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walk is a pathway of bricks inscribed with the names of individuals who have served their country with valor. Their names will forever remain a reminder of the dedication and tenacity demonstrated by the thousands of men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

If you wish to make a monetary donation directly to Chapter 20 in support of all the functions and services they provide to veterans and their families, send your check or money order payable to Chapter 20, VVA:

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

Name: ____________________________________ Date of Birth: ______________ Sex ( )M ( )F

Address: ____________________________________

City: ____________________________________

Zip: _______ County: ______________

Home Phone: ( 555 )________________________

Work Phone: ( 555 )________________________

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


Term: ( ) 1 Year $20 ( ) 3 Years $50 ( ) Life Membership $100

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

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BETWEEN THE LINES:
Between the Lines is published monthly by Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Chapter 20 or the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., its Officers, Board of Directors, or the General Membership. Between the Lines can be viewed on the Chapter 20 website at www.vva20.org.

We welcome letters to the editor, poetry, original articles, and suggestions. Submissions should include name and phone number and Can be sent to Between the Lines, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612 or emailed to felliott@rochester.rr.com. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity and to not use materials we think inappropriate for the publication. Deadline for submissions for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month. Exceptions may be granting by contacting the Editor.
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**Monthly Membership Meetings start at 6:30 pm**

*At the Italian American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road, Rochester*

**Driving Directions to the Italian American Sports Club:**

The Club is located at 1250 Buffalo Road close to the intersection of Howard Road, directly across from the stone quarry, next to the Eagles Club and the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

From the East: Heading west on 490, exit Mt. Read Blvd. and turn left; south on Mt. Read to Buffalo Road circle, turn right, west on Buffalo Road, 1.4 miles, the Italian-American Sports Club is on the right side.

From the West: Heading east on 490, exit 33 east, Buffalo Road (Gates Center); head east on Buffalo Road; continue past Howard Road; the Italian-American Sports Club will be on the left side in about .5 mile.
Your business card could be here. Contact Chapter Treasurer, Alan Frisa (afrisa@rochester.rr.com), for details.