FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14TH

Those who would disrespect our flag

Have never been handed a folded one

MILLIE TOUPS CREATIONS
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Wilkie, Charles 6-6-1934
Herod, Arthur Weimann 6-7-1943
McCarthy, Glenn 6-7-1943
Ducat, Bruce Chalmers 6-9-1941
Bartolf, Noel Michael 6-12-1942
Allison, Darrell Gene 6-12-1951
Shortall, Stephen A. 6-14-1945
Gebbie, Ronald Jackson 6-17-1948
DeFranco, James Clinton 6-18-1950
Brule Jr., Gordon Joseph 6-19-1948
Moore, Abraham L. 6-20-1945
Fellows, David Thomas 6-21-1946
Gioia, John Albert 6-21-1948
Boyd, Stephen Leslie 6-21-1951
Babey, David Paul 6-24-1949
Lamb, Theodore 6-26-1939
Caldwell III, Edward Clark 6-28-1946
Scott, James Guinan 6-29-1949
Hill, Richard Alfred 6-30-1942
Robena, Charles Edward 6-30-1947
Ekwell, Thomas James 6-30-1948

**Memorial Tours & Presentations**
Persons interested in on-site tours or presentations at schools or organizations, contact Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com

**Friends of the Memorial**
To be placed on the volunteer contact list, contact Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com
VETERANS WALK COMMITTEE
154 Mendota Drive
Rochester, New York 14626

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

Sample Brick
![Sample Brick Image]

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
There are new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the National League of Families that another MIA has been accounted for this month. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War is now at 1620.

Major Dean Albert Klenda, from Manhattan, Kansas. He was an F-105D (Thud) line pilot assigned to 67TH Tactical Fighter Squadron, 18 Tactical Fighter Wing, 13th Air Force. After graduating from the F-105 operational fighter course at Nellis AFB in Nevada, Lt. Klenda was assigned in June 1965 to the Kadena Air Base in Okinawa Japan and placed on combat ready status. 1st Lieutenant Dean Albert was then deployed to the Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand and on September 17th 1965, he was assigned to a mission to search destroy an enemy barrack area 10 miles northeast of Na San in North Vietnam. While attacking his target, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Other aircraft in the area observed the incident and reported that there was no ejection or parachute deployed when Lt. Klenda’s aircraft went down. He was then listed as KIA-BNR. There is no further information available on this incident. Major (posthumously promoted) Dean Albert Klenda’s remains were located and returned to the United States and he was officially accounted for on March 1 2016. He will be laid to rest with full military honors.

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

- Seaman 2nd Class James N. Phipps, Fireman 3rd Class Kenneth L. Jayne, Seaman 2nd Class Rudolph V. Piskuran, Lt. Julian B. Jordon, Ensign Lewis B. Pride, Fireman 3rd Class Edwin C. Hopkins, Fireman 2nd Class James B. Boring, Ensign John C. England and Ensign William M. Finnegan all of which were US Navy personnel on Board the USS Oklahoma and were lost on December 7th 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They were accounted for on March 21, April 14, 20, 27, 28, May 4, 5, 6 and 9, 2016 accordingly and laid to rest with full military honors.

- Pvt. John P. Sersha, US Army was lost on September 27, 1944 in the Netherlands. He was account for on April 13, 2016. He will be laid to rest with full military honors.

- Cpl. George Simmons, US Army was lost on November 19, 1942 in the Philippines. He was account for on April 14, 2016. He will be laid to rest with full military honors.

- Pfc. John Saini, US Marine Corps was lost November 20, 1943 at Tarawa Atoll. He was account for on April 23, 2016. He will be laid to rest with full military honors.
• Pvt. Palmer S. Haraldson, US Marine Corps was lost November 22, 1943 at Tarawa Atoll. He was accounted for on April 25, 2016. He will be laid to rest with full military honors.

• SFC James P. Shunney, US Army was lost November 2, 1950 North Korea. He was accounted for on May 3, 2016. He will be laid to rest with full military honors.

• Motor Machinist Mate John E. Anderson US Navy was lost June 6, 1944 at Omaha Beach, France. He was accounted for on March 10, 2016. He will be laid to rest with full military honors.

We welcome our brothers home. Rest in peace.
With the passing of Memorial Day, our Nation and all of us stop to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Let us not forget those who are still missing among us and the families who still weep and pray for their loved ones hoping that they will finally be found and brought home.
On Memorial Day, we honored all those who have served and given their lives for this great Nation. At this time we will also honor those who served and have passed from our ranks here at Chapter 20.

“They are our brothers forever”

VVA CHAPTER 20 MEMORIAL
Honoring our brothers who have passed.

Lest we forget

Bob Behnke*  
Martin Driffill  
Dennis D. Rinkus  
Patrick C. Parker  
Joseph P. Terzo, Jr.  
Wayne P. Soule  
John M. Harrigan  
Donald B. Maclean  
Lynn A. Citron*  
Michael E. Young  
Jeffrey P. Lundberg  
Wayne Morris  
Jeffrey C. Hammond  
Thomas L. Steinberg  
William J. DeHollender  
Larry P. Davenport  
Frank Stephens  
David T. Hilkert  
Don Murrell  
Jim Cass  
Eugene O. Ball  
Clyde Saxon*  
Bradley C. Roth  
Ronald F. Popowich  
Peter G. Lambert  
Robert Rudolph  
William Maxion  
Elton L. Bailey  
B. DeLola  
Charles G. Holtz  
Howard Lewczyk*  
Ervin J. Lewis  
Steve Hess*  
Peter J. Bendig  
Gary E. Hailston  
Howard D. Silvers  
John L. Doles

John P. Henderson  
John Claypoole  
Eric W. Bradshaw  
Richard L. Butchino  
Charles H. Carey  
Paul Plaisted  
Wayne C. Hanson  
Timothy M. Heffer  
Ronald J. Mummert  
David L. Woolding  
Gary J. Nacca  
Gerald R. Dusel  
Jerry Popen  
Edward F. McLaughlin, Jr.  
Gerald J. Pruonto  
David E. Johns  
Richard Beeley  
James A. Huff  
Roger W. Gaede  
Michael P. Couture  
Michael T. Donlon  
Keith M. Reitz  
Douglas M. McWilliams  
Dominic Bianchi  
Edward M. Hickey  
Don W. Webber  
Dale R. Aiello  
Gerald M. Mart  
Gregory D. Carter  
John Arthur  
George Stevens  
Ted Ives  
Richard E. Cummings  
Ronald F. LaBeau  
James E. Carter  
Mark J. Tamkus  
John M. Hrankowski

Garren Sparks  
Charles E. Rupert  
William T. Sprentall  
James A. Lester  
Raymond R. Lincourt*  
William G. Cahill  
Robert L. Hill  
William D. Peterson  
Gabe Hn Lennox  
Raymond Ware  
Fred Ostrom  
David C. Byrns  
Jack Battaglia  
Robbie S. Stevenson*  
Gerald R. Ives  
John C. Magee  
Gerald F. Sullivan  
Wally Gekoski  
Lafayette L. Green  
Jerald T. Denny  
Lewis E. Weitzel  
Gerald C. Fuchs  
James B. Gilmore  
Gerhard McBride  
Melvin J. Cass  
Daniel P. Englert  
William M. Anthony  
Gerald F. Heath  
Carlton C. Covey  
Pat Marianetti  
David R. Mulay  
Gregory J. Smith  
Michael Cooper  
Raymond P. Campbell  
Kenneth J. DeLorme  
David F. Wido  
Jim McDermott
Frankie. D. Lawhorn
Lynn A. Lansberry
William (Bud) Hemmerick
Emmett E. Porter
Robert M. Hale
Richard P. Chenaille
George W. Malone
Solomon A. Malone
Alexander F. Soos
Martin L. Keymel
John P. McCabe
J. Max Lill, Jr.
David F. Nice
David A. Kogler
Stephen J. Lingl
Elwood R. Hart
John Guarre
Robert W. Livingstone
Ronald L. Mullins
Ernest Hegadorn
John M. Lavell
Allen J. Weingartner
James Maartense
Donald H. Deverell
Phil F. Brightman

Ralph A. Handley
Clarence A. Jovanelly
Francis P. Burns
Jeremiah L. Peck
Robert A. Cenzi
David E. Hooker
Thomas E. Ragland*
James S. Jenkins
Albert S. Marciano, Jr.
Carl R. Voght
Richard C. Lamagra
Robert L. Novgrod
Howard L. Davies
Wayne N. Sparks
Barry D. Halcus
Gary L. Schojan
James A. Sweeney
Ronald A. Michalski
Robert Anderson
Richard L. Holton
David G. Eng
William P. Cook
Charles M. Helberg
Norbert (Zeke) D. Evans
Joseph J. Albano, Jr.

Patrick M. Jimenez
Thomas D. Tette
Yale SeiC. Lippens
Paul S. Halpern
Robert D. Harris
Phillip P. Nicastro
Keith A. Turner
Bill Meminger
Dave Stamp
John N. Thompson
Gerald A. Irland
Bil Ludwig
James. E. Hall
Ed Jones
David E. Wood
Terry M. Bergeron
Adrian F. Fortuna
Frank H. Peace*

Ronald L. Mullins
Ernest Hegadorn
John M. Lavell
Allen J. Weingartner
James Maartense
Donald H. Deverell
Phil F. Brightman

Names are in order of passing, (*) indicates a founding member
Respectfully presented by: Joe Peck
Please contact me at jpeck2@rochester.rr.com to record the passing of any Chapter 20 members.
Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 615 members and AVVA is at 39 members as of 04/30/16. Membership is growing, but we still need your help in recruiting new members. Don’t forget to renew on time. Don’t let your membership expire.

Please Renew Your Membership!

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

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.
Todd Baxter received a $1000 donation for the Veterans Outreach Center.

Chuck Baylis, Dan and Rita Hasenauer received a $3000 donation for the Gold Star Mothers’ Memorial.

Jim VanBrederode and Dave Staub received a $500 donation for the Gates Keystone Pipers.

Scott Beale received a $500 donation for the Moving Wall at AL Post 330.

Les Manning spoke an upcoming blood drive.

Jack Michel received a $150 donation for his Fly a Kite for Homeless Veterans event.

Joe Marinaccio received a $50 donation for the Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament.
New Member - Richard Pearce

New Member - Paul Weaver

Jim Goggins - 1st meeting

Bruce Nichols won the flag drawing

Dan Corona won the 50/50 drawing

Fred Palmeroni won an Air Force Lap Robe
On April 21\textsuperscript{st} and 22\textsuperscript{nd}, these Chapter members spoke to the 11\textsuperscript{th} grade students at Churchville-Chili High School. Chapter members have now spoken to some 1,500 11\textsuperscript{th} graders at Churchville-Chili.
Operation 1Z (onesie) is brought to you by Ken Allocco and the Chapter Board of Directors. Ken and some other Chapter members were speaking to the 11th grade students at Churchville-Chili High School last month and one of the teachers talked to Ken about Operation 1Z.

T-shirts are collected (clean, no holes or tears, and nothing obscene) and sent to rural Kenya (yes, the Kenya in Africa). T-shirts may be in any color, not just Air Force Blue. Once received the t-shirts are cut into pieces and re-sewn as infant onesies. **Please bring your t-shirts to the June membership meeting.**

In rural Kenya, 1 in every 100 women and 1 in every 20 babies die during child birth. Despite the presence of local medical clinics with nurse practitioners and essential medical supplies, women do not take advantage of these medical resources for various reasons. By offering incentives to mothers, specifically infant clothing, they make more positive healthcare decisions – before birth, at birth, and afterward increasing the survival rate by as much as 260%.

JUNE 16-20, 2016

FERRIS-GOODRIDGE POST 330

Opening Ceremony
June 16th at 4:00pm
Performances by: Brianna Collichio
and DannyB

Closing Ceremony
June 20th at 10:00am

The Wall is open
24/7

691 Trimmer Road, Spencerport, NY 14559
585-352-6691
## Parade Schedule

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<tr>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; - Thursday</td>
<td>Firemen’s Parade</td>
<td>Spencerport Lyell Ave area near old Trowbridge School</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; - Wednesday</td>
<td>Firemen’s Parade</td>
<td>Barnard Park at Carnival – Bus to Dewey Ave near city line</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; - Monday</td>
<td>Town Parade</td>
<td>Irondequoit High School area on Cooper Rd</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – Friday**</td>
<td>Firemen’s Parade</td>
<td>Kendall Rte 237 just North of Rte 18</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; - Thursday</td>
<td>Firemen’s Parade</td>
<td>Webster Park at Carnival – Bus to Rte 404 at Phillips Rd</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
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<table>
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<th>August</th>
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<tr>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; - Friday</td>
<td>Firemen’s Parade</td>
<td>Hamlin Rte 19 – North of Rte 104</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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Times listed are start times – please be at formation 45-60 minutes before the start time.
June 2 – Operation El Paso II begins in Binh Long Province using the US 1st Division and the ARVN 5th Regiment against the Viet Cong’s 9th Main Division.

June 2 – In the Central Highlands’ Kontum Province, 101st Airborne troops and ARVN forces start Operation Hawthorne/Da Nang 61 in an attempt to withdraw the Tou Morong Regional Force back to Dak To.

June 4 – The New York Times runs a three-page ad against the Vietnam War signed by 6,400 academics.

June 11 – A US 25th Infantry Division soldier is sentenced to one year’s hard labor for refusing to carry a rifle because of his pacifist convictions.

June 18 – USMC amphibious forces launch Operation Deckhouse I, the first in a series of operations conducted by the Special Landing Force on Viet Cong coastal strongholds.

June 20 – Elements of the 101st Airborne and 1st Calvary Division fight in Operation Nathan Hale in the vicinity of a US Special Forces Camp at Dong Tri.

June 21 – Hanoi rejects a US proposal for peace talks, demanding that any talks be preceded by an unconditional bombing halt.

June 29 – The US bombs targets close to Hanoi and Haiphong, destroying an estimated 50 percent of the North’s fuel supply.

June 30 – The Chinese claim that US planes killed three people during an attack on Chinese fishing boats in international waters.
VVA along with the American Legion, VFW, and others has taken a stand against expanding the Veterans Choice Program. Seven veterans organizations wrote the VA Commission on Care that they would oppose any VA health system that allows veterans to see a non-VA provider at any time. I’ve heard all the tired old arguments that only the VA conducts the research and has the expertise necessary to treat veterans. And that is likely true where veterans with a service-connect malady are concerned (think PTSD, TBI, traumatic limb amputations, and other problems not normally associated with civilian life). But what’s wrong with a veteran getting treated for a non-service-connected problem elsewhere and having the VA pay for it. Maybe that would help reduce wait times for appointments (or not). I just think it’s time to “think outside the box” if we’re serious about fixing the VA.

Did I just say it was a good idea for VA to examine/treat veterans who have TBI? It appears I was wrong. An investigation that began in Minneapolis, Minnesota found that VA facilities have been allowing unqualified medical staff to examine and diagnose veterans for TBI. VA policy states that only neurologists, psychiatrists, neurosurgeons, and physiatrists are authorized to perform the TBI examination. The investigation found that 21 different staff members had conducted TBI exams while only one of the 21 was qualified to do so. As a result of the investigation, almost 300 veteran patients in Minnesota will be re-examined by qualified medical staff and the VA will contact another almost 25,000 veteran patients around the country who are now eligible for new TBI examinations.

Are 22 veterans committing suicide every day? The 22 veterans a day statistic comes from a 2012 report produced by the VA that extrapolated an estimate from data provided by 22 states from 1999 to 2011. Unfortunately, the data did not include some states with large veteran populations like California, Texas, Arizona, and North Carolina. Currently, the VA has received statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and the Defense Department that should provide a more accurate number. VA analysts are examining death records for all personnel who served from 1979 to 2015. (Why they chose to exclude those pesky Vietnam Veterans is beyond me.) No time has been provided for the availability of the final report.

The “Veterans First Act” which really doesn’t accurately reflect the proposed legislation but it sure sounds good. Remember those bonuses the VA is so famous for passing out to under-performers? Well, the VFA was supposed to put a limit to the total amount of bonuses given each year. Presently the VA is forbidden by law from exceeding $360 million in bonuses each year; the VFA was going to reduce that amount to $300 million by 2017. But then the Senate VA Committee was told by the Office of Management and Budget that the VA already spends less than $300 million for bonuses each year so guess what? The $300 limit was removed from the proposed VFA because if they’re already spending less than the proposed limit why bother to impose the new limit or so the Senate VA Committee braintrust reasoned. I say, leave the limit in place or even lower it to more accurately reflect what the VA currently spends. It certainly can’t hurt to keep a limit in place and not risk having future bonuses exceed the $300 million number.

In a past “Odds & Ends” column I reported that the new Secretary of the VA wanted it made easier to hold VA employees accountable for their actions – perhaps even to fire them for their wrongdoing. The VFA was going to provide certain robust accountability measures to allow the Secretary to deal with those wrongdoers. Unfortunately, the federal employees’ union found out about those measures and demanded changes that would weaken the new accountability measures. This is where you would expect our federal legislators to live up to the title of the bill, Veterans First Act, but sadly, they did not. The final draft of the bill did not contain many of the measures the union objected to. Union 1, Veterans 0.
Let me get this straight; the Obama administration has opened all combat roles to women in the military. And I believe we have seen many examples of these military women ably fulfilling those roles. So why is Congress attempting to remove women from having to register for the draft? Could it be because it’s an election year and they are afraid of losing votes? Nah, what politician would do that? I’m not saying that I support women being drafted but I do believe the issue deserves a full debate by both houses of Congress.

A little more about the long wait times and the Veterans Choice Program. Two years ago veterans were waiting far too long for appointments. In fact, VA personnel were falsifying data to make it look like the long waits really weren’t that long. It got so bad that then VA Secretary, Eric Shinseki, was removed from his position. Then Congress, in order to look like they were paying attention and actually care about veterans, came up with the Veterans Choice Program. Unfortunately, Congress only gave the VA 90 days to implement this new program. Due to that very short timeframe, the VA hired two private companies to administer the $10 billion program. Problem solved, right? Wrong. Wait times have gotten worse. The VA says there has been a massive increase in demand for care, but it is obvious that the problem has more to do with the way the Choice Program was set up. The program is confusing and complicated. Veterans don’t understand it, doctors don’t understand it, and even VA administrators admit they can’t always figure it out.

Either not getting paid or getting paid very slowly is a major complaint of hospitals, clinics, and doctors across the country. Some of them have stopped taking VA Choice patients. The VA now admits the rushed timeframe led to decisions that resulted in a nightmare for some patients. However, the VA has recently made some changes to the Choice program in an attempt to improve things.

Those experiences for both veterans and providers are typical. Congress hopes to pass a bill by the end of this month to fix the problem.

Did you know that long-time Chapter 20 member, Bruce McDaniel has authored a book about his experiences as a combat medic in Vietnam? You do now. The book is available at lulu.com for the very affordable price of $13.00. Bruce is the former editor of Chapter 20’s Forward Observer and Between the Lines. His book, Walk Through the Valley: The Spiritual Journey of a Vietnam War Medic, is well written and provides a real insight into Bruce. It also provides a no-frills look at the life of a combat medic in Vietnam.

###
The Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Located at Highland Park
(www.RochesterVietnamMemorial.org)

The Medal of Honor Grove is dedicated to all Vietnam Era service people who received the country’s highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor. Here, black granite again recalls the Wall in Washington, D.C. and points to a bollard directly across the walkway: William T. Perkins, Jr., Medal of Honor recipient.

William Perkins was a Corporal in the USMC, Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. He was born in Rochester on August 10, 1947 and died serving his country in Vietnam on October 12, 1967. Corporal Perkins was a combat photographer attached to Company C during Operation Medina. Southwest of Quang Tri, his unit made contact with a numerically superior NVA force. During an attack by the NVA, an enemy grenade landed near the Corporal and three other Marines. Without hesitation, Corporal Perkins threw himself on the grenade, saving the lives of the three other Marines.

As you leave the Medal of Honor Grove and continue along the walkway, you will see the Veterans Garden on your right. Within this area is the sculpture of the Soldier walking into a black granite wall, walking through time from past to now. The wall is polished to a high reflection, incorporating into the Memorial the mirror image of the living. There is a gap in the line of bollards: the design committee specified that the sculpture be accessible; veterans and families of lost soldiers would want to touch the sculpture and to catch their own reflection in the Wall. This is a place of connection between the living and the dead.
2016 Day of Caring at the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Continued on next page
2016 Day of Caring at the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Continued on next page
2016 Day of Caring at the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial
20TH ANNIVERSARY

1996 - 2016

SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2016
NOON TO 3PM

AT THE MEMORIAL
1440 SOUTH AVENUE
AT HIGHLAND PARK

MUSIC PROVIDED BY
198TH DIVISION BAND
KEYSTONE PIPERS
CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
VETERANS OUTREACH CENTER
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14th
Timber Ridge Golf Club

Registration: 9:00AM - Tee-Off: 10:00AM - Cost: $80
Includes 18-holes of golf, cart, lunch, Steak Roast, beverages on the course, and prizes for all.

Scramble Format!

Awards: *Team Champions* *Longest Drive(2)* *Closest to the Pin(2)*

To Register call (585) 317-1351 by July 31st, 2016

Thank you!
SUPPORT OUR VETERANS
Help Needed

The Chapter is presently trying to digitize all the BTL’s printed from 1986 to present day.

We have successfully obtained all issues for scanning except for a few.

With your help, we can complete the series and in turn have a permanent record of all our publications for future reference.


If you have these issues, please contact the Chapter Secretary, Joe Peck (Contact information is listed in the BTL).

Once these issues have been obtained and scanned, they will be returned.
It was mid-1968 in Vietnam when I filled out a college application. I was at a U.S. Marine outpost on the DMZ called Oceanview. It was located on a beach where the South China Sea met the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) which divided North and South Vietnam. It was the northernmost outpost in all Vietnam just a mile from North Vietnam. I was a tank commander and tank section leader with two tanks assigned to help protect the little outpost. The purpose of the little base was for naval forward observers to call in gunfire from the USS New Jersey.

I was due to rotate back to the states in March of 1969 and just before I left Vietnam I received an acceptance letter from Rochester Institute of Technology; I would start in the fall of the same year. I was out of the Corps by June; three months later I was attending my first day of college.

The college was located in Rochester, New York, which was also the home of Eastman Kodak Company from which, oddly enough, I would retire some forty years later. The school's campus was spread out and I was trying to find my way around that first day; I felt like a Vietnam FNG (F*#king New Guy) once more. The card I had in my hand said the class room was in an auditorium, the name of which escapes me. I had to stop several people to find the building. It was the first course of my four-year “enlistment” and was titled, “Photographic Science and Sensitometry”.

I entered the building from a beautiful Fall day and once my eyes adjusted I realized I was in a large foyer. Fifteen feet into the foyer was another multiple set of doors. Opening the closest set found me facing a steep incline. I was in a very large curved auditorium that reminded me of a medical school amphitheater albeit much larger and without the cadaver.

There were at least 200 people seated down front which was but a fraction of what the auditorium could hold. There were ramps instead of stairs, which were as steep as any sports arena and chairs equally as uncomfortable. I chose an aisle seat several rows above the mass of students. I knew I couldn’t sit in the middle of a crowd; how could one get out in a hurry? It was an early symptom of a yet diagnosed PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) problem.

A few minutes after taking my seat, I realized there was someone next to me struggling with the steep aisle. I turned and immediately noticed a pair of silver crutches surrounded by a military issue field jacket. I looked up to see a guy struggling to get into the row just in front of me. He was precariously perched on the steep ramp trying to get the end seat to flip down. I leaned over to help him by taking his book bag and holding the seat down. It was then I noticed the corporal chevrons with crossed rifles on the jacket’s collar.

Naturally, upon seeing the Marine emblems I had to ask, “Who were you with?”, wondering if his bad leg had something to do with Vietnam.

“Two-Seven”, he replied. (2nd Battalion, 7th Marines)
“I worked with Two-Seven”, I said.
He wanted to know when I was in Vietnam.
“February 1968 to March of ‘69”, I said.

He told me his tour was from December, 1967 until May of ‘68 when he was medevac’d out.
“May of 1968?”, I asked, “then you were on Operation Allen Brook weren’t you?” That suddenly got his immediate attention.

“That’s where I took one in the knee”, pointing to his right leg, “on that frickin’ island. I just got out of the hospital a few months ago.”

His reference to “The Island” was understood by anyone who served with the 1st Marine Division. Goi Noi Island was a very, very unhealthy piece of real estate surrounded on all sides by rivers; it bordered the southern edge of another bad area called, “Dodge City” (south of Hill 55) about 15 miles southwest of Da Nang. But Allen Brook lasted 3 months, so I had to ask him when in May he was wounded.

“During the second week,” he said, “before the op was given a name.”
“That’s when I was out there!” I said. “I was with the tanks supporting you guys!”

I was thought to myself, “Man what a small world!”, not realizing it was about to get a lot smaller.

He said he had a real fondness for tanks because some of them carried several 5-gallon water cans and shared the precious liquid with them. Temperatures had hit 120+ degrees and the grunts were losing many men to heat exhaustion with several dying.
I began to wonder if I could narrow him down to a specific tank. There were six tanks on the sweep but only three had bothered to load up with extra water cans. These three tanks were from Bravo Co., 5th Tanks; the others were from 1st Tanks.

“Did the crew say anything to you while giving out the water?” I asked. I was wondering if it was my tank he remembered.

He smiled and said, “Yeah, they wanted us to watch out for North Vietnamese in spider holes armed with RPGs. They wanted us to stay even with the front of the tank and they warned us not to get bunched up at the rear should the shit hit the fan and the tank had to move.”

I smiled remembering the lecture we gave each grunt while pouring water into their helmets, canteen cups, empty C-rats cans or just dirty cupped hands. My tank commander and platoon sergeant, S/Sgt Bob Embesi, wanted it to be a Salvation Army-like meeting; you had to listen to the preachin’ before you got anything. Naturally, my being the gunner of our tank and trapped inside the turret all day, I looked for any excuse to get out when the tank stopped. I always volunteered to be the water boy.

My new friend smiled and asked, “Do you remember the night in front of the railroad berm?”

“How can I ever forget?” I said.

“Well, I dug in next to a tank that night that had a name we grunts loved . . .”

“Better Living Thru Canister!” I said, before he could get it out.

His eyes locked onto mine.

“That was your tank?” he asked.

“Yes and I was the one issuing the water”, I said.

He immediately reached out his hand and said, “Thank you. I don’t know if I would have made it without that water. You saved a lot of guys from heat stroke.” Still holding my hand, he said, “John McQuaid”. “Bob Peavey”, I answered back.

I couldn’t help but think, what were the odds of such a chance meeting? And yet, . . . happen it did. It is my most memorable small world experience of my life. Needless to say, we became very close friends during our college years.

Editor’s note – Bob Peavey is a retired Kodak employee who, before being transferred to Atlanta as part of Kodak’s Marketing Department, was a member of Chapter 20 in its early days. Bob served in Vietnam as a Marine in 1968. He wrote about his experiences in the book, Praying for Slack.
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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

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**The VA’s National Suicide Crisis Line**
1-800-273-TALK or 1-800-273-8255
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Provided professional counseling to veterans, their family members or friends.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20

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Address: ____________________________________ Home Phone: ( 555 )________________________

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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.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Meetings</th>
<th>Membership Meetings</th>
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<td>June 7, 2016</td>
<td>June 9, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5, 2016</td>
<td>July 14, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2, 2016</td>
<td>August 11, 2016</td>
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</table>

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.
## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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## DIRECTORS

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<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>738-6138 c</td>
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## VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial</td>
<td>753-7275 (enter 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Outpatient Clinic</td>
<td>465 Westfall Rd 463-2600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans Outreach Center</td>
<td>459 South Avenue 546-1081</td>
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<td>VA Vet Center</td>
<td>232-5040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans Administration</td>
<td>800-827-1000</td>
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<td>Monroe County Veterans Service Agency</td>
<td>753-6040</td>
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<tr>
<td>National League of Families</td>
<td>800-827-1000</td>
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<td>Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund</td>
<td>202-393-0090</td>
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<td>Honoring House at VOC</td>
<td>506-9060</td>
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<td>The Resource Center at VOC</td>
<td>546-4250</td>
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<td>National Caregivers Support Line</td>
<td>855-260-3274</td>
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<td>Homeless Hotline</td>
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<td>Crisis Hotline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park</td>
<td><a href="http://rochester.vietnammemorial.org">Rochester Vietnam Memorial</a></td>
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<td>VVA New York State Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nyvietnamvets.org">www.nyvietnamvets.org</a></td>
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