Between The Lines

April 2017
Issue 52

APRIL SHOWERS
Three Board Director Openings!

Jerry McDermott  Fred Elliott

Vote

Ron Trovato  Patrick Shea

AT THE APRIL 13 CHAPTER 20 MEETING

Ballots will be taken from 6:30PM till 7:15PM and the 3 voted directors will be announced that evening!
Remembering Our Fallen Heroes
Website - http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Bierlein, Patrick M. 4-3-1949
Knickerbocker, Irwin Lee 4-4-1947
Smith, Carl Arthur 4-5-1946
Bornheimer, Richard Irving 4-5-1947
Paniccia, Ronald James 4-7-1949
Tette, John Bernard 4-8-1946
Bowen, Howard Lewis 4-9-1946
Potter, James Frank 4-10-1946
Downey, Gerald Joseph 4-10-1949
Christiano, Joseph 4-11-1922
Judd, Donald R. 4-11-1943
Strong III, Andrew Carnegie 4-11-1951
Menzies, Alexander John 4-12-1945
Wuertenberger, Charles E. 4-13-1942
Bundy, Wayne Phillip 4-14-1939
Vanderbrook, Gary 4-15-1944
Lawrence States, David 4-15-1945
Sochaki, Nicholas 4-18-1944
Seefeldt, Jr., Charles L. 4-18-1948
Haupt III, William Henry 4-19-1950
Forest, Donald Steven 4-20-1944
Priesthoff, John Howard 4-20-1946
LaFlair, Richard L. 4-21-1948
Geary, John Wesley 4-22-1944
Jacques, Donald 4-23-1947
Cardot, John Andrew 4-27-1928
DeVos, William M. 4-28-1949
Silvernail, Douglas Harold 4-28-1949
Sheldon, Kimball H. 4-29-1947
Engle, Richard Eugene 4-29-1948
Thompson, James 4-30-1947

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 on-site tours or presentations at schools or organizations, contact Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com
VETERANS WALK COMMITTEE
154 Mendota Drive
Rochester, New York 14626

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

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

Each paver brick (4” x 8”) can have from one to three lines of engraved information. The cost will be $50.00 per brick. Make checks or money order payable to: VVA Chapter 20, Veterans Walk

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

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

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

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________

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

Please Note:  Engraved bricks will be installed prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day (twice annually).
Questions please call Chuck or Joan Macaluso as 585-225-8288
There are currently new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the National League of Families that another serviceman has been recovered and accounted for. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War now stands at 1615.

Captain Daniel Wayne Thomas, from Nebraska, US Air Force Reserves, was a pilot Bronco Aircraft which was part of the 23rd Surveillance Squadron, 504th Tactical Air the 7th Air Force. On July 6, 1971, Capt. observer/ Co Pilot took off from Nakhon Thailand on an afternoon Forward Air (FAC)/visual highly classified reconnaissance southern Steel Tiger region of the panhandle included that portion of Laos that boarders Vietnam and Cambodia. While on this Thomas was to monitor selected enemy in the mountain and triple canopy jungle While in the target area, it was Capt. Thomas that they were experiencing unfavorable weather with heavy rains. A reconnaissance MACV-SOG was operating in this area enemy base camp and later reported loud explosion or impact about the same time that the Support area lost contact with Capt. Thomas’s aircraft. All communications were lost. There was an extensive aerial search team and a rescue SAR operations initiated in the area were the last communications was received from for the next 5 days but terminated after no success in finding the crew or downed aircraft. This area contained known Anti-Aircraft Artillery near the Ho Chi Minh trail routes and had a heavy enemy presents and supplies thus hampering continued searches. Captain Daniel Wayne Thomas and his Co Pilot/Navigator was listed as Missing in Action. In April 2014, a Vietnamese witness provided information on the ID tags from the possible plane that Capt. Thomas piloted in 1971. On April 12, 2016, remains, an ID tag and other material evidence were sent to the DPAA laboratories for identification. Captain Daniel Wayne Thomas was positively identified. He was officially accounted for on February 25, 2017. No other information is currently available concerning his Military burial at this time.
There has been reports of the recoveries and identifications of individuals from the following wars:

- Fire Controlman 3rd Class Robert L. Pribble (accounted for February 14, 2017), Fireman 1st Class Charles W. Thompson (accounted for on February 17, 2017), Steward’s Mate 1st Class Cyril I. Dusset, Seaman 1st Class Paul S. Raimond, Fireman 1st Class Lawrence H. Fecho and Fireman 1st Class Walter B. Rogers (all accounted for on February 23, 2017), Fireman 1st Class Elmer T. Kerestes (accounted for March 6, 2017) all of which were US Navy personnel on board the USS Oklahoma and were lost on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They were all accounted for accordantly and laid to rest with full military honors.
- Pvt. William D. Gruber, US Army Air Corps was lost September 27, 1942 in the Philippine islands. He was accounted for on February 22, 2017 and laid to rest with full military honors.
- Sgt. Willie Rowe, US Army was lost November 25, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on March 2, 2017 and laid to rest with full military honors.
- Pfc. Manuel M. Quintana, US Army was lost July 27, 1950 in South Korea. He was accounted for on March 4, 2017 and will be laid to rest with full military honors.
- 1st Lt. Robert E. Oxford, US Army Air Corps was lost January 25, 2017 in India. He was accounted for on March 6, 2017 and laid to rest with full military honors.

WE WELCOME YOU HOME
Rest in peace brothers. Your service and sacrifice for our Nation was never forgotten.
Membership Update
Mike General Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 621 members and AVVA is at 40 members as of 02/28/17. Membership has not been growing (only one new members in the last two months), **We need your help in recruiting new members.** Don’t forget to renew on time. Don’t let your membership expire. We had 6 members who did not renew this last month.

**Please Renew Your Membership!**

**All Life Memberships are $100.00**

If you a renewing as a “Life Member”, please remember to include a copy of your DD-214 with your application.

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 or by contacting me. (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.

Mike
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20

Name: ________________________________
Address: ______________________________
City: ____________________________ County: ____________________
Zip: _______ County: ____________________

Date of Birth: _______________ Sex (   )M (   )F

Home Phone: ( 555 )________________________
Work Phone: ( 555 )________________________

Email Address: ____________________________
Sponsor: _________________________________

I am not a Vietnam Veteran, but I want to help Vietnam Veterans and their families.
Please accept my donation:
(   ) $10  (   ) $20  (   ) $50    Other ($__________) Payment Options: (    ) Check   (    ) Money Order

Return this application, along with a copy of your DD214 to:

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

Term: (   ) 1 Year $20   (   ) 3 Years $50   (   ) Life Membership $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.
**Chapter Weigh-in Update**

The April weigh-in will be the final weigh-in to determine the winning losers and the service they represent. Make sure you weigh-in!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1/12/2017</th>
<th>2/9/2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># OF VETS</td>
<td>AVG WT</td>
<td># OF VETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIR FORCE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>200.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARMY</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>211.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVY</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>199.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USMC</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>214.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>825.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017 February Weight Loss Report

41 members participated this month, 7 more than January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIR FORCE</td>
<td>Four more members joined the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARMY</td>
<td>Added 4 more members. Biggest loser was Jerry McDermott, lost 5 lbs!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVY</td>
<td>Lost one member in February, Bill Heinrich lost 5.2 lbs!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USMC</td>
<td>Members were static in February, team lost an average of 1.7 pounds!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The methodology and reporting is as follows. The total gain/loss will be based on the aggregate accumulation of all the months gains and losses.**
Me.....Then and Now

Mike Sanfillipo - Squared away soldier

Still squared away!

Jerry McDermott Protecting the Home Land & Ordering an air strike and pizza for he guys!

10
Tom Hetherington on the left, and Guy Gebbia on the right at Anna Maria Island FL 2017

Photos Below
Aboard the USS Hornet, Vietnam 1967. Tom Hetherington pictured on the left, and Guy Gebbia on the right.
IN MY TRAVELS.........

Jerry McDermott Viet Nam bound!

Well deserved R & R in Hong Kong!

Base Chapel at Fort Carson, Denver Colorado.

That’s the rockies behind Val Gatto
Today the VA begins providing disability benefits to Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members affected by the contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, NC.

**Disability Benefits For Veterans Who Were Stationed At Camp Lejeune**

VA has established a rule stating that those who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River, including all satellite camps and housing areas, from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987 who later developed one of the following eight diseases can now receive disability benefits:

- Adult leukemia
- Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- Bladder cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Liver cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
• Parkinson’s disease

Presently, these conditions are the only ones for which there is sufficient scientific and medical evidence to support the creation of presumptions; however, VA will continue to review relevant information as it becomes available.

See our Disability Compensation page for more information about including how to apply for VA Disability Compensation.

Health Benefits

In accordance with the 2012 Camp Lejeune health care law, the VA also provides free health care for certain conditions to Veterans who served at least 30 days of active duty at Camp Lejeune from January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987.

Qualifying health conditions for free health care include:

- Esophageal cancer
- Breast cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Renal toxicity
- Female infertility
- Scleroderma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Lung cancer
- Bladder cancer
- Leukemia
- Myelodysplastic syndromes
- Hepatic steatosis
- Miscarriage
- Neurobehavioral effects

See our VA Health Care Overview for more information about VA Health Care Benefits.

Camp Lejeune Family Member Health Care Reimbursement

Family members of Veterans who also resided at Camp Lejeune or qualifying nearby areas during the qualifying period are eligible for reimbursement of out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered health conditions. VA can only pay treatment costs that remain after payment from your other health plans. To submit an application for family care reimbursement you should submit:

- Documentation showing dependent relationship to a Veteran who served at Camp Lejeune, such as marriage license or birth certificate
- Documentation showing you lived on the base for 30 days or more between Aug. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987 such as copies of orders or base housing records
- You paid health care expenses for a covered condition respective to the following date ranges.
If you lived on Camp Lejeune between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987, then you can be reimbursed for care that you received on or after August 6, 2012

If you lived on Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1956, then you can be reimbursed for care that you received on or after December 16, 2014

When evidence is not submitted, VA will use all relevant evidence from internal sources and the Department of Defense (DoD) to support your application. Please be aware it may take longer to review your application.

Family members should apply online for reimbursement or call 866-372-1144 for help.

For more details see the VA's Camp Lejeune Past Water Contamination Page.

VA Costs Could Balloon with ‘Choice’ Reform, New ‘Agent Orange’ Ailments

POSTED BY: TOM PHILPOTT MARCH 6, 2017

Military Update: VA Secretary David J. Shulkin announced this week that his priorities for improving services to veterans include expanding their access to private sector health care in part by asking Congress to remove two irksome cost controls.

Under the oft-criticized Choice program, enacted in 2014 in response to a wait-time scandal across the VA health system, veterans can seek private sector care at VA expense only if they face wait times longer than 30 days for a VA appointment or they live more than 40 miles from a VA healthcare facility.

Congress set these restrictions to limit the exodus of patients to private sector care during what was seen as a temporary crisis. Without them, the Congressional Budget Office predicted, Choice users would burn through the $10 billion set aside for a three-year emergency program in less than a year.

The Trump administration now wants Choice extended and expanded, as do key congressional leaders, despite warnings from veteran service organizations that shifting too many patients and too much funding to private sector care could begin a slide toward full privatization of VA healthcare.
Shulkin told a conference of the American Legion Tuesday that he wants Congress to extend authority for Choice past its Aug. 7 sunset date "because we need those resources to be able to provide the care for veterans that they deserve."

More surprisingly, Shulkin said VA will seek authority to redesign Choice to provide faster access to private sector care, which “means we’re going to need to eliminate the 40-mile/30-day rule.” President Trump, he added, is committed to such moves to ensure more timely care. VA policymakers made those early cost projections by congressional auditors look wildly high. They did so by continuing to serve as gatekeepers on access to non-VA care, referring patients whenever possible to approved networks of civilian providers, and leaving veterans frustrated, angry and complaining to Congress.

By early 2016, VA had revised the 40-mile-rule twice to broaden eligibility, first by replacing "as-the-crow-flies" distance with driving distance to the nearest VA hospital or clinic, and later mandating that a VA facility must have at least one primary care physician to be counted in the 40-mile rule. Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.), a physician who now chairs the House Veterans Affairs Committee, noted that the VA health budget has climbed from $97 billion in 2009 to almost $180 billion this year while VA hired 100,000 more healthcare employees, he told Legionnaires. Still, Roe said, he wants to see access to private sector care expanded and veterans put "in charge of health care decisions."

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), an architect of the Choice program, also wants it expanded. He said VA “does the best job of anybody on PTSD, traumatic brain injury, prostheses” and other select health services. But veterans shouldn’t have to wait to get routine medical care, McCain told the Legion conferees. They should have the same access to local physicians and hospitals as do Medicare patients.

Shulkin listed nine other priorities, some with significant price tags including modernizing VA’s electronic medical records. But one pending issue he didn’t discuss could increase VA costs by more than many of his other priorities combined.

Shulkin is said to be weeks away from deciding if hundreds of thousands more Vietnam War veterans will be eligible for VA compensation and health care for new illnesses linked Agent Orange and other herbicides used in the war.

Among ailments under final review is hypertension (high blood pressure) which afflicts two-thirds of elderly American to include Vietnam War-era veterans.

Other conditions that might be added to the list of 17 ailments that VA presumes were caused by wartime herbicide exposure are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and conditions with Parkinson’s-like symptoms.

A year ago the National Academy of Medicine, formerly known as the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, delivered to VA the last of a series of reviews of scientific studies on ailments possibly linked to chemicals used in Vietnam to defoliate jungles where the enemy could hide.

The National Academy concluded that recent research strengthens the association to herbicide exposure of bladder cancer and hypothyroidism, finding “limited or suggestive” evidence of a link. That was an upgrade from “inadequate or insufficient” evidence found earlier. The report also
affirmed limited or suggestive evidence that herbicides could cause hypertension. And it found “no rational basis” not to add conditions that cause Parkinson’s-like symptoms from the limited or suggestive evidence category too.

Dr. Ralph Loren Erickson, chief consultant of post-deployment health services for the Veterans Health Administration, said the Academy findings were reviewed for months by a VA technical work group that included experts in disability compensation, environmental medicine, public health, toxicology, epidemiology and legal requirements of relevant statutes. That work then was reviewed by a strategic work group and finally a task force of senior VA leaders. Shulkin received their final packet of recommendations on Feb. 17, three days after he was sworn into office.

The Defense Department estimates that 3.4 million service members deployed to Southeast Asia from 1964 through 1975. If 75 percent are still alive and, based on age, two thirds have high blood pressure, that’s almost 1.7 million more veterans potentially filing new compensation claims.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120 or email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: @Military_Update.

Department of Defense Extends Online Military Exchange Shopping Privileges to Veterans

Press Operations
Release No: NR-010-17
Jan. 13, 2017

The Department of Defense announced a policy change that will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military.

The veterans online shopping benefit will be effective this Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services’ dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families. This policy change follows careful analysis, coordination and strong public support.

“We are excited to provide these benefits to honorably discharged veterans to recognize their service and welcome them home to their military family,” said Peter Levine, performing the duties for the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

“In addition, this initiative represents a low-risk, low-cost opportunity to help fund Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs in support of service members’ and their families’ quality of life. And it’s just the right thing to do,” Levine added.

The online benefit will also strengthen the exchanges’ online businesses to better serve current patrons. Inclusion of honorably discharged veterans would conservatively double the exchanges’ online presence, thereby improving the experience for all patrons through improved vendor terms, more competitive merchandise assortments, and improved efficiencies, according to DoD officials.

“As a nation, we are grateful for the contributions of our service members. Offering this lifetime online benefit is one small, tangible way the nation can say, ‘Thank you’ to those who served with honor,” Levine said.
One Veteran’s Opinion

On March 22nd, Marie and I attended the showing of the documentary film, Thank You for Your Service. The event was held at Nazareth College as part of the Social Worker program at Nazareth.

The 90-minute film dealt with the mental health problems of U.S. military veterans and the tragic consequences due to the failure of the U.S. Military and the Department of Defense to formulate and provide adequate mental health services for our veterans.

The film made it clear that our military commanders and their counterparts at DoD recognize the need for mental health services. It also showed that they know the reasons for the onset of such problems, what services could help to alleviate some of the problems, and that they know all the reasons veterans are reluctant to access such services. And yet, nothing changes.

Ever since 9-11, mental health experts have studied the issues of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and even Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in an attempt to better serve our veterans as they return from the combat theaters of Afghanistan and Iraq. Programs have been instituted, have been successful in treating veterans, have had papers written about them and sent up the chain of command for support and funding, but nothing has come of it. Oh wait, there is a movement to drop the D in PTSD. Those in favor of the idea argue, among other things, that the word Disorder brings such a negative connotation to the term, it should be dropped. I strongly disagree with idea of dropping the “D” but I’m not a mental health professional, just a veteran.

At the conclusion of the movie, there was a panel discussion that included Todd Baxter of the Veterans Outreach Center, Dr. Anthony “Pete” Ziarnowski of the VA Vet Center, Kelly Noyes, a veteran and licensed social worker who is part of the community care team at the Canandaigua VA. There were two other panelists (whose full names I didn’t make a note of); Jeff is a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan while Willie is a veteran of the Panama conflict and a Nazareth graduate.

Asked what “we” can do to help correct the appalling lack of mental health services for our veterans, the panel’s consensus was that local efforts produce the best results. Although the panel members didn’t say so, it is obvious to me anyway, that the Washington politicians are best suited to talking about the problem rather than actually doing anything of substance to fix it.

What, exactly, can we do to help? We can support by monetary donations or by volunteering at those local organizations that are helping our veterans. The VA is always looking for volunteers at Canandaigua, Batavia, Bath, and the Rochester Outpatient Clinic (call 393-7761). The Veterans Outreach Center can use volunteers (call 546-1081). Even Chapter 20 can use volunteers for its outreach events (contact Jerry McDermott). The Monroe County Veterans’ Court program uses volunteer mentors (contact Ray Melens). And we can make ourselves knowledgeable about Federal legislation for Veterans and call, email, or write our Federal legislators to encourage them to support those bills important to Veterans.

Fred Elliott, Vietnam Veteran
❖ I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

❖ A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight, live longer than the men who mention it.

❖ Money talks but all mine ever says is good-bye.

❖ If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

❖ I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

❖ A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
Board Meetings
April 4, 2017
May 2, 2017
June 6, 2017

Membership Meetings
April 13, 2017
May 11, 2017
June 8, 2017

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.
DENIS GURNETT, INSTRUCTOR

GET GUN SMART.COM
Professional Private Firearms Training

Your business card could be here.
Contact Chapter Treasurer, Alan Frisa (afrisa@rochester.rr.com), for details.
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
VA Health Care Benefits
Contacts and References

E-Benefits Portal Site
https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal

Enrollment/Eligibility
http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility
Health Resource Center 1-877-222-8387 (VETS)

OEF / OIF
http://www.oefoif.va.gov

Women Veterans
http://www.va.gov/womenvet
Benefits Line 1-855-829-6636

Dental Care

Copays
http://www1.va.gov/CBO/brochures.asp
Health Resource Center 1-877-222-8387

Suicide Prevention Hotline
1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

Prosthetics
http://www.prosthetics.va.gov

My HealtheVet
http://www.myhealth.va.gov

Homeless Veterans Hotline
1-877-424-3838
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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V. President Hank Wallace whwnbt@rit.edu 260-6043 c
Secretary Joe Peck jpeck2@rochester.rr.com 734-9046 c
Treasurer Alan Frisa alanfrisa@gmail.com 370-7962 c

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION
Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial 753-7275
VA Outpatient Clinic 465 Westfall Rd 463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center 459 South Avenue 546-1081
VA Vet Center 232-5040
Veterns Administration 800-827-1000
Monroe County Veterans Service Agency 753-6040
NYS Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund 800-882-1316
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
National Caregivers Support Line 855-260-3274
Homeless Hotline 877-424-3838
Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255

WEB SITES / EMAIL ADDRESSES
Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park
www.rockietevietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial
VVA New York State Council
www.nyvietnamvets.org
Honor Flight
www.HonorFlightRochester.org

HOMELESS SERVICES
Homeless Hotline
Veterans Outpatient Clinic
National Caregivers Support Line

NYS AVVA PRESIDENT
Nancy Rekowski
nrekowski@avva.org

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

www.vva20.org

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Mike General mwgeneral@aol.com 227-4383 h
Lynn Gursslin loiscarolyn@gmail.com 737-0976 c
Chuck Macaluso chuckmac66@yahoo.com 225-8288 h
Jerry McDermott jerrymcdermott648@gmail.com 313-8188 c
Dick Oleksyn roleksyn@gmail.com 663-5255 h
Stan Patykiewicz SNMPATYK@rochester.rr.com 247-4830 h
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