February 2018
Issue 62
Awards

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.

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, jpeck2@rochester.rr.com  Deadline for all nominations is March 10th, 2018.
Nominating Committee
by Chuck Macaluso, Chair

The Annual Meeting & Elections will be held April 12, 2018 at 6:30 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 the Stone quarry. Next to the Eagles Club, and the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

From the East. Heading West bound on 490, exit Mount Read Blvd and turn left. South bound on Mt. Read to Buffalo Road circle, turn right West bound on Buffalo Road. 1.4 miles West bound on the right side North is 1250 Buffalo Rd.

From the West: Heading East bound on 490, exit 33 East bound, Buffalo Road (Gates Center). Head East bound on Buffalo Road. Pass Howard Road 1250 will be on the left North side about .5 miles.

Positions for nominations -
All Four Officer Positions
Two Board (2) - Directors

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 issue.

- 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 previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (For example - 28 February 2018 to vote April 2018).
- 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 till 7:15 PM, after which no new ballots will be taken and votes will be tabulated.
- According to the National VVA 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 March and April BTL issues.)

Each candidate will address the membership at the March 8th (Candidates Night) 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 225-8288, Dan Corona 406-6108
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

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
POW/MIA
CHAIRMAN JOE PECK

With the start of the New Year there are currently no new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the National League of Families and the DOD of any recoveries. I am sure that the mission for 2018 are still in the planning stages but rest assure they will continue to find our missing servicemen from all wars. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War still stands at 1602.

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

- 2nd Lt. Robert Keown, US Army Air Corps was lost April 16, 1944 Papua New Guinea. He was accounted for on November 28, 2017.
- SFC. Milton M. Beed, US Army was lost February 12, 1951 in South Korea. He was accounted for on December 6, 2017.
- Mess Attendant 2nd Class Archie Callahan Jr. and Storekeeper 1st Class John W. Craig, US Navy were both lost on December 7, 1941 on board the USS Oklahoma in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They were accounted for on December 7th and 8th of 2017.
- Pfc. Henry C. Morrissey, US Marine Corps was lost October 9, 1942 in the Solomon Islands. They were accounted for on December 11, 2017.
- Pfc. Albert E. Quintero, US Army was lost December 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on December 14, 2017.

Until all have been returned and accounted for, We will never forget.
Membership Update
Mike General Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 627 members and AVVA is at 40 members as of 12/31/17. Membership has been growing (only 2 new members in the last month), **We need your help in recruiting new members.** Don’t forget to renew on time. Don’t let your membership expire. We had 2 members who did not renew this last month and 4 members who passed away.

**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
Below is a summary about thyroid conditions and benefits to review if they pertain to your situation. Also, keep in mind the February 28, 2018 is the last day to file with your local town tax authority for any changes awarded to you since last year. If you were awarded an initial service connected disability rating, (ie 20% for Diabetes) or had increase to an existing award, you should go to your local town or city tax authority with the VA award letter in hand. If you wait until, March or later the reduction in real estate property tax will not take effect until 2020. Property tax roll assessments are set a year in advance. Therefore, act now if you have had any chances to your "rating" for service connection disability. By making the deadline before February 28, 2018, you will see a change in tax bills for town and county starting in January 2019.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jerry

Thyroid Disease -- Mood changes, unexplained weight gain or loss, and frequently feeling too hot or too cold can be signs of any number of health issues. But as many women are discovering, these also are signs of thyroid disease. Thyroid disease is more common in women than men, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and it’s also more prevalent in older people.

The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland at the base of the throat. The pituitary gland sparks it by releasing thyroid-stimulating hormones, or TSH. The thyroid then sends its own hormones into the bloodstream to regulate physical energy, body temperature, weight, and mood. A simple blood test diagnoses thyroid disease. If a patient’s TSH level is high, the pituitary gland is trying to stimulate an underactive thyroid, or hypothyroid. Symptoms include dry skin, hair loss, difficulty concentrating, and weight gain. If the TSH level is low, the pituitary gland is trying to slow down an overactive thyroid, or hyperthyroid. Symptoms include rapid heartbeat, weight loss, nervousness, and irritability.

For patients with an underactive thyroid, physicians prescribe replacement thyroid hormone medication. An overactive thyroid is less common. In those cases, treatment options vary, depending on what’s causing it. Untreated, thyroid disease can lead to a number of serious health issues, including elevated cholesterol levels and high blood pressure. The good news is that most thyroid problems can be detected and treated!

The above is from the TRICARE Beneficiary Bulletin, an update on the latest news to help you make the best use of your TRICARE benefit. [Source: http://www.tricare.mil/podcast | January 12, 2018 ++]
VA Benefits Eligibility Update 06  ► A Few You May Have Overlooked

1. Any veteran who is service-connected for a disability for which he or she uses prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may receive an annual clothing allowance.

2. VA provides pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service.

3. A surviving spouse age 57 and older who remarries after December 15, 2003, is entitled to continue to receive benefits.

4. Passports are available to family members free of charge for the purpose of visiting their loved one’s grave or memorialization site at the American military cemeteries on foreign soil.

5. A rating percentage is considered “protected” once it is in place for 20 years. There would be no danger of a decreased disability rating after the 20 year mark.

6. A new imaging study has found that Gulf War veterans have what appear to be unique structural changes in the wiring of their brains.

7. Disabled Veterans may be eligible to claim a federal tax refund based on: an increase in the Veteran’s percentage of disability from the Veteran’s Administration (which may include a retroactive determination) or the combat-disabled Veteran applying for, and being granted, Combat-Related Special Compensation, after an award for Concurrent Retirement and Disability.

8. Veterans who are 100% service-connected IU may be eligible for an additional monthly entitlement of $62.50/mo for catastrophic injury.

[Source: U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs | December 31, 2017 ++]
ATTENTION ALL VETERANS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS:

Bob Bartosiewicz, CEO & Chairman of the Board of CGI Communications cordially invites you to the Grand Opening of the New Car Museum Downtown.

February 17th 2018 from 3pm to 7pm at 130 East Main St., Rochester, across from the Hyatt.

Refreshments and Hors d’oeuvre will be served. Please bring your South Avenue parking tickets to the event for validation.

This event will provide information and display Muscle Cars from 1968-1971.

On display will also be the Wall Of Honor displaying pictures of our local Vietnam Veterans. 280 photos of our local heroes and time lines as well as other displays that have been provided by Chapter 20. Come and show your support for our local Veterans and experience a piece of automotive history!
We’ve made some progress since our last request, we were able to locate a picture of David N. Reed. We are still looking for the following six servicemen so please, if you know of anyone who may have gone to school with these men or know of their family we would appreciate your help in locating their pictures.

Albert L. French    Rochester

Jose A. Robles-Miranda    Rochester

Dennis J. Keenan    Rochester, West High School-1960 to 1962

Gerald A. Culhane    Rochester, Marshall High School-1939 to 1942

Elmer E. Ellsworth    Spencerport, Madison High School-1965 to 1967

Operation "Show Your Love "!

Operation "Show Your Love " is something I would like to do for the month of February seeing that it is the Love month. If you would like to help, bring anything you would like to donate to the February meeting and we will bring them to the Richards House. Below are some suggestions. If you have any questions please call me at; 585-392-9424

Thank you for showing your Love. Kenny Allocco

For the Richards House

- Jackets
- Boots (size 9-12)
- Winter hats/gloves
- Pillows
- Bedsheets (full and twin)
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Coffee creamer
- Body Wash
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Tooth brushes & Tooth paste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- If you would like to give gift cards, Walmart gift cards goes a lot further then Wegmans.

Air Force Blue tickets

I would like to thank all who have bought my Air Force Blue tickets this past year. As you know all the money I get for selling the Flag tickets goes back to the chapter. Once again, this year Senator Joe Robach donated the flags. So last year you all helped to put in over $1000.00 back into the chapter. And there are some who just give me the money and don't take a ticket. So, a BIG thank you to all put up with me yelling. "Air Force Blue tickets for sale!!!"

Thank you, my brothers and sisters. -Ken Allocco
Come on! Lose some weight for a healthier YOU!!

The January weigh in was a good start to the 4 month campaign. 38 members participated, but we need more of you to join in. Weigh ins will be at the McDermott table during the Membership meetings. If you didn’t weigh in at the January meeting, don’t worry, you can still weigh in and be part of the healthier you movement!!
Highlights of the January Membership Meeting
111 members attended

New member Dean Bonner Air Force 66 - 70
Special Guest Denis Lepel Air Force 56 - 70

Glenn Klingenerger wins the Flag drawing
Rick Hajecki wins the 50/50 drawing
THANK YOU HONOR GUARD FOR ALL YOU DO!

Ken Allocco, Roger Burkhart, Larry Camp, George Cooper, Dan Corona, Gerry Daniels, Alan Frisa, Valentino Gatto, Mike General, Lynn Gursslin, Bill Heinrich, Ed Kire, Chuck Klauck, Chuck Macaluso, John Madigan, George Marciano, Jerry McDermott, Ray Melens, Dock Oleksyn, Stan Patykiewicz, Joe Peck, Tom Puff, Pat Shea, Bruce VanApeldoorn, Hank Wallace, Bill Wickum
A young woman brought her fiancé home to meet her parents.

After dinner, her mother told her father to find out about the young man. The father invited the fiancé to his study for a talk.

"So, what are your plans?" the father asked the young man. "I am a biblical scholar," he replied. "A biblical scholar, hmmm?" the father said. "Admirable, but what will you do to provide a nice house for my daughter to live in?"

"I will study," the young man replied, "and God will provide for us."

"And how will you buy her a beautiful engagement ring, such as she deserves?" asked the father. "I will concentrate on my studies," the young man replied, "God will provide for us."

"And children?" asked the father. "How will you support children?"

"Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replied the fiancé.

The conversation proceeded like this, and each time the father questioned, the young idealist insisted that God would provide.

Later, the mother asked, "How did it go, honey?"
The father answered,

"He has no job and no plans, and he thinks I'm God."

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**As I get older . . . I realize:**

I talk to myself, because there are times I need expert advice.

I consider "On Trend" to be the clothes that still fit.

The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I have days when my life is just a tent away from a circus.
Hi Everyone,

See below email regarding an exciting opportunity for Veterans of all ages who are interested in going back to school. RIT has a new program for free!!! See below details and website link. This a great opportunity! Contact Rachel Flaherty directly with questions and interest in the program and share this information with your fellow Veterans!

The Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Program provides is a free opportunity for veterans of all ages to gain academic skills required for entry into post-secondary education. It is a grant funded through the Department of Education and housed at RIT. We enroll participants into the program on a rolling basis and work with them for as much time as needed to help them reach their goals and transition into post-secondary training, which includes universities, community colleges, certificate programs, apprenticeships, ect. Services are offered continuously throughout the year and include short-term remedial coursework in math and English, workshops, self-paced computer tutorials, tutoring, career assessments, and more:  

https://www.rit.edu/diversity/veterans-upward-bound

Anyone who may be interested in applying or learning more is welcome to reach out to me directly and I am happy to meet with them wherever they are.

Thank you for your support and help in referring any veterans to us!

Rachel Flaherty
Director
Veterans Upward Bound and I’m First Initiative
Division of Diversity and Inclusion
Rochester Institute of Technology

162 Lomb Memorial Drive
Campus Center 2720
Rochester, New York 14623
Email: rkfss@rit.edu | Phone: 585.475.5495
Website: www.rit.edu/diversity/imfirst | www.rit.edu/diversity/veterans-upward-bound
Aside from our activities we do such as the Painting, cooking class and bowling we have teamed up with the VOC Battle Buddy program to offer The Hang Out. Which is more of a supportive group where you can come hang out with fellow veterans, eat pizza and talk. If you are interested please come or contact me for more information. The flyer is attached and listed below.

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The Hangout

Join us for comradery with fellow veterans. Come together to share stories and laughs with provided refreshments.

Hangout occurs the first & last Tuesday of every month at 2:00-3:30 pm in VOC Boardroom.

The Hangout is a collaborative program provided courtesy of Compeer CORPS and VOC

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Eric Baetzhold | USMC Veteran | Intake & Engagement Specialist

585.546.8280, ext.207
Ebaetzhold@compeerrochester.org
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259 Monroe Ave
Rochester, NY 14607
Board Meetings

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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.

Proud Supporter of Chapter 20 Vietnam Veterans of America
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
Contact Information

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Veterans Walk – C. Macaluso  chuckmac66@yahoo.com  225-8288 h
Women’s Affairs – Rosemary Rossi-Williams  pefrose@gmail.com  738-6138 c

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

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION
Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial 753-7725 (enter 9; enter 2 to leave a message)
VA Outpatient Clinic 465 Westfall Rd 463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center 459 South Avenue 546-1081
VA Vet Center 232-5040
Veterans Administration 800-827-1000
Monroe County Veterans Service Agency 753-6040
e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com
VA Veterans Benefits Hotline 800-827-1000
Women Veterans Call Center 888-829-6636
VA Medical Center in Batavia 297-1000
VA Hospital in Buffalo 716-834-9200
VA Medical Center in Canandaigua 394-2000
VA Medical Center in Bath 607-664-4000
Vietnam Veterans of America National Office 800-882-1316
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund 202-393-0090
National League of Families
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