January 2018
Issue 61

Happy New Year
Dear members,

Another year has passed in Chapter 20, a Chapter second to none. We have a membership that keeps growing, thanks to Mike General (the membership chair) and he is doing a fantastic job along with other current members who actively recruit Vietnam Veterans to join our Chapter. New blood and new ideas are important to our organization.

The year was long and rewarding with many chapter events highlighting this past year. There were many good events and some that seemed different because of the members that we have lost to illness. The parades were amazing thanks to Commander Hank Wallace who keeps the troops in line during these special events which are in the vanguard of where Chapter 20 intersects with the community. We also thank Chuck Macaluso, the Honor Guard Commander. Chuck has the task of arranging each event, many on short notice, and ensuring that the Honor Guard volunteers will be there.

I want to thank Jerry McDermott for organizing the many trailer events that took place during the year and for all the volunteers that attended these outreaches. Without them, it would be impossible for these events to reach veterans that need benefit information or maybe just a chance to witness a veterans’ organization leaving no one behind. I must tip my hat to Vito Scarpetta as well for his seamless transition in taking over Between the Lines, the glue that holds all of us together. Well done Vito.

I would also like to thank Joan Macaluso and Ida Gatto for greeting each member every second Thursday of the month to sure everyone signs in (and hopefully buys a raffle ticket). I want to thank Ken Allocco too for the terrific job with the monthly “Flags” raffling and coordinating this program with Senator Robach’s office. And once again spearheading the Louis Run Chapter fundraiser. Additionally, I want to thank Lynn Gursslin and his wife Lois for the great job they are doing selling Chapter gear. Most important to me are the guys that help me set up before and after each monthly meeting and the guys that help with the pizza. There are many hands at work each meeting that we don’t always recognize and they all contribute directly to Chapter 20’s success. Thanks to all of you.

For me it’s an ongoing process dealing with everyday issues for the chapter and a multitude of phone calls and e-mails. I am committed to working closely with the Board members to discuss and resolve issues that are important to the wellbeing of the Chapter and I have been lucky to have a Board that works so well together. Through the years as your President we made very good progress in resolving many issues that directly affect the future of the chapter. Every day I work diligently to preserve the integrity of the chapter and the special place we have in the Rochester community. As president of Chapter 20, not only do I have the honor of representing our organization at many events, but I also am doing everything I can to ensure that we are on a financial footing that allows us to continue to be a meaningful part of Monroe County and a voice for all veterans. Your help is what makes the difference. Thank you all and I wish you all a Happy New Year!
It’s that time of the year, get ready to lose some weight for a healthier YOU!!

Weigh ins will be at the McDermott table during the January to April meetings.
Balazy, George Stephen 1-2-1945
Stahlecker, Gary Robert 1-3-1949
Lawton, Michael Eugene 1-4-1949
Manarel, Charles Ross 1-1-1945
Perrine, Elton Lawrence 1-6-1935
Lampman, Kenneth Wayne 1-6-1946
Bermingham, Daniel Joseph 1-9-1947
Rizzi, Ralph Joseph 1-9-1947
Graziosi, Francis G. 1-10-1951
Upright, Edwin Francis 1-11-1942
Mile, Raymond Gene 1-11-1949
Hoppough, Dennis Karl 1-12-1947
Keller, Leroy Henry 1-12-1948
Culhane, Gerald Augustine 1-16-1920
Paduchowski, Paul Richard 1-16-1947
Barber, Lonnie 1-18-1930
Ugino, John Joseph 1-19-1948
Green, Thomas Henry 1-21-1926
Hucks, Walter H. 1-22-1933
Harster, Raymond James 1-28-1950
Thurston, Wesley George 1-29-1942

**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: ___________________________

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 no reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the National League of Families and the DOD of any recoveries this month. 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:

- SFC. Harry E. Harkness, US Army was lost on November 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on October 30, 2017.
- 2nd LT. William H. Harth Jr., US Army was lost August 1, 1943 in Romania. He was accounted for on November 8, 2017.
- Fireman 2nd Class Martin A. Gara, US Navy was lost on board the Oklahoma on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor Hawaii. He was accounted for on November 8, 2017.
- Sgt. Ollie E. Shepard, US Army was lost December 3, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on November 17, 2017.
- Radioman 2nd Class Julius H.O. Pieper, US Navy Reserves was lost June 19, 1944 on the beaches of Normandy, France. He was accounted for on November 20, 2017.
- First Sgt. David H. Quinn, US Marine Corps Reserves was lost November 21, 1943 Gilbert Island in the Tarawa Atoll. He was accounted for on November 22, 2017.
- Pfc. Lyle E. Charpilloz, US Marine Corps Reserves was lost November 3, 1943 Gilbert Island in the Tarawa Atoll. He was accounted for on November 29, 2017.
- Pvt. Emil F. Ragucci, US Marine Corps Reserves was lost November 20, 1943 Gilbert Island in the Tarawa Atoll. He was accounted for on November 30, 2017.

With the passing of another holiday let us pray for the many families who still have emptiness in their hearts and to stay strong. They will never give up hope and as true Americans, neither shall we. Until they all have been accounted for and brought home, we will never forget our missing hero’s.
Highlights of the December Membership Meeting
98 members were in attendance

Richard Stewart from Honor Flight, accepts a $1000 donation from the chapter.

Chaplin Tom Puff wins the Flag drawing

Dean Locke wins the 50/50 drawing.

Bill Schrader wins the special drawing for the “Janesville, An American Story” book.
Chief Jim VanBrederode from the Gates Police accepts a $500 donation from the Chapter.

**Opioid Emergency Assistance**

At our December 2017 meeting, Gates, NY Police Chief James Van Brederode, gave a brief overview of the steps being taken by the Gates Police Department and community partners to try and assist people and families confronted by the Opioid Crisis. So, to recap, there is help available, and Chief Van Brederode urged all in attendance to keep handy this phone number, (585) 310-4080. The number will allow contact to Addiction Support Services, by Recovery Now N.Y., this is a 24-hour phone service for any individual in an opioid crisis. Keep it handy, pass it around and make known that HELP is available. In 2016, it was reported that the Opioid crisis claimed 63,000 lives. This ranking placed the opioid crisis ahead of taking more lives that Breast cancer, Colon cancer and automobile accidents as a statistical category.

Submitted by Jerry McDermott
2018, Can you believe it? Seems like it was just 1968 and my, how the time does fly. Things are going well with the Attica Active Veterans Group and the administration has approved and initiated a Veterans Council to assist and advise the AAVG Board of Directors in their endeavors to help the incarcerated vets at Attica. AAVG membership meetings have been very well attended per President Phil Glaser and the prison authorities have approved the display of kites made for Jack Michels’ annual fundraiser as well as items the Crochet Squad knits in Visiting Room #1 at that facility. I recently sent in another small donation for the vets there and I know it will be put to good use.

Tom Cray, founder and former Director of the Veterans Outreach Center, recently passed away and I attended his memorial service at Monroe Community College. There was a good turnout and it was so nice to see our Honor Guard be such a big part of that ceremony. Back in the day, Tom was a prime mover not just of the VOC but also in organizing Chapter #20 and the Agent Orange lawsuit. I first met Tom in 1975 and he had his moments but I never doubted his commitment to veterans, especially when it was not popular.

I was interviewed by a University of Rochester student for a military history course he was taking and I was impressed by his preparation and questions. He said his professor was a Vietnam vet so that bodes well. I took in the Army/Navy football game on TV and was not the least bit conflicted having been in the Army and having a son currently in the Navy. I actually rooted for both teams and pretty much for whichever Academy was in the lead. This should come as no surprise to those of you that are aware of my legendary shallowness and hypocrisy. I must say that I was totally blown away by the singing of the National Anthem before the game. Nobody obviously took a knee to protest and seniors there were probably looking at deployments in June. We are all on the same team and that’s what struck me most about these service academies.

I visited the Canandaigua VA on 12/20 along with several other Chapter 20 members and their wives and went up on one of the wards to hand out treats and gifts and to sing Christmas carols.
I drove down there with Fred and Marie Elliott and naturally Fred and I argued all the way down. I know lobotomy upon demand is not a popular issue but who can really say it is not one worth pursuing? I think Marie was ready for one by the time we got there but this trip was time really well spent. There are so many Vietnam vets on those floors now and everyone happily joined in on the singing and good cheer. We went around and saw the guys in the hospice unit too and that visit to the VA was really what Christmas is all about. It was really brought home when it was determined that we have several chapter members up on the floor we were on. The ride back was quite different and a bit longer as it is noted by this writer that hitchhiking can still lead to vagrancy charges in New York.

Finally, please consider volunteering in Lifetime Cares Veterans to Veterans hospice program. We really are hurting for volunteers and can barely cover all the veterans coming on to hospice. My bereavement group with Lifetime still meets the second and fourth Monday of each month for anyone interested and we are now into our fourth year. Speaking of years, Happy New Year!!
Membership Update
Mike General Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 627 members and AVVA is at 40 members as of 11/30/17. Membership has been growing (only 5 new members in the last 3 months). **We need your help in recruiting new members.** Don’t forget to renew on time. Don’t let your membership expire. We had 0 members who did not renew this last month.

**Please Renew Your Membership!**

**All Life Memberships are $100.00**

If you are 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](mailto: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: ________________________________ Date of Birth: _______________ Sex ( )M ( )F

Address: ________________________________

City: ________________________________

Zip: ___________ County: ____________________

I am not a Vietnam Veteran, but I want to help Vietnam Veterans and their families.

Please accept my donation:
( ) $10 ( ) $20 ( ) $50 Other ($__________)

Payment Options: (    ) Check   (    ) Money Order


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

VVA is a non-profit veterans service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.

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.
Remembering Pearl Harbor
Wreaths Across America
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 29, 2017

White House VA Hotline Now Fully Staffed
and Operational Around the Clock to Serve Nation's Veterans

WASHINGTON

--- Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that the White House VA Hotline, first launched in June as part of President Donald J. Trump's commitment to reforming VA, is now fully staffed with live agents working to serve Veterans 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

The hotline, which became 24-hour operational in mid-October, is now staffed by a team consisting of 90 percent Veterans or employees who have a Veteran family member, and is in response to Veterans' requests to talk to agents who could relate to their experiences.

"The White House VA Hotline provides our nation's Veterans with a direct, dedicated contact line that allows them to interact with highly trained, live agents to answer their needs and concerns," said VA Secretary David J. Shulkin.

"Since the initial launch of the hotline in June, we listened to our Veterans, who indicated that they prefer speaking with other Veterans and Veteran family members, and we adjusted our hiring based on that feedback," added Shulkin.

"We're proud that the hotline is now staffed 24/7 by a team of mostly Veterans or Veteran family members who have direct knowledge of their particular concerns and can use their experience to address them in the best way possible with the resources of the VA. This represents a true win-win for Veterans and their loved ones."
Since 24/7 coverage began in October, the hotline has served more than 10,000 callers.

Hotline agents answer inquiries, provide directory assistance, document concerns about VA care, benefits and services, and expedite the referral and resolution of those concerns. Agents undergo regular updates and training on VA services based on hotline trends and are assisted by newly implemented tracking software to help VA capture and improve its response, referral and resolution processes to best support Veterans.

The hotline can be accessed at 855-948-2311 and is VA's first non-clinical, non-emergency around-the-clock call center. It provides Veterans a supplemental option to report issues if they are not being addressed through VA's normal customer service channels.

The hotline's agents are located at a VA facility in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Agents have access to a multitude of resources and contact information to help Veterans. The hotline also generates real-time reports to VA experts who can help address the specific issues of Veterans as well as make better-informed decisions on where program improvements are needed.

Submitted for publication by Bill Auble
We are writing this letter as members of the Warriors of Freedom Memorial Committee. For the past several months, the committee has been meeting to discuss plans for the construction of a memorial in Monroe County’s Highland Park. The committee is committed to raising enough money to construct a Memorial that will recognize and honor the memory of service members from Monroe and surrounding counties, who lost their lives in US military conflicts from 1990 through our current times.

To complete this project, we need your help. The committee is depending on the good will and generosity of individuals, companies and organizations to fund this Memorial. In doing so, our men and women will be remembered, schools will be able to visit all of the memorials in Highland Park, and the families of those fallen will be able to reflect and know that an entire community recognize the sacrifices of those who bravely served our country. The approximate total cost of the project is $300,000. All donations can be made through the Finger Lakes Area Community Endowment. (FLACE)

The Finger Lakes Area Community Endowment (FLACE) was created in 1994 to facilitate and stimulate charitable giving throughout the Finger Lakes region. The Community Endowment was awarded exempt status from federal income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in Section 501(c) (3) on December 5, 1994. Documentation for tax purposes is available upon request. You may contact this endowment by going to: https://www.cnbank.com/FLACE. Please use the drop down menu to select “Warriors of Freedom.” You may also send a check to our P.O. Box. Checks are made out to FLACE-Warriors of Freedom Memorial.

Please help us honor those who gave so much for us with a contribution for the construction of this Memorial. Thank you in advance for your support.

Warm Regards,

Chairman: Hector Sotomayer
Treasurer: Ray Melen
Members: Rita Hasenauer, Dan Hasenauer, Paula Burgin, Caroline McClellan
IMMUTABLE LAWS

☐ ☐ ☐ Murphy's Law of Lockers
If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

☐ ☐ ☐ Law of Physical Surfaces
The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

☐ ☐ ☐ Law of Logical Argument
Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

I rear-ended a car this morning ... the start of a REALLY bad day!
The driver got out of the other car, and he was a DWARF!!
He looked up at me and said "I am NOT happy!"
So, I said, "Well, which one ARE you then?"
That's how the fight started.

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security.
The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age.
I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home. I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I
would have to go home and come back later.
The woman said, "Unbutton your shirt".
So, I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair.
She said, "That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me", and she processed my Social Security
application.
When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office.
She said, "You should have dropped your pants. You might have got disability too."
And then the fight started...

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and
told her preacher she had two final requests.
First, she wanted to be cremated, and second,
she wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart.
'Wal-Mart?' the preacher exclaimed. 'Why Wal-Mart?'
'Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week'
### Board Meetings

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### Membership Meetings

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<td>January 11, 2018</td>
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<tr>
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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.
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
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 Benefits Line
http://www.va.gov/womenvet
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
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Health – Jerry McDermott  jerrymcdermott648@gmail.com  313-8188 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
Veterans Administration  800-827-1000
Monroe County Veterans Service Agency  753-6040
Vietnam Veterans of America National Office  800-882-1316
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund  223-393-0090
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

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  753-7275
VA Outpatient Clinic  465 Westfall Rd  463-2600
Veterans Outreach Center  459 South Avenue  546-1081
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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.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial
VVA New York State Council
www.nyvietnamvets.org
Honor Flight
www.HonorFlightRochester.org

VVA Chapter 20  585-482-7396
P.O. Box 12580
Rochester, NY 14612
www.vva20.org

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