HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AMERICA'S NAVY

Special thanks to Carol Visconti for designing this magnificent cake!
Remembering Our Fallen Heroes
Born in November

Website - http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Cotterill, Michael 11-1-1945
Smith, Barry James 11-1-1946
Cannan, Dennis Charles 11-1-1950
Stirpe, John 11-3-1948
Mandracchia, Paul S. 11-3-1951
Sheradin, Robert Donald 11-4-1949
Fry, George Harold 11-7-1943
Mattaro Jr., Donald J. 11-9-1944
Dailey, Gerald Lee 11-9-1946
Van Reypen, Robert Julius 11-9-1946
Stymus, Gary Lee 11-10-1941
Manning, Bruce K. 11-10-1943
Laird, Francis Richard 11-12-1946
Widener, James Edward 11-12-1948
Bechtold, Francis Scott 11-20-1947
Lambooy Jr., John P. 11-22-1946
Logsdon, Clifford Douglas 11-22-1949
Owen, Timothy Samuel 11-25-1946
Simmons, Robert 11-25-1951
Boise, Richard Howard 11-26-1946
Smith Jr., Edward Dewilton 11-29-1944
Graves, Donald LaVerne 11-29-1946
Barnard, Richard George 11-30-1937
Gell, Jack Earl 11-30-1940

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
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).

* Due to natural wear and tear, bricks will be replaced once (free of charge) at the discretion of the committee.

Questions please call Chuck or Joan Macaluso as 585-225-8288
POW/MIA
CHAIRMAN JOE PECK

There are currently no new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the National League of Families and the DOD of any serviceman recovered, returned or identified this month. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War still stands at 1594.

Correction from last months report:
On the report of Captain Richard Abbot Kibbey, He was on a mission on February 6, 1967 not 1976 as prited.

There are reports of the recoveries and identifications of individuals from the following wars.

- Pfc. Lewis E. Price, US Army was lost November 6, 1944 in Germany. He was accounted for on September 24, 2018.
- Pfc. John W. Martin, US Army was lost December 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on September 25, 2018.
- Pfc. Joseph I. Nalvik, US Army Air Corps was lost July 17, 1945 in India. He was accounted for on September 26, 2018.
- Seaman 2nd Class Deward W. Duncan Jr., US Naval Reserve was lost January 12, 1944 in Tarawa. He was accounted for on September 26, 2018.
- Pfc. Marvin E. Dickson, US Army was lost November 13, 1944 in Germany. He was accounted for on September 27, 2018.
- 1st Lt. Allen R. Turner, US Army Air Corps was lost July 17, 1945 in India. He was accounted for on October 2, 2018.
- 2nd Lt. James R. Lord, US Army Air Corps was lost August 10, 1944 in France. He was accounted for on October 2, 2018.
- Sgt. 1st Class James L. Boyce, US Army was lost July 11, 1950 in South Korea. He was accounted for on October 2, 2018.
- The following Naval Personnel were on Board the USS Oklahoma and were lost December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii: Francis E. Dick, Gerald L. Clayton, James T. Cheshire, Herbert J. Poindexter, John A. Austin and Creighton H. Workman, all were accounted for between September 26th and October 5th of 2018.

Welcome home Brothers.
God Bless and Rest in Peace
Membership Update
Mike General Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 626 members and AVVA is at 40 members as of 06/30/18. Membership has been growing slow (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 4 members who did not renew this last month and 7 members who passed away.

**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))

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: ____________________________________
Home Phone: ( 555 )________________________
City: _____________________________________
Work Phone: ( 555 )________________________
Zip: ___________ County: ____________________
Email Address: _______________________

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

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

Payment Options: ( ) Check ( ) Money Order

Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-Era veterans who
Served on active duty in the U.S. Military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975 (for Vietnam-Era Veterans).

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

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

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

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.
Well Autumn is definitely here and time once again to get out of the yard and into a comfy chair in front of the fireplace. I want to thank everyone for the yarn donations and I sent another package into Attica. The Crochet Squad there is busy and actually filling requests from different organizations for their handiwork. Jerry Lamb has been sending American Legion magazines into the prison for me and I want to thank him for doing that. The vets at Attica do appreciate all we do for them and I got a nice thank you letter from them for all the support from Chapter 20. The Attica Active Veterans Group is doing much better and representatives from the group are being allowed to meet with new veteran inmates at Phase 1 of their prison orientation and informed of the veterans group and their activities. I never thought that this would happen and I am so grateful for it. The numbers of men in the AAVG keep going up and elections have been scheduled. The Veterans Council at Attica has also been reformed I’ve been told and that is a good thing. A Veterans Day event has been approved for November 4th and I sent in a small donation from the Chapter and I am hoping to be able to attend there. Chapter #20 member Jack Michel had his “Come Fly a Kite for Homeless Vets” fundraiser on September 22nd at the George F. Lamm American Legion Post in Williamsville, NY. It was a new venue and a different time of year for this event and it was mildly successful, about what you would expect from incorporating these changes. The kites are all made by the Attica vets and no doubt next year will be better. Jack continues to attend the AAVG meetings on a regular basis and I do thank him for his steadfast involvement with the guys there. I attended a Lifetime Care fundraiser for their hospice program on Sept. 7th along with Joe Peck, Mike Sanfilippo and Bill Auble and that was quite successful and we ate like the manly men that we are.

I attended the 9-11 Memorial Service at the Vietnam Memorial and the Chapter really stood tall. The Honor Guard did a great job as did Glenn Peck in photographing the event. There were several local politicians that spoke and they thankfully kept politics out of their remarks. Laura Stradley, the Director of the VOC, was especially touching in what she said. I also attended Joe Peck’s POW/MIA service there on September 15th and attendance was sparse but those present carried the memories of all those names proudly. A few days after that I was at the Memorial Board Meeting chaired by Chuck Macaluso and we got quite a bit done there. Somewhere in between all that I had breakfast with Geno “Timebomb” Lenyk, Larry “The Monk” D’Angelo, Pat “Parole” Pudetti and Ray “Jarhead” Melens. And I was the stable one.
Health issues are every present and all around us. As older members of our great society, we may be prone to health situations that others may not be aware of or have any interest in at all. So, I wanted to present to all some topics of interest that may pertain to us (as Vietnam Era military individuals and spouses) particularly. One article in particular deals with Hepatitis C testing. We have had a Chapter # 20 Membership meeting several years ago now with the maker of the vaccine and treatment of Hep C, so it is just a reminder to get tested. Our age group especially is vulnerable. The info concerning "top 10 disabilities" treated by the VA, is interesting too. Some of us can certainly related to having or being treated for his ailments. Also, an interesting article about Hearing Health came across my email one day, so after reading it I felt it should be share with you, our membership. As always, share what you learn here and pay it forward to anyone who might benefit from gaining more information. We can help each other in many ways, sharing info that may help out someone else is just one way to give forward.

Respectfully submitted by, Jerry McDermott, Chair Health Affairs

**Hearing Health**

> Noise/Chemical Exposure Study Underway

Scientists are studying the possible long-term effects of exposure to high levels of noise and certain chemicals on the auditory functioning among active duty service members and veterans. Called the Noise Outcomes in Servicemembers Epidemiology, or NOISE study, one objective of the project is to clarify the correlation between hearing injury and exp xylene, styrene, and hydro-carbon blends found in jet fuel, as well as metals and asphyxiants in welding fumes and vehicle exhaust.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, exposure to certain chemicals, called ototoxicants, can cause hearing loss or balance problems. The risk of hearing loss may be magnified when workers are exposed to these chemicals while working around elevated noise levels. A first-of-its-kind in the Department of Defense, the NOISE study is a collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research (NCRAR) in Portland, Oregon, and the DoD Hearing Center of Excellence (HCE) at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

Researchers are collecting data on service members during their active duty time and into their post-military lives. “The long-term intent is to collect data from subjects for 20-plus years to observe changes in their hearing and tinnitus and associate those changes with numerous different variables,” said Dr. James Henry, NOISE study principal investigator with the VA’s NCRAR. In addition to undergoing comprehensive audiologic assessments for the study, participants fill out extensive questionnaires about their medical history and military exposures. Participants are also completing an analysis called the Lifetime Exposure to Noise and Solvents Questionnaire (LENS-Q), which documents their military occupational, non-military occupational, and recreational exposures to both noise and chemicals.

When analyzing the data, researchers will evaluate the prevalence of chemical exposures across demographic categories and examine the relationship, if any, between those exposures and injury risk. They will also identify factors related to any identified effects of chemical exposures on auditory injuries, including any possible significant differences between individuals with higher versus lower noise exposures, as determined by objective and subjective hearing and
tinnitus problems. Henry said researchers are in the early stages of looking at the data, and to date have enrolled more than 600 participants, including Veterans through NCRAR in Portland and active-duty service members in the San Antonio area. He added that the team will soon provide a full analysis of the data collected so far from the participants.

Additional research into the long-term effects of noise and chemical exposure is anticipated, with the plan to conduct hearing tests to measure future audio-metric outcomes in the NOISE study participants. “A study of this magnitude will give us more definitive information about the hearing health of our service members, which can then be used to develop future hearing loss prevention programs, hearing protection devices and other protective equipment to safeguard service members,” said Dr. Carlos Esquivel, NOISE study principal investigator for the HCE. [Source: Shift Colors | Health.mil | Fall-Winter 2018 ++]

VA Hepatitis C Care Update 18 ► Have You Been Tested?

Hepatitis C is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). The most common way to get hepatitis C is by coming into contact with the blood of someone who has it. It’s important for certain people to get tested for the hepatitis C virus. Vietnam Era Veterans and those born between 1945 and 1965 are at higher risk for hepatitis C. Talking to a healthcare provider about testing is highly recommended for anyone at risk. VA has this testing available for at risk Veterans. This spring, VA began treatment for its 100,000th Veteran with hepatitis C.

Outside of VA, this is considered “Covered Prevention Services for Adults” meaning that many insurance plans provide 100 percent coverage for preventive care, but require you to use an in-network provider. Hepatitis C screening is covered for adults at increased risk and one-time screening for people born between 1945 and 1965. Nationwide, VA leads the country in HCV screening, testing, treatment, research and prevention. Facilities across VA are implementing innovative strategies to increase testing. Veterans can receive hepatitis C testing at VA if they are enrolled in VA care. You may be able to get tested in or outside the VA network at no cost to you.

Three common types of specialists that you may be referred to for hepatitis C testing are gastroenterologists, hepatologists, and infectious disease specialists. A gastroenterologist treats diseases of the digestive system, including the liver. A hepatologist treats diseases of the liver, including hepatitis C. An infectious disease specialist treats diseases that are spread from many sources, including those from person to person, like hepatitis C and HIV (human immunodeficiency syndrome). Many people who have hepatitis C can live for years without feeling sick. But the virus can still damage the liver, even when there aren’t any symptoms. You could also spread the virus to others without knowing it. The only way to know for sure if you have hepatitis C is to get a blood test.

Hepatitis C testing is the key to living a longer, healthier life. Take action and talk to your healthcare provider to find out if you are a candidate. Refer to https://www.hepatitis.va.gov/patient/index.asp for more information on this
Imagine you are on a vacation with your family with the sound of waves crashing and warm sun rays peeking through the palm trees around you. Then, an alarm goes off on your phone to remind you to take your medication and when you open the bottle, you realize your prescription is running low. Much to your chagrin, you end up sacrificing money and hours of precious vacation time to find, schedule and visit an emergency room, urgent care center, or pharmacy clinic to obtain a new prescription.

Thanks to OneVA Pharmacy, VA is making prescription refills simpler for traveling Veterans. OneVA Pharmacy is available and implemented at all VA medical centers (VAMC) as of June 2018. By simply registering at a local VAMC that uses OneVA, Veterans can forego the time-consuming and convoluted process formerly required to request a new prescription. “Right now, throughout the entire country, if you have a Veteran living in California and travel to Florida and want to have their prescription, they can do that. They go to the pharmacy and use this product to get the prescription filled,” explained Ms. Angela Chow, an implementation manager with VA’s Office of Information and Technology (OIT).

Before the implementation of OneVA Pharmacy, traveling Veterans who needed a prescription refill were required to either a) visit the emergency room, b) visit the urgent care center, or c) schedule a pharmacy clinic appointment. With OneVA, patients’ pharmacy information is available across VA so pharmacists can access any prescription already on file from any VAMC. Veterans on the road can easily refill their prescriptions—with the exception of controlled substance prescriptions, such as opioid or narcotic pain relievers and anti-anxiety medications. This new process improves efficiency and saves time for both Veterans and pharmacists. By providing streamlined access to Veterans’ active and refillable prescription information and enabling the ability to request prescription refills directly from any VA pharmacy, pharmacists can fulfill window refill requests much more quickly. The Road to OneVA

VHA and OIT worked jointly to roll out OneVA Pharmacy through several phases starting at the end of 2016, with the final step of implementation finished in June 2018. Since final implementation, pharmacists have filled 7,934 prescriptions and saved countless hours of Veteran and provider time. Despite the successful implementation of OneVA during the first phase of the project, there is still work to be done to make this service even greater for Veterans and pharmacists. Dr. Robert Silverman, PharmD, VHA’s project manager for OneVA Pharmacy shared, “Phase two will allow VA pharmacies to address many of the integrated workflow functions not present in OneVA Pharmacy phase one.”

Phase two of the project will also eliminate the need for a pharmacist to contact another pharmacist to work around scenarios not yet covered by OneVA Pharmacy. A unified VA pharmacy across VA is vital to providing better services to Veterans, improving efficiency, and providing safe care by reducing chances for mistakes, especially for the aging Veteran population. VHA and OIT will continue to partner together to further improve the connection and capabilities between pharmacies so that Veterans receive the high-quality health care services they have earned.

[Source: Vantage Point | October 5, 2018 ++]
VA Most Common Disabilities ► FY 2017 Stats

Tinnitus remained the most prevalent service-connected disability among new Veterans Benefits Administration beneficiaries in FY 2017, as VA saw a 6 percent increase in auditory disabilities compared with the previous year. Nearly a quarter-million (247,944) auditory disability claims were made by new compensation recipients in FY 2017, according to the administration’s recently released Annual Benefits Report. Of those, 159,800 involved tinnitus, bringing the total number of VA tinnitus cases to 1,786,980 - most among all service-connected disabilities. Another 83,329 new beneficiaries suffered from some form of hearing loss, bringing that overall total to more than 1.1 million, second on the overall list.

New compensation recipients accounted for more than 1.5 million disabilities in FY 2017, up from the previous year (1,516,948 to 1,495,373). Each veteran new to the VA system averaged 5.11 disabilities, down from 5.26 in FY 2016. The most prevalent disabilities among new compensation recipients in FY 2017:

1. **Tinnitus**: 159,800 cases.
3. Hearing loss: 81,529.
4. Lumbosacral or cervical strain: 73,073.
5. Limitation of motion of the arm: 67,563.
8. Limitation of motion of the ankle 50,384.
9. **Migraine** 41,912.
10. Paralysis of the sciatic nerve, 36,584.

The average individual disability payout, excluding service-connected death payouts, was $11,822 in FY 2017, per the report, for a total of $3.51 billion. That’s up slightly from the year before, with an average of $11,661 resulting in $3.32 billion in payouts to new beneficiaries. Total VA disability compensation for FY 2017, including service-connected death payouts, was $76.52 billion, up more than $5 billion from the previous year. [Source: MOAA Newsletter | Kevin Lilly | September 24, 2018 ++]
Highlights of the October Membership Meeting
120 people attended

New members and 1st time attendees


Art Garza, US Airforce 1956 - 1979


Winner of the Flag Drawing was Thomas Gallagher III
Winner of the 50/50 was David Meyers (Picture in next months issue)
The Chapter donated $1000 for the Batavia Home, Dick Oleksyn accepted the check on their behalf.

The Chapter donated $1500 for the Vet Court, Ray Melens accepted the check on their behalf.
AIR FORCE BLUE TICKETS

I have been doing the flag drawing for a long time now. I would like to tell you why.. This chapter means a lot to me. It helped me come out from under my “HOOD” and you all know what that means. So, when I saw a way to help the chapter stay in the black I went for it. I started to sell flags at your meetings... it went well so I asked your senator, Joe Robach if he would buy our “A” flags and he has been doing it every year. And now Cheryl Dinolfo is buying our POW MIA flags. We raised over $1200 a year and I thank you all. If fact some of you just give me the money and don’t want a ticket. The chapter means a lot to them too. This past month we hit a new high of $192.00!
I thank you all so very much. See you next month with me saying…”AIR FORCE BLUE TICKETS”

Kenny Alloco
Bill Wickum and Joe Peck received Appreciation certificates from the Gold Star Mothers for their participation in providing their expertise as escorts for the Gold Star Mothers Ceremony.
COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVANCE
In 1965, Tom Ras did two things that would have a major effect on his life, he graduated from Edison Technical High School and he enlisted in the Army under the buddy system.

Tom was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey for basic training and stayed there for Advanced Infantry Training. When he completed all the initial training, he went to Fort Ord in California where he was made the battalion clerk. He was at Fort Ord for 16 months and made E-5 in 21 months of service.

June of 1967 found Tom in Vietnam with the 394th Transportation Battalion. I don’t know if it was the weather, the monsoons, or a hit on the head, but Tom extended his tour twice and stayed in Vietnam with the Army until April of 1969. During those twenty-two (22) months of service, he worked with a construction group at Quin Nhon and made E-6. But Tom still found time to secure food and other items that he brought to a leprosarium in Quin Nhon in exchange for ceramic tiles that he used for various projects in the battalion area.

One of the projects Tom worked on was the construction of an enlisted men’s club. Needing electrical supplies, a plan was made to trade with the Air Force for the needed supplies. Somehow a case of frozen lobster fell off a supply ship and was traded to the Air Force for those supplies. (Did I mention that Tom’s cohorts off-loaded ships at Quin Nhon?)

During Tom’s time with the Army in Vietnam, Tom was taught how to fish with grenades by the U.S. Coast Guard; a skill that has gone unused since then.

In Quin Nhon, a red alert was called one night because a suspicious object was seen in the bay and thought to be headed for shore. Eventually the object was neutralized by machine gun. The next morning a dead turtle washed ashore, riddled with bullet holes.

Three weeks after Tom fulfilled his commitment to Uncle Sam, he was back in Vietnam. Why? For the oldest reason in the world, he was in love with and eventually married a Vietnamese woman. Upon his return to Saigon, Tom flew to Quin Nhon where he worked as a volunteer with the same crew he worked with while in the Army.

While in the Army, Tom attempted to get married to his Vietnamese girlfriend but the “paperwork got lost”. But as a civilian, Tom secured the proper paperwork, paid the appropriate bribes, and got married. Tom’s son was born in Vietnam and then in 1970, Tom brought his pregnant wife and his son to the United States along with her son from a previous marriage. Tom went back to Vietnam on his own and eventually returned to the U.S. in September of 1971.

As a civilian, Tom interviewed for a position as a general manager for bands. The company that hired Tom was owned by an Australian woman who then sold it to an American couple who were entertainers. The job entailed a lot of bartering and scrounging to accomplish the task at hand.

Managing one or two bands in Quin Nhon and another eight to twelve bands in Danang, Tom was required to spend a lot of time with Vietnamese officials eating, drinking, and paying bribes. At one-point Tom was arrested.
by the 4th Infantry Division’s Military Police for carrying an M-1 Carbine on a military base. He spent 4 hours in a lock-up but the band he drove to Pleiku from Quin Nhon in a borrowed deuce-and-a-half performed on time.

Of the bands Tom worked with, 96% were Filipino, 1 Malaysian band, and the rest were Australian and Vietnamese. One American entertainer that Tom might have worked with was Duane Eddy, but Mr. Eddy was asked to leave Vietnam before he could perform because of his elitist attitude.

Tom, along with the co-owner of FUM Associates (Tom’s boss), Larry Smith, drove from Quin Nhon to An Khe, Pleiku, Tuy Hoa, Cam Rahn Bay, and back to Quin Nhon by jeep. Not something he would do again especially since they drove into an ROK (Republic of Korea) ambush site.

Tom is now retired after 34 years in Fleet Maintenance for the City of Rochester and resides in Webster with his significant other, Sue.

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**The Little Refrigerator That Could**

*By Fred Elliott*

In June of 1972, college graduate and Army draftee, William “Bill” Schrader, arrived in South Vietnam. This was the first step in what would become a lifelong journey for young Bill.

Like others before him, Bill grew up in the Swillburg section of Rochester, New York, graduated from McQuaid High School, and went on to Rochester Institute of Technology to earn a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting. Uncle Sam was watching though and when Bill graduated, he was drafted into the Army. And in the wise and calculating ways of the military, Bill was sent to Fort Benjamin Harrison to become an Army Accountant.

By the flip of a coin, or picking the short straw, or some other devious methodology, Bill was chosen to serve his country as an accountant in Vietnam. As Bill has said many times, “someone had to do it”.

Upon Bill’s arrival at Long Binh, South Vietnam, he was offered the opportunity to purchase a “dorm size” refrigerator from a G.I. who was rotating home. Never one to look a gift horse in the mouth, Bill bought the fridge. More about that later.

Bill was assigned to the MACV (Military Assistance Command Vietnam) payroll group at Long Binh. Bill and eleven (11) women...some of them single. Talk about a tough assignment! He does admit to dating one or two of his co-workers before he met his bride-to-be.

Nguyet (“wit” in English) Tran had been working as a cashier at the Ling Binh PX (Post Exchange) cafeteria. This position provided her with an excellent rate of pay compared to other Vietnamese who didn’t work for Uncle Sam. As fate would have it, Nguyet was able to secure a position in the payroll group where she could put her math and computer programming skills to use. (You know where this is going, don’t you?)
Along with her eleven (4 boys and 7 girls) siblings, Nguyet was born and raised in Saigon. She attended a local high school of about 1,000 students. Because of the physical size of the school building, the students were divided into two groups, each spending four hours a day in school. A large emphasis was placed on math skills.

Nature took its course and Nguyet and Bill started dating and eventually got serious. Sadly, the Army didn’t care about the young lovers and sent Bill stateside on March of 1973. Nguyet stayed at the payroll group as a computer programmer until 1975 when the country collapsed to the invading communists.

Nguyet at age 28, and her sister Suong (age 18) attempted to get on one of the many helicopters ferrying Vietnamese refugees out of the country, but were unable to do so. This was a horribly chaotic time for the sisters and their fellow citizens as the invaders continued their takeover of the country. With only one hundred dollars ($100) left of the $200 parting gift she received from the payroll office between them (Nguyet had given $100 to her mother to help her survive), the sisters were desperate to find transportation out of the country. Out of desperation, the sisters climbed the embassy compound fence and slept on the roof of an embassy compound building for safety. Fortunately, they were able to find their way onto a freighter that was leaving from Saigon harbor. They arrived in Singapore on their second day at sea where the ship received some much needed repairs. From Singapore they sailed to Subic Bay in the Philippines where they spent a month at the Navy base. Their next stop was the island of Guam on August 3rd, 1975.

Bill and Nguyet had been writing back and forth for two years. In 1975, Bill sponsored Nguyet to come to the United States. Nguyet made it here and in 1977 she and Bill were married. Nguyet went to Monroe Community College to get her degree in Computer Programming (Class of 1978) so she had a “piece of Paper” to show prospective employers. In 1982, Nguyet did get a job as a computer programmer. Eventually they expanded their family with a son, Joe, and a daughter, Amy.

But what about those eleven siblings of Nguyet’s? One brother was killed by pirates in Thailand as he was trying to escape from Vietnam; another brother died in Vietnam; a sister died here in Rochester; the rest of them are in Oregon; New Jersey; Missouri; California; Ontario, New York, and two remain in Vietnam.

And the dorm-sized refrigerator? It resides in Bill’s garage in Webster still keeping beverages cold.
September 29-30, 2018  My Honor Flight Guardian Experience

I have always had the upmost respect for the men and women who serve our country. The veterans who risk the ultimate sacrifice to protect my liberties. I thank them for their service in passing. I donate to their charities. And I take part in events held to raise awareness for their cause. I'm glad to do it. It's the least I could to help repay them for what they've done for me.

So, when my father asked me to be his Honor Flight Guardian, I accepted without hesitation. But I really wasn't sure what Honor Flight was or what to expect. As I began discussing this trip with friends and colleagues, I grew more and more excited knowing that I was going to be a part of something memorable. Something much bigger than a donation to a charity. Much bigger than running a race to raise awareness. This was Mission 62. The first all Vietnam era veterans Honor Flight.

For me, it wasn't just about flying to D.C. to see and pay tribute to the memorials built in their honor. That weekend, I learned a lot about my father and his comrades. I learned how they were treated when they returned back home. I learned how they cope with their memories and disabilities every day. But most of all I learned how incredibly selfless these veterans truly are.

The time spent with my father and his brothers that weekend could never be duplicated. But none of this compares to the appreciation these veterans received when they walked through the Rochester airport upon returning home.

The parade of family and friends cheering for these men was emotional. It happened. They were finally given the proper welcome they never received. Witnessing this in person left me speechless. And I was proud to be on the sidelines cheering with them. And none of this would have been possible without Honor Flight of Rochester.

Thanks, dad. Thanks for asking me to be a part of this memory with you.
Lou Gatto
STUDENT WHO OBTAINED 0% ON AN EXAM
The teacher had no sense of humor.

Q 1. In which battle did Napoleon die?
*His last battle

Q 2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
*At the bottom of the page

Q 3. River Ravi flows in which state?
*Liquid

Q 4. What is the main reason for divorce?
*Marriage

Q 5. What is the main reason for failure?
*Exams

Q 6. What can you never eat for breakfast?
*Lunch & dinner

Q 7. What looks like half an apple?
*The other half

Q 8. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea, what will it become?
*Wet

Q 9. How can a man go eight days without sleeping?
*No problem, he sleeps at night.

Q 10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?
*You will never find an elephant that has one hand.

Q 11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have?
*Very large hands

Q 12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?
*No time at all, the wall is already built.

Q 13. How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?
*Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack.
2019 NYSC Meetings

January 26

April 20

June 15

September 28
A new tradition.
A relatively new Marine Corps tradition, Marine Corps Birthday Breakfats are "going viral" around the country. Retired Marine Corps MSgt. Bruce Van Apeldoorn started it here in Rochester back in November 2015. By buttonholing Marines he encountered he had 6 Marines at Denny's the first year. The next year that number tripled to 18. Last year saw 48 Marines at Romig's Tavern. Casual, economical and totally independent of organizations Birthday Breakfasts are an ideal way to celebrate the Birthday of our Corps.

WHO: Marines of any age. Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen and Chaplains are welcome too.
WHAT: Breakfast with your fellow Marines. Cost: $13.95
WHERE: Romig’s Tavern, 18 Bennington Drive. (Actually the corner of Bennington Drive and Dewey Avenue.)
DRESS: Casual but period uniforms are encouraged.

WHEN: Sat. 10 November 2018.
0830 Greetings and Coffee.
0900 Birthday Ceremony
0915 Buffet Breakfast

WHY: Because you earned the title of Marine!
BUT YOU NEED TO RSVP to Bruce via email no later than 1 Nov. so Romig’s staff knows how many.

Tell another Marine about the Birthday Breakfast. Semper Fi!

2018 Honoree: Sergeant William H. Cooper

This year was the 100th anniversary of the death of Rochester’s William H. Cooper who was killed in action at Soissons, France on 18 July 1918 just weeks before the end of the War. He had participated in the battles of Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood.
DAV AND TRUECAR ARE TEAMING UP AGAIN FOR A VEHICLE GIVEAWAY. TELL US WHAT DRIVES YOU OR NOMINATE SOMEONE YOU KNOW FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN A NEW VEHICLE.

Earlier this year, DAV partnered with TrueCar for the DrivenToDrive program, which benefits veterans and active duty service members by helping them get back behind the wheel with a new vehicle. In May, Sgt. Mike Goodrich, who is a lifetime DAV member, was awarded a new Honda Ridgeline, which he now uses to help other veterans explore art as a form of therapy. We’re excited to announce that we’ll be partnering with TrueCar again this October for their latest giveaway contest. If you or someone you know could benefit from a new vehicle in order to reach a personal goal or to help others in your community, please click below to enter or learn more about the program.

Enter Giveaway

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Submission Period begins 10/1/18 and ends 10/8/18 at 8:59:59 PM PT. Open to legal U.S. residents residing in the 48 contiguous U.S. and D.C., 18+ years of age. As nominated by Entrant, the Nominee must be an active military service member or veteran (retired or separated from) of United States military, who has not been dishonorably discharged and holds a valid U.S. driver’s license. Void where prohibited. Other restrictions apply. See Official Rules at www.TrueCar.com/DriventoDrive for complete details. Sponsor: TrueCar, Inc.
Board Meetings | Membership Meetings
---|---
Nov 6, 2018 | Nov 8, 2018
Dec 4, 2018 | Dec 13, 2018
Jan 8, 2019 | Jan 10, 2019

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.

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**Chiropractic Urgent Care**
*at Tri-County Chiropractic, PC*
Dr. Gary L. Kuhn
Chiropractor

Fairport Office Centre
1387 Fairport Road
Building 500, Suite 520
Fairport, NY 14450
(585) 465-0862
Immediate/Emergency Care Available

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Italian American Sports Club
1250 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY 14624
(585) 464-9160

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**Denis Gurnett, Instructor**

GETGUNSMART.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)

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

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

Homeless Veterans Hotline 1-877-424-3838
Contact Information

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Vet Benefits – Stan Patykiewicz  SNMPATYK@rochester.rr.com  247-4830 h
Veterans Walk – C. Macaluso  chuckmac66@yahoo.com  225-8288 h
Women’s Affairs – Rosemary Rossi-Williams  pefrose@gmail.com  738-6138 c

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P.O. Box 12580  www.vva20.org
Rochester, NY 14612

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Nancy Rekowski  nrekowski@avva.org

NYS AVVA PRESIDENT
Cherie Steers  csvva@optonline.net  516-822-5938

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION
Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial  753-7275
(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

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