February 2019

Issue 74
Remembering February’s Fallen Heroes

Website - http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Dunham, Richard Francis 2-1-1945
Marasco, William Frederick 2-4-1949
Webber, Frederick Carl 2-5-1947
Forbush, Jr., Robert 2-5-1948
Waldron
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
There are currently no new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the National League of Families and the DOD of serviceman recovered, returned or identified this month. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War still stands at 1592.

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

- 2nd Lt. Lynn W. Hasdfield, US Army Air Corps was lost March 21, 1945 in Germany. He was accounted for on December 13, 2018.
- Sgt. Vernon L. Hamilton, US Army Air Corps was lost March 21, 1945 in Germany. He was accounted for on December 14, 2018.
- Pfc. William F. Delaney, US Army was lost November 22, 1944 in Germany. He was accounted for on December 17, 2018.
- Cpl. John G. Krebs, US Army was lost July 11, 1950 in South Korea. He was accounted for on December 19, 2018.
- 1st Lt. Burleigh E. Curtis, US Army Air Corps was lost June 13, 1944 in France. He was accounted for on December 20, 2018.
- Pfc. James C. Williams, US Army was lost July 12, 1950 in South Korea. He was accounted for on January 2, 2019.
- The following Naval Personnel were on Board the USS Oklahoma and were lost December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii: Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class Rowman W. Sadtowski, Machinist Mate 1st Class George Hanson and Steward 2nd Class Felicismo Florese. All were accounted for on December 19th and 20th of 2018.

These brave men are finally home. May they rest in peace.
Happy Groundhog Day to all. Yes, just like Punxsutawney Phil, who may or may not announce 6 more weeks of winter weather for all of us. I want to announce that the Fit Vet Challenge is still going on. We conducted our 1st monthly weigh in during our January 10th general membership meeting. Details in this issue of the BTL. Even if you did not make the January meeting, there is still time to compete and step up on the scales to help your service branch win the bragging rights for this year. Remember, this is just like a football game analogy, February is just the beginning of the 2nd quarter. We will be conducting weigh ins through the month of April. So, please come over to the area set aside for weigh in and step up to the challenge, get on the scales. We need as many Chapter #20 members as possible to participate. Who knows, you may help your service branch become this year's BIGGEST LOSERS!

Included in this month's issue are some points of interest when thinking about filing claims with the VA for certain health issues, and using some common-sense approaches to filing such claims. It is recommended to use only certified and reliable Veteran Service Officers, or people with the appropriate credentials to work on your behalf.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jerry McDermott, Director
Health Affairs Committee

VA Benefits Eligibility Update 09  ►  Common Vet Barriers

Obtaining your VA Benefits can sometimes be a slow and arduous process. There are more than 12 million Veterans over the age of 65. These Veterans, who have served in WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and to Iraq and Afghanistan, are often battling for the benefits they deserve and many times have to fight to get. While we can all agree that Veterans shouldn’t have to fight for the benefits they rightfully deserve, understanding their struggles can better help to solve this ongoing issue.

One of the biggest barriers to receiving benefits is the lack of necessary proof for the Veteran. A Veteran must provide proof of their current disability and demonstrate the medical link between their disability and their service time. For some, this link is easier to prove than others. Combat injuries that are well documented within a soldier’s service record are easy to prove. However, for servicemembers who face a disability years after they have served, the causal link is much more difficult to prove.

In addition to proving the link between the current disability and the decades-old injury that caused it, Veterans need detailed statements as to how the disability has negatively impacted their lives. Private medical records, VA medical records, and statements from family, friends and any other medical and social work providers can help. Proving the severity of the disability can be a long process with many necessary and frustrating steps along the way. For many veterans, the struggle begins with actually obtaining service records. In 1973, a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)
destroyed most of the records collected prior to that point. The VA is required to assist Veterans in finding and obtaining their service records, but Veterans might be able to speed up the process if they are able to ensure that all locations have been notified of the need.

In addition to the NPRC, Veterans can also contact The United States Army and Joint Services Records Research Center (JSRC), the National Archives and Record Administration (NARA), and the Naval Historical Center. JSRRC specializes in supporting Veterans who need to prove PTSD and Agent Orange claims. NARA stores the official records to all those who were discharged from the Navy, Army, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The Naval Historical Center houses deck logs and ship histories, which might prove critical when attempting to substantiate an Agent Orange claim. When all else fails, buddy statements can serve as evidence of service time and injury. However, even this is not without difficulty. Elderly servicemembers might not be able to connect with their service buddies for a variety of reasons.

Once a Veteran has obtained the necessary proof, there is still an incredible backlog to actually obtain benefits. In many cases, the backlog is more than two years. Additionally, the Board of Veterans Appeals has a three-year backlog. Unfortunately, in many of these cases, time is not a luxury. These veterans are sick and aging. It is estimated that around 3,000 Veterans die each year while waiting for their disability benefits.

[Source: The Military Connection | Blog | December 17, 2018 +++]

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**VA Cautions All Veterans**

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) officials are cautioning veterans to be aware of private contractors offering to process claims for them following the announcement of 15 companies misrepresenting their services in several states. All of the companies were fined for falsely holding themselves out as an accredited veteran’s service agencies.

VA is reminding veterans seeking aid for benefits to always be aware of:

- **Don’t pay for a service that is free.** There are many accredited claims agents within the Military and Veterans Community who are highly qualified to perform this service free of charge.
- **Do research** on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website into the accreditation of a claims agent, if you are considering paying them a fee to process your benefits.
- **Follow recommendations and referrals of fellow veterans** who have had successful experiences filing VA benefit claims with specific veterans’ service organizations. Always ask to see the representative’s accreditation credentials.
- **Work with only certified veterans service organizations** with the relevant training that are listed on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website and include representatives of the organizations.
Membership Update
Mike General Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 627 members and AVVA is at 40 members as of 10/30/18. Membership has been growing slow (only 4 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 1 members who did not renew this last month and 5 members who passed away.

Please Renew Your Membership!
Only Life Memberships are available $50.00

As of October 20, 2018, there will be one paid class of membership.

1. **LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** $50.00

2. All 3-year members who have paid $50 will automatically become a life member.

3. All one-year members will continue as an individual 1-year member until their membership expires, one-year members will then be required to pay $50.00 to remain a member of VVA.

4. rebate will stay the same.

5. If national does not have a DD214 they will have status listed as pending until dd214 is received.

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)

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
Member Application

For new members, print this membership form and complete, then mail with your payment and a copy of the DD214 form. Renewal members may complete and print the form and mail it with your payment. Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #20, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14692

Membership Application

(bold fields are required.)

First Name

Last Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Home Phone, Ext.

Work Phone, Ext.

Primary Email

Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY

As of October 20, 2018, there will be one paid class of membership.

1. LIFE MEMBERSHIP: $50.00
2. All 3-year members who have paid $50 will automatically become a life member.
3. All one-year members will continue as an individual 1-year member until their membership expires, one-year members will then be required to pay $50.00 to remain a member of VVA.
Can’t believe it is 2019 so Happy New Year everybody! Exactly 50 years since I set foot in Vietnam. Yikes!! Not much going on at present but I wanted to share a couple of things with you. On 12/19 I went to the Canandaigua VA along with several other Chapter members to visit the vets there and hand out gifts. It was nice to see so many of our Chapter members show up to help out and the VA staff was very appreciative. We sang Christmas carols, had cookies and snacks and gave out Christmas presents. I skipped the singing so as not to punish the guys unnecessarily and sat and talked with two World War II vets in their 90’s. A couple of great guys from the greatest generation. Within a couple of minutes, they were both telling me of their service in the European Campaign and how both were seriously wounded with long periods of recovery. It was actually a very emotional conversation for us all and they were right back in the thick of it as they each told their story. Absolutely amazing. They both eventually came home, got married and had kids and worked several different jobs. That time spent with those two vets in itself was worth the trip to Canandaigua.

The Attica Active Veterans Group is doing very well and 46 vets attended the last AAVG meeting there in December. Chapter 20-member, Jack Michel donated coffee for their meetings as well as $500 from his “Come Fly A Kite for A Homeless Vet” fundraiser to help defray the groups expenses. Elections are scheduled for this month and I am very hopeful that those elected will keep the group moving in the right direction. I want to thank everyone from Chapter 20 also for the yarn donations I have received and sent into Attica.

Chapter 20-member Dan Waters passed away recently and he was a prior member of Chapter 704. Dan went into Auburn with me in the early 1990’s on a regular basis and was a devoted advocate for Chapter 205 when it was active at Auburn prison. Dan was a Marine Vietnam vet and a good friend of mine for many, many years.

The Vet to Vet Hospice Program is going well as is my veteran’s bereavement group that runs the second and fourth Monday each month at Lifetime Care.

Recently Volunteer Services at Attica contacted me and Kenny Moore and we have to return there for volunteers’ refresher training. Will keep you posted if we ever really get educated. This is just a slow time of year for my committee and I have submitted my budget request for next year and I think the Board has hammered out a solid budget for the next 12 months.

Here’s wishing you all a very happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year!
Highlights of the January Membership Meeting
101 People Attended

New Members Jon Delles, Navy ’66 - ’70

Dan Lyrer, Army ’73 - ’76

Dick Fernberg, Army ’68 - ’70

Dan Corona wins the Flag Drawing.

Bill Heinrich wins the 50/50 Drawing.
THE JANUARY WEIGH IN was a GREAT start to the 4-month campaign. Thirty-Nine members participated. The initial starting point for the services are below. It’s only the beginning and not too late if you missed last month’s meeting or have a change of mind, you can start at the February meeting. We have until April to show what YOU CAN DO for a healthier YOU!!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th># members</th>
<th>Average Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>219.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>218.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marines</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>214.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
<td><strong>255.3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hey Listen up! Kathy knows you all have had some real good times while in the service of your country. Now’s the time to get those stories published so everyone can have a laugh. Send your stories to Kathy. See below for the details.
Operation “Show Your Love”
Part 2
For the Richards House

Please bring your contributions to the February 14th Chapter meeting. I will then deliver them to the Richards House on the following day.

Thank you so much.
Kenny Allocco

- Jackets
- Boots sizes 9-12
- Winter hats/gloves
- Pillows
- Bedsheets (full and twin)
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Creamer
- Body Wash
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Tooth Brushes/Paste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- If you like to give gift cards Walmart goes a lot further than Wegmans.
Random Thoughts:

♦ I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year, not to cause any trouble but shouldn't that be an even number?:

♦ I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

♦ When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90% of their body... men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Betcha Didn't Know This:

Most dust particles in your house are made from DEAD SKIN!

The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer. So did the first 'Marlboro Man'.

Walt Disney was afraid OF MICE!

PEARLS DISSOLVE IN VINEGAR!
Since we have many new members, and some of you old timers who are still looking for pictures, I would like to re-introduce the “Then and Now” section to the BTL. With your pictures and stories, we can all contribute to and hopefully have some fun by sharing and enjoying our fond memories. I’d like to focus on us then and now. These memories and pictures from you can either be from Vietnam or other duty stations around the world. Below are some examples that may help you in your selections.

- **Photos of Nam/duty stations** - Share your favorite scenery photo of Nam or a shot you took while on R&R or at your duty station and we’ll post it in a new section of the BTL.

  - View from Monkey Mt, DaNang
  - Sydney Opera House, R&R in Sydney Australia

- **Me and my Buddies** – Made a friend(s) in country, keeping in touch? Share a photo of you and them and tell us about them.

  - Aboard the USS Maury AGS 16, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
  - Break time at Deep Water Piers Staging Area, Da Nang
• **Me Then and Now** – Share a picture of yourself back then and today.

![Stacking Cargo, Deep Water Piers, Da Nang](image1)

![Arizona Memorial, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii](image2)

You can either email me the photo at [vietvet6748@gmail.com](mailto:vietvet6748@gmail.com) or send it through Dropbox. Make sure you include your name, where the pictures were taken and the names of those people in the picture. Entries must be sent and received by the 15th day of each month to make the following months BTL.

Start digging into your footlockers, sea bags and duffel bags and brush off those pictures and send them in!
Dear Veterans and Stakeholders,

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continue to team up to combat illegal robocalls targeting Americans, including Veterans and their families.

Each year, the FCC receives more than 200,000 complaints about unwanted calls. While this may seem like a big number, it pales in comparison to the millions of robocalls being made each day. The calls interrupt dinners and family time; they flood landline and mobile phones. Scam calls frequently solicit money for fake charities, including ones claiming to support America’s Veterans - some even claiming to be VA representatives.

We know that scam activity increases during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, so the FCC and VA urge you to be vigilant. We offer the following tips to help you avoid unwanted calls and scams.

• Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. Scammers may spoof their caller ID to display a fake number that appears to be local. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.
• Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, or passwords in response to unexpected or suspicious calls.
• Be sure to set a password for all voice mail accounts to avoid being hacked.
• Register your number on the [Do Not Call List](https://www.fcc.gov/try-not-call-register) to block calls from legitimate telemarketers.
• Ask your phone company about call-blocking tools and services for your landline phone, and check for helpful apps that you can download to your mobile phone.

Please help spread the word about robocall fraud among those who may need assistance particularly those who are frequently targeted by phone scams.

For more information, visit: [fcc.gov/robocalls](https://www.fcc.gov/robocalls).

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

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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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 pfrose@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

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Women’s Affairs – Rosemary Rossi-Williams pfrose@gmail.com 738-6138 c

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