Remembering Our Fallen Heroes
Born in July

Website - http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Knight III, Albert S. 7-1-1944
Rouse Jr., Gordon Arthur 7-3-1947
Shubbuck, Rolland Bernard 7-4-1944
Main, Richard Harold 7-5-1944
Bruce, Jeffrey Richard 7-6-1948
Petsos, Phillip Chris 7-10-1947
Brown, David Freeman 7-10-1948
Scott, Gary Arnold 7-11-1945
Bickel, Robert John 7-11-1948
Martin, Ernest T. 7-16-1939
Baker, Larry James 7-18-1942
Shaffer, William Paul 7-18-1947
Tremblay, Patrick Joseph 7-19-1949
Van Alst Jr., Harry L. 7-20-1947
Murphy, James Howard 7-24-1935
Sickles, Robert Paul 7-24-1946
Gearing Jr., William Carl 7-24-1948
Senese, Christopher Leigh 7-24-1948
Lupien, David G. 7-26-1947
Lemcke, David Earl 7-28-1947
Yatteau, Richard Franklin 7-31-1947

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).
Questions please call Chuck or Joan Macaluso as 585-225-8288
There are currently no new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the National League of Families and the DOD that any servicemen were recovered, returned or identified this month. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War still stands at 1589.

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

- Cpl. Billy J. Butler, US Army was lost November 28, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on May 3, 2019.
- Pfc. Roger L. Woods, US Army was lost July 29, 1950 in South Korea. He was accounted for on May 22, 2019.
- Cpl. Earl H. Markle, US Army was lost November 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on May 24, 2019.
- Pfc. John T. Burke, US Marine Corps Reserves was lost November 20, 1943 in Tarawa. He was accounted for on May 27, 2019.
- Pfc. Hulett A. Thompson, US Army was lost June 30, 1944 in Burma. He was accounted for on May 31, 2019.
- Gunners Mate 2nd Class Harold L. Dick, US Navy was lost on board the USS Colorado on July 24, 1944 in Tinian Islands. He was accounted for on May 31, 2019.
- Tech. Sgt. Charles G. Ruble, US Army Air Corps was lost September 17, 1944 in Netherlands. He was accounted for on June 3, 2019.
- Pvt. Edward M. Morrison, US Army was lost July 6, 1950 in South Korea. He was accounted for on June 3, 2019.
- Master Sgt. James G. Cates, US Army was lost December 3, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on June 3, 2019.
- Cpl. William S. Smith, US Army was lost September 1, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on June 5, 2019.
- Cpl. Robert L. Bray, US Army was lost July 20, 1950 in South Korea. He was accounted for on June 6, 2019.
- The following Naval Personnel were on Board the USS Oklahoma and were lost December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii: Fireman 1st Class Rudolph Blitz, Machinist Mate 2nd Class Leo Blitz, Seaman 1st Class Edward Wasielewski, Seaman 1st Class Ralph H. Keil and Signalman 3rd Class William J. Shanahan. They were accounted for on May 23rd, 31st and June 5th 2019.

THESE MEN HAVE BEEN RETURNED HOME TO THEIR FAMILIES AND A GRATEFUL NATION
REST IN PEACE BROTHERS, WE HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICES THAT YOU HAD MADE.
Mike General Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 614 members and AVVA is at 39 members as of 04/30/19. Membership has not been growing (only 0 new members in the last month), We need your help in recruiting new members. Don't forget to renew on time. Don't let your membership expire. We had 2 members who did not renew this last month and 4 members who passed away.

Please Renew Your Membership!

All Life Memberships are $50.00

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)
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

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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.
Veterans Incarcerated Committee Report  by Ron Trovato

Busy time of the year but it’s all good. I went to Attica on April 9th for my registered volunteer recertification and I completed that training so I’m street legal again. The most recent meeting of the Attica Active Veterans Group there was attended by Jack Michel and he said close to 50 veterans were present and that is surely a good sign. I was also a speaker along with several other Chapter members at Churchville Chili High School and at the Barker Road Middle School in Pittsford. My wife is a graduate of Churchville Chili and it pains her deeply that I am more popular there than she is. The kids were just great and the teachers treated us like VIP’s (we are!) and it was time well spent. A tip of the hat to Kenny Allocco who organized everything and does a nice job with coordinating with the schools so we don’t end up on detention.

The Day of Caring Memorial clean up on May 9th went well and the weather sure cooperated. We had so many volunteers from local companies helping out and it made it easy on us old guys. That was really a wonderful crew to be a part of.

Jack Michels’ Fly a Kite For a Homeless Vet fundraiser on 6/1 went off without a hitch and he also said the weather cooperated on that event because Buffalo weather can be even more punishing than ours. Memorial Day was also beautiful and I marched in the downtown parade with our stellar Marching Unit. I was in the back with the discipline problems Fred Elliott and Charlie Phillips but I managed to keep in step on occasion or at least whenever Hank would give me the evil eye. At the Memorial service I was detailed to be in the rifle squad and that is no small honor. It was a very well attended service and the weather once again was perfect. Joanne and I went to the Chapter picnic afterwards which members really should attend because the food is always good and very plentiful. I sat with Jimmy Visconte and his wife and we had a nice chat about the old days (daze?) working at the Post Office together on Cumberland St. Now we were sworn mortal enemies back then and I put a vendetta on Jimmy and he put one on me but we never knew how to take the vendetta off after we became friends so apparently it is still in force. But for an hour at least we were best friends again and the wives had plenty of opportunity to compare notes and psychoanalysis.

Thank you all for the many yarn donations and I just sent two packages into Attica where the crochet squad is hard at work. I saw the results on a recent trip there and even scraps are used.

Speaking of Attica, I went in again on June 2nd for the Veterans Picnic there and for the first time in memory, the weather did not cooperate so it was held indoors in the gym. Jack Michel met me there and the food was cooked outside by a couple of the guys and then brought in. There were I’m told 63 men present and it too was time well spent. As you might imagine, Attica is a pretty depressing place but there was nothing but camaraderie for that event. It is not the same going in without Kenny Moore with me and when I was asked to speak, I said I’d sit this one out. I honestly didn’t feel up to it and Jack Michel always does a fine job. But when Jack was done, I did ask to address the guys and I told them about Kenny’s last visit to Attica and how on the way out he had to ask for a wheelchair. I told them about how Kenny and I talked about his medical situation on the way home and how difficult that was for both of us. And then I let them know about how Kenny
called me the very next day asking when we were going into Attica again and I have to tell you, especially you Sandy, that there were some of the hardest men I have ever known wiping tears from their eyes. That’s how much Kenny meant to those forgotten vets and to that organization. Afterwards, so many of the men came up to me and told me personally how much Kenny meant to them and to the AAVG and if I could pass along these sentiments to his family. Before the event I was told they collected $400 for a tree to be planted near our Memorial here in Rochester but I let them know that Monroe County was already taking care of that. I won’t begin to tell you how difficult it is to come up with that kind of money in a max facility but the guys sure did and that was such a compliment to Kenny and such a reflection of his devotion to a marginal group of veterans. He must have been smiling.
I hope you were able to attend the June 13th membership meeting to hear first hand from Brian Westlake, Manager at the Finger Lakes VA (Canandaigua and Bath locations are now combined and called Finger Lakes VA) responsible for Mission Act implementation locally. Brian did a great job explaining the new Mission Act and all that will impact community health care for veterans going forward. In this issue of the BTL, there are links for you. Use them to explore or review the changes referred to in the Mission Act. As always, if you have any questions, please let me know.

Some other info that you may find useful and may want to keep for future reference, how to get in touch with National Records for military service in the event of an emergency. Info concerning “other than honorable” discharge paper. Especially, how the VA will help with any mental health issues. I think this is critical for anyone who maybe struggling with thoughts of personal harm to themselves. And finally, now that some drier weather is here, and I tend to over use my achy limbs for gardening and odd jobs around the house, a possible explanation about Bursitis and joint discomfort. Enjoy the upcoming Nation’s Birthday, July 4th, and be safe if traveling during the holiday. Hope to see you all soon!

Respectfully submitted by:
Jerry McDermott
Chair, Health Affairs

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**Bursitis**  ➤  Take Care of Your Joint Cushions

Almost everyone has joint pain at some point in life. It can flair up suddenly. Or it can start off mild and get worse over time. A common cause of joint pain is bursitis. Bursitis happens when a bursa in a joint becomes inflamed. (When you see “itis” at the end of a medical word, it means inflammation.) A bursa is a small, fluid-filled sac that acts as a cushion between bones and other moving parts, such as muscles, tendons, or skin. You have about 150 bursas in your body. They keep joints such as your shoulders, knees, and elbows working smoothly. But they can be hurt by sudden or repetitive forces.

Bursitis often flairs up because of another injury, explains Dr. Jeffrey Katz, a joint specialist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard University. When an injury causes someone to move their joint differently than normal, it can irritate a bursa. “For example, if you have a foot injury, it can change the way you walk. Maybe you don’t even notice it, but you limp a little,” Katz says. “And that changes the way that forces from muscles and tendons pull on the bones. That subtle change can give rise to some inflammation in the bursa.” Bursitis can also be caused by putting pressure on a joint for too long, such as kneeling or leaning on your elbows. Activities that require repetitive motions or place stress on your joints—
such as carpentry, gardening, playing a musical instrument, or playing a sport—can sometimes trigger bursitis. Rarely, a bursa may become inflamed due to an infection.

It can sometimes be hard to tell whether joint pain is caused by inflammation in a bursa, tendon, or muscle, Katz says. Lab tests and imaging often can’t help pinpoint the source of the pain. Your doctor will likely do a physical exam and ask questions about your activities and recent injuries. Fortunately, treatment for most simple cases of joint pain is similar no matter what’s causing it, Katz adds. This may include rest, over-the-counter drugs that suppress inflammation, and gentle stretching and strengthening exercises. Physical therapy may help if bursitis has reduced your ability to move your joint or if it results in muscle weakness. If your bursitis is due to an infection, your doctor may prescribe antibiotics.

Bursitis and other causes of joint pain can be prevented by paying attention to how you move and perform daily activities. See the Wise Choices box for tips on preventing bursitis. Bursitis is more likely to occur the older you get. To help prevent bursitis as you age, try to stay as active as possible, Katz says. “The best way to stay out of trouble with these joint injuries is to try to stay flexible and strong,” he concludes. [Source: NIH News in Health | June 2019 ++]

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**VA Mental Health Care Update 39 ➤ Other-than-honorable Discharged Vet’s Availability**

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made mental health care treatment available to former service members with other-than-honorable (OTH) administrative discharges through two new programs. One service, initiated in 2017, is specifically focused on expanding access to assist former OTH service members who are in mental health distress and may be at risk for suicide or other adverse behaviors. The department’s Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical centers are prepared to offer emergency stabilization care for former service members who arrive at the facility with a mental health need.

Former service members with an OTH administrative discharge may receive care for their mental health emergency for an initial period of up to 90 days, which can include inpatient, residential or outpatient care. During this time, VHA and the Veterans Benefits Administration will work together to determine if the mental health condition is a result of a service-related injury, making the service member eligible for ongoing coverage for that condition.

A second initiative focuses on the implementation of Public Law 115-141. With this implementation, VA notified former service members of the mental and behavioral health care they may now be eligible for and sent out over 475,000 letters to inform former service members about this care. The letters (sample follows) explained what they may be eligible for, how long they may be able to receive care and how they can get started.

**Sample**

“You are receiving this notification because you may be eligible for services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Congress recently passed legislation that allows VA to provide ongoing mental and behavioral health care to certain former service members with Other Than Honorable (OTH) discharges, including those who

- Were on active duty for more than 100 days and served in a combat role, or
- Experienced sexual harassment or sexual assault while serving.

The rate of death by suicide among Veterans who do not use VA care is increasing at a greater rate than Veterans who use VA care; according to agency mental health officials. This is a national emergency that requires bold action. VA will do all that we can to help former service members who may be at risk. When we say even one Veteran suicide is one too many, we mean it.

In 2018, 1,818 individuals with an OTH discharge received mental health treatment, three times more than the 648 treated in 2017.

There was a total of 2,580 former servicemembers with an OTH discharge that received care in 2018 in VHA. Of these, 1,818 received treatment in Mental Health Services. Of the 2,580 servicemembers with OTH discharge, 1,076 had a mental health diagnosis.

Additionally, VA may be able to treat a mental illness presumed to be related to military service. When VA is unable to provide care, VA will work with partner agencies and will assist in making referrals for additional care as needed. You can call or visit a VA medical center or Vet Center and let them know that you are a former service member with an OTH discharge who is interested in receiving mental health care. Veterans in crisis should call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 (press 1), or text 838255. [Source: The Washington Times | Andrew Blake | May 1, 2019 ++]
Military Records/DD-214 Update  "Emergency" Requests and Deadlines

If your request is urgent (for example, upcoming surgery, a funeral, etc.) tell NDAA the nature of the emergency and your deadline in the "Comments" section of eVetRecs (https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records) or in the "Purpose" section of the Standard Form (SF) 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. Fax your request to NDAA’s Customer Service Team at 314-801-0764. Call NDAA’s customer service staff at 314-801-0800 if you have questions or require same-day service. Due to the large number of calls received at this number, hold times are often long. However, once you reach a technician, he or she will be happy to assist you with emergency service.

If your burial request involves interment at a Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery, contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117 or visit the National Cemetery Administration website https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits. We work directly with the Veterans Affairs staff to obtain records to verify service for burial benefits. If the veteran is not going to be interred at a National Cemetery, the requester may fax the SF-180 or signature page from eVetRecs (including signature of the next of kin and proof of death) to the Customer Service Team at 314-801-0764. [Source: NDAA | May 22, 2019 ++]
Highlights of the June Membership Meeting
117 People Attended

New Member, Tom Tosti, Army ’68 - ’69

New Member, Carl Sceusa, Army ’70 - ’71

New Member, Lloyd Hynes, Army ’66 - ’67

New Member, Tim McGrath, Airforce ’71 - ’72

New Member, Stuart Walthour, Army ’68 - ’70

New Member, Jack Hoffman, US Navy ’71 - ’73
Special Recognition for Gates Chief of Police, James VanBrederode for his support and contributions to Chapter 20! Thank you Chief VanBrederode!

Val Gatto presents Laura Stradley with a $1000 donation from the Chapter for the Veterans Outreach Center.

Rita Hasenauer and Nancy Van Apeldoorn present Yvette and Bing Reeves with quilts from the FLATE Lap Robes organization. Yvette and Bing are Gold Star Mom & Dad.
Rita Hasenauer presents Nancy Van Apeldoorn with a certificate of Appreciation for the work that the FLATE Lap Robe organization provides for our veterans.

Val was presented with a special quilt for the Chapters support for the FLATE Lap Robe organization.

Bing Reeves presents the Chapter with a $100 check donation.
Flag Drawing winner, Bill Wickum

50/50 Drawing winner, Bob LeBlanc
Special guest Brian Westlake, VISN Mission Champion, was invited to attend the June meeting to review the highlights of the Mission Act with the Chapter members. The Mission Act was developed to enhance and replace the VA Choice program. Brian gave a very enlightening presentation and fielded many questions. The link below will take you to the slides that Brian presented to us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ARMY!!
# VVA CHAPTER 20 MARCHING UNIT 2019 SCHEDULE

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This is the forth personal story about one of our fallen 280 Brothers. We will continue to publish these stories as long as we receive them from you. If you knew one of our fallen Brothers and would like to honor him with a shared memory, please write your story and submit it for publication in the BTL. Include a picture(s) of the Brother if available. *Your story may also be submitted to the Living Wall site, www.vvmf.org.

If you have an article and would appreciate a second opinion on grammar and sentence structure email it to Kathy Gleason at Kathy14470@msn.com. If you just don't know where to start but would appreciate some help writing the article you can call Kathy at 585-978-1331 or email her for an appointment.

If you would like to submit a story, please send it to vietvet6748@gmail.com.

Dave Zimba submitted this about his friend and fallen soldier, Thomas Urban Way.

“Thomas Urban Way was from a working-class family and a normal student at St John Fisher, but his family worked hard to raise the funds needed for the statue of Tom so he wouldn’t be forgotten. Good People and a Good Guy.” - Dave, a Vet and a friend who remembered Tom.
The following story was re-printed from The Post (11/25/2015) honoring one of our 280 fallen heroes from the Rochester area.

St. John Fisher College honored a special alumnus and member of the United States Armed Forces, Thomas Urban Way ’66, on Veterans Day by unveiling a statue commissioned in his memory.

Way, who was drafted into the U. S. Army in 1967, shortly after graduating from Fisher, died in combat while serving in the Vietnam War, just three weeks into his tour of duty.

The college, joined by fellow alumni and friends of Way, commissioned sculptor Timothy P. Schmalz to create a bronze statue to honor Way and capture his love of soccer, which he was known to have played with children in the streets of Vietnam.

More than 80 members of Way’s family, classmates and friends helped the college formally unveil the Thomas Urban Way ’66 Memorial Statue, which is situated adjacent to Founders Hall and the Polisseni Track and Field Complex, near the statue of the Rev. John Cavanaugh C.S.B.

“The Thomas Urban Way Memorial is a tribute to Tom’s life and his sacrifice,” said President Gerard Rooney. “Tom will forever be remembered on this campus as a special member of our Fisher family.”

Way, who was born in Spring Lake, New Jersey, and raised in Rochester, was a graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School. While studying sociology at Fisher, he also was a member of the college’s soccer team.

Way was hired by Eastman Kodak Company shortly after earning his degree from Fisher and completed a sales training program before he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He completed basic training at Fort Gordon in Georgia in 1967 in preparation for infantry duty in Vietnam.

He celebrated his 23rd birthday Oct. 4, 1967.

The next day, he wrote his final letter home, confirming that he would be relocated for an anticipated long siege with intense fighting. Five days later, Oct. 9, 1967, Way was killed by small arms fire during action against the Viet Cong in the infamous Mekong Delta. He was recognized for his honorable service by the U.S. Army, receiving the Military Merit Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palm, both awarded by the government of the Republic of Vietnam. He also was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism by U.S. President Lyndon Johnson.
The following is part II of the Executive Summary of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc Strategic plan for Dissolution.

Executive Summary

Feedback from the VVA membership indicates a strong interest in extending some of the VVA programs that form the legacy associated with the VVA. The VVA NBOD must establish and fund a Legacy Programs Fund to ensure there are sufficient funds available to transfer programs important to the legacy of the VVA to other organizations. Transfer of legacy programs could include funding to support the program for a given number of years, and could include transfer of certain VVA employees along with the funding necessary to support their salary for a given number of years. The initial estimate for this fund is $3,100,000, with the understanding that this is a minimum value that will likely need to be adjusted upward, and the VVA NBOD will need to monitor and reevaluate costs associated with transferring legacy programs and adjust the fund balance as necessary.

Feedback from the VVA membership indicates a strong interest in having VVA funds available for distribution to chapters and state councils upon dissolution of the VVA National Corporation to carry on the legacy of the VVA at a local level. To provide funding to chapters and state councils the VVA NBOD must establish and fund a Legacy Membership Fund to ensure there are sufficient funds available for that purpose. Chapters would receive funding based on chapter membership strength, and state councils would receive funding based on state members-at-large membership strength. The initial estimate for this fund is $3,100,000, with the understanding that the VVA NBOD will need to monitor and adjust the fund balance as necessary.

Eight years prior to dissolution the VVA NBOD must establish three distinct funds: A Dissolution Fund for costs related to dissolution under New York law; a Legacy Program Fund to provide resources for transferring selected legacy programs to other organizations; and a Legacy Membership Fund for pro rata distribution to State Councils and Chapters that remain active after dissolution of the VVA National Corporation.

Contracts and Memorandums of Understanding

The contracting authority is vested in the VVA National Treasurer by VVA Policy. The National Treasurer oversees and maintains all contracts and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU’s). After review of all contracts and MOUs in 2018 the VVA National Treasurer found that all were currently necessary to the organization and have an escape (early termination) clause included.

Six years prior to dissolution the VVA NBOD must have a corporate attorney review the escape clauses and contract language in all existing contracts and MOUs to ensure all liabilities to the VVA National Corporation are identified and the VVA NBOD must ensure all new contracts and MOUs have escape clauses before the contracts are agreed to and executed.

Three years prior to dissolution the VVA NBOD will review all contracts for any necessary changes in language. The VVA NBOD will again review all contracts and MOU’s to determine those that are necessary to
the mission through dissolution of the VVA Corporation. Contracts and MOUs that do not meet that criterion will be terminated or allowed to expire.

**Veterans Benefits Program**

Based on feedback from the VVA membership the VVA Veterans Benefit Program is well supported by them and is considered by many as a premiere VVA legacy program. Working Group I believes the legal representation of claimants during the appeals process to be the primary function that needs to be preserved and transferred to another organization to preserve that portion of the VVA legacy.

Based on the lengthy claim adjudication and appeals process, intake of new claims with the VVA listed as the power of attorney must end soon. If a VVA-accredited Service Officer desires to continue as a Service Officer the VVA should assist that person in obtaining accreditation from another recognized service organization. VVA Service Officers will be required for several years to assist existing VVA claimants to transfer their power of attorney to another recognized service organization.

The VVA Veterans Benefits Department, with its attorneys and staff, will be required to continue operating for many years until the backlog of VVA claims in the Board of Veterans’ Appeals system are resolved or closed. The process developed and implemented by the VVA Veterans Benefits Department has proven to be highly effective and should be considered by the NBOD as a legacy program for transfer to another organization to ensure the function continues beyond dissolution of the VVA Corporation.

**Membership**

The Membership section of this document pertains to issues important to the VVA membership and includes: VVA Reputation and Lasting Legacy; Support to the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America; Communications; and Membership Status.

Based on current membership requirements in the VVA, the last date for a person on active military duty to become eligible for membership was over 43 years ago on May 7, 1975. The membership is aging, and in 2018 the average age of VVA members was 72 years old.

**VVA Reputation and Lasting Legacy**

Almost every conversation Working Group I had with the VVA membership regarding the future of the VVA included the need to preserve the reputation and legacy of the VVA that has been established over the last 40 years. While the name “Vietnam Veterans of America” may not extend beyond dissolution of the VVA National Corporation, some of the most important legacy programs and services provided for veterans can continue through the organizations that the VVA distributes assets to, either before or after the filing a Plan of Dissolution.

To effectively accomplish this, the VVA NBOD must form a Legacy Committee composed of three or more current members of VVA NBOD, tasked with identifying and preserving the legacy and reputation of the VVA. The Legacy Committee would meet in conjunction with each scheduled VVA NBOD meeting to actively investigate and develop solutions relating to the legacy and reputation of the VVA, to develop Actions to be included in the Strategic Plan for Dissolution. The committee will report their progress at each scheduled VVA NBOD meeting to assist the VVA NBOD in managing and executing the Strategic Plan for Dissolution. One of the most important tasks of the Legacy Committee will be to develop evaluation criteria for distribution of VVA
assets relating to legacy issues, to include: compatibility of corporate goals and objectives with those of the VVA, projected ability of the corporation to carry on a legacy item important to the VVA, demonstrated corporate performance, corporate leadership qualities, corporate financial stability, and other criteria necessary to ensure success in caring on the legacy of the VVA.

Support to the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America

At the time of the creation of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) 25 years ago, the VVA pledged its support to the new organization. In return, the AVVA pledged their support to the VVA by adopting the motto "Together Always". The majority of AVVA members are women who are spouses, former spouses, or relatives of VVA members, and there is a strong emotional connection between the two organizations.

Many VVA members have expressed the opinion that the AVVA should be considered the logical successor to the VVA. Because of the continuing close relationship between the two organizations and the projected longevity of women, the AVVA may remain active after the VVA dissolves and may provide an opportunity for VVA members to remain active in some manner with the AVVA. The AVVA has been very active in Agent Orange issues, not only as it affects Vietnam veterans directly exposed to dioxins, but the effect it may have on the children and grandchildren of those veterans. The AVVA may be a suitable organization for the VVA to transfer Agent Orange related information and educational services such as VVA Agent Orange Committee activities, Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings, and the Faces of Agent Orange Program.

Specific Actions in this Plan relating to the AVVA include:

- Distribution of VVA's memorabilia to the AVVA or an acceptable corporation or educational institution;
- Transferring all rights to the VVA name, logos, flag, website, internet domain, and email talklists, including but not limited to, all trademarks and copyrights and other intellectual property, to the AVVA, provided that the AVVA agrees to permit all existing state councils and chapters to continue their permitted uses of such intellectual property, and
- For the AVVA to begin or continue a periodic (preferably weekly) information transmittal by e-mail and social media similar to the current VVA Web Weekly to keep VVA members informed of current issues affecting veterans.

Communications

Effective communication with the VVA membership will be vital to reduce confusion and dispel rumors as the VVA National Corporation approaches the date for dissolving the VVA National Corporation.

As soon as practical following the 2019 VVA National Convention the VVA NBOD must effectively communicate the results of the convention to the VVA membership relating to Working Group I and Working Group II, as well as any associated actions taken by convention delegates. Additionally, five years prior to dissolution of the VVA National Corporation the VVA must establish a separate “Dissolution” section of the VVA website that includes the strategic plan for dissolution adopted by the VVA NBOD, and information specific to dissolution of VVA National Corporation as it relates to State Councils, Chapters, and individual members.
Membership Status

After dissolution of the VVA National Corporation current life members of VVA will continue to be life members until they die. If the membership cards are good for discounts or to gain preferential treatment or access, that is fine. However, the VVA National Corporation cannot make any representation of a benefit that it can't stand behind after dissolution.

Specific Actions in this Plan relating to the Membership include:

- Six years before dissolution of the VVA National Corporation, the VVA will begin issuing an approximately 3-inch by 5-foot ribbon streamer that represents the green, yellow, and red design in the VVA logo suitable to be displayed on the life member’s casket or urn at their funeral or memorial service. This ribbon streamer would initially be issued to all current life members, and would continue to be issued to individuals who become a life member after that date.

- Two years before dissolution of the VVA National Corporation the VVA will discontinue accepting and processing new membership applications. At that same time the VVA will issue a specially designed membership card and wall certificate to each current life member recognizing them as a member of a last veteran standing organization that served veterans, active duty military, and their families for 50 years before closing.

Chapters and State Councils

The Chapters and State Councils section of this Plan pertains to issues State Councils and Chapters will encounter due to dissolution of the VVA National Corporation.

Working Group I has developed a State Council Guide and a Chapter Guide attached as Appendices D and E to this Plan that can be used as a reference by Chapters and State Councils that decide to remain active after dissolution of the VVA National Corporation.

Issues Common to State Councils and Chapters

When the VVA National Corporation dissolves, State Councils and Chapters will continue as corporations but will no longer be bound by the corporate structures imposed by Articles II and III of the VVA Constitution. State Councils and Chapters will continue to exist as separate and (in the absence of any affirmative actions) independent corporations, no longer bound by any of the rules and relationships of the VVA Constitution, Policies, and Board Motions.

When the VVA National Corporation dissolves, requirements and guidance in the VVA Constitution will no longer apply.¹ State Councils and Chapters that desire to continue in existence will need to update their bylaws to address the following topics:

Membership requirements and processes. State Councils and Chapters that remain active will need to determine their own membership requirements, the process for granting membership, the process for determining and collecting dues (if any), and other factors specific to obtaining and maintaining membership. State Councils and Chapters that remain 501(c)(19) corporations will be bound by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) membership

¹ Note: in states that do not require bylaws, there is in all likelihood a statutory equivalent set of regulations for operation of a corporation.
requirements pertaining to veterans, and those that become 501(c)(3) corporations will have more flexibility regarding membership.

Meetings. Location, frequency, quorum requirements, member voting policy, notices of special meetings, conduct of meetings, and perhaps other factors relating to meetings will need to be defined and incorporated into bylaws.

Leadership. State Councils and Chapters will need to ensure that the leadership structure complies with state laws, such as the minimum number of officers and/or directors. The duties, responsibilities, and authority of officers/directors must be defined and included in the bylaws. The methods for electing, selecting, and replacing officers/directors, as well as the term of office, must be defined and included in the bylaws. If leadership will include a subset of officers/directors (example: executive board), the duties, responsibilities, and authority of that subset must be defined and included in the bylaws.

The VVA National Corporation is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of New York. For Federal income tax purposes, VVA National Corporation has been granted status under group exemption number 3202 as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code. When the VVA National Corporation dissolves, it will have no further status, either corporately or for tax-exemption purposes, and State Councils and Chapters will no longer be able to claim FEDERAL tax-exemption under the VVA National Corporation’s group exemption number.

Each State Council and each Chapter has its own unique tax identification number issued to it by the state in which it was incorporated; that STATE tax identification number is used for payment of taxes owed by the State Council or Chapter to that state. Each State Council and each Chapter has also applied for and received a separate FEDERAL tax identification number. STATE reports are filed under the STATE tax identification number, and FEDERAL reports (such as IRS Form 990) are filed under the FEDERAL tax identification number by each State Council and each Chapter. Being tax-exempt under a FEDERAL tax number does NOT mean that the organization is tax-exempt from STATE taxes; similarly, being “non-profit” under STATE law does NOT mean that the organization is tax-exempt under FEDERAL law. STATE and FEDERAL taxes (and exemptions) are independent considerations.

State Councils and Chapters which desire to continue in existence after VVA dissolves will need to take affirmative steps to obtain their own separate FEDERAL tax-exemptions under Sections 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) or other applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code, unless their activities will not require or benefit from FEDERAL tax-exemption.²

Not later than four years prior to dissolution the VVA NBOD shall assign staff members to assist continuing State Councils and Chapters with some of the legal and practical actions that will be required. As the Membership Department reduces its scope of duties, those staff members currently dealing with membership issues could assist with this process.

Not later than three years prior to dissolution each State Council and each Chapter desiring to continue in existence after the VVA National Corporation dissolves is encouraged to seek the assistance of VVA staff, and if not sufficient, a competent business attorney and/or a competent tax professional to assist in the transition. At the same time, the VVA NBOD shall advise each State Council and Chapter which desires to continue in

² Note: It is possible that some State Councils may choose to obtain group tax-exemptions which, in turn, may be used by Chapters within their defined areas.
existence after the VVA National Corporation dissolves to start the conversion process, both in terms of creating a new internal structure independent of the VVA National Corporation, and in terms of seeking its own Federal tax-exemption.

Not later than two years prior to dissolution the VVA NBOD shall direct the Constitution Committee to develop templates for bylaws, for use by continuing state councils and chapters, to possibly standardize such bylaws to fill the void left when the VVA Constitution ceases to exist.

Bob Seal
Chairman Working Group I
Idaho State Council President
Memorial Day Service and Parade

The 151st Annual Sunday Memorial Service

Sunday, May 19, 2019
at 3:00 P.M.
in the atrium of the
Rochester Community War Memorial

Photos by Glenn Peck
Memorial Day Parade
Khe Sanh Plus 51

Background:
The Battle of Khe Sanh was conducted in northwestern Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), between 21 January and 9 July 1968 during the Vietnam War. A build-up of Marine forces took place and actions around Khe Sanh commenced when the Marine base was isolated. During a series of desperate actions that lasted 77 days, Khe Sanh Combat Base (KSCB) and the hilltop outposts around it were under constant North Vietnamese ground, artillery, mortar, and rocket attacks.

During the rainy night of 2 January 1968, six men dressed in black uniforms were seen outside the defensive wire of the main base by members of a listening post. After failing to respond to a challenge, they were fired upon and five were killed outright while the sixth, although wounded, escaped. This event prompted General Cushman to reinforce Colonel Lownds with the rest of the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines. This marked the first time that all three battalions of the 26th Marine Regiment had operated together in combat since the invasion of Iwo Jima during World War II.

In order to protect positions near the Rao Quan River, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel and H&S Companies of 2/26 was immediately sent out to occupy Hill 558, with Echo Company 2/26 manning Hill 861A. After a full day of humping Echo Company reached the summit of Hill 861A an outcrop of its parent Hill 861 which was much higher and steeper than 861A. It was almost dark so we dropped our packs and slept in the elephant grass till morning. When the sun came up, we started digging trenches and clearing jungle - this was Echo Companies new home for the “siege.”

As any combat veteran knows you form a bond with the men around you, commonly referred to as a “brotherhood.” There are particular men who you bond that takes the word brotherhood from a word to a heartfelt feeling of them being a true brother - Jim Sardo is my brother. During my time at Khe Sanh Jim and I were usually together whenever possible, he was our radioman and I a fireteam leader. After my third “heart” word came down that I could go on R&R. Little did I know Jim was giving up his R&R to get me out of “country.” As he noted in a self-documentary stating I was “crazy and took too many chances helping others and wanted him out before he got killed.” When I got to the Khe Sanh Combat Base, instead of R&R they gave me orders to the Philippines to finish my “west-pac” obligation - I never got a chance to say goodbye to my brothers on “the hill.”

After the service, Jim and I lost contact with each other but a day didn’t go by when thoughts of Vietnam didn’t include my best friend. In the late 70’s thoughts of reestablishing contact proved hopeless to me, I only knew his name and had no idea where he lived. The age of the internet had not arrived yet.

On March 3rd I received an email from his son, Tom, asking if I knew his dad who was also at Khe Sanh and Hill 861A. Tom has been trying to locate me for a while and a Google search on me started to give him clues that he had possibly found his dad’s buddy. I told him I have tried to locate his dad in the past but not knowing what state he lived in produced an endless number of “Jim Sardos” - it got me nowhere. After sharing emails and phone numbers we finally made the connection - 51 years later. Jim and I shared memories, good and bad, for over 2 hours on the phone. We also decided to get together for a long overdue reunion. Jim said he never visited the new Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Virginia, so we decided that would be a good choice.

During our talks, Jim asked if I ever saw the Life Magazine picture of the two of us taken on the hill. I hadn’t so his son sent me several publications of this picture along with many others photographer David Douglas Duncan had taken after one of the hill attacks.
The above photo was taken by photographer David Douglas Duncan, it was taken on Hill 861A in February of 1968. This picture appeared in the centerfold of the February 28, 1968 Life Magazine article about the Siege at Khe Sanh during the Tet Offensive. It also appeared in his books “I Protest” and “War Without Heros.” I (Chuck Macaluso) am on the left and my good friend Jim Sardo is on the right - Jim finished his 13month tour in Nam also receiving a Purple Heart. My son Brian and Jim’s son Tom, were also in the Marines and supported us at this reunion.

On May 17th, we met at Quantico, 51 years almost to the date of this picture. As expected, it was a very emotional experience and initially seemed unreal. What also made it special was having our sons, both Marines, experience this reunion with us. We reminisced that evening till 4am and the next day we toured the Marine Corps Museum together. As it always does for me, going through the Khe Sanh exhibit brings back a flood of emotions and now I was doing it with my “brother” who was at my side through most of my Vietnam “experiences.”

Later we returned to the hotel and reviewed old Nam photos and memories. Together we hold the Life Magazine picture from February 28, 1968, 51 years older than the kids in that picture.
The weekend was an emotional experience for all four Marines and reestablished a bond that was missing for far too long.
Semper Fi
This is a photo of Jim Sardo and I about a month before we went up to Khe Sanh. It was in a publication, about six years ago, recapping the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. It is one of the better pictures I have showing how young we were. Our faces were hard to see in the February 28, 1968 Life Magazine issue. Caption under photo explains.

Chuck Macaluso
Do you have an Advance Care Plan?

“It always seems too early until it’s too late”

Join an Advance Care Planning discussion.

VA Social Worker Nancy Gaillard will help you learn how to create an Advance Care Plan to ensure your health care choices are known and followed!

For more information please contact Ms Gaillard at the number below.

Nancy E. Gaillard, LMSW-Clinical, MPA
Advance Care Planning Social Worker
Canandaigua VA Medical Center
400 Fort Hill Avenue
Canandaigua, NY 14424
585-393-7597
So you thought you knew everything.....well think again!

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

**Butterflies taste with their feet.**

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "MT".

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

**In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.**

If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

**Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.**
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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
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

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

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

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
(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

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