Between The Lines

September
2019

Issue 80
Remembering Our Fallen Heroes
Born in September

Website - http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Draper, William Michael  9-3-1947
Michalik, Willy R.        9-4-1947
Albanese Jr., John Ernest 9-5-1946
Sweet, James Newton       9-8-1945
Lesure, Ernest Estell     9-8-1946
Riccione, Steven Blaine  9-8-1947
Brady, Michael Edwin      9-8-1949
Kohlrusch, William Frederick  9-9-1931
Green Jr., Richard        9-9-1942
DeWispeleare, Rexford John 9-9-1945
Costanza, Kenneth David   9-9-1948
Marshall, James Alfred    9-12-1940
DeLooze, Jerald Frederick 9-13-1943
Hentschel, Robert Edward  9-16-1948
Zornow, Robert Lawrence   9-17-1949
Bullock, Gary E.          9-18-1942
Matteson, Thomas William  9-18-1947
Beck Jr., Edgar Peter     9-18-1950
Ehrmentraut Jr., John E.  9-19-1945
Davis, John Powers        9-20-1934
Robles-Miranda, Jose Anton 9-20-1941
Luckenbach Jr., Richard M. 9-24-1948
Crowley, John Edward      9-25-1949
Ottman, Todd Whitney      9-27-1948

Memorial Tours & Presentations
Persons interested in on-site tours or presentations at schools or organizations, contact Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com

Friends of the Memorial
To be placed on the volunteer contact list, contact Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com
VETERANS WALK COMMITTEE
154 Mendota Drive
Rochester, New York 14626

From:
Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
City/Zip: __________________________
Phone: ____________________________

Sample Brick
PFC John Doe
US Army
65-67 Vietnam

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 new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the National League of Families and the DOD that another servicemen was recovered, returned and identified this month. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War now stands at 1587.

**Major Neal Clinton Ward.** US Air Force from College Station, Texas, was a pilot of a Douglas A1H Skyraider (Spud) assigned to the 602nd Fighter Squadron, 56th Air Commando Wing in the 7th Air Force at Udorn Airbase in Thailand. On June 13, 1969, Maj. Ward was leading a flight in a two armed reconnaissance secret mission in the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic. Following four bombing runs, Maj. Ward’s aircraft started a strafing run on enemy targets. The second aircraft saw Maj. Ward’s aircraft receiving gun fire from the target area and saw a large fire and an explosion. All contact was lost between the two aircrafts. His squadron immediately started to search the crash site but due to extreme hostile enemy activity in the area, a ground search was not possible. The remains of Major Neal Clinton Ward were located and returned on December 13, 2017 and identified on July 19, 2019. He was officially accounted for on July 25, 2019. No other information is currently available.

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

- Pvt. Laurel W. Ebert, US Army was lost November 26, 1942 in Papua New Guinea. He was accounted for on July 8, 2019.
- Staff Sgt. Paul Cybowski, US Army Air Corps was lost September 15, 1943 in French Indo china. He was accounted for on July 9, 2019.
- Pfc. Grady J. Crawford, US Marine Corps Reserve was lost December 1, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on July 10, 2019.
- Pvt. James I. Trick, US Army was lost November 4, 1944 in Germany. He was accounted for on July 10, 2019.
- Pvt. Robert W. McCarville, US Army was lost December 5, 1942 in Papua New Guinea. He was accounted for on July 12, 2019.
• Pfc. William E. Rambo, US Marine Corps Reserves was lost November 20, 1943 in Tarawa. He was accounted for on July 13, 2019.
• Pvt. Connie Cage, US Army was lost November 22, 1942 in Papua New Guinea. He was accounted for on July 16, 2019.
• Pfc. Eugene E. Lochowicz, US Army was lost June 13, 1945 in Germany. He was accounted for on July 26, 2019.
• Pvt. Charlie M. Waid, US Army was lost November 19, 1942 in the Philippines. He was accounted for on July 26, 2019.
• Cpl. Herman R. Phy, US Army was lost July 6, 1953 in North Korea. He was accounted for on July 29, 2019.
• Cpl. Walter J. Kellett, US Army Air Corps was lost July 19, 1942 in the Philippines. He was accounted for on July 30, 2019.
• 1st Lt. Herschel H. Mattes., US Army Air Corps was lost March 6, 1944 in Italy. He was accounted for on July 30, 2019.
• Pfc. Joseph R. Livermore, US Marine Corps was lost November 22, 1943 in Tarawa. He was accounted for on July 30, 2019.
• Cpl. Harold Pearce, US Army was lost July 20, 1950 in South Korea. He was accounted for on July 30, 2019.
• Pfc. Daniel W. Gerrity, US Army was lost November 30, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on July 30, 2019.
• Maj. Harvey H. Storms, US Army was lost December 1, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on July 30, 2019.
• Sgt. Willie V. Galvan, US Army was lost December 1, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on August 1, 2019.
• Pfc. Donald E. Mangan, US Army was lost September 17, 1944 in Germany. He was accounted for on August 2, 2019.
• Pfc. Lawrence E. Worthers, US Army was lost September 17, 1944 in Germany. He was accounted for on August 5, 2019.
• Cpl. Norvin D. Brockett, US Army was lost December 6, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on August 6, 2019.
• Sgt. Walter H. Tobin Jr., US Army was lost December 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on August 8, 2019.
• Sgt. Billy J. Maxwell, US Army was lost November 30 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on August 8, 2019.
• Fire Controlman 3rd Class, Adolph J. Loebach, Mess Attendant 1st Class, Johnnie C. Laurie and Seaman 1st Class Lyal J. Savage, US Navy was lost on December 7, 1941 on Board the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They were accounted for on July 15, and August 6, 2019.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES.
WE WELCOME YOU HOME BROTHERS.
POW / MIA
Candlelight Vigil

Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 5:30 pm.
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park
(If weather issues occur, a shorter service will be performed).

For more information, Contact Joe Peck
Volunteers for the reading of the names are needed
Membership Update

Mike General Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 619 members and AVVA is at 39 members as of 05/31/19. Membership has not been growing (only 3 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 2 members who passed away.

Please Renew Your Membership!

**All Life Memberships are $50.00**

*If you a renewing as a “Life Member”, please remember to include a copy of your DD-214 with your application.*

When you have an address change, please notify Mike General so we can keep our Roster up to date and notify National.

**Need your help in recruiting new members.**

Chapter 20 Membership is open to U.S. Veterans who served active duty (other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 07, 1975, or any duty location between August 05, 1964 and May 07, 1975.

Membership includes a subscription to our award-winning newspaper The BTL, and The VVA Veteran, bringing you updates on issues and legislation affecting veterans, as well as unique articles on the people, places, and history of the Vietnam experience.

**Associate Membership** is open to anyone; you do not need to be a Veteran.

**WE Need New Members!** Membership Applications are available on our Website or by contacting me. (mwgeneral@aol.com)
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.
With the Labor Day holiday fast approaching, it may seem like our summer season is coming to an end all too soon. But, recall that this is the Rochester, New York area and even though we have been accused of only having two seasons like the 4th of July and winter to some out of town friends, summer time can still linger here for several more weeks. That's what I'm hoping for, an extended season of warm weather, or at the very least a welcomed Indian summer and not an early fall. One thing that does happen with persistence and regularity as we change our monthly calendars from August to September is seeing and hearing the advertisements for flu shots, and other vaccinations like Shingles, Pneumonia, or updating the tetanus shots you may have been putting off. Get them as soon as you can. The benefits are longer or sooner protection from these illnesses. As we have often discussed why give any illness an opportunity to invade our bodies especially if we already have a compromised immune system. Please do not procrastinate. Get the required and needed shots for your best personal quality of health outcomes.

I also wanted to pass along, a list of military installations that show contamination levels that exceed safe health standards. Some of our membership may indeed been exposed to toxins that we are now just finding out about. Check out the listing for yourself. Another item of interest that comes up from time to time at our trailer outreach events are the VA categories for priority groups used to provide health services. You may find this news worthy item allowing service-connected veterans an opportunity to shop at military installations beginning January 1, 2020 of some benefit. Yep, on post at the PX or commissary. And you don't have to be 100% service connected for this change to affect you.

Finally, wanted to remind all who faithfully read the BTL, that you can always go back online and find information that was previously posted. For example, the July 2019 BTL had links to the Mission Act in case you needed to review. That being said, you can use Google as a search engine/browser and look for "VA urgent care locations in the Rochester, NY area.....up pops a link for you to click on and you can find your nearest Urgent Care Community Partner that the VA has selected for health services that you may need under the "urgent care" Mission Act guidelines.

Respectfully submitted:
Jerry McDermott, Chair Health Affairs

Contaminated Military Installations ► Dangerous Chemicals Making Veterans Sick

If you’re a veteran or a dependent suffering from short-term memory problems, chronic fatigue, headaches, confusion, loss of appetite, painful joints, ringing in your ears, and a host of other physical and psychological conditions, your problems may be associated with you being exposed to dangerous chemicals. Not just herbicides in Vietnam or burn pits in the Middle East, or vaccines given to you prior to being shipped overseas, it could be the result of having been stationed or lived in an area near a military installation contaminated with dangerous chemicals.
Sure, many of the military installations look beautiful. Most are supremely manicured, many offer state-of-the-art facilities, and most military installations are safe havens. However, quite of few of our beloved military installations are dripping with dangerous hidden chemicals. Some of these insidious chemicals have worked their way into the water supply systems on many military installations. The water you consumed for drinking, bathing and recreation, may have been polluted with chemicals that you couldn’t see, taste, or smell. But, nonetheless, presented an imminent danger to you, your family and military colleagues.

Listed below are the military installations where many dangerous chemicals contaminated the water supply system on or near a military installation, exposing you and your family to great harm.

**Air Force**
- Castle AFB, California -- **Trichloroethylene (TCE)**
- Dover AFB, Delaware -- Arsenic and other metals; **Trichloroethylene (TCE)**
- Griffiss AFB, Rome New York – Phenols, Ethyl benzene, Benzene, and Toulene
- Hill AFB, Utah -- **Trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,2 dichloroethylene**, and 1,1,1 trichlorethane
- Mather AFB, California -- **Trichloroethylene (TCE)**
- McChord AFB, Washington -- Methylene chloride, Chloroform, Benzene, Arsenic, Chromium, and Mercury
- McClellan AFB, California -- **Trichloroethylene (TCE)**, Methylene chloride, and 1-1 dichloreythene
- Norton AFB, California -- **Trichloroethylene (TCE)**, Silver, Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and Radone
- Robins AFB, Georgia -- Halogenated solvents, Heavy metals, DDT, Chordane, Cyanide, Oil products, **Trichloroethylene (TCE)**, and Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)
- Tinker AFB, Oklahoma -- Chlorinated solvents
- Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio -- **Trichloroethylene (TCE)** and Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)

**Army**
- Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland -- Chemicals found in water supply: Tetrachloroethane, Dichloroethane, Dithane, and Hexanone
- Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia -- Chemicals found in water supply: Tetrachloroethane, Dichloroethane, Dithane, Hexanone, and DDT
- Fort Belvoir, Virginia -- Benzene, **Trichloroethylene**, Chloroform, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and 1-2-dichloroethane
- Fort Devens, Massachusetts -- A sanitary landfill near the installation was discovered as a potential source of contamination. The landfill is currently closed.
- Fort Dix, New Jersey -- Organic solvents and Petroleum products
- Fort Lewis, Washington - **Trichloroethylene (TCE)**
- Fort McClellan, Alabama -- Mustard Gas Agent
- Redstone Arsenal, Alabama -- DDT, PCBs, and Heavy metals

**Navy**
- Brunswick NAS, Maine -- A study is under way to determine contaminants and their migration habits.
- Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Center, New Jersey -- Tetraethyl lead, Nitronomine (Carcinogen), Aniline, Furfural (toxic by ingestion, inhalation, or skin absorption), Ferric Chloride Solution, Hydraulic fluids, Asbestos, Cutting Oils, Solvents, Heavy metals, Ordnance shells, Gas-loaded projectiles, Phosgene, Phosphorus, and Mustard agent
- Moffett Field NAS, California -- Volatile organic compounds
- Whidbey Island NAS, Washington -- Waste oil, Solvents, and Jet fuel
- China Lake, California -- Jet fuel
- Indian Head NOS, Maryland -- Jet fuel
- Jacksonville NAS, Florida -- Jet fuel
- Miramar NAS, California -- Research continues at this location
- Pabmont River NAS, Maryland -- Research continues at this location
- Roosevelt Roads NS, Puerto Rico -- Strong indications of contamination, but all studies have been terminated.

[Source: U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs | December 10, 2018 ++]
Military Shopping/MWR Benefit Expanding to 3-Million More Vets

As about 3 million more people will soon be eligible to shop at military stores, officials are working to make sure these new customers will have access to bases, and that the shelves will be stocked. Starting 1 JAN, all service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and primary veteran caregivers will be eligible to shop at commissaries and exchanges, and officials from three federal agencies are preparing the way. The newly eligible customers will also be able to use certain morale, welfare and recreation activities. It’s the largest patronage expansion in more than 60 years, said Virginia Penrod, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs, who spoke at a recent meeting of the American Logistics Association.

The departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security have been planning for the expansion for more than six months, with four teams totaling about 70 people. Among other things, they’ve decided how the new customers will get access to military installations and to the stores; assessed the impact on the stores, and have been making plans to ensure enough products get to the shelves in the right assortment. The fiscal 2019 National Defense Authorization Act expanded the pool of eligible shoppers. Because the expansion also applies to Coast Guard facilities, the Department of Homeland Security has been involved.

The law also included Medal of Honor recipients, but they already had shopping privileges. Previously, veterans with 100 percent service-connected disabilities were able to shop; now all with service-connected disabilities can shop. The benefit extends to MWR programs that are “revenue-generating facilities,” according to the law. The expansion is about a 50 percent increase in customers. Currently, about 6 million total households are eligible for the benefit; this adds 3 million, said Justin Hall, director of the DoD office of MWR and Resale Policy. “That’s a huge lift across the entire system.” he said.

Officials have been mapping out the areas, using VA statistics, where there may be more of an impact on the stores. The impact assessments generally show there will be a low to moderate impact on military stores overall, said Penrod. But she called on representatives of industry for their help to make sure the supply chain “remains responsive to the increased sales volume to ensure no out of stock situations occur” at stores in states with high populations of disabled veterans and in states with higher cost of living. States with a higher population density of disabled veterans are Florida, Texas and California, said Barry Patrick, in the DoD office of resale policy. High cost areas were identified as Hawaii; Alaska, California; the Washington metropolitan area; New York; New Jersey and Washington state, he said.

These new shoppers generally don’t have access to military bases. Officials have decided the best form of identification for these groups: Disabled and other eligible veterans: For access into the installation, and for access to the stores, they’ll use the veterans health ID card, Patrick said. Officials are working to enable technology at the front gate to scan those veteran cards, and will start scanning the cards in October, he said. Commissary officials are working on adjusting their technology to enable systems to read the veterans health ID card.

Caregivers: The process will be different, initially, Patrick said, since they’re not directly affiliated with DoD or VA other than through their annual appointment to be a caregiver. The benefit applies to the primary caregiver of wounded/injured veterans who are registered in the Department of Veterans Affairs caregiver program. Beginning in October, the VA will post a memo to VA.gov for caregivers, to be used for access at the front gate, along with driver’s license or other authorized form of ID. The VA process will later transition to a caregiver-type ID card, which will have scanning swipe capability, he said. Currently there are about 30,000 VA caregivers who will qualify for this benefit, but over the next several years the number could potentially grow to about 250,000, Patrick noted.

These new customers will pay a fee for using a credit card at commissaries, except for the military resale system’s Military Star card. The amount of the fee has not yet been determined. By law, this expansion can’t include extra costs associated with using credit cards in commissaries; the cost must be passed on to the customer. Except for the Military Star card, credit card companies charge transaction fees to retailers when customers use their credit cards. There will be a flag built into the system at commissaries so that when the card is swiped the fee will be charged. The fee applies only to new patrons using credit cards in commissaries, not to Medal of Honor recipients or others who were previously authorized to
shop. New customers can avoid the fees by paying by cash, check or using the Military Star card. It only applies at the commissary, which is funded primarily by taxpayer dollars.

The DoD resale community has been working together to estimate the number of likely shoppers by location, and the merchandise categories that will interest those shoppers. For example, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will be adjusting its inventory by location, said Chris Ward, spokesman for AAFES. "Extending the brick-and-mortar military exchange benefit to all disabled veterans is not expected to require material investments in facilities or technology," he said. Patrick said officials will launch an information campaign to get out the word about the new benefit to the new customers, but also to installation officials. [Source: MilitaryTimes | Karen Jowers | July 22, 2019

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**VA Priority Groups Explained**

Did you know that once a veteran applies for enrollment, their eligibility will be verified by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)? Based on the veteran's specific eligibility status, he/she will be assigned a Priority Group. The Priority Groups range from one to eight, with one being the highest priority. VA uses the following factors to assign a veteran to a priority group:

- Veteran’s military service history
- Veteran’s disability rating
- Veteran’s income level
- Whether or not the veteran qualifies for Medicaid
- Other benefits the veteran may be receiving (like VA pension benefits)

VA will assign veterans with service-connected disabilities the highest priority. VA will assign the lowest priority to veterans who earn a higher income and who don’t have any service-connected disabilities qualifying them for disability compensation (monthly payments). If you qualify for more than one priority group, VA will assign you to the highest priority group. A brief description of each Priority Group is as follows:

**Priority Group 1:** Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated by VA as 50% or more disabling, veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions, and veterans who have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Priority Group 2:** Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated by the VA as 30% or 40% disabling.

**Priority Groups 3:** Veterans who are former Prisoners of War, veterans who have been awarded a Purple Heart medal, veterans whose discharge was for a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, veterans with service-connected disabilities rated by the VA as 10% or 20% disabling.

**Priority Group 4:** Veterans who receive aid and attendance or housebound benefits from the VA, and veterans who have been determined to be catastrophically disabled.

**Priority Group 5:** Veterans with nonservice connected or non-compensable service-connected disability and veterans rated by the VA as 0% disabled and who have an annual income below the VA's geographically-adjusted income limit. It also includes veterans who receive VA pension benefits and veterans who are eligible for Medicaid programs.

**Priority Group 6:** Veterans with a compensable 0% service-connected disability, veterans exposed to radiation during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, veterans of the Persian Gulf War who served between August 2, 1990 and November 11, 1998, veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and currently enrolled veterans and new enrollees who served in a theatre of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and those who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003.

**Priority Group 7:** Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted VA income limit for their resident location and who agree to pay co-payments.
Priority Group 8: Veterans with gross household incomes above the VA income limits and the geographically adjusted income limits for their resident location, and who agree to pay co-payments. It also includes veterans in Sub priority groups "a" through "g."

Note: Failure to follow through on having your annual physical may result in your being dropped from the system. It should be noted that veterans with at least a 10% service-connected disability rating qualify for free eye glasses and hearing aids and are able to receive VA healthcare with co-payments. At 30%, dependents are included for prescription coverage. At 50%, all health care is covered with no co-payments. At 70% long term care is free.

[Source: U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs | July 22, 2019 ++]

From: Patrick Welch <pwwusmc@gmail.com>
Date: August 11, 2019 at 9:12:25 PM EDT
To: Patrick Welch <pwwusmc@gmail.com>
Subject: Vets - Urgent Care vs VA ER Info

All,
FYI and distribution.

Since the Mission Act started, I have been asked several times about when should a veteran use an urgent care center verses going to the VA Emergency Room.

The VA has put of some information to help us make that decision. Here is the link to that information. I hope this helps.


Best

Very grateful...........

Patrick
Patrick W. Welch, PhD
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)
Veterans Advocate - Educator - Speaker
Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court
Senior Mentor
WNY CVEB - Community Veterans Engagement Board
Board Chair

Justice for Vets

National Faculty Member

A division of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals

We are not broken; We are Changed!
VVA National Convention 2019 - A Procrastinators Dream     By Ron Trovato

It was indeed an honor to help represent Chapter 20 at the National Convention in Spokane, Washington and I thank the membership for sending me. It was a long and punishing flight to Spokane via Minneapolis/St. Paul, the second leg being punctuated the entire time by the shrieking of a kid a couple of rows behind me. The hopelessly oblivious parents apparently had some New Age child rearing technique that did not include control, discipline or respect for those on the receiving end of little Ruttiger. Somehow Hank Wallace slept through this Geneva Convention violation while Lynn Gursslin and I shared thoughts on what we would say to a Grand Jury. With shattered nerves we finally arrived at our hotel and there is a huge snafu with our rooms. Hank and I have one double bed and since neither of us is from Sullivan County, we complain to the desk clerk who, with all the joy of a coroner, says there is nothing he can do except send up a cot. Valentino spots my nervous tic getting worse and senses he is watching the water rise in a toilet about to overflow so he jumps in. “Let me speak to your supervisor”, he says evenly and the response does not meet Val’s expectation so he emphasizes his request with assorted Sicilian epithets, the evil eye, a lifetime vendetta and the international throat cutting sign. The guy had the look on his face like he was eating unpopped popcorn and the problem was instantly resolved and Hank and I settle into our new digs.

The next morning, we enter the convention past the floor marshals who are appropriately dressed in canary yellow and eyeball us like severe, humorless kindergarten teachers. The convention opens with the National Officers and their entourage goose stepping towards Working Group 2’s new socialist paradise veterans’ organization and the New York delegation is all split up with Jerry McDermott and Dan Corona in a broom closet. The writing is on the wall and Last Man Standing delegates are less noticed than people in the Witness Protection Program. I’m rooming with Hank who is gratefully doing the thinking for both of us as I have a mind like an unmade bed. We are a lot alike politically which means we are on the Little Big Horn of the culture wars but this does not faze Captain Wallace in the least. Each and every morning Hank has me out of bed at 3:30AM and he calls cadence as he marches his one-man company half time to nearby hippie coffee shops where we drink our java along with tattoo infested millennials:

“Ain’t no sense in looking down,
“Ain’t no discharge on the ground!”...... Left, Right, Left......
“Ain’t no sense in looking back,
“Jodys got your Cadillac!”......Left, Right, Left
“I used to date a beauty queen,
“Now I love my M-16!”......Left, Right, Left
“Throw another hand grenade,
“That’s my idea of foreign aid!”

The Convention itself was pretty predictable but it is good to be around Vietnam and Era vets as we trade stories and memories. There is no denying that more of us have problems in getting around and the long-term effects of Vietnam service are front and center. Scooters, wheelchairs, and walkers were everywhere and many more of us are shuffling around trying to hear what our buddy just said. Retired Gen. Wesley Clark gave a well-received speech on how he was wounded in Vietnam and you could see the emotion in his presentation and the struggles he had to deal with for over 50 years. He ended with some pretty good common sense that a lot of us in that room had been feeling for years and that is to never commit US troops unless we have a strategy and determination to win. I
talked up Last Man Standing and almost all of Chapter 20’s delegates voted to reflect our memberships’ direction on this issue. It does feel like we are on the Titanic as National is at odds with us on this item and there were an awful lot of first-time convention delegates who may not really know our history. Almost everyone I talked to supported Last Man Standing yet the vote, which incidentally was in the form of a Resolution and not a Constitutional Amendment which would require a two thirds majority, was passed. Nick Deleo gave a spirited explanation of why something of this magnitude could not be a resolution but to no avail. The delegates basically kicked the can down the road for the next two years after spending a huge amount of time and money to bring this issue to a decision. The resolution that was passed allowed for more investigation into a name change that would entice new veterans into joining a renamed organization and open up membership to these new vets. In my opinion, it was Working Group 2 in disguise.

The election of officers was pretty much a non-event and I had a productive conversation with Ned Foote about Nationals Veterans Incarcerated Committee. The sparsely attended Veterans Incarcerated Committee Hearing was poorly presented and one lame feel good resolution was discussed ad nauseum and it was pretty much a waste of time. When this very resolution was presented on the convention floor, and it should have been a no brainer, well it almost destroyed the convention as the Committee Chair was in over his head and quickly off in the weeds and the minutia of funding, wording, commas and semi colons took over. On the other hand, the Constitution Committee Hearing had to be moved to a larger venue and it was well run and lively, especially when the attendees figured out, they were dealing with Amendments and not Resolutions. This was the way I remember VVA and delegates did get a chance to have input and the Committee Chair did explain much to provide clarity.

It was a quick four days and on get away day Hank and I watched film clips of the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing and once again realized what this country could do before it connected millions of uninteresting people to each other on social media. It was good to room with my West Point buddy and we found plenty of places to eat non-sissy food and whenever I got depressed at the direction the convention was taking, Hank was always there pulling my head out of the oven. We all met at the front desk for rides to the airport where once again I displayed the true extent of my intellectual prowess only to receive further words of unsolicited advice from Bill Auble and Mike Sanfilippo. It is always good to be among friendly Chapter 20 folk and we were soon on our way back to steamy, Vietnam like Rochester. Indecisive as it was, the convention really was time well spent for me. (Many thanks to Diane Corona without whose pen this article could not have been written.)
New Member, Olin Mossburger, Army ’66 - ‘67
(Apologies from the photographer, he needs to put his glasses when taking a picture)

New Member, Charles Nadeau, USAirforce “64 - ‘68

Val presented Nancy Apeldoorn a check for $2,000 from Chapter 20. Nancy Van Apeldoorn, Founder of Lap Robes for Veterans, would like to thank the Officers, Board of Directors, and the Membership of Chapter 20 for their continued financial support. 100% of the donation will be invested in material, the volunteers of Lap Robes for Veterans will meet at Jackie Lynn’s Fabrics on Ridge Road East to convert the material to Lap Robes, and those Lap Robes will be presented to local Veterans in Hospice, Nursing Homes, and to those returning from Honor Flight.

This Veterans Day at 0930 at the Roger Robach Community Center Nancy will be presenting the 10,000th Lap Robe to a local Veteran. All are invited to attend. It was on a Chapter 20 bus trip to Washington, DC some 12 years ago that light the fire now known as Lap Robes for Veterans.
Flag drawing winner, Mike Sanfilippo

50/50 drawing winner, Mike Cole

Special wall hanging drawing winner, John Whitney
Webster Parade

Pictures by Glenn Peck
MCH VETERANS EVENT

Pictures by Glenn Peck
My first convention since 2013 and, unfortunately, it was disappointing. This was my fourteenth convention and while some of the attendees have changed, not much else has. For me, there was an overall feeling of disorganization and lack of planning.

Prior to arriving at the convention, rumor had it that there would be no seating available for spectators – that proved to be false as there was more than enough seating for spectators. Security seemed rather lackadaisical compared to the past when Gestapo Agents were handling security. Rarely were credentials closely checked for admittance to the delegates’ area. In fact, nowhere on our name badges did it state that you were a delegate. The on-stage podium had no VVA logo on it and the people on the stage often complained about the lighting preventing them from seeing the audience.

The National Chaplain’s opening prayer was heavily slanted to promote Working Group 2’s plan to morph VVA into a new organization. I’m not sure if the idea was to convince the delegates that the Almighty favors Working Group 2 over Working Group 1 but I feel it had no place in the prayer. And then there was Medal of Honor recipient, Allen Lynch, who addressed the delegates and demonstrated an obvious bias to favoring Working Group 2’s plan.

Fortunately, keynote speaker, General Wesley C. Clark showed no preference for either working group. In fact, the General made no mention of either Group. General Clark emphasized that he truly was proud to be among his fellow Vietnam Veterans. The General became very emotional as he told us the story of his getting shot (four times) during an ambush on a trail in Vietnam. Had he not turned to speak to his radioman just as the enemy fired on him, he would have taken the rounds center mass instead of in the leg and side. I doubt there was a single dry eye in the house after the General’s talk.

I attended the committee hearing on proposed Membership Resolutions hoping to get some insight on the membership department. However, the entire ninety minutes was devoted to discussing the future of VVA and the submitted Resolutions regarding that future direction. I did have an opportunity to speak to the new head of the Membership Department, Tracie Houston, who promised to investigate why we are not receiving updated rosters.

Next up was the committee hearing on proposed Constitutional Amendments. The only proposed amendments that people seemed to be interested in were the ones concerning the future of VVA. Supporters
of both points of view (last-man-standing vs. a new organization) spoke with equal amounts of passion and sincerity.

That evening we attended the Region 2 Caucus. This provided us the opportunity to hear all the candidates speak. Even those who were running unopposed. Without fail each candidate was asked where he or she personally stood on the future of VVA. Some were reluctant to answer the question, some proclaimed to not have a position and would do as the delegates wished, and some took the politician’s stance of straddling the fence. Not exactly stellar performances. In true non-partisan fashion, NYS Council President offered to inform us of which candidates he was supporting. Many of the delegates of the Region welcomed his opinion but the Chapter 20 delegation did not and left the room at this point. Delegates from Chapter 20 have always been independent thinkers and do not need to be given any direction on whom they should support with their votes. Unfortunately, not all of the Chapter 20 delegates attended this meeting.

Thursday morning the Credentials Committee reported that 636 delegates were present. Not a record, but a decent number for VVA. Working Group 1 (Last Man Standing) made a power point presentation on their vision for the future of VVA. Unfortunately, Working Group 2 (reform VVA as a new organization) did not make a presentation. No explanation was given other than the fact that WG2 did not have a power point presentation ready to show. Then we got down to business and dealt with the proposed Constitutional Amendments.

Friday morning, we cast our votes and then reconvened as a delegation. After some announcements, and award presentations we were privileged to suffer through the presentation of the proposed Resolutions. And suffer we did because the Resolutions Chair was obviously unprepared and did a poor job. In fact, the South Carolina State President said as much to the entire delegation.

Saturday, we flew home.

2019 National VVA Election Results

President – John Rowan (NY) – ran unopposed

Vice President – Tom Burke (OH) – ran unopposed

Secretary – Bill Meeks (TX) – ran unopposed

Treasurer – Jack McManus (MI/VA)

Region 2 Director – Ted Wilkinson (PA) – ran unopposed

At-Large Directors (the top 10 vote getters of 14 candidates were elected)

Sandie Wilson (MI)
Adopted/Amended Convention Resolutions – 2019

By Fred Elliott

Agent Orange

Remove One Year Cutoff Date for Chloracne, Acute/Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy, Porphyria and Cutanea Tarda

Industrial Manufacturing Processes, Including Papermaking

Ban the Manufacturing, Sale, and/or Use of 2,4-D and Glyphosate

Government Affairs

Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

USS Frank Evans

Minority Affairs

Korean American Vietnam War Veterans

The Equal Treatment of the 3.2 Million American Citizens in Puerto Rico
Veterans Benefits

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Quality Assurance Program

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Spina Bifida and Birth Defects Program

Protection of the Right to Representation in Appeals

Less-Than-Honorable Administrative Discharges

DVA Implementation of U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Decisions

Reduction of DIC Survivor Waiting Period

Veterans Incarcerated and in the Justice System

Getting Ahead While Getting Out

Healthcare

Participation in the Process of Accrediting VA Medical Centers

Hours of Operation of VA Medical Facilities

Testing for Hepatitis C

Homeless Veterans

VA Homeless Grant and Per Diem Funding

Women Veterans

Medical Treatment of Women Veterans by DVA

Membership Affairs

Changing the Name of Vietnam Veterans of America – Position: Require VVA’s Officers and Board of Directors to investigate the requirements to change the name of Vietnam Veterans of America to a name that would entice Post-Vietnam veterans to join the renamed organization and open up membership to these newer veterans. These proposed changes would be presented to the delegates at the 2021 Convention for ratification.
(As you read in the above Resolution, any name change for VVA has been delayed until at least 2021. This was a much debated, hotly contested issue among the Delegates.)

Adopted/Amended Constitution Changes – 2019

By Fred Elliott

**Article 1, National Provisions, Section 3, Paragraph A**

Because annual dues have been eliminated in favor of life memberships, “...paying in advance annual dues...” has been amended to “...paying in advance dues...”

**Article 1, National Provisions, Section 4, Paragraph 1**

Because the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) no longer uses the term liaison and no written recommendation from the AAVA Board of Directors is required, the affected paragraph has been amended to delete liaison and insert National President.

**Article 3, Chapter Provisions, Section 5, Paragraph K**

When there is an elected AVVA representative or an elected AVVA Chapter President, a VVA Chapter shall seat that individual on their Board where he or she is entitled to be heard on all matters. This change brings the Chapter Provisions in line with the National and State Provisions of the VVA Constitution.

**Article 3, Chapter Provisions, Section 6, Paragraph A**

Chapters are starting to have trouble finding members to fill officer positions. This amendment will allow Chapters more flexibility by allowing the following combined positions: Vice President – Secretary or Vice President – Treasurer.

**Article 4, General Provisions, Section 2, new paragraph B**

A new paragraph was added to ensure all members of VVA are treated with respect regardless of disagreements. “Retaliation against any member, who, in good faith, files disciplinary charges; testifies or participates in disciplinary hearings; or reports actual or perceived violations of VVA policy or unlawful acts is strictly forbidden.”

All proposed Amendments pertaining to the dissolution of VVA were defeated. At the same time the only Resolution dealing with the future of VVA to be passed was the investigation of what is required for an organizational name change. Were the Delegates unduly influenced by Father Phil’s opening prayer/remarks or MOH recipient Allen Lynch’s comments, it’s impossible to tell. But the Delegates were unwilling to make a definitive choice about the future of VVA at this convention.
As the T shirts and the pins say we survived the 2019 VVA convention. The worst thing about it was the three-hour time difference between NYS and WA. I had never been to Spokane. I was in Seattle once many years ago. Washington State is a beautiful state. If you are an outdoors type of person it’s the place to live. The weather was great with temps in the 70’s. It was a good trip and experience for the Chapter members who attended. We put two guys to a room and cutout one overnight stay and the banquet. That saves the chapter some money.

Some interesting numbers are: There were 668 delegates in attendance. 90 from region 2 which is NY, PA, NJ and Del. The VVA has 84,768 members. It is awesome to see and meet Brothers and Sisters from all over the country. I first hooked with the Louisiana delegation at my first Convention in Jacksonville, FL. They had a hospitality room filled with drinks and food that would boggle one’s mind. These guys are Cajun and are wonderful warm inviting people. You can’t beat being with other Veterans. I find the same camaraderie in volunteering for Life Time Care Hospice.

I usually attend the sessions on Membership and Incarcerated Veterans. This time the subject of the future of the VVA got put into the Membership Committee. So, the usual membership subjects got thrown under the proverbial bus. With all the hype going on between the Group 1 and Group 2 thing...Group 1 being last man standing and Group2 being in favor of continuing on the outcome at the convention is that it was voted on that the VVA will try to find a or some organizations that will join us between now and 2021. So, they have another two years to come up with a legacy. I did not make it to the Incarcerated Veterans session this year because of time mix up but Ron Trovoto was at this convention so he attended it. I tried to make it to the Government Affairs session but i couldn’t get a seat in the room.

All in all, it was a good convention. It is always an adventure to team up at the end of the day and look for a place to eat. I am all Mexicaned out for a while. Who goes here and who goes there? Then we check out the others guys place. It is going to be interesting on what direction the organization will take. I am a Last Man Standing guy. Mostly because from what I see belonging to VFW and American Legion and another club.
Younger people don’t want to join much of anything. Bottom line. I personally hope it goes to last man standing. That’s what it will be if they can’t pass the torch or find a partner. Thanks for letting me represent you.

Report: 19th VVA National Convention Spokane, WA July 16-20, 2019

To paraphrase Charles Dickens’ story line, it was the best of times and the worst of times. Let me explain. The 19th VVA National Convention was my 5th time attending our national organization’s bi-annual event. This one certainly did not live up to the pre-convention publicity or my expectations regarding issues such as hearing debates, recommendations and the opportunity to vote on proposals from Working Groups 1 and 2 concerning our future. Yes, I did attend the opening ceremony that was heart rendering by our Native American brothers who fought in Vietnam and welcomed all with their very simple but humbling cultural music and dance. Yes, the guest speakers such as Robert Willkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, continued to promise better veteran centered care, more timely and expanded services, faster claim responses and processing, more staffing in health care services country wide, and enhanced PTSD and suicide prevention partnerships with local community providers. Yes, there were great motivational speakers like Vietnam veteran MOH recipient Allen Lynch and Vietnam veteran General Wesley Clark, USA retired. Yes, I fulfilled my assignments to attend the Committee hearings on Agent Orange/Dioxin, Health Care, and Government Affairs. All of the meetings were interesting, informative and resulted in great discussions on issues being resolved. If any additional action was needed to be taken at the close of this convention, it was tabled. Tabled so that our government affairs staff could returned to their offices to monitor these lingering questions about new AO presumptive health issues with Congress and the VA. Yes, I attended the Regional caucus to hear the candidates running for all elected positions speak. I wanted to hear their positions on Convention issues, learn their backgrounds and where they stood on such issues. Yes, the community of Spokane was welcoming, hospitable and scenic. Very friendly people out on the streets, restaurants and river walk in the downtown areas. Yes, the classic car show on Thursday night was a bonus for many of us who remembered the “classics” as the cars that our family used to own and drive. Very cool cars, but we never knew back then just how cool they are now to look at and own.

But, the worst of times was how the running of the Resolutions at the Conventions which were to be presented, debated and voted on to the assembled delegates played out. This was not a shining moment; through rules of order there was a resolution made on the floor that took away any immediate chance to vote on Working Group 1 and 2’s preconvention mandate. In essence the debate and resolutions were kicked down the road (actually calendar) until 2021 to be acted upon. Very frustrating and annoying to the delegates by a slim margin, this floor resolution passed. Also, not having more candidates running for office at any level diminishes the chance for fresh ideas, different perspectives being discussed, and gives a false sense that the status quo is acceptable. I applaud people who do run for positions at all levels. We need to encourage people to step up and toss their hats in the ring.
I want to thank our Chapter 20 membership for the honor and privilege to attend the Spokane Convention. Chapter 20 has the greatest group of Vietnam veterans anywhere in the country, and I do take seriously the opportunity to represent our membership anytime anyplace and anywhere. Much can be learned at such events, how some areas accomplish their mission and get things done, things that you would not necessarily think of right away, and hear about best practices that get results. I believe that I benefit a great deal from these experiences, and will continue to work with our Chapter 20 members, spouses and families to bring forth information and help educate all about their honorable service benefits.

Respectfully submitted:  Jerry McDermott, BOD, Health Affairs Chairman

As president of Chapter 20, I am very proud to have a board to represent The Chapter at the convention. We each attend many different committee presentations. The government affairs presentation committee was not prepared to report on different convention resolutions and amendments. A few resolutions were adopted and some were voted down or tabled for the next convention. The candidates from chapter 20 attended the 19 convention in Spokane Washington. My self, Valentino Gatto, Joe Peck, Alan Frisa, Jerry McDermott, Lynn Gursslin, Dan Corona, Nick Deleo, Stan Patykiewicz, Fred Elliott, Michael Sanfilippo, Ron Trovato, Hank Wallace, Bill Able and Ken Allocco not in the picture.
This year’s convention at Spokane, Washington I must say was not as organized as in previous years. There was no military fanfare and at times the ceremony dragged on. There were speeches given by Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert Wilke, Allen Lynch who won the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War and retired General Westley Clark all of which were very impressive and powerful. I did attend the POW/MIA Committee and was very pleased with the presentation given by Grant Coates who is the Chair of that Committee. He talked about the complicated process of recovering our MIA’s and the continued effort that is still going on today. He in particular brought up the case concerning Seaman Journalist Petty Officer 3rd Class Raul Antonio Guerra. (BTL April 2019 issue). His remains were recovered August 15th 2005 and he was finally accounted for on February 20, 2019. The reason it took 14 years for this to happen is that Raul was adopted from Mexico as a child. When the DPAA tried to contact his adopted parents about his case, they discovered that they were deceased. With no other siblings or family to contact, they went above and beyond to try and locate his birth mother and or father. After almost 14 years they were able to locate and notify his mother (Armenian) and father (Mexican) on the circumstances on the death of their son.
On Friday, there was a very simple and solemn ceremony honoring our missing Americans. Stan Patykiewicz, Alan Frisa, Lynn Gursslin and I were in attendance.

POW / MIA CEREMONY
Only on the West Coast do you need a sign to tell you which way the escalator is going.

Former Probation Officer, Ron Trovato, was seen with tears in his eyes when he read this sign at the National Convention.
Picture taken by Ken Allocco
This is the fifth 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.

Article prepared by Bruce Van Apeldoorn.

Only one of our 280 heroes is a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. His bollard is the only blue one. He is Marine Cpl. William T. Perkins, Jr.

Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to Corporal William T. Perkins Jr. United States Marine Corps for service as set forth in the following citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a combat photographer attached to Company C, First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division, in the Republic of Vietnam on 12 October 1967. During Operation MEDINA, a major reconnaissance in force, southwest of Quang Tri, Company C made heavy combat contact with a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army Force estimated at from two to three companies. The focal point of the intense fighting was a helicopter landing zone which was also serving as the Command Post of Company C. In the course of a strong hostile attack, an enemy grenade landed in the immediate area occupied by Corporal Perkins and three other Marines. Realizing the inherent danger, he shouted the warning, "Incoming Grenade" to his fellow Marines, and in a valiant act of heroism, hurled
himself upon the grenade absorbing the impact of the explosion with his own body thereby saving the lives of his comrades at the cost of his own. Through his exceptional courage and inspiring valor in the face of certain death, Corporal Perkins reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.[4]

/S/ RICHARD M. NIXON

The story of Bill Perkins Jr., as told by friends, can be viewed on YouTube title “Above and Beyond: The story of Cpl. William T. Perkins, Jr. USMC” can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LubJZsULZZU

I did convince Jim Memmott of the Democrat and Chronicle to write a story about Cpl. Perkins on the 50th anniversary of his actions that would lead to his being awarded the Medal of Honor. It ran in the same edition with several articles about Army Major Donald W. Holleder's being KIA in Vietnam.

Unfortunately for the past two anniversaries I have requested that the George Eastman House establish an exhibit of Cpl. Perkins as he is the only Combat Photographer to receive the Medal of Honor. I thought that is would accompany the existing exhibit of photographer Joe Rosenthal’s picture “Old Glory Goes Up on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima” taken in 1945. Any assistance to convince the Museum to establish this exhibit would be appreciated.
Did I read that sign right?

Outside a second-hand shop:
WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

Notice in health food shop window:
CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS...

Spotted in a safari park:
(I sure hope so.)
ELEPHANTS, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.

Seen during a conference:
FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR.

Notice in a farmer's field:
THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

Message on a leaflet:
IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET LESSONS.

On a repair shop door:
WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK.)

Proofreading is a dying art, wouldn't you say?
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

4th Annual

“Run For Louie”

Sunday, September 15th, 2019

100% Proceeds to VVA Chapter 20

Registration 9am - 10:15 am
Memorial Ceremony - 10:30 am
Memorial Ride - 11:15 am
After Party - 12:00 pm - 2 pm

Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Highland Park
175 Highland Ave
Rochester, NY 14620

BBQ After Party
Gates Memorial Park
160 Spencerport Rd.
Rochester, NY 14606

Live Music, Vendors, Auction items & 50/50 raffle!
Amazing food, soda & water included provided

Tickets are $20 Rain or Shine

Sponsored By:

Fifth Chapter MC 636 Crew
At Sept, meeting Ken will be selling Air Force Blue tickets At 6 for $5.00. Because it is the Air Force’s birthday and yes, we will have cake too!
LZ ARMY NAVY is at CM Gifts & Militaria.
July 27 at 2:09 PM · Rochester ·

Wondering what has happened with CM GIFTS & MILITARIA in Rochester, NY

Sadly, Charlie Rabidoux, USMC Veteran and owner of CM GIFTS passed away and LZ ARMY NAVY, AUBURN, NY was given the opportunity to purchase his entire inventory. RIP Charlie, you were admired by many people.

LZ is a true army navy store (since 1984) owned by Ret. Chief, Ed King, USN Seabees. We carry a HUGE selection of GI Militaria, along with tactical gear, flags/patches/pins/medals/ribbons, 100's of decals, Thin Blue Line and Red Line items, BDU's, OCP's, ACU's, ABU's and lots of solid colors too. 100's of tee shirts/hoodies/sweatshirts, tactical boots, combat boots and Mickey Mouse boots to chose from and to much more to list here!

Make the trip to LZ Army Navy, 217 Grant Ave., Auburn, NY. You won't be disappointed.
Chapter 20 Members Fred Elliott, Jerry McDermott, Tom Reisch and Bruce Van Apeldoorn enjoyed playing the Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament to benefit the Veterans Outreach Center at Timber Ridge Golf Course in Brockport on August 10th. Fred was in the lead for a while for the Longest Drive award but was overtaken late in the Tournament. We had a steak dinner and won a few items at auction. Life is good :)

Bruce Van Apeldoorn
September 25

Vets Night

No Ride Poker Run • Prize for Best Hand

Batavia Downs Gaming & Hotel

Cost of $20 Includes:
- Buffet
- $2 Horse Betting Voucher
- $15 in Free Play
- Free Live Racing Program (with additional $5 Free Play)
- T-shirt

Half of all proceeds will go towards the Monroe County Veterans Court Mentor Program

Penny Auction on site

All proceeds will go towards the Monroe County Veterans Court Mentor Program

Check in starts at 4:00pm
First Race starts at 5:00pm
Buffet served until 8:00pm

To reserve your space, call 585-343-3750 ext. 6468
Pork for Patriots

The Blue Star Mothers NY8
The Roc Warrior Hockey League
A Charity Event Brought to you by McCracken Farms

https://porkforpatriots.com/

Wine Walk
Presented by:
A Gust of Sun Winery

3pm - 4pm

Pig Roast
Provided by:
McCracken Farms
58 Main Restaurant
5pm - 6pm
Live Bands
Camp Roc Star
Shotgunn Wedding
Paul Cummings
6pm - 8pm

Fireworks
Presented by:
Young Explosives

8pm
The Military History Society of Rochester is chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York as a not-for-profit historical society with collections under Federal 501(c)3 guidelines. We cover all periods of United States Military History from the War of 1812 to the present with a special focus on the people and industries of Rochester, Monroe County and the surrounding communities. Membership is open to anyone who shares a common interest in Military History. Our goal is to promote and preserve the heritage of past generations and to honor their sacrifices so that no one in the future will forget the price that was paid for freedom.

Help us to sustain our goal

Colonel Patrick O'Rorke
140th NYVI
Killed in action
Gettysburg
2 July 1863

A Historical Society Chartered by
The Board of Regents of the State of New York
A Federal 501(c)3 organization

For more information call or email
Chuck Baylis Executive Director
585/759-4041
acwattillery@rochester.rr.com

website: rochestermilitary.com
YOU CAN HELP

HOURS

The Society is open Monday through Friday, 9-5. The hours may vary on some holidays or special events.

LOCATION

The Society is located at 120 17th Street, Rochester, NY 14607. It is adjacent to the Rochester Museum of Science and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

CONTACT

For more information, please visit our website, rochestermilitaryhistory.org, or call 585-424-2223.
SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 0800

A new tradition—UPDATED
A fairly new Marine Corp tradition, Marine Corps Birthday Breakfasts are “going viral” around the country. Retired Marine Corps MSgt. Bruce Van Apeldoorn started it here in Rochester back in November 2015. By button-holing Marines he encountered around town he had 6 Marines at Denny’s the first year. The next year, 2016, that number tripled to 18. In 2017 we saw 48 Marines at Romig’s Tavern. Last year, 2018, saw 87 enthusiastic Marines on deck. This has grown so big we have a new venue this year: the Diplomat Party House. 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 Chaplain’s staff are welcome too.
WHAT: Breakfast with your fellow Marines. Cost: $15.00
WHERE: The Diplomat Party House, 1956 Lyell Avenue between the Canal and 390.
DRESS: Casual but period uniforms are encouraged.

0800 Greetings and Coffee.
0900 Birthday Ceremony
0915 Buffet Breakfast

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

2019 Honoree:
Cpl. Robert F. Hodes
Rochester native Bob Hodes died on the second day of the assault of Iwo Jima. He was the subject of Vietnam Veteran Marine Captain Richard Updaw’s documentary: Captain—Story of a Fallen Soldier. Cpl. Hodes is buried in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery.

bvanapeldoornsr@gmail.com

Tell another Marine about the Birthday Breakfast. Semper Fi!
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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

Do you know a veteran who is homeless?

The VA’s National Homeless Veterans Hotline

The Hotline is staffed at the Caradonna VA Medical Center in conjunction with the National Call Center. Services include a 24/7 suicide crisis line, housing assistance, family advocacy, and other services provided at the time of the call.

1-877-424-3838
24/7 365 days/year
VA Health Care Benefits
Contacts and References

E-Benefits Portal Site
https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal

Enrollment/Eligibility
http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility
Health Resource Center 1-877-222-8387 (VETS)

OEF / OIF
http://www.oefoif.va.gov

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

Dental Care

Copays
http://www1.va.gov/CBO/brochures.asp
Health Resource Center 1-877-222-8387

Suicide Prevention Hotline
1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

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

My HealthE Vet
http://www.myhealth.va.gov

Homeless Veterans Hotline
1-877-424-3838
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Valentino Gatto  valentinogatto1969@gmail.com  227-2741 h
V. President Hank Wallace  whwnbt@rit.edu  260-6035 c
Secretary Joe Peck  peckfam@hotmail.com  734-9046 c
Treasurer Alan Frisa  alanfrisa@gmail.com  370-7962 c

DIRECTORS
Ken Allocco  KBUD920@yahoo.com  392-9424 h
Bill Auble  wauble@hotmail.com  683-2213 c
Dan Corona  nycoronasst@gmail.com  406-6108 c
Fred Elliott  felliot@rochester.rr.com  317-7619 c
Mike General  mwgeneral@aol.com  227-4383 h
Lynn Gursslin  lynnngursslin@gmail.com  737-0976 c
Chuck Macaluso  chuckmac66@yahoo.com  225-8288 h
Jerry McDermott  jerrymcdermott648@gmail.com  313-8188 c
Dick Oleksyn  roleksyn@yahoo.com  663-5255 h
Stan Patykiewicz  SNMPATYK@rochester.rr.com  247-4830 h
Mike Sanfilippo  guardian175@yahoo.com  594-2649 h
Ron Trovato  Ronbo215@gmail.com  857-3630 c

STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES
Bill Auble  wauble@hotmail.com  683-2213 c
Nick DeLeo  ndeleo52@yahoo.com  334-7043 h
Valentino Gatto  valentinogatto1969@gmail.com  227-2741 h
Jerry McDermott  jerrymcdermott648@gmail.com  313-8188 c

COMMITTEE CONTACTS
Between The Lines
Editor – Vito Scarpetta  vietvet6748@gmail.com  301-5348 c
Chaplain - Tom Puff  tpuff@frontiernet.net  227-3426 h
Chapter Gear – Lynn Gursslin  lynnngursslin@gmail.com  737-0976 c
Constitution – Fred Elliott  felliot@rochester.rr.com  288-5756 h
Finance – Jerry McDermott  jerrymcdermott648@gmail.com  313-8188 c
Health – Jerry McDermott  jerrymcdermott648@gmail.com  313-8188 c
Honor Guard – C. Macaluso  chuckmac66@yahoo.com  225-8288 h
Incarcerated – Ron Trovato  Ronbo215@gmail.com  857-3630 c
Legislative – Bill Auble  wauble@hotmail.com  683-2213 c
Marching – Hank Wallace  whwnbt@rit.edu  334-5352 h
Membership – Mike General  mwgeneral@aol.com  227-4383 h
Memorial – Chuck Macaluso  chuckmac66@yahoo.com  225-8288 h
POW/MIA – Joe Peck  peckfam@hotmail.com  734-9046 c
Public Affairs – Mike Sanfilippo  guardian175@yahoo.com  594-2649 h
Social Events – V. Gatto  valentinogatto1969@gmail.com  227-2741 h
Speaker’s Bureau – Ken Allocco  KBUD920@yahoo.com  392-9424 h
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

Contact Information

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

VVA REGION 2 DIRECTOR
Ted Wilkinson  twilkinson@vva.org  585-322-6722

NYS VVA PRESIDENT
Ned Foote  nfoote@vva.org  518-338-8147

AVVA REGION 2 DIRECTOR
Nancy Rekowski  nrekowski@avva.org

NYS AVVA PRESIDENT
Cherie Steers  cserva@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

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