Remembering February’s Fallen Heroes

Website - http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Dunham, Richard Francis 2-1-1945
Marasco, William Frederick 2-4-1949
Webber, Frederick Carl 2-5-1947
Forbush, Jr., Robert 2-5-1948
Waldron
Burns, Rocky August 2-5-1951
Hoff, Michael Gordon 2-9-1945
Fegan, Ronald James 2-11-1941
Moore, John Bigelow 2-12-1937
Thacker, James 2-12-1938
Smith, Richard Albert 2-12-1945
Grassi, Ernest Joseph 2-13-1947
Hughes, Graham 2-13-1949
Luker, Russell B. 2-17-1933
Ellsworth, Elmer Edward 2-18-1948
Matarazzo, Peter David 2-20-1949
French, Albert Leroy 2-23-1928
Fusco, Paul Richard 2-23-1947
Strassner, Cornelius William 2-24-1947
Colburn, Richard Eugene 2-24-1950
Fischer, Jr., George Warren 2-25-1945
Harden, John 2-26-1945
Marks, Jr., George Alfred 2-27-1945
Marsh, John Robert 2-27-1949
Dennison, James Richard 2-28-1934

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

Friends of the Memorial
To be placed on the volunteer contact list, contact Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com
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

3
Nominating Committee
by Chuck Macaluso, Chair

The Annual Meeting & Elections will be held April 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM -

Location: Italian American Sports Club - 1250 Buffalo Road

Driving Directions - The Club is located on Buffalo Road close to the intersection of Howard Road. Directly across the Stone quarry. Next to the Eagles Club, and the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

From the East. Heading West bound on 490, exit Mount Read Blvd and turn left. South bound on Mt. Read to Buffalo Road circle, turn right West bound on Buffalo Road. 1.4 miles West bound on the right side North is 1250 Buffalo Rd.

From the West: Heading East bound on 490, exit 33 East bound, Buffalo Road (Gates Center). Head East bound on Buffalo Road. Pass Howard Road 1250 will be on the left North side about .5 miles.

Positions nominations for the New York Council Representatives
Four (4) Executive & Three (3) Director

The “new” Nominating Committee will also be elected by the membership that evening. A “to date” slate of candidates will be finalized by February 15th. and published in the March issue.

• In order to vote in the Annual Election, voters must be a member for at least 30 days.
• Only paid members with a DD214 on file by 28 February of previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (For example - 28 February 2020 to vote April 2020).
• A quorum is defined as 10% of VVA 20 membership as of 28 February of the previous fiscal year. Voting for candidates will take place between 6:30 PM till 7:15 PM, after which no new ballots will be taken and votes will be tabulated.
• According to the National VVA Constitution, “Additional persons may be nominated by any member at the Annual Meeting.” These candidates will fall under the category of Floor Nominations.
• Floor nominated candidates can only receive votes from members present at Annual Meeting.( A “Special Note” stating such will be placed March and April BTL issues.)

Each candidate will address the membership at the March 12th (Candidates Night) meeting stating their reasons for seeking an elected position.

Any member interested in running for any of the above-mentioned positions, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members: Chuck Macaluso 225-8288, Dan Corona 406-6108
There are currently no new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the National League of Families and the DOD on any servicemen recently recovered, returned and identified this month. The total number of Americans who are still missing from the Vietnam War still stands at 1587.

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

- 2nd Lt. Lowell S. Twedt, US Army Air Corps was lost October 20, 1944 in Balzano, Italy. He was accounted for on December 13, 2019.
- 2nd Lt. George M. Johnson, US Army Air Corps was lost January 21, 1944 in Tarawa. He was accounted for on December 16, 2019.

WITH THE NEW YEAR, WE WILL BE NEVER GIVE UP HOPE
UNTIL THEY ARE ALL ACCOUNTED FOR
Membership Update
Mike General Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 622 members and AVVA is at 40 members as of 11/30/19. Membership has been growing slow (only 2 new members in the last month), Need your help in recruiting new members. Don’t forget to renew on time. Don’t let your membership expire. We had 3 members who did not renew this last month and 4 members who passed away.

Please Renew Your Membership!
Only Life Memberships are available $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 (Must have been an Active Member). 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Application</th>
<th>(bold fields are required.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, State, Zip Code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Phone, Ext.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Phone, Ext.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Email</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td>MM/DD/YYYY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
One down and 3 to go for the weigh-ins on the 12th Annual Fit Vet Challenge this year. So, who will claim the title of biggest losers, will the Army repeat as champs or will one of the other branches come out on top, or bottom if you will? All are welcomed to come over to the weigh in stations and take the step up for your specific branch during our monthly meetings. We need you to stick to this endeavor through April 2020. There is nothing wrong with this good-natured effort and gaining some laughs to call attention to issues regarding healthy weight. Or helping to take the added pressure off our knees and hips to say nothing of the upcoming swim suit edition of the award winning BTL photo layout. Don’t be bashful. Just come over to weigh in at our February meeting. Thanks to all so far who have participated. Someone will be crowned the biggest loser!

Of interest below are articles pertaining to updates on Congressional pressure towards the VA to add the four new presumptives associated with Agent Orange. Also, an announcement about VA pilot program for dental health services for veterans. A review of Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) and effects on the total body’s ability to function.

Finally, I want to remind everyone who may have received a Service Connection Disability award recently or an increase to an existing award that you should contact your local town tax assessor’s office. Tax record dates are set by February 28th each year, for the following year’s assessment. So, if you did receive any increase or new SC disabilities you should check the opportunity out before time runs out for deductions to your tax bill in 2021.

Thank you!

Respectfully submitted by:
Jerry McDermott, Chair
Health Affairs
THE JANUARY WEIGH IN was a GREAT start and a record high participation for the 4-month campaign. Forty-One members participated! The initial starting point for the services are below. It’s only the beginning and not too late if you missed the January meeting or have a change of mind, you can start at the February meeting. We have until April to show what YOU CAN DO for a healthier YOU!!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># members</th>
<th>Average Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marines</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peripheral Artery Disease
VA Study Finds New Genetic Markers for PAD

As many as 12 million Americans suffer from peripheral artery disease (PAD), narrowing of the arteries serving the legs that can cause pain and difficulty walking, and even lead to ulcer formation, gangrene and amputation. The condition results from atherosclerosis, or clogged arteries, but until now, scientists lacked information about why some PAD patients develop problems with their legs, whereas others experience heart problems or strokes. In a study published online July 8, 2019, in Nature Medicine, researchers from several institutions, including the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, studied the genetic characteristics of 31,300 veterans with PAD and identified 19 genetic markers – 18 of which were not previously reported.

“By using data from the VA Million Veteran Program, we were able to identify the genes most responsible for causing PAD and begin to understand what differentiates atherosclerosis in the arteries of the legs from that in the arteries of the heart.
or brain,” said Dr. Scott Damrauer, a vascular surgeon at the Crescenz VA and assistant professor of surgery at the Perelman School of Medicine, who co-led the work. “These findings should lay the groundwork to develop new approaches towards treating PAD that can help to save both the lives and limbs of patients with PAD.” Dr. Philip Tsao, an investigator at the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System and a professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, who oversaw the study along with Damrauer, added: “This work would not have been possible without the generosity of the Veteran participants of MVP.”

Atherosclerosis, or fatty deposits on the artery walls, is most often associated with heart attacks and strokes, but PAD is another common manifestation. It occurs when fatty deposits build up in the arteries, reducing their ability to supply blood and oxygen to the legs and feet. The entire circulatory system, including the heart and brain, is at risk when arteries are blocked and narrowed. The reduced circulation in PAD is associated with limb problems ranging from pain with walking to amputation, and frequently requires invasive procedures to open up or bypass clogged arteries. To learn more about the genetic signature of PAD, the team used data from the VA VA Million Veteran Program (MVP), which links biospecimens and DNA from Veteran volunteers to their electronic health records. About 10% of those aged 55 or older seeking care in the VA health care system have PAD. MVP is the largest biobank of people with the condition, in addition to now being one of the world’s largest genomic databases in general, with more than 750,000 enrolled Veterans.

In the VA-funded study, among other findings, the researchers uncovered a link between PAD and a gene mutation called Factor 5 Leiden. Factor 5 Leiden is the most common inherited cause of blood clots in the venous system, but had not been previously known to play a role in diseases of the arteries. The researchers say the findings, coupled with results from other studies, suggests the need to rethink the role of blood clots and atherosclerosis in PAD. The study could point the way to new treatment approaches for Veterans and others with PAD. “By better understanding the genetics of PAD we can begin to think about how to repurpose existing drugs and develop new drugs to treat PAD so that fewer people need operations to treat their disease,” said Dr. Derek Klarin, the study’s lead author. He worked on the project as a surgical resident at Massachusetts General Hospital and is now a vascular surgery fellow at the University of Florida. [Source: VA Research Currents | July 18, 2019 ++]

***************

VA Vet Choice

Update 85: Budget Deal Advances Private Care Program

President Donald Trump’s expansion of a program aimed at steering more veterans to private health care is getting an $8.9 billion boost as part of the massive government spending bill approved by the House, setting up a potential battle over the direction of the Veterans Affairs Department. The deal provides $81 billion for VA medical care to treat 9.3 million veterans, including the $8.9 billion for private care under a law passed last year expanding the Veterans Choice program. Another $11.3 billion is on tap for private care in 2021. Major veterans groups have cautioned against "cannibalizing" VA programs to pay for Choice, which they worry could lead to privatization of VA. The program gives veterans wider access to private care when they have endured lengthy wait times or the treatment was not what they had expected. The price tag could soar as the expanded program takes hold, putting the VA at risk of future budget shortfalls.

Democratic presidential contenders including Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren have urged reinvestment in the VA over expanded private care options. Former Vice President Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg, a mayor of South Bend, Indiana, have said they will roll back or change some of the Trump administration's rules on Choice. “As the increasing need for medical care by wounded, ill and injured veterans and their family caregivers is being forced to fit under tight budget caps, we are concerned necessary resources could be shifted away from the VA healthcare system, which independent research has shown provides higher quality care than the private sector,” said Joy Ilem, national legislative director for Disabled American Veterans. “While community care programs are vital to fill and supplement VA in many locations, we believe the value to veterans and the taxpayer of every dollar spent in the VA health care system is greater than if it were spent in the community,” she said.

House Democrats had pushed for Choice money to be exempt from budget caps, to avoid the risk of cuts to core VA programs as costs grow in the coming years. Ultimately, however, the money was kept under budget caps after the White House resisted. The added money for Choice is part of a 6% increase to the total VA budget for the fiscal year ending next September. It also includes $9.4 billion for mental health care. About 20 veterans die by suicide each day, a rate unchanged during the Trump administration.

The spending bill, which still needs Senate approval, also requires the VA to report to Congress within 30 days the reasons for a two-year delay in announcing whether it plans to provide health care coverage for additional Vietnam War
Veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Former VA secretary David Shulkin in 2017 tried to get additional diseases such as Parkinson’s on a VA list of conditions that are tied to Agent Orange, but the White House opposed that recommendation. A National Academies report in 2016 said there was suggestive evidence to link some of the diseases to herbicide exposure.

“The VA and the Office of Management and Budget now have 30 days to deliver a plan detailing how they’ll get veterans suffering from Agent Orange exposure the coverage they need,” said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who pushed the provision. [Source: Associated Press | Hope Yen | December 18, 2019 ++]

**VA Dental Benefits**

**Update 04: New Pilot Program Pending Congressional Approval**

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to launch a pilot program that would provide all veterans with free or discounted dental care. VA currently only offers dental care to veterans with a service-related dental problem, former POWs, or veterans who are totally disabled — that excludes roughly 92 percent of veterans. However, VA is operating "near maximum capacity" just offering this small demographic of veterans dental care. In 2018, VA spent approximately $1.1 billion on veteran dental care or $2,185 per veteran. VA wants to expand its ability to offer dental care to veterans — even if it does not have the budget to do so. The proposed five-year pilot program would connect all veterans — not just those eligible under the current dental care program — with free or discounted dental care in their local communities. "The objective of this pilot demonstration is to improve overall health by increasing access to dental services for enrolled veterans currently ineligible for dental services through VA," VA said in a notice published in the Federal Register. VA expects its pilot program to reduce spending without reduce quality of care for veterans. The plan is currently pending Congressional approval. [Source: ConnectingVets.com | Elizabeth Howe | December 17, 2019 ++]

**VA Presumptive AO Diseases**

**Update 28: Congress Wants VA Plan for Adding Diseases to List**

The massive federal funding bill introduced 16 DEC would require Veterans Affairs leaders to reveal whether they plan to add new diseases to the Agent Orange presumptive conditions list. The legislation includes a provision requiring VA to report to Congress within 30 days the reasons for a two-year delay in announcing any decisions, a cost estimate for adding new diseases and the date VA plans implement a decision. Although the bill doesn’t name the conditions under consideration, the list includes bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson’s-like tremors and hypertension.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine in 2016 said there is suggestive evidence that the first three diseases are linked to herbicide exposure. Meanwhile, in November 2018, the Academies said sufficient evidence exists to connect hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, or MGUS, a blood disorder that can cause some cancers, to defoliants. Following release of the National Academies report in 2016, former VA Secretary David Shulkin said he had made a decision on three diseases and an announcement on the outcome would be forthcoming, but it never came.

In March, Dr. Richard Stone, executive in charge at the Veterans Health Administration, told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that a decision on new presumptive conditions would come “within 90 days,” but that never happened either. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has since said the announcement will come in early 2020. In October, Military Times reported that the delays have been the result of objections from the Office of Management and Budget and White House advisers who raised concerns about the cost of adding new diseases to the list and requested additional scientific evidence to support the connection between herbicide exposure and the illnesses.

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said 16 DEC that the nearly two-year delay was “outrageous,” and he and fellow Democrats pushed to have the provision in the bill that would require VA and OMB to respond. “[They’ll] now have 30 days to deliver a plan detailing how they’ll get veterans suffering from Agent Orange exposure the coverage they need,” Schumer said. “Our veterans sacrificed a great deal in service to our country, and they absolutely deserve the treatment and benefits they’ve earned.”

Roughly 83,000 Vietnam veterans have been diagnosed with bladder cancer, hypothyroidism or have Parkinson’s-like symptoms. More than 300,000 Vietnam veterans enrolled in VA health care have high blood pressure, which also is an age-
related condition. VA officials have previously stated that it would be a challenge to determine who has high blood pressure as a result of their military service in the Vietnam War or simply a factor of their age. VA officials have said they are waiting for the results of two research projects, the Vietnam Veterans Mortality and the Vietnam Morbidity studies, to satisfy OMB requirements before announcing a final decision.

Rep. Josh Harder, a California Democrat who previously introduced a House resolution urging President Donald Trump to add the diseases to the presumptive medical conditions list, said 17 DEC that “the VA needs to get its act together.” “We have the science. We have the backing of our veterans. We even have bipartisan agreement in Congress. It’s time for the VA to catch up,” Harder said. The freshman congressman’s grandfather served in Vietnam and died from cardiovascular disease linked to exposure and Harder also has constituents awaiting a decision. "Veterans like my constituent Joshua Melendez — who has bladder cancer — can’t wait for the bureaucracy to get the help they need. It’s time to get going here,” he said. The proposed legislation, part of the fiscal 2020 appropriations package released 16 DEC is expected to pass the Senate and the House this week. [Source: Military.com | Patricia Kime | November 17 2019++]
Meeting Highlights January
95 People Attended

New Members....Welcome Aboard!

Phil Maciuska U.S. Marines ’65 - ’69

Gary Loyson U.S. Army ’67 - ‘68

Gene Humbert U.S. Army ’69 - ’71

Paul Tagliaferri U.S. Navy ’66 - ‘70

Brothers in Arms. Hank Wallace and Gary Loyson both West Point Graduates meet and talk about the good old times!
Val announced the resignation of Joe Peck as Chapter 20 Secretary and Charles Klauck as his replacement.
Chapter 20 Committee Members - Part 1

Tom Puff, Chapter 20 Chaplin
Chuck Macaluso, Honor Guard and Memorial
Lynn Gursslin, Chapter 20 Gear
Bill Auble, Legislative
Stan Patykiewicz, Veteran Benefits

Jerry McDermott, Finance and Health

Mike General, Chapter 20 Membership
This is the sixth tribute to Our 280 Fallen Brothers series of stories. This series was suggested by Bruce VanApeldoorn. The idea is to write a story about one of the Brothers that will be published in the BTL and submitted to the Living Wall site, www.vvmf.org. If you would like to submit a story, please send it to vietvet6748@gmail.com.

Name: John B. Tette, PFC
Location on Vietnam Memorial, Washington, DC: Panel 2E Line 62
Location in Vietnam Memorial, Highland Park, NY: Bollard #8
Branch of Service: US Marine Corps
Date of Birth: 04/08/1946
Date of Death: 08/18/1965
High School: Aquinas Institute
Was a MOS 0351 Antitank Assaultman assigned to H Co., 2nd Bn. 4th Marines, 3rd MARDIV, III MAF.
Operation STARLITE began in the early morning hours of August 18 with Company H landing by helicopter in the vicinity of Hill 41 with a search and destroy mission towards the hamlets of An Cuong and Nam Yen in the Binh Son District of Quang Ngai Province. Approaching the hamlet the Marines began receiving heavy fire from an entrenched enemy force; supporting arms and reinforcement were called in as the battle to clear the enemy from their defensive positions continued throughout the day. By the end of the day when the fire fights subsided, the Marines had cleared the enemy consolidating their positions and their casualties were evacuated. The Company had suffered many losses during the battle, and PFC John B. Tette was one of the casualties, killed as a result of multiple shrapnel wounds from a hostile explosive device.
Data collected 01122020 by Bruce C. Van Apeldoorn Sr.
Operation “Show Your Love” Part 3
For the Richards House

Please bring your contributions to the February 13th Chapter meeting. I will then deliver them to the Richards House on the following day.
Thank you so much.
Kenny Allocco

- Jackets
- Boots sizes 9-12
- Winter hats/gloves
- Pillows
- Bedsheets (full and twin)
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Creamer

- Body Wash
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Tooth Brushes/Paste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- If you like to give gift cards Walmart goes a lot further than Wegmans.
Saturday, February 8th

1:15pm

LAKESHORE HOCKEY ARENA
123 LING ROAD
ROCHESTER NY
14612

Donations at the Door
50/50, Chinese Raffle
Music and fun
for all ages!!

100% of the proceeds to benefit:

Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester
BOD Meeting

On March 7, Senator Joe Robach’s Veterans Forum, Gates Town Hall, 1605 Buffalo Road; 8:00 AM coffee and Donuts 9:00AM sessions start. Presenters; Nick Stefanovich, Laura Stradley and new Director of Veterans Clinic for mental and physical health plus one other presenter on Depression and drug abuse. Any questions call Senator Robach’s office at 225-3650
1. I finally did it! Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

2. You never appreciate what you have till it’s gone. Toilet paper is a good example.

3. The brain is the most outstanding organ. It works for 24 hours, 365 days, right from your birth until you fall in love.

4. The best part about getting older is… Nothing. Getting older sucks….

5. I think senility is going to be a fairly smooth transition for me.

6. When I was a kid, my parents would always say, “Excuse my French” just after a swear word… I’ll never forget my first day at school when my teacher asked if any of us knew any French.

7. You drop something when you were younger, you just pick it up. When you’re older and you drop something, you stare at it for a bit contemplating if you actually need it anymore.

---

1. Ever wonder about those people who spend $2.00 apiece on those little bottles of Evian water? 
Try spelling Evian backwards:
NAIVE
*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

2. Isn’t making a smoking section in a restaurant like making a peeing section in a swimming pool?
*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

3. OK….. so if the Jacksonville Jaguars are known as the 'Jags' and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are known as the 'Bucs,' what does that make the Tennessee Titans?
*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

4. If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhea does that mean that one enjoys it?
*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*
Board Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 4, 2020</td>
<td>March 3, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12, 2020</td>
<td>April 9, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Membership Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 13, 2020</td>
<td>March 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7, 2020</td>
<td>April 9, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Denis Gurnett, Instructor

GetGunSmart.com

Professional Private Firearms Training

Italian American Sports Club

1250 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY  14624
(585)464-9160
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
http://www.va.gov/womenvet
1-855-829-6636

Dental Care

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

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

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

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

Homeless Veterans Hotline
1-877-424-3838
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President Valentino Gatto  
valetinogatto1969@gmail.com  
227-2741 h

V. President Hank Wallace  
whwnbt@rit.edu  
260-6035 c

Secretary Charles Klauck  
chask89@hotmail.com  
734-9046 c

Treasurer Alan Frisa  
analfria@gmail.com  
370-7962 c

**DIRECTORS**

Ken Allocco  
KBUD920@yahoo.com  
392-9424 h

Bill Auble  
wabule@hotmail.com  
683-2213 c

Dan Corona  
nycoronasgt@gmail.com  
406-6108 c

Fred Elliott  
felliot@rochester.rr.com  
317-7619 c

Mike General  
mwgeneral@aol.com  
227-4383 h

Lynn Gursslin  
lyngursslin@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  
wabule@hotmail.com  
683-2213 c

Nick DeLeo  
ndeleo52@yahoo.com  
334-7043 h

Valentino Gatto  
valetinogatto1969@gmail.com  
227-2741 h

Jerry McDermott  
jerrymcdermott648@gmail.com  
313-8188 c

**COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

Between The Lines  
vietvet6748@gmail.com  
301-5348 c

Chaplain - Tom Puff  
tpuff@frontiernet.net  
227-3426 h

Chapter Gear – Lynn Gursslin  
lyngursslin@gmail.com  
737-0976 c

Constitution – Fred Elliott  
felliott@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  
wabule@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  
pecknam@hotmail.com  
734-9046 c

Public Affairs – Mike Sanfilippo  
guardian175@yahoo.com  
594-2649 h

Social Events – V. Gatto  
valetinogatto1969@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  
pfrose@gmail.com  
738-6138 c

**VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION**

Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial 753-7275  
(enter 9; enter 2 to leave a message)

VA Outpatient Clinic 465 Westfall Rd 463-2600

Veterans Outreach Center 459 South Avenue 546-1081

VA Vet Center 232-5040

Veterans Administration 800-827-1000

Monroe County Veterans Service Agency 753-6040  
e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com

VA Veterans Benefits Hotline 800-827-1000

Women Veterans Call Center 888-829-6636

VA Medical Center in Batavia 297-1000

VA Hospital in Buffalo 716-834-9200

VA Medical Center in Canandaigua 394-2000

VA Medical Center in Bat 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

**VVA Chapter 20**

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

**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  
csvva@optonline.net  
516-822-5938