Between The Lines

January

2020

Happy New Year!

2020
Issue 84
Great way to start the new year.

CONGRATULATIONS NAVY ON YOUR 31 - 7 SPECTACULAR WIN!
Remembering January’s Fallen Heroes

Website - http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/

Balazy, George Stephen 1-2-1945
Stahlecker, Gary Robert 1-3-1949
Lawton, Michael Eugene 1-4-1949
Manarel, Charles Ross 1-1-1945
Perrine, Elton Lawrence 1-6-1935
Lampman, Kenneth Wayne 1-6-1946
Bermingham, Daniel Joseph 1-9-1947
Rizzi, Ralph Joseph 1-9-1947
Graziosi, Francis G. 1-10-1951
Upright, Edwin Francis 1-11-1942
Mile, Raymond Gene 1-11-1949
Hoppough, Dennis Karl 1-12-1947
Keller, Leroy Henry 1-12-1948
Culhane, Gerald Augustine 1-16-1920
Paduchowski, Paul Richard 1-16-1947
Barber, Lonnie 1-18-1930
Ugino, John Joseph 1-19-1948
Green, Thomas Henry 1-21-1926
Hucks, Walter H. 1-22-1933
Harster, Raymond James 1-28-1950
Thurston, Wesley George 1-29-1942

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

Friends of the Memorial
To be placed on the volunteer contact list, contact Chuck Macaluso at 585-225-8288 or Chuckmac66@yahoo.com
From:
Name: ______________________
Address: ____________________
City/Zip: ____________________
Phone: ______________________

The Veterans Walk Committee of Chapter 20, VVA wants to thank you for your purchase of a personalized, engraved paver brick.

Each paver brick (4” x 8”) can have from one to three lines of engraved information. The cost will be $50.00 per brick. Make checks or money order payable to:

VVA Chapter 20, Veterans Walk

The engraved line(s) can include any of the following information:

Full name
Branch of service, rank
Dates of service (1967-1969, etc.)
Conflict (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, etc.)

Please print the information you would like engraved on the brick below. (Maximum of 14 letters/numbers, including spaces per line).

1. __________________________________________________________________________
2. __________________________________________________________________________
3. __________________________________________________________________________

Return the completed form to the - Veterans Walk Committee, c/o Chuck Macaluso, 154 Mendota Drive, Rochester, New York 14626.
Include: Payment and “Proof of Service” for above recipient.

Please Note: Engraved bricks will be installed prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day (twice annually).
Questions please call Chuck or Joan Macaluso as 585-225-8288
There are currently no new reports from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the National League of Families and the DOD 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:

- Cpl. Jackey D. Blosser, US Army was lost December 2, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on November 14, 2019.
- Tech Sgt. Max W. Lower, US Army Air Corps was lost August 1, 1943 in Romania. He was accounted for on November 14, 2019.
- Sgt. Maximian T. Lacsamans, US Army was lost December 3, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on November 20, 2019.
- Pfc. Edward A. Nalazek, US Marine Corps was lost November 21, 1943 in Tarawa. He was accounted for on November 20, 2019.
- Pfc. Alfred Edwards, US Marine Corps Reserves was lost November 20, 1943 in Tarawa. He was accounted for on November 21, 2019.
- Master Sgt. Harold F. Drews US Army was lost December 12, 1950 in North Korea. He was accounted for on November 22, 2019.
- Fireman 1st Class Andrew J. Schmitz, Rex E. Wise and Leo T. Keninger, Seaman 1st Class Orval A. Tranbarger, US Navy were all lost on December 7, 1941 on Board the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They were accounted for from November 20th to December 5th 2019.
- Fireman 1st Class Hadley I. Heavin and Fireman 3rd Class Welborn L. Ashby, US Navy was lost December 7, 1941 on Board the USS Virginia at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They was accounted for on November 20, 2019.

WE WILL BE NEVER GIVE UP HOPE UNTIL THEY ARE ALL ACCOUNTED FOR
Happy New Year 2020 to all of you! As I add my thoughts to this new edition to our award winning BLT, I am struck by one indisputable thought! That is simply this. Who would have guessed that as we grow older the pages on the calendar would turn faster and faster? So where does all that time go that we thought we had? Time to work on hobbies, travel to visit family or place we have always wanted to see, reading that great story or a recommend book, perhaps a few household projects, maybe volunteering, or just plain doing nothing at all. I believe that the passing of my time is lost to the "gods of good intentions". Yep, my lack of focus or procrastination or organization that seeps in and wrecks all my best laid plans that never seem to get fulfilled. So, with this New Year, as in many past New Years, I will make a resolution or two to strive and do things better. I welcome all of you to try and work on just one thing for this year. Use that as a basis for more good things to follow. Using that segue, I want to invite all to think about their health and form a partnership with your health care team to stay as healthy as possible. Don't ignore any early signs or symptoms. get them checked out.

Finally, as in the similar practice of the past 11 New Years, I want to encourage all my fellow Chapter #20 members to step up to the scales for the 12th Annual Fit Vet Challenge. Once again the honor of competing for the right to be called the biggest losers for 2020 will start at our January 9, 2020 membership meeting. So get ready to step up and claim your share of bragging rights for your branch of service.

Information about new VA diabetic care monitoring to prevent limb loss from onset of diabetic foot ulcers is below. Also, info about free and accessible Veteran Health Library and videos covering health issues and how to access them are below. For the real techie types, their is info to share about an "app" you can use to find and identify toxic exposures where you may have served in the military.

Wishing all the very best of the New Year holiday.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jerry McDermott
Chair Health Affairs
VA Diabetes Care
Update 12: Diabetic Limb Loss Reduction Effort

As part of broader efforts by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to confront diabetes, VA began regional implementation of the Podimetrics Mat, a new medical device that has the potential to prevent limb loss in Veterans with diabetes. The technology, now in use at 15 VA medical centers, uses thermographic monitoring of a patient’s feet to identify early onset of diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs), which can lead to limb loss if not detected early. Known as thermal imaging, the non-invasive test involves no radiation and uses a special camera to measure skin temperature. This allows clinicians to develop plans for preventing added deterioration of a patient’s health.

“VA’s early adoption of cutting edge, innovative solutions to combat a disease that impacts so many Veterans is another example of how VA is aiming to be a leader in health care innovation,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “VA is uniquely positioned in its ability to test and quickly scale new solutions throughout its health care system, which can drastically change Veteran lives.” VA’s use of the Podimetrics Mat builds on a 2017 VA-led study at the Phoenix VA and the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare Systems. The study showed the in-home foot-temperature monitoring device was able to detect 97% of DFUs as early as five weeks before the onset of symptoms, with 86% of participants using the mat an average of three days per week. With more medical centers offering use of the mat, VA has continued to observe similar outcomes. One VA facility found 84% of Veterans are using the mat almost daily, allowing preventative clinical interventions to take place.

The mat will be available to all Veterans across the country through their local Prevention of Amputations for Veterans Everywhere clinic providers. In addition, VA’s Veterans Health Administration Innovation Ecosystem is implementing a pilot program of the mats at VA facilities in the southeast, where some of the highest DFU rates exist. Through the effort, VA will be able to further evaluate best practices and optimize care models, ultimately improving the effectiveness of the technology in the VA health care system. Last year, VA treated more than 75,000 DFU cases across the country. [Source: VA News Release | November 15, 2019 ++]

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Veterans Health Library
1,500 Health Sheets and 150 Videos

Veterans have access to a 24/7 online health library that provides information and education about treatments and conditions offered by VA. The Veterans Health Library (VHL) has over 1,500 health sheets and 150 videos in both English and Spanish. It gives Veterans access to health information to help them make informed decisions on their care. VA clinicians are also aware of the VHL. The medical content in the library aligns with Department of Defense and VA clinical guidelines. Becky Hartt Minor, a health educator and program manager for the VHL, said the program has grown. “The VHL is nearly eight years old, and we average nearly a million page views a year,” she said. “We know Veterans want a source for medical information that is relevant and provides easy to read information on health conditions ranging from PTSD...
and Mental Health to Chronic Pain and Heart Disease.” What Veterans are saying about the Veterans Health Library

- “I was preparing for cardiac surgery and wanted more information. Something to supplement what my provider and nurse practitioner had already given me. I stopped by the VA facility library, got on the computer and got into the VHL. It was easy to find the trusted health information I needed.
- “Within seconds, I was able to view several cardiovascular videos, download a few online guides, and print out several educational pamphlets. I was amazed with the quantity and quality of the information I found on my heart condition and pending procedure.”

The VHL both is mobile friendly and offers links to other VA resources. It can be also be accessed on the MyHealtheVet web site where Veterans use secure messaging to communicate with their VA care providers and order their prescriptions for home delivery. Unlike other health web sites, the Veterans Health Library is free of advertisements and pop up ads. Visit veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov today to stay well and well-informed. [Source: Vantage Point Hill | November 26, 2019 ++]

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**VA Toxic Exposure App**

For Vets Who Think they were Exposed During their Service

Veterans who may have been exposed to potentially hazardous toxins during their service can now access an app from the Department of Veterans Affairs that could answer questions and help them learn more about how the exposure could affect their health. The Exposure Ed app ([https://mobile.va.gov/app/exposure-ed](https://mobile.va.gov/app/exposure-ed)) available on iOS devices and in the Google Play store, was originally intended for use by healthcare providers to access information on exposure-related programs and benefits offered by VA. The app doesn't require a sign-on to download and use. The homepage of the app shows three icons: Exposures, Date/Location and Conflicts.

- Tapping the red Exposures icon leads to a searchable list of 26 exposures, including: Agent Orange, burn pits, contaminated water, asbestos, depleted uranium, extreme cold or heat, fuels, lead, infectious diseases, noise, pesticides, particulate matter, radiation and vaccinations. Tapping each exposure leads to additional information, including a description of the exposure, who may have been exposed, potential health implications and VA policies and programs. Under policies and programs is information on presumptions, how to apply for benefits, registries and other resources.
• Tapping the **green** Date/Location icon allows users to sort exposures by location and range of years. Users cannot sort by location or date alone.

• The **yellow** Conflicts icon lets users sort exposures by military conflict, from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

• The menu function of the app provides a searchable VA locator map, a section for taking notes and provider tips, such as questions to ask veterans, tips for communicating risk, resources and help creating a care plan.

  According to the iOS App Store, the application has been available since 2014. The terms of use for the app include a disclaimer that "data resulting from use of the (app), including data entered by veterans that becomes part of the VA System of Records, will be made available to VA authorized persons in the conduct of their official business" and "data may be used for statistical and management purposes in assessing the benefit of this software. Disclosure of data for research purposes may be provided to approved VA research investigators." [Source:  [https://connectingvets.radio.com/articles](https://connectingvets.radio.com/articles) | Abbie Bennett | November 27, 2019 ++]
Membership Update
Mike General Membership Chair

Chapter 20 Membership currently is at 623 members and AVVA is at 40 members as of 10/31/19. 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 5 members who did not renew this last month and 3 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

Membership Application

(bold fields are required.)

First Name ____________________

Last Name ____________________

Address _________________________

City, State, Zip Code _________________________

Home Phone, Ext. _________________________

Work Phone, Ext. _________________________

Primary Email _________________________

Date of Birth _________________________ MM/DD/YYYY

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

1. LIFE MEMBERSHIP: $50.00
2. All 3-year members who have paid $50 will automatically become a life member.
3. All one-year members will continue as an individual 1-year member until their membership expires, one-year members will then be required to pay $50.00 to remain a member of VVA.
Important information if you are a Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans or a surviving spouse you are entitled to VA benefit starting 1 January 2020, in accordance with P.L. 116-23. Please read the FAQs below provided by the National Veterans Legal Service Program (NVLSP). For legal assistance go to: https://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp and search for Accredited Attorneys, Claims Agents, or Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) Representatives.

A major change in law occurred in 2019 that should enable thousands of veterans who served on ships in the waters offshore Vietnam to obtain VA disability benefits for diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange. The change in law should also enable survivors of these veterans to obtain VA death compensation for deaths due to diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): This document provides answers to the most frequently asked questions we are getting from Blue Water Vietnam Veterans (as those who served in the waters offshore Vietnam are commonly called) and their survivors about the recent change in law.

1) What is this change in law and how did it come about? Earlier this year in a case called Procopio v. Wilkie, the U.S. Court of
Appeals for the Federal Circuit concluded that the Agent Orange Act of 1991 requires VA to presume that those who served in the territorial waters offshore Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange. The Court ruled that this presumption applies to all veterans who served within 12 nautical miles of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Congress then enacted the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 Public Law 116-23 and incorporated the Procopio decision. The Act states that a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period of beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange. The term offshore is defined as no more than 12 nautical miles seaward of a line commencing on the southwestern demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia.


2) What does this change in law mean for Blue Water Vietnam Veterans?

It means that a veteran covered by Procopio and the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 should become entitled to service-connected disability benefits if the veteran (1) files a claim for disability benefits with the VA and (2) suffers from one of the diseases that VA recognizes as associated with Agent Orange exposure.

3) What does this change in law mean for survivors of deceased Blue Water Vietnam Veterans?

It means that a qualifying survivor, such as a surviving spouse, of a veteran who (1) is covered by Procopio and the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 and (2) died from a disease that VA recognizes as associated with Agent Orange exposure, should become entitled to service-connected death compensation (known as DIC) if the survivor files a DIC claim.

4) What diseases are now recognized by the VA as associated with Agent
Orange?

A full list of diseases recognized by VA as associated with Agent Orange can be found here: https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/related-diseases/.

These diseases include:

• Cancer of the larynx
• Lung cancer
• Prostate cancer
• Cancer of the trachea
• Hodgkin’s disease
• Multiple myeloma
• Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
• Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
• Hairy cell leukemia
• Ischemic heart disease (including, but not limited to: acute, subacute and old myocardial infarction; atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, including coronary artery disease (including coronary spasm) and coronary bypass surgery; and stable, unstable, and Prinzmetal’s angina)
• Type 2 diabetes (also known as adult-onset diabetes, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, and type II diabetes mellitus)
• AL amyloidosis (also known as primary amyloidosis)
• Parkinson’s disease
• Soft tissue sarcomas
• Acute lymphoblastic leukemia, mature B-cell type
• B-cell prolymphocytic leukemia
• Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia
• Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
• Follicular lymphoma
• Mucosa-associated lymphatic tissue lymphoma (MALT)
• Small cell lymphocytic lymphoma
• Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL)
• Burkitt lymphoma
• Mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma
• Waldenström macroglobulinemia
• Nodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma
• Splenic marginal zone lymphoma
• Extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma
• Intravascular large B-cell lymphoma
• Primary effusion lymphoma
5) Do I need to file another claim if I already filed a VA claim for benefits for an Agent Orange-related disease and that claim is still pending at the VA?

No. If you are sure that your claim for an Agent Orange-related disease is still pending, you do not need to file another claim. However, you may wish to file a statement with VA in support of your pending claim stating that you are entitled to benefits under Procopio and the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019.

6) Do I need to file another claim if my previous claim for an Agent Orange-related disease was finally denied by the VA and is no longer pending?

Yes. You need to file another claim.

7) How do I file a VA claim for service-connected disability benefits?

If you have not previously filed a disability claim for a disease VA now recognizes as associated with Agent Orange, you should file a claim for these benefits using VA Form 21-526EZ (available here: https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-526EZ-ARE.pdf). If you previously filed a disability claim for a disease VA now recognizes as associated with Agent Orange and the VA finally denied that claim, you should file a supplemental claim for disability compensation for that disease using VA Form 20-0995 (available here: https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-20-0995-ARE.pdf). On that form, you should check the box for “compensation” in block 12, and write the following language in box 13A: “I am entitled to disability benefits for [put in name of your Agent Orange related disease] under the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 and Procopio.” In block 13B of that form, you should write the date of the VA decision that denied you benefits for that disease. If you don’t know the date, we suggest that you write the following language in block 13B: “See my claims file for date of denial of my claim for [put in name of your Agent Orange related disease].”

In order to help ensure you are awarded the earliest possible effective date for benefits, you should not delay in filing a VA claim.
8) How do I file a DIC claim?

If you have not previously filed a claim for DIC, you should file an initial claim for DIC using a VA Form 21P-534EZ (available here: https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21P-534EZ-ARE.pdf).

If you previously filed a claim for DIC and the VA finally denied that claim, you should file a supplemental claim for DIC using a VA Form 20-0995 (available here: https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-20-0995-ARE.pdf). On that form you should check the box for “pension/survivors benefits” in block 12, and write the following language in box 13A: “Because of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 and Procopio, I am entitled to DIC given that [put in name of the Agent Orange related disease that led to the veteran’s death] led to the veteran’s death.” In block 13B of that form, you should write the date of the VA decision that denied you DIC benefits. If you don’t know the date, we suggest that you write the following language in block 13B: “See my claims file for date VA denied DIC.”

In order to help ensure you are awarded the earliest possible effective date for benefits, you should not delay in filing a VA claim.

9) If my claim is granted, how much will I be entitled to in retroactive benefits?

The effective date assigned by the VA to awards of disability and DIC benefits is usually the date the claim was received by the VA. For example, if VA grants benefits based on the veteran’s first claim for an Agent Orange-related disease and that claim was filed in January 2019, the veteran will be assigned an effective date in (and will be paid retroactive compensation to) January 2019. However, if the VA grants benefits based on a veteran’s second or third claim for the same Agent Orange-related disease, the effective date of the award should be retroactive to the date the VA received the veteran’s first claim for that disease -- as long that claim was received by VA after September 24, 1985.

This means, for example, that if a veteran filed a disability claim for type 2 diabetes that VA received in 2003 and the VA denied it, and the veteran now
files a second disability claim for type 2 diabetes, the veterans should receive disability compensation retroactive to 2003 -- as long as the veteran served within the 12 nautical mile limit and has suffered from diabetes since at least 2003.

10) Do I need to add evidence to my claim to prove that I served within 12 nautical miles of Vietnam?

Maybe yes. Maybe no. VA has a duty to veterans (and survivors) who apply for VA benefits to assist them in obtaining the evidence necessary to substantiate their claims. In many cases, it may be clear to the VA from the military service and VA documents already in your claims file that you served within 12 nautical miles of the shore. For example, if these records show you served on a ship when it was located in a harbor of Vietnam, then it will be obvious to the VA that you served within the 12 nautical mile limit. In other cases, it may not be obvious from a review of the documents in your VA claims file. In these cases, you should inform the VA of the name of the ship on which you served and the dates you were on the ship, and ask the VA to obtain a copy of the deck logs of the ship. You should also ask the VA to send you a copy of the deck logs that they obtain.

11) What if the VA is unable to obtain the deck logs of my ship?

In the unlikely event that the VA is unable to obtain the deck logs of your ship, you should submit a statement to the VA with your claim explaining why you believe your ship was within 12 nautical miles of the shore (for example, “during our deployment in 1967, we could see the landmass of Vietnam. My division officer informed me that the land we saw was Vietnam;” or, “I was a quartermaster and know from our plotted position on navigation charts that the ship was within 12 nautical miles of the coast of Vietnam.”). You should also try to obtain written statements from fellow crewmembers who were aware that the ship was within 12 nautical miles of the coast and submit them to the VA.

12) How long will it take for VA to decide my claim for a disease recognized by VA as associated with Agent Orange?

In June 2019, VA Secretary Wilkie ordered the VA regional offices and the Board of Veterans’ Appeals to hold off making any decisions on claims that are based on service in the offshore waters of Vietnam and a disease that VA recognizes as associated with Agent Orange exposure. This includes
disability compensation and DIC claims. This moratorium on deciding claims will remain in effect until January 1, 2020. Therefore, do not expect a decision on your claim until next year.

13) Will NVLSP be able to represent veterans and their surviving family members before the VA on their Agent Orange claims? We regret that the answer is no. We advise you to obtain a representative from a veterans service organization located in your state. You can find a veterans service organization that will assist you for free at https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso/varo.asp
For more information on the legal services NVLSP provides please go to: https://www.nvlsp.org/what-we-do/lawyers-serving-warriors/
https://www.nvlsp.org/what-we-do/class-actions/


*Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families*

Click the link below to sign the petition:
https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/Lvk_bNAAdSUAwgJGaujDzpg
Highlights of the December Membership Meeting
100 People Attended

New Member Lance Hine, US Navy ’68 - ‘71

New Member Mark Donohue, Army ’70 - ‘71

50/50 Winner - Rosemary Rossi-Williams
Flag Drawing Winner - Dave Ludwigsen

Special Book Winner - George Marciano

Ken Allocco presents Chapter 20 with a check for $1387 from the proceeds of the “Louie's Run” event! Thank you to Ken and the 5th Chapter Motorcycle Club!
Chapter 20 presents Dr. Pete Ziarnowski with a check for $1,500 for the Rochester Vets Center support for Veterans activities.

Chapter 20 presents Richard Stewart and C.P. Maloney from Honor Flight Rochester with a check for $1,400 for their continued recognition and support of Honor Flight Veterans.

Chapter 20 presents Gates Town Chief of Police, James VanBrederode for support of the Gates Keystone Pipe and Drum Core.
Chapter 20 presents Gates Town Supervisor, Cosmo Giunta with a check for $500 for the Gates Recreational Center.

Stan Patykiewicz presents the Chapter with his annual donation of $100 to the Chapter.
Santa’s helpers (l to r) Nguyet & Bill Scheaver, Jon Phelps, Ron Trovato, Fred & Marie Elliot, Ed Williams, Vito Scarpetta, Michael Belle, and knelling, Jerry McDermott. We all sang Christmas Carols and handed out lots of cheer and gifts to the residents.

Everyone’s singing and having a grand time.
Pearl Harbor Remembrance
“Rest in peace brother Bob. The bravest guy I have ever known. See you again on the other side!” - Larry Camp

“Five years ago he was perfect. What a courageous battle. I will sure miss him. May he rest in peace. We’ll meet again brother.” - Stan Patykiewicz
“A most courageous guy. Never complained except to curse the illness itself. God bless Bob, and his wife and family.” - Gerry Daniels

“May Bob “rest in peace” now!

Terrible illness... and he was very courageous in his fighting cancer!” - Jerry McDermott

“RIP Brother. Glad your suffering is over but you will be missed” - Ray Melens
“Rest in Peace brother KUZ. You fought a brave battle. You will be truly missed.” - Joe Peck

“Bob was a man who devoted his time, talent and efforts 100% of the time in every project that he participated in. He was truly happy when he became a member of Chapter 20 and loved being in uniform. Bob felt that everyone in the Chapter was his true brother. Bob’s other passion was being part of the Spencerport Fire Department. Bob advanced through the ranks to become Captain after 30 years of service.” Mrs. Linda Kuzmicki
For The Richards House:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boots sizes 9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter hats/gloves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pillows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedsheets (full and twin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
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<td>Sugar</td>
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<td>Creamer</td>
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<td>Body Wash</td>
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<td>Toilet paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper towels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tooth Brushes/Paste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deodorant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shampoo</td>
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</tbody>
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If you like to give gift cards Walmart goes a lot further then Wegmans.
Observations On Being Old

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

To me, drink responsibly means don't spill it.

When I say "the other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and fifteen years ago.

Cop: "Please step out of the car."
Me: "I'm too drunk, You get in."

I've had my patience tested. I'm negative.

If you're sitting in public, and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"

Sixty might be the new forty, but 9:00 PM is the new midnight.

I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

I run like the winded.
Board Meetings | Membership Meetings
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January 7, 2020 | January 9, 2020
February 4, 2020 | February 13, 2020
March 3, 2020 | March 12, 2020

Monthly Membership Meetings start at 6:30 pm
At the Italian American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road, Rochester

Driving Directions to the Italian American Sports Club:

The Club is located at 1250 Buffalo Road close to the intersection of Howard Road, directly across from the stone quarry, next to the Eagles Club and the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

From the East: Heading west on 490, exit Mt. Read Blvd. and turn left; south on Mt. Read to Buffalo Road circle, turn right, west on Buffalo Road, 1.4 miles, the Italian-American Sports Club is on the right side.

From the West: Heading east on 490, exit 33 east, Buffalo Road (Gates Center); head east on Buffalo Road; continue past Howard Road; the Italian-American Sports Club will be on the left side in about .5 mile.
Your business card could be here. Contact Chapter Treasurer, Alan Frisa (afrisa@rochester.rr.com), for details.
In Memory Donations

When the simple act of placing flowers on a casket or placing stones on a headstone does not seem to be enough to honor the memory of a special someone who has passed away, one may choose to make a donation in his or her honor to commemorate the values and beliefs of the deceased. Chapter 20 VVA is committed to recognizing the sacrifices made by all military personnel in every branch of the armed forces. The memory of the deceased veteran is honored in the continuous work and service carried out by the dedicated Chapter members and associates. The monetary donations sent by individuals help make it possible to continue serving veterans and their families. The combined efforts of donors, lawmakers, members, and associates have far-reaching effects on the quality of all our lives.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 offers several ways of commemorating a special person. One of those ways is the Memorial Walk at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Walk is a pathway of bricks inscribed with the names of individuals who have served their country with valor. Their names will forever remain a reminder of the dedication and tenacity demonstrated by the thousands of men and women who have served in the U. S. Armed Forces.

If you wish to make a monetary donation directly to Chapter 20 in support of all the functions and services they provide to veterans and their families, send your check or money order payable to Chapter 20, VVA:

**Vietnam Veterans of America**  
Chapter 20  
P.O. Box 12580  
Rochester, NY 14612
VA Health Care Benefits
Contacts and References

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

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

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

Women Veterans Benefits Line
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
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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 Vietnam 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  585-482-7396
P.O. Box 12580  www.vva20.org
Rochester, NY 14612

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