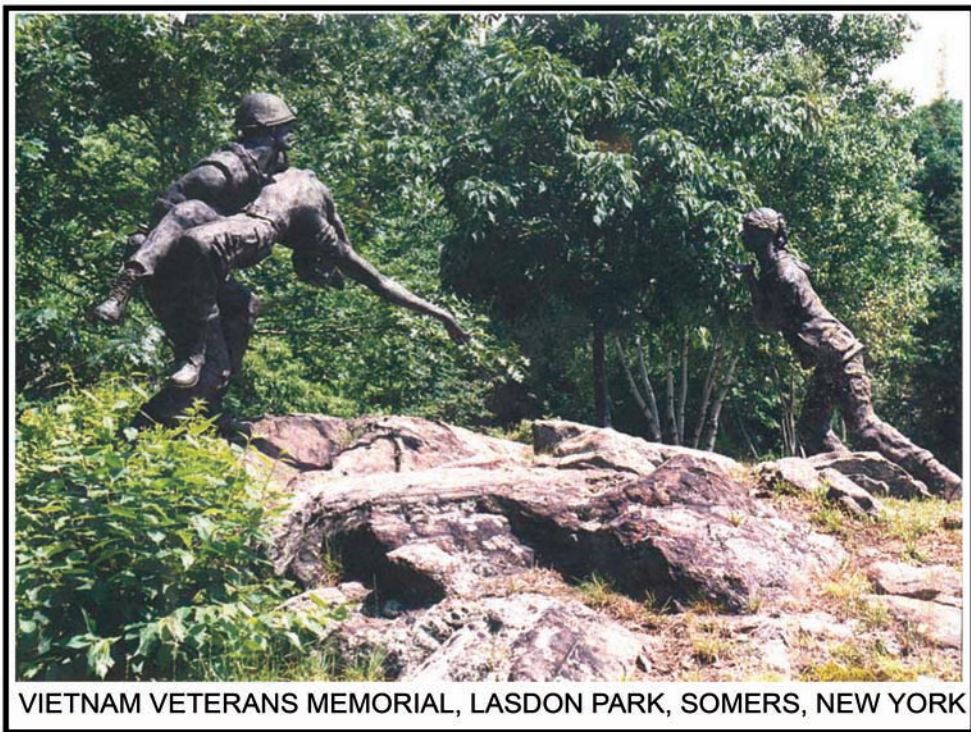


Vietnam Veterans of America



*Westchester
County
Chapter #49*

If box is checked
your dues are due now.

All the POW's are not home yet!
Do you know?
Do you care?



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Vietnam Veterans of America
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VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Chapter Officers:

President: Robert Jordan.....733-5672
Vice President: Al Zawiski428-9352
Secretary: Jim LaManna793-6077
Treasurer: Al Singerman930-7433

Board of Directors: (7)

Peter Brown.....273-4135
Edward Fox.....203-637-3705
Carl DiLiberto.....462-0782
Chester Edwards.....937-4443
Terry Keogh.....428-9845
Jim McCauley.....238-3514
William Rod.....406-5858

State Council Delegates: (7)

Edward Fox	Barney Puleo
Dan Griffin	Al Singerman
Terry Keogh	Al Zawiski
Jim LaManna	

Veterans Offices:

Yonkers: Dan Morea.....377-6700
Carmel: Karl Rohde.....845-808-1620

Vet Center:682-6250

White Plains Clinic 421-1951
FDR Montrose Hospital..... 737-4400

Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Dan Griffin 995-2145/2146

Committees:

Membership	Phil Wanderman..... 963-3034
Chaplain	Al Zawiski.....428-9352
Communications Director	Jerry Morano..... 937-8984
POW/ MIA	Dan Griffin..... 682-4949
Member Products	Jim LaManna.....793-6077
Color Guard	Rich Palazzo.....845-297-1513
Scholarship	Bob Miller.....391-8723

WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

HOURS:

11:00-3:30

SUMMER DAYS WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

WINTER DAYS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

AND HOLIDAYS

864-7263

Chapter 49

Telephone / Fax Number

(914) 682-4949

Website:

www.vietnamvets49.org

E-Mail:

Mail to: Chapter49@aol.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month

7:30

Armonk Post 1097

35 Bedford Rd.

Armonk, NY 10504

This newsletter is a publication of Chapter 49, however the opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, and as such, they do not necessarily represent those of Chapter 49. All views are welcome for publication. Submit items of interest, including poems, short stories, photographs, etc., to the Editors at the Chapter address or call for other arrangements. Materials submitted will not be returned unless otherwise requested.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I hope that you and your families are healthy and staying safe.

We had a good turnout at the Vietnam memorial at Lasdon Park on Veteran's Day. In addition to the ceremony we dedicated a bench to Blaise Bruno; his sister Barbara unveiled it. Also, the Park Director, Jessica Schuler asked us to help plant Poppy seeds around the memorial and at the entrance to the Trail of Honor. They were planted at those areas because they need plenty of sun. She said that they would be bloomed by Memorial Day.

On December 19th we will hold the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at Lasdon Park. We will begin at 12:00 sharp, as they do across America. Afterwards we go to the Kensico Dam to place wreaths at the 17 trees that are dedicated to the men & woman from Westchester County that were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our annual Candlelight Vigil will be held on December 20th on the Trail of Honor at Lasdon Park beginning at Dusk. There will be about 800 bags with sand and a candle also a pine tree will be lit at the Vietnam memorial.

I hope to see you at our ceremonies.

Take care of yourself and each other

Dan Griffin

Welcome to our newest members

Rev. William E. Norman from Yonkers

John Flynn from Mount Kisco

VVA NATIONAL NEWS —THE FUTURE OF VVA

John Rowan, President

Last year at the National Convention the delegates overwhelmingly supported Resolution GA-21, which charged the Officers and Directors with investigating the legal and constitutional requirements for opening our membership to post-Vietnam veterans under a new name that would be inviting to a more-inclusive membership. All proposals were to be presented to the delegates at the 2021 Convention for their approval. This led to a lot of discussion and concerns from the membership, particularly from those who do not want to change our name. Well, they do not have to worry about that anymore.

Under the authorization of the Resolution the Officers began to investigate the feasibility of implementing it. VP Tom Burke and I attended the Student Veterans of America Convention in January. We spoke to recent veterans who are leaders of new veterans' organizations, to our families and friends, and to several veterans who are on our staff. It became apparent after these discussions that new veterans are not terribly interested in taking over VVA in its present structure.

VVA is basically a century-old style of veteran's organization. Like the Legion, the VFW, and other organizations created after World War I, we are based on membership dues, local chapters, state entities, and a national leadership in control. The newer organizations are often local and live on the Internet. They are usually run by Boards of both veterans and financial supporters. Interestingly, while the new veterans rely on email to communicate with each other, they still desire to get together in person.

While the newer veterans may not be interested in inheriting an older-model veterans' organization, they do appreciate our government affairs/advocacy efforts and our veterans' benefits program and would like to see them continue. A new organization called Veterans Voices of America, which was founded by new veterans, including several VVA staff members, may be interested in eventually taking over these operations. If they are successful in getting off the ground, we may be able to entertain establishing a relationship with this new group to continue helping veterans, including us in our old age. One thing should be clear from our experience under the pandemic: It has highlighted our health concerns and limitations and the need to plan our future.

VVA SURVIVES Our fundraising efforts have taken a big hit because of the lockdowns during the pandemic. As a result, we had to reduce our budget significantly. It's problematic to go anywhere, so it was not a big deal to eliminate our travel budget. However, we did have to eliminate a dozen staff. Thankfully, we were able to give them severance packages.

Thanks to the efforts of VP Burke and Treasurer Jack McManus, our assistant Contina Foster, and other staff members, we are reorganizing our staff, which will enable us to continue to serve veterans and their families.



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WESTCHESTER COUNTY (NY)
CHAPTER 49**



**INVITES ALL
VETERANS, FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND
SUPPORTERS OF VETERANS TO
JOIN US AT**

**THE 33ND ANNUAL
CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR THE FALLEN**



**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 20, 2020
4:30 PM**

(CEREMONY BEGINS AT DUSK)

**LASDON PARK
TRAIL OF HONOR**

**2610 ROUTE 35,
KATONAH, NY 10536**

**"THEY SAY YOU DIE TWICE. ONE TIME WHEN YOU STOP BREATHING AND
A SECOND TIME, A BIT LATER ON, WHEN SOMEBODY SAYS YOUR NAME
FOR THE LAST TIME." ~BANKSY**

**AS WE DO EVERY YEAR AT DUSK ON THE SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS,
VVA CHAPTER 49 ASSEMBLES TO HONOR AND READ THE NAMES OF
THE 217 WESTCHESTER YOUNG MEN AND 8 NURSES WHO NEVER
RETURNED HOME FROM VIETNAM. THE BOY SCOUTS LIGHT 800
LUMINARIAS ALONG THE TRAIL OF HONOR TO SHOW US THE WAY AND
TO HELP US REMEMBER OUR HEROES...**

Veterans

To understand a Military Veteran you must know:

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We smoked and drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events back home.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

Our primary mission was to defend American freedoms we hold so dear.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare. Many of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other,

strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes just to survive.

We have dealt with victory and tragedy.

We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new, and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

We know however, that if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one in a heartbeat.

Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.

It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service.

When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.

So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country.

Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.

Share your stories.

But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran.



**I WANT YOU
TO HAVE A MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 12:00 noon
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 meeting Board 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:30	4	5
6	7 Pearl Harbor remembrance	8	9	10	11	12
13 PTSD Unit Xmas party 1:00	14	15	16	17	18	19 Wreaths Across America 12:00 noon
20 Candle Light vigil dusk	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve		

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Pizza party FDR Stress Unit 12:00
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 12:00 noon
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
----- _____						



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WE NEED YOU

IN THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



MEMBERSHIP TYPES and ELIGIBILITY

Individual Membership is open to any Vietnam-era Veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces between January 1, 1959 and May 7, 1975.

Associate Membership in the VVA is open to all who share our concerns – both men and women, friends, supporters, and families – Veteran or not.

Life Membership / Associate Life Membership is available to all who wish to demonstrate a greater commitment to the ideals and work of the V.V.A. (Economically a great deal!)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

check one

Life Membership - \$50.00

_____ Vietnam-era Veteran Application:
 Individual Membership
(must provide a copy of applicant's DD-214)

_____ Non-Vietnam-era Veteran Application: Life Membership - \$50.00
 Associate Membership

_____ Non-Member Financial Contribution: \$ _____

_____ Report of Address Change:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please make checks payable to: V.V.A. Chapter #49

Send application and check to:

Membership Chair, V.V.A. Chapter #49 PO Box 224, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Questions? Call the Chapter: Phone/Fax (914) 682-4949

or e-mail: Chapter49@aol.com

www.VietnamVets49.org



Chapter #49 meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month at:
 The Armonk American Legion Hall • 35 Bedford Rd. Armonk, NY 10504
 Dinner at 6:30 pm / Meeting at 7:30 pm

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914.497.7137



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Capt. USNR- Ret.

AUSN Regional President - Mid-Atlantic Region

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