



# VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

## Chapter Officers:

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 Vice President: Rick Burns ..... 769-7744  
 Secretary: Jim LaManna ..... 793-6077  
 Treasurer: Al Singerman ..... 930-7433

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 Terry Keogh ..... 428-9845  
 Bob Miller ..... 391-8723  
 Ron Stout ..... 739-1088  
 Barney Puleo ..... 682-4949

## State Council Delegates: (6)

Dan Griffin  
 Jim LaManna  
 Barney Puleo

Al Singerman  
 Al Zawiski  
 Terry Keogh

## Nominating Chairman:

Dan Griffin

## Veterans Offices:

Yonkers: Al Ramsey ..... 377-6700  
 Carmel: Brennen Mahoney .... 845-225-2260

Vet Center: 300 Hamilton Ave, White Plains, NY 10601

Roger Paulmeno ..... 682-6250  
 Vinnie Matthews ..... 682-6250

White Plains Clinic ..... 421-1951  
 23 S. Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

FDR Montrose Hospital ..... 737-4400

## Vets Employment Counselor:

Greg Whittaker ..... 997-4138

Phil Gans ..... 845-356-6438

## Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Director: Vito Pinto ..... 995-2146

## Committees:

Membership Phil Wanderman ..... 963-3034  
 Legislation Al Singerman ..... 930-7433  
 Comm. Affairs Dan Griffin ..... 682-4949  
 POW / MIA Dan Griffin ..... 682-4949  
 Member Products Jim LaManna ..... 793-6077  
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 Scholarship Bob Miller ..... 391-8723

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

Open Memorial Day through Veterans Day

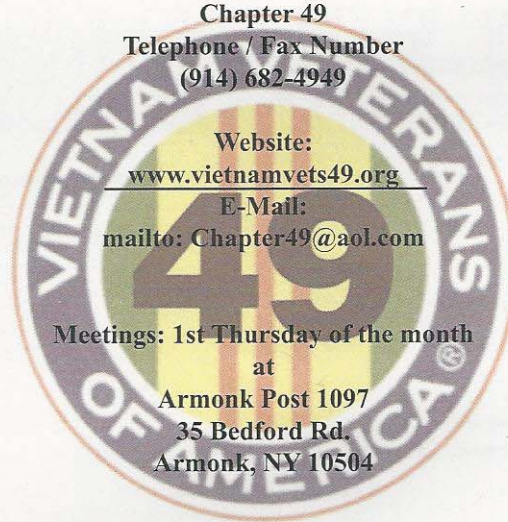
### HOURS:

Sundays  
 Noon to 4:00PM  
 Phone: (914) 682-4949  
 No answer  
 Please leave message

Chapter 49  
 Telephone / Fax Number  
 (914) 682-4949

Website:  
[www.vietnamvets49.org](http://www.vietnamvets49.org)  
 E-Mail:  
<mailto:Chapter49@aol.com>

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month  
 at  
 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**

**The next couple of months will be busy, On May 27<sup>th</sup> Westchester County will hold their annual veterans appreciation Day. There will be a helicopter fly over and landing with the Marines assaulting out of the choppers. Also there will be entertainment and a barbeque.**

**Later the same day we will hold our annual barbeque at Montrose VA Hospital for the PTSD Unit behind building 15 at 4:00PM.**

**After that we will hold our "watch fire" down at the picnic area at the river, when it gets dark.**

**The next day on the 28<sup>th</sup> we will march in Chappaqua's Memorial Day parade, we will form up at 10:00. If you haven't marched behind our banner, you are missing something wonderful. The people standing along the parade route clap their hands for people they know or for firemen and so forth; but when they see our banner they really start to clap and yell out support for us. Please try to come to the parade; you will be glad you did.**

**On June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> we will have our table set up at the Armonk Fol-De-Rol, where we sell our hats, pins etc. and collect donations. Stop on by and say hello or stay for a while.**

**Take care of yourselves and each other.**

**Dan Griffin**

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## VVA National President request EPA to release Dioxin documents



### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 7, 2012**

**No. 12-03**

**Contact: Mokie Porter  
(301) 585-4000, Ex. 146**

### **Vietnam Veterans of America to EPA: Release the Dioxin Document Now**

(Washington, D.C.) Adding Vietnam Veterans of America's voice to the chorus clamoring for the long-delayed release of the non-cancer segment of the Dioxin Reassessment document by the Environmental Protection Agency, John Rowan, National President of VVA, made VVA's position crystal clear.

In a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, Rowan wrote, "Any further delay would constitute an injustice to the American people, who have a right to know the truth about dioxin.

"As Vietnam veterans, we know only too well the insidious, long-term health impacts of this highly toxic compound on the health of our brother and sister veterans, and now on the health of their children and grandchildren. We have lost too many, too soon, from the effects of our wartime exposures to dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. We will not stand for the same to happen to our fellow citizens.

"We urge the EPA to ignore the pressures of those industry groups who are deliberately indifferent to the health impact of these poisons," Rowan said, citing in particular the American Chemistry Council that is lobbying to delay the release of the non-cancer Dioxin Reassessment. "Clearly, the profits of one irresponsible part of one industry must not take precedence over the health and welfare of the citizens of our nation," Rowan wrote.

## VA Publishes Final Regulation on Clothing Allowance Eligibility Expands Criteria for Veterans with Multiple Qualifying Prosthetic and Orthopedic Devices or Skin Condition Medications

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki today announced the publication of a final regulation in the *Federal Register* on clothing allowance that expands the eligibility criteria for Veterans with multiple prosthetic and orthopedic devices or skin conditions caused by prescribed medications.

“Veterans whose service-connected disabilities require prosthetic appliances and skin medications deserve financial assistance for the extra clothing they have to purchase,” said Shinseki. “A federal appeals court has ruled that Veterans may be entitled to more than one clothing allowance, and we are adjusting our regulations to make sure Veterans get the benefit of that decision.”

The new regulation provides the criteria for more than one annual clothing allowance in situations where distinct garments are affected, and ensures Veterans are adequately compensated for any damage to clothing.

Veterans, who because of a service-connected disability, wear or use a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance that tends to wear out or tear clothing, are eligible for payment of an annual clothing allowance.

Examples of appliances include an artificial limb, rigid extremity brace, rigid spinal or cervical brace, wheelchair, crutches or other devices prescribed for the Veteran’s service-connected disability.

Veterans, who because of a service-connected skin condition use a medication that caused irreparable damage or stains to outer garments, are also eligible for payment of annual clothing allowance.

The change makes VA’s clothing allowance regulations consistent with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit’s holding in the case of *Sursely v. Peake*.

The application period for an annual clothing allowance is August 1 through July 31 of each calendar year. Payment of more than one clothing allowance to qualifying Veterans will occur in calendar year 2012.

VA is in the process of revising VA Form 10-8678, *Application For Annual Clothing Allowance*, to accommodate application for more than one annual clothing allowance. Currently, the single annual clothing allowance is \$716.

In the meantime, if a Veteran wishes to claim more than one allowance, the Veteran may continue to download and complete the current forms at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-8678-fill%204-08.pdf> and <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-4138-ARE.pdf>, to indicate that he or she desires consideration for more than one annual clothing allowance. Veterans are also encouraged to visit VA’s web portal [eBenefits - Compensation](#) for information on the clothing allowance and other VA benefits.

Veterans can also contact their nearest VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000 for more information about applying for more than one clothing allowance.

## **The Creation Of Viet Nam Vets:**

*When the Lord was creating Vietnam veterans, He was into His 6th day of overtime when an angel appeared.*

*"You're certainly doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."*

*And God said, "Have you seen the specs on this order? A Viet Nam vet has to be able to run 5 miles through the bush with a full pack on, endure with barely any sleep for days, enter tunnels his higher ups wouldn't consider doing, and keep his weapons clean and operable.*

*He has to be able to sit in his hole or rice paddie all night during an attack, hold his buddies as they die, walk point in unfamiliar territory known to be VC infested, and somehow keep his senses alert for danger.*

*He has to be in top physical condition existing on c-rations and very little rest. And he has to have 6 pairs of hands."*

*The angel shook his head slowly and said, "6 pair of hands....no way."*

*The Lord say's "It's not the hands that are causing me problems. It's the 3 pair of eyes a Nam vet has to have."*

*"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.*

*The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through elephant grass, another pair here in the side of his head for his buddies, another pair here in front that can look reassuringly at his bleeding, fellow soldier and say, "You'll make it" ... when he knows he won't.*

*"Lord, rest, and work on this tomorrow."*

*"I can't," said the Lord. "I already have a model that can carry a wounded soldier 1,000 yards during a fire fight, calm the fears of the newest cherry, and feed a family of 4 on a grunt's paycheck."*

*The angel walked around the model and said, "Can it think?"*

*"You bet," said the Lord. "It can quote much of the UCMJ, recite all his general orders, and engage in a search and destroy mission in less time than it takes for his fellow Americans back home to discuss the morality of the War, and still keep his sense of humor. The Lord gazed into the future and said, "He will also endure being vilified and spit on when he returns home, rejected and crucified by the very ones he fought for."*

*Finally, the angel slowly ran his finger across the vet's cheek, and said, "There's a leak...I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."*

*"That's not a leak", said the Lord. "That's a tear."*

*"What's the tear for?" asked the angel.*

*"It's for bottled up emotions, for holding fallen soldiers as they die, for commitment to that funny piece of cloth called the American flag, for the terror of living with PTSD for decades after the war, alone with it's demons with no one to care or help."*

*"You're a genius," said the angel, casting a gaze at the tear.*

*The lord looked very somber, as if seeing down eternity's distant shores.*

*"I didn't put it there," he said.*

*A Veteran is someone who, at one point in his life wrote a blank check Made payable to "The United States of America " for an amount of "up to and including my life". That is Honor, and there are way too many people in This country who no longer understand it."*

Washington, D.C.)--Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) joined with several hundred organizations representing veterans, seniors, and low-income beneficiaries to express the urgent need for Congress to reject the proposal to make harmful changes to the government's prescription drug program, Medicare Part D.

In a joint letter to Congress, the organizations cite that Medicare Part D is actually performing above expectation, and since its implementation, has cost taxpayers 41 percent less than originally projected. In addition, premiums for beneficiaries are 46 percent less than projected and are expected to decline slightly in 2012, with the average monthly premium remaining around \$30. This change would have a negative impact on veterans using both the Tricare for Life program as well as Medicare Part D.

"Clearly, savings need to be achieved within our healthcare system in order to sustain these vital programs for future generations of Americans, but it is our duty to ensure these changes do not harm the very people they are meant to protect," said John Rowan, VVA National President. "Instead of targeting a program that is actually saving money while providing affordable prescription drug options to seniors, the attention of Congress could be better spent identifying those programs wasting taxpayer's money."

If the rebate proposal is implemented, the groups cite that, by some estimates, the premium increase for seniors could rise by 20 to 40 percent. In an attempt to limit premium increases, the groups make the point that prescription drug plans may opt to adjust their formularies, giving seniors and disabled Americans fewer preferred options, resulting in higher out-of-pocket costs--costs which many cannot afford and will cause some to forgo treatment.

"Higher costs will cause a breakdown in treatment plan adherence, as seniors opt out of Part D coverage or fail to purchase the drugs they need to maintain their health. This could lead to higher costs in Medicare for hospitalizations and nursing home care. The availability of drug coverage is achieving savings of up to \$13 billion a year by keeping more seniors healthier and out of institutional settings, according to recent estimates by Harvard researchers. The rebate plan jeopardizes these savings and the lives they represent," the groups noted.

Said Rowan, "America's veterans and seniors have served their country and have contributed their entire working lives to building the wealth of this great nation. Instead of forcing beneficiaries to once again reach into their own pockets, now is the time to preserve the quality of care that supports the health of our veterans, our seniors, and those with disabilities, while providing a sustainable blueprint for the long-term health of our nation. Frankly, our veterans have sacrificed enough."



## OUR 2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ARE

\*The Pete Lambert Memorial Scholarship \$600—Paul Friedman attended Somers High School

\*The Peter T. McCauley Memorial Scholarship \$600—Annika Van Ells attended Croton High School

\*The Hamilton Fish Memorial Scholarship \$600—Shaina Brady attended White Plains High School

\*The William Sudderth Memorial Scholarship \$600—Shayna Sommer attended Westlake High School

\*The Anthony Shine Memorial Scholarship \$600—Lauren Wilt attended Hastings High School

\*The Jonathan Shine Memorial Scholarship \$600—Laura Power attended the Ursuline School

On behalf of the Officers, Board of Directors and Members of Chapter 49 we would like to congratulate these young individuals and wish them all the luck in their educational endeavors.

We would like to offer a special thanks to the Scholarship Committee for all the work they have done.

## May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Meeting Armonk 6 pm dinner 7 PM meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19 Plant sale Lasdon Park
20	21	22	23	24 Lasdon Park Fundraiser Museum 6:30-8:30	25	26
27 Playland 11:00 Montrose VA BBQ 4:00 Watchfire @ dark	28 Memorial Day parade Chappaqua	29	30 Memorial Day	31		

## June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Meeting Armonk 6 pm dinner 7 PM meeting	8	9 Fol-De-Rol Armonk
10 Fol-De-Rol Armonk	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 5 PM	27	28	29	30



# MEMBERSHIP



WE NEED YOU IN THE VIET-NAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND FEES

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL WHO SHARE OUR CONCERNS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS, AND FAMILIES, VETERAN OR NOT. WE ENCOURAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 1959 TO MAY 7, 1975.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (IND) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.
- ★ ASSOCIATE MEMBER (ASO) - A NON VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT (LMPP) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAYMENT ( LMPP ) FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT ( ALPP ) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAYMENT (ALPP ) FOR ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

★ THE PLANNED PAYMENT REQUIRES COMPLETION WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS.

★ FEES: ANNUAL FEES OF \$ 20.00 FOR INDIVIDUAL OR ASSOCIATED MEMBERSHIP OR MAKE A PAYMENT OF 50.00 FOR A THREE YEAR MEMBERSHIP AND SAVE \$ 10.00.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

#### CURRENT AGE:

49 AND UNDER.....	\$ 250.00
50 TO 55.....	\$ 225.00
56 TO 60.....	\$ 200.00
61 TO 65.....	\$ 175.00
66 AND OVER.....	\$ 150.00

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- ★ PROOF OF AGE MUST BE SUBMITTED ON ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ COPY OF FORM DD 214 MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR VIET-NAM ERA VETERANS.

## \* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \*

- I AM A VIET-NAM VETERAN / FEE: \$20.00 of 50.00 / Copy of DD 214 is Required
- I AM A NON-VIET-NAM VETERAN AND PLEASE ENROL ME AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF VVA / FEE: \$20.00 or 50.00
- RENEWAL of MEMBERSHIP / FEE: \$20.00 or \$50.00
- I Wish to Contribute and be kept informed  
(Enclosed is my Annual Contribution) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ADDRESS CHANGE (Indicate Chages Below)

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER

\* see note above

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE of BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make Cheque or Money Order Payable to: V.V.A Chapter #49  
To: Membership Chair, V.V.A. Chapter #49 PO Box 224, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Questions?: Call the Chapter. Phone/Fax (914) 682-4949  
Meetings of the Viet-Nam Veterans of America, Chapter #49  
are held the first Thursday of each Month @ 7:30pm.

Please check current Newsletter for Location.



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