

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?



NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #163
WHITE PLAINS, NY

Westchester County Chapter 49
Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 224
Pleasantville, New York 10570
Notice: Address Service Requested

VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Chapter Officers:

President: Barney Puleo 682-4949
Vice President: Al Zawiski 428-9352
Secretary: Jim LaManna 793-6077
Treasurer: Al Singerman 930-7433

Board of Directors: (5)

Bob Kennedy 669-5411
Terry Keogh 428-9845
Bob Miller 391-8723
Carl DiLiberto 462-0782
Matt Coffey 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: Louis Navarro 377-6700
Carmel: Brennen Mahoney 845-808-1620

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

Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Director: Ron Tocci 995-2146 / 2145

Committees:

Membership Phil Wanderman 963-3034
Chaplain Al Zawiski 428-9352
Comm. Affairs Dan Griffin 682-4949
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
914-864-7068
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
AND HOLIDAYS

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

Website:
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

In the last couple of months of 2015 we were busy; in November we had the fundraiser at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza. This raised \$608.00 for our foundation, Base Camp Westchester.

In December we hosted the Wreaths across America ceremony and our Candlelight Vigil. The Candlelight vigil was the best attended since we started in 1987; almost eighty people! Thank you to the boy scouts of White Plains Troop 73 for all of their work.

Lasdon Park sold Christmas trees and all of the proceeds; \$1,776.00 went to our Base Camp Westchester. We helped on two days-well we stood there and looked pretty! The park employees did all of the work.

Take care of yourself and each other

Dan Griffin

Welcome to our newest members

David Marinella life member from West Harrison

Helder Barreto life member from Port Chester

Daniel Rome life member from West Harrison

Duncan Hoffman life member from Port Chester

Joseph Bucolo life member from Ossining

[Bill S4283-2015](#), Declares the Vietnam Veterans of America to be benevolent orders and grants such organization various benefits available to specified veterans' organizations; requires the commissioner of general services to set aside space in the capitol for use as quarters of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

ALBANY, NY - On March 29th, 1973, the Vietnam War drew to a close, and since then New York has commemorated 'Vietnam Veterans Day' and 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day' on March 29th and March 30th, respectively. This week, timed to the observance of these sacred days, New York State Senator Terrence Murphy has passed his bill granting certain benefits and honoraria to the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) which they have never before received.

"With dozens of chapters in New York, VVA does receive some of the benefits available to other veterans' organizations, such as tax exemptions and the ability to obtain a liquor license, yet there are other privileges to which VVA should be entitled but does not receive," Senator Murphy said. "We waited too long to acknowledge and honor the service and sacrifice of these heroes. That changes today."

Ned Foote, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America, New York State Council, said "We thank Senator Murphy and the Senate for passing this bill that holds the Vietnam Veterans of America in the same category of the more traditional Veteran organizations in New York State. To have this accomplished in time for Vietnam Veterans Day is a great way to remember what the Vietnam Veterans did for our country and what we have done in whatever rolls we played in life as we age more every day."

The bill authored by Senator Murphy, Senate Bill S4283, declares VVA to be a benevolent order and grants it various benefits that are available to other veterans' organizations in New York State, such as the storage of records, flags, relics, and other memorabilia for prominent display within the hallowed halls of state capitol. It passed unanimously. Specifically, the bill will:

- Add the Vietnam Veterans of America to the list of organizations contained within the benevolent orders law, conferring the rights and privileges available under that law;
- Require the state commissioner of general services to set aside suitably furnished space in the capital for quarters of the VVA for the preservation of its records, a benefit that was previously available only to the Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars;
- Allow VVA to host meetings in National Guard armories, like other veterans' organizations;

- Fix various areas of the general municipal law and the general city law where VVA was omitted, allowing them to be designated as the veterans' organization responsible for the observance of Memorial and Veterans Day parades and ceremonies; and
- Authorize the state bureau of war records to preserve and complete the records and relics of VVA to make as complete as possible the history and statistics of the wartime service of New York State residents.

Additionally, while the bill grants several new rights and privileges, it makes other technical corrections to stipulate VVA in certain areas of law where the organization qualified for benefits, but was not specifically mentioned alongside other specified veterans organizations, which Murphy considered to be an unintentional slight to a generation of veterans. "While the Vietnam War was a divisive issue, politics should never have caused the patriotic service of the soldiers of our state to go unrecognized," Senator Murphy said.

The bill now heads to the Assembly for passage, where it is sponsored by Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky and cosponsored by Assemblyman Mike DenDekker, chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee. It has already moved past the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee.

"The brave veterans who served in Vietnam sacrificed so much for our country, and now it's time for us to support them," Assemblyman Kaminsky said. "Vietnam Veterans of America provides invaluable resources to our veterans, and it deserves the same benefits as other similar organizations in our state. I am pleased that this bill has passed the Veterans' Affairs committee of the Assembly and look forward to the floor vote."

Senator Murphy said his legislation would ensure that VVA organizations are afforded the same benefits as other veterans' organizations in New York State so they can better support the next generation of America's war veterans and continue to serve our communities. This was his second piece of legislation to successfully pass the Senate.



Vietnam Veterans of America official designation as a benevolent organization at Lasdon Park

Chapter members: standing-Ron Tocci, sitting Jim LaManna, Carl DiLiberto and Bob Kennedy



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 17, 2015

VA Plans to Propose Expanded Disability Benefits Eligibility for Veterans Exposed to Contaminated Water at Camp Lejeune

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it plans to propose expanded disability compensation eligibility for Veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

From 1953 to 1987, water sources at the base were contaminated with industrial solvents that are correlated with certain health conditions. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald decided to propose presumptions of service connection for certain conditions associated with these chemical solvents following discussions between environmental health experts at the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

“The water at Camp Lejeune was a hidden hazard, and it is only years later that we know how dangerous it was,” said Secretary McDonald. “We thank ATSDR for the thorough review that provided much of the evidence we needed to fully compensate Veterans who develop one of the conditions known to be related to exposure to the compounds in the drinking water.”

ATSDR determined that the drinking water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, benzene and other petroleum contaminants from leaking storage tanks from 1953 to 1987. ATSDR also determined that prolonged exposure to these chemicals increases the risk of certain health conditions.

Based upon VA’s review of current medical science and ATSDR’s findings, Secretary McDonald intends to propose creation of a presumption of service connection for the following conditions:

- Kidney Cancer
- Liver Cancer
- Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Leukemia
- Multiple Myeloma
- Scleroderma
- Parkinson's Disease
- Aplastic Anemia / Myelodysplastic Syndromes

The Secretary's proposal would also expand benefits eligibility to Reserve and National Guard personnel who served at Camp Lejeune for any length of time from August 1, 1953, through December 31, 1987. These personnel would be presumed to have been exposed to the contaminated water during their Reserve or National Guard service and, in appropriate circumstances, to have been disabled by such exposure during service, thus allowing them to qualify for VA benefits under the statutory definition of "Veteran." This would make them eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any of the presumptive conditions, and their surviving dependents would be eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions, making it easier for affected Veterans to receive VA disability compensation for these conditions. While VA cannot grant any benefit claims based on the proposed presumption of service connection for these conditions until it issues its final regulations, it encourages Veterans who have a record of service at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and develop a condition that they believe is related to exposure to the drinking water at the base, to file a disability compensation claim with VA.

VA will continue to grant claims for disabilities claimed to be associated with exposure to the contaminants that can be granted under current regulations and review of the evidence in each case. If a claim for service connection for one of the proposed presumptive conditions would be denied under current regulations, the denial will be stayed until VA issues its final regulations. VA will announce when the regulations are final and presumptive benefits can begin to be awarded. For more information on applying for these benefits, visit:

http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-exposures-camp_lejeune_water.asp.

Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, are already eligible to receive VA healthcare for up to 15 health conditions. More information, including a full list of covered conditions, can be found online at:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp>.

Veterans can establish eligibility for healthcare benefits by submitting VA Form 10-10EZ online at www.1010ez.med.va.gov/, downloading it at www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/1010EZ-fillable.pdf and returning it to any VA Medical Center or Clinic, or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM (Eastern Time).

VA is reimbursing certain veterans' family members for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered conditions. More information can be found at:

<https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov>

###

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Years Day	2
3	4	5	6	7 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <hr/> 31	25	26 pizza Party FDR Stress unit 5:30 PM	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 meeting Armonk 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
21	22	23 pizza Party FDR Stress unit 5:30 PM	24	25	26	27
28 <hr/>	29					

MARCH 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20	21	22 pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 5:30 PM	23	24	25	26
27 Easter	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2016

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



★ **MEMBERSHIP** ★



WE NEED YOU IN THE VIETNAM 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 VIETNAM 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 VIETNAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.
- ★ ASSOCIATE MEMBER (ASO) - A NON VIETNAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - A VIETNAM ERA VETERAN WHOSE LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WHOSE LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL. LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT (LMPP) - A VIETNAM 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 VIETNAM ERA VETERANS.

* **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** *

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- VIETNAM ERA VETERAN
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER

* see note above

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ DATE of BIRTH _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Please make check 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.



**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER
ADVERTISEMENT**

PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949

EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER
ADVERTISEMENT**

PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949

EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER
ADVERTISEMENT**

PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949

EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER
ADVERTISEMENT**

PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949

EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER
ADVERTISEMENT**

PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949

EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER
ADVERTISEMENT**

PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949

EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM

PETE VALANE

Bagpiper
For All Occasions

914-632-2952

Cell 347-596-8042



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

MICHAEL O'CONNOR, GRI
Associate Broker

(914) 245-3400 BUSINESS
(914) 245-8602 FAX
(914) 528-7279 RESIDENCE

366 UNDERHILL AVENUE
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598



Independently Owned And Operated By NRT Incorporated.



The First in Synthetics

John H. Pagliuca
Certified Dealer 1423557
lubedealer.com/johnpag

PH: (914) 402-4239
C: (914) 714-5037
johnamsman@aol.com



**SAILORS - JOIN NOW
CONTACT**

MATTHEW J. COFFEY
Capt. USNR- Ret.

AUSN Regional President - Mid-Atlantic Region

16 N. Broadway White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 997-7663 ★ (914) 584-5741 Mobile
captmjcoffey@aol.com ★ www.ausn.org