

INTERCHANGE ONLINE



THE OFFICIAL ONLINE NEWSPAPER OF THE
NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL

Vol. 29 Issue 04

Veteran's News that needs to be Read WINTER 2019



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Wishing all of our membership and supporters a Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, and a Healthy, Prosperous and A Happy New Year.



IN MEMORIAM

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

VVA #11

Bruce Antin

VVA #20

John Favret

Dave Freundsuh

Bernard Fry

William A. Gebhardt

Kenneth R. Hall

Thomas R. Holmes

Thomas Kohl

Robert P. Kuzmicki

Andrew Restivo

William A. Reynell

Kim E. Shoebridge

VVA #459

Gayle Anne (Lundy) Hall - wife of Sam Hall

William Tallman





VVA-NYSC Meeting Dates 2020

January 24/25/26

April 17/18/19

June 19/20/21

September 25/26/27

On-Line INTERCHANGE is the Bi-monthly publication of the VVA-NYSC. Comments and contributions are encouraged and can be sent to:

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of this organization. Individuals with different viewpoints and opinions are invited to submit them to the Chapter by the **deadline** of the **Third Friday of each month**. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, grammar and reject any libelous or obscene material.

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Francisco Muñiz III



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President's Report

Ned D. Foote

Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year! More than likely you have received this after Holidays but I'm saying it anyways.

We just had our annual Executive meeting in Saratoga. We went over last years meetings and what we look at for next year. One issue that has come up was our June meeting. The hotel was not available to us for the time we wanted. With too many other things that go on in June with graduations, Father's Day, weddings and such we thought best to cancel altogether.

We looked at maybe not have June meetings. We don't have that big of turnout in June as people have other things to attend and financially, we could save some funds. Now I don't want to alarm anyone but as we age funding is not what it used to be. You know we lost 50,000 dollars we have been getting from the State. We do have numerous apologies from Senators and promises we will get those funds back. It is hard to trust politicians so I'm not counting on it. Other revenue is slowing as Household Goods Program changing and we have seen drops in this for past 3 years. Life membership rebates will possibility of drying up in number of years. That is because we only charge 50 bucks for life membership and we rebate 11 dollars back to States and Chapters every year. You do the math.

Why I am saying this is we really need to focus on our future as to when VVA will no longer be around. Yes, we are aging even as too many of you do not think so. Our average age in VVA is 73.

The Convention resolution that was passed has to do with changing our name and hoping the younger Veterans will join us and move this new group in a direction they wish but not forget us. If this does come to fruition it still will be a number of years before anyone of them can take over for us. So, the next convention is even more critical than last.

I have had some conversations with some chapters who do not participate with our SC or National. A few are not happy with this resolution and I understand that. But if you do not come to our meetings you do not really know what is being debated. And then if you do not send your delegates to the convention then you do not have a voice.

We are entitled for 129 delegates. That is a big number but only had 61 come to convention. The next convention is in 2021. It is in Greensboro NC. Driving distance for some. Plenty of time to raise funds. My pet peeve that has been around since I became President is yes you all do great community work and you donate funds you raise to great causes. But you raise those funds under the VVA banner but cannot send delegates to a SC meeting or National Convention? So, I ask you to save some of those funds and invest in your own organization.

Our January meeting, we will have Holly Baker as guest speaker. She is President of the Gold Star Family. In April we will have State Council elections as we do not have June meeting. We will try and get Jim McDonough to come also. President Rowan always comes along with our Regional Director Ted Wilkinson. They are available to answer your questions and as I am along with your Officers and Directors. I'm trying to show the chapters who do not come that we have good meetings and many chapters do come. We do provide a free lunch at the Casino Buffet so that may bring some of you out.

Let's see a huge turnout in January and April and September. Time is getting short. Make the best of it.



New York Vietnam Veterans Foundation

We provide grants to Vietnam Veterans of America-New York State Council, (VVA-NYSC) a veteran's service organization that advocates for legislation at the State and Federal level of government to provide housing, education, health and mental care services to veterans and their families.

We provide funding for VVA-NYSC Veteran's Service Officer program that assist veterans with their military disability compensation and pension claims from the Veterans Administration.

We advocate for better Federal and State veteran's benefits and veteran preferences in government employment. VVA Chapters within New York State, assist widows, widowers, and orphans of our veterans. The organization organizes programs that enrich the lives of Vietnam veterans, as well as veterans from past, current wars, and their families.

We have an active Agent Orange committee that helps Vietnam veterans receive up to date information on prostate cancer, diabetes, and other chemically-related diseases.

We have an updated database of agencies that provide:

- Listings of Veteran Job Fairs offered by county or veteran service organizations;
- Counseling for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);
- Outreach programs that support returning veterans' reentry into civilian life;

For disabled veterans, this can be even more difficult than a tour of duty.

We do this all year long, but without your gift and the gifts of other supporters, nothing can be done to help those that are so deserving of it. However, we have much more to accomplish.

We, the New York Vietnam Veterans Foundation, have a mission to keep advocating for and helping these veterans. We ask you to join us in our mission to provide assistance, guidance, training, and education to all veterans of past, present, and future military conflicts.

So let us continue to work together to ensure our national heroes receive everything that they are entitled to receive for their sacrifice and service to our nation.

President Francisco Muñiz III Vice President Ned D. Foote Treasurer Grant T. Coates

Secretary Nick Valenti Directors Sam Hall & Stan May

You can send your tax deductible donation, to the extent allowed by law, directly to the Foundation at NY Vietnam Veterans Foundation, 48 March Lane, Westbury, NY 11590-6302.

Region	Count
1	33
2	90
3	99
4	49
5	110
6	66
7	63
8	67
9	101
Total	668

The following chart shows the amount of delegates in each Region. VVA-NYSC had a total number of delegates. VVA-NYSC had a total number of delegates. The following Constitutional Amendments were passed—please make changes on your Chapter’s By-Laws:

Constitutional Amendment 01—Adopted Section Affected::Article 1 National Provisions Section 3 Paragraph A

Proposed Change: Strike the word indicated by the strike through.

A Membership in the Corporation is open to any veteran of the military service of the United States of America, who served on active duty during the dates established by federal law for the Vietnam War, paying in advance ~~annual~~ dues set b y the national board, and conforming to, and conforming with, this Constitution, bylaws, and rules of the Corporation now or hereinafter in effect.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 02 Adopted Section Affected:: Article 1 National Provisions Section 4 paragraph J

Proposed Change: Strike out paragraph J and insert a new paragraph J.

The following Resolutions were either Amended or are new Resolutions added to our existing Resolutions that we have on the books to seek congressional support.

AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN COMMITTEE

AO-1 RESEARCH ON AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN EFFECTS

History: First adopted in 1989 as V-5-89 and as V-6-89 Amended in 1991 as AO-1-91

Updated in 1993 as AO-1-93 Updated in 2003 as AO-1-03 Renumbered as AO-1 in 2011 **Amended in 2019**

Issue: Research into human health effects of exposure to the ingredients in Agent Orange/Dioxin and other herbicides and toxic chemicals used in Vietnam needs to continue in order to provide for the most complete understanding of these effects.

Background: While numerous scientific studies have revealed significant harmful effects of exposure to the ingredients of Agent Orange/Dioxin as well as other herbicides and toxic substances on humans and animals, continued research is needed to fully understand the entire range of the possible effects of such exposure. The National Academies of Science, Environment and Medicine (NASEM) review of scientific information indicated there are a number of studies that need replication in order to reach a scientifically accepted standard of significant association. VVA believes there needs to be a large-scale study of the effects on Vietnam veterans and their children and those other studies of positively exposed groups are needed to add to the knowledge on this issue. One critical component of such studies must be the effects on the children of Vietnam veterans and other exposed individuals.

Resolved, That: Vietnam Veterans of America, in light of the National Academies of Science, Environment and Medicine (NASEM) reports, demands that the U.S. Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and other appropriate federal agencies initiate and support an independent comprehensive health study on veterans and their children, which includes determination of the delayed effects of exposure to the ingredients in Agent Orange/Dioxin and other toxic chemicals used primarily in Vietnam, this research which bases its decisions on scientifically accepted standards, i.e.: Standard Mortality Ratios (SMRs) determines significant associations for diseases currently recognized by the DVA as related to herbicide exposure to assist all veterans and families. The DVA must go beyond the SMRs and start

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to utilize and recognize Standard Incident measurements when determining significant associations of all diseases. In addition, VVA supports and encourages valid, independent, on-site, scientific research in Southeast Asia to ascertain the delayed effects of exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin and other herbicides and toxic substances used during the Vietnam War. VVA supports and encourages continuing scientific research in communities, industries, and hazardous waste sites in the United States where workers and residents have been exposed to toxic substances similar to those used in Southeast Asia, and further supports studies of the delayed effects of exposure.

AO-9 INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING PROCESSES, INCLUDING PAPERMAKING

History: First adopted in 1995 as AO-10-95 Amended in 1997 as AO-10-97 Amended in 1999 as AO-10-99 Renumbered in 2003 as AO-9-03 Renumbered in 2011 as AO-9 Amended in 2019

Issue: The lessons learned on the harmful effects of dioxin exposure on the health of

Vietnam veterans and their descendants, as well as the overall environmental damage caused by these and like toxins.

It is of extreme importance and urgency that VVA promote and foster the elimination of all dioxins, all other endocrine disruptors, and all other toxic substances created in the industrial manufacturing products and processes, including papermaking.

Background: The use of chlorine in the papermaking industry's bleaching processes has been proven to create Dioxins, which are released into the environment. In recent years, concerned with their role and their responsibility to help protect the environment, a segment of the papermaking industry has worked to develop and market chlorine-free paper.

For nearly 25 years, VVA has promoted the elimination of chlorine use in the bleaching process of papermaking. This process was proven to create dioxin, the deadly toxicant, which can be eliminated from paper products by utilizing one of two methods: "elemental chlorine free" that utilizes chlorine dioxide in the bleaching process but does not contribute to creating dioxin as a byproduct; or "Total Chlorine-free" bleach processes that do not use any chlorine compounds in the manufacturing processes.

Endocrine disruptors interfere with the normal function of human hormones. These substances increase production of certain hormones and decrease production of others. Ubiquitous in our everyday lives, these substances are found in common household items such as plastic goods, personal-care products, fragrances, food, and food packaging, and even in our drinking tap water. Studies have linked endocrine disruptors to cancers, lowered sperm count, lowered IQ, thyroid disease, birth defects, and other developmental disorders. Obviously, having Vietnam veterans and their descendants exposed to these substances, in addition to their dioxin exposure through Agent Orange, can only worsen a grave situation. Many endocrine disruptors are created by manufacturing processes that can be changed or altered to eliminate these hazards.

Everyday other horrific elements are created by industrial manufacturing processes that are then passed on to humans in the products themselves or in the hazardous byproducts of these processes. The most common endocrine disruptors that need to be eliminated are Bisphenol A (BPA), Phthalates, PFAS chemicals, Atrazine, flame retardants, and perchlorate.

Other toxic substances which damage human health and the environment that came from manufacturing processes are lead, arsenic, mercury, PFC's, glycol ethers, and organophosphate pesticides.

Resolved, That: Vietnam Veterans of America should make every effort to stop all industrial manufacturing processes, including papermaking, that create dioxin, endocrine disruptors, or any other toxic element that could further damage the health of Vietnam veterans or their descendants, or the health and environment experienced by the general population.

AO-10 BAN THE MANUFACTURING, SALE, AND/OR USE OF 2,4-D AND GLYPHOSATE

History: First adopted in 1995 as AO-11-95 Amended in 1999 as AO-11-99 Renumbered in 2003 as AO-10-03 Renumbered in 2011 as AO-10 Amended in 2019 **Issue:** For at least fifty years, the Department of Defense has intentionally exposed military personnel to potentially dangerous substances, often in secret. During the war in Vietnam when herbicides were used to defoliate dense jungle, our service members were not aware of the toxicity of the chemicals

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used. As a result of the service members' exposure to 2,4-D in Vietnam, veterans are being diagnosed twenty years later with rare cancers, sarcomas, immune deficiencies and Central Nervous System disorders. Children of exposed veterans are born with learning disabilities, birth defects and deficiencies. Today, herbicide 2,4-D is being used for weed control across the United States; at National Cemeteries, schoolyards, golf courses and hospitals. Utility companies, the Department of Transportation, and railroads use it. Additionally, farmers are using 2,4-D, which in turn is contaminating food crops, cattle, pigs, chickens, etc. In addition, 2,4-D is being used to eliminate the growth of plant life in our lakes, thereby contaminating our freshwater wildlife.

Over 250,000 veterans have died from diseases their exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin, and that number climbs every day. The continued use of 2,4-D today further exposes our families to the same chemical veterans were exposed to in Vietnam. This exposure jeopardizes the health of our families and future generations, making them susceptible to the same diseases from which our veterans are dying. Long-simmering debate about whether the world's most widely used herbicide causes cancer has led many scientists to suggest that people exposed to large doses of the chemical glyphosate have a heightened risk of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL), a type of cancer. Certain scientific teams have concluded in their meta-analyses studies that people exposed to glyphosate-based weed killers have a 41 percent higher risk of contracting NHL than people who aren't a measure known as "relative risk," in epidemiology.

The product "Roundup™" and several other widely used herbicide products are heavily utilized in the agricultural, forestry, aquaculture, utility, and consumer-product industries. These products contain glyphosate as the key chemical component that has been found in lab settings to harm a cell's DNA and thus potentially cause cancer, in a manner also called genotoxicity. Further, scientists have found sufficient data to conclude glyphosate is a rodent carcinogen and suggestive evidence of positive association between NHL and exposure.

Background: Vietnam veterans are acutely aware of the deadly consequences of exposure to 2,4-D. Health and Welfare Canada and the United States Environmental Protection Agency have identified at least four different isomers of Dioxin as contaminants in 2,4-D. These dioxins include the 2, 3, 7, 8-TCDD isomer, which is the most deadly poison known to man. Dioxin is contaminating the food chain which results in the compromising of the immune system of all Americans. Even more ludicrous, 2, 4-D is being used at national cemeteries, which shows the government's insensitivity to victims that have died of dioxin-related cancers.

Studies concluded that people exposed to glyphosate have a "Compelling Link" to NHL, a cancer. The use of this chemical continues unabated, with use less than 25 million pounds of the stuff used in 1992 and growing to over 300 million pounds in the U.S. agriculture sector alone. Juries have found that glyphosate exposure in "Roundup™" was a "substantial factor" in causing NHL with plaintiffs' suits in recent court cases.

The recent huge jury and courts liability and damages awards appear to be from "bellwether trials" of the hundreds of "Roundup™" lawsuits already filed.

Resolved, that: Vietnam Veterans of America will seek legislation and administrative action to ban the manufacture, sale, and use of 2,4-D and glyphosate worldwide.

VVA will take all steps necessary to promote legislation to carry out this action; and

VVA encourages its membership through the chapters and state councils to work with Congressional representatives and state legislators to obtain their support to ban the manufacturing, sale, and use of 2, 4-D and glyphosate worldwide.

AO-16 BLUE WATER VETERANS EXPOSURE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

History: First adopted in 2013 as AO-16 Updated in 2019

Issue: During the Vietnam War, more than 20 million gallons of "Agent Orange" and other toxic herbicides was sprayed to remove jungle foliage and deny the enemy the ability to grow crops. Toxic chemicals in the herbicide have been linked to devastating health effects, including non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL), various cancers, Type II Diabetes, and Parkinson's disease. The Agent Orange Act of 1991 empowered the VA Secretary to declare certain illnesses "presumptive" to exposure to Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides and enabled veterans to receive disability compensation for these conditions. In March 2002, the VA stopped awarding benefits approximately 534,300 blue water US Navy and US Marine Corps veterans (of whom, 174,925 are known to be alive as of the end of 2011) and limited the scope of the Agent Orange Act to only those veterans who could provide proof of "boots on the ground" in

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Vietnam which encompassed ground forces and the inland rivers. As a result, veterans who served in the waters off the Vietnamese coast were required to file individual claims to restore their benefits, which were then decided on a case-by-case basis. The VA has denied 33,000+ such claims through 2011. Scientific studies showed a higher rate of cancer and NHL incidence among shipboard veterans than those who fought in- country. Studies also show that there was a plausible pathway for Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides to have discharged to the territorial seas, via rivers and streams. Other studies proved the distillation process that converted salt water to drinking water, enriched the dioxin and contaminated the shipboard potable water system.

Background: Congressman Mark Takano, (D-41-CA) has introduced in the 116th Congress, H.R. 299 the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 and Senator Gillibrand, (D-NY) has introduced companion bill S.1195, which would partially restore the presumptive coverage that existed prior to March 2002 and lifts the burden from the individual veteran to prove direct exposure to toxic herbicides. Proving exposure is nearly impossible due to a lack of record keeping and the inability to know the precise location of dioxins in the air and water runoff. The bill extends the same presumption that currently exists for veterans who served on land and inland waterways. It would also reduce backlogged VA claims for disability compensation from veterans who are suffering from diseases that the U.S. government has linked to Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides. Specifically, the legislation would grant presumptive herbicide exposure status to U.S. service members who served in the territorial seas of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. This would enable eligible veterans to receive Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits if they suffer from any of the diseases the U.S. government has linked to Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides.

Resolved, That: Vietnam Veterans of America, in light of several National Academies of Science, Environment and Medicine (NASEM) reports, demands that the U.S. Congress move swiftly to enact a Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act to retroactively reinstate eligibility to blue water veterans for illnesses and disabilities related to the delayed effects of exposure to the ingredients in Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides used primarily in Vietnam.

Additionally, VVA seeks to ensure that the new measures would mandate that:

Title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “including the territorial seas of such Republic” after “served in the Republic of Vietnam” each place it appears.

Section 1710(e) (4) of such title is amended by inserting “including the territorial seas of such Republic” after “served on active duty in the Republic. The amendments made take effect as of September 25, 1985.

Update: H.R. 299 The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act was signed into law on June 25, 2019 and is now P.L. 116-23

AO-17 REMOVE ONE YEAR CUTOFF DATE FOR CHLORACNE, ACUTE/SUBACUTE PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY, PORPHYRIA AND CUTANEA TARDA

Issue: WHEREAS: Chloracne, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, and porphyria cutanea tarda, all on the list of 14 Agent Orange illnesses, currently have a cutoff date of only one year with a 10% disability following exposure to Agent Orange

Background: WHEREAS: The Vietnam Veterans of America is national organization of wartime veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of their community, state and nation

Whereas: The Department of Veterans Affairs annually adds to or amends illness related diseases on Agent Orange

Whereas: Many of these veterans now have health problems commonly associated with herbicide exposure and have endured lengthy legal struggles to prove that these problems are service-related

Whereas: Therefore, **be it RESOLVED**, by the Vietnam Veterans of America at the 2019 National Convention assembled in Spokane Washington on July 15-20, 2019. That the Vietnam Veterans of America hereby address the Congress of the United States, the National Institute of Health, and the President of the United States, to amend those three above-listed illnesses (Chloracne, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, and porphyria cutanea tarda) on set dates, to award earned benefits and treatment through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

GA-18 DEPENDENT INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC)

Issue: It is inherently unfair that a surviving spouse of a veteran, in the normal circumstance, to qualify for Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC) must have had the loved one receiving 100% total and permanent disability for ten or more years, unless that veteran was deemed as dying of an injury or disease related to military service, because such a circumstance frequently places this survivor in a disadvantageous financial position and an undeserved financial crisis.

Background: Section 1318(b)(1) of Title 38 of the United States Code provides Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits for survivors of deceased veterans who were rated totally disabled for ten or more years. However, the financial status of the surviving spouse is compromised due to the care often required for the totally disabled veteran by the spouse. The veteran's spouse, **(Continue on pg. 9)**

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acting as a caregiver, must in many instances limits, give up or put a career and other activities on hold. As a result, the family unit suffers an immediate income loss upon the death of the veteran, which can lead to an undeserved financial crisis from which it may not recover, especially if the surviving spouse is no longer of working age.

Resolved, That: That legislation be enacted which:

- Reduces the rule for DIC qualification period to a more reasonable period of time, that is, five (5) years;
- Starts payments at fifty percent (50%) of the maximum amount and increases them by ten percent (10%) per year till the maximum payment is achieved, for each year the veteran has been rated at 100% permanent disability; and
- Reduces the age allowed for surviving spouses to remarry and maintain their benefits from 57 to 55, consistent with other federal survivor benefit programs.

President Ned Foote presents donation check to Lap Robe founder, Nancy Van Apeldoorn, a Marine Vietnam Veteran's wife, for her outstanding work in helping keep Veterans warm.



Southern District Report

Joe Ingino

VVA Chapters #11, #32, #72, #82, #126, #421, #807



Ingino at Sen. Brook's Veteran Seminar distributing VVA brochures. Represented the Gold Star Mothers at the Wall that Heals in Eisenhower Park. Attended VVA #72—Brooklyn and VVA #82 Nassau County and brought them up to date on the convention. I attended the Nassau County Veterans Monument Fund , June 22, 2019 they added another 260 names to the Wall of Honor. On July 28, 2019, I attended the Korean War Ceremony . On July 15 to 20, I attended the Vietnam Veteran of America 19th National Convention, in Spokane Washington. I went to Committee Meetings on Agent Orange on Dioxin , Health Care Committee, and Government Affairs Committee.

On another note, I would like to congratulate John Rowan , on getting reelected National President and all the National Board of Directors

that were elected to the board. I would like to congratulate Ned Foote, for receiving the Member of the Year Award. I would also like to thank Suffolk County Chapter 11 and their President Rich Kitson Officers and members for welcoming their new members from Stony Brook Veterans Home, on July 26. God Bless America and Our Troops.

PS Joe is recuperating after some surgery to update his bionic heart. Sends his gratitude for your concerns and prayers.

VVA #72 Thomas P. Coughlin Memorial Chapter-Brooklyn
Danny Friedman
President

We helped organize and participated in a town hall with the VAMC Nurses' Union, NYC Veterans' Alliance, and IAVA, featuring Congressman Max Rose of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and VVA National President John Rowan, on 10/4. The issues of concern were privatization of VA health care, quality of VA health care and staffing of VA medical facilities.

We participated in Veterans' Day related activities at the Brooklyn VAMC on 11/4; Fort Hamilton on 11/5; and the William McKinley Intermediate School on 11/8.

We sponsored a float and participated in America's Veterans' Day Parade on 11/11.

He held a pizza party for the veterans in the in-patient rehab ward 15-West of the Brooklyn VAMC on 11/11.

We participated in the congressional selection process for U.S. Service Academies on 11/6 & 11/14.

We participated in a Veterans' Town Hall in Staten Island on 12/2 sponsored by Congressman Max Rose.

We participated in a Blood Drive at the Brooklyn VAMC on 12/5.

We held a holiday party for the veterans in the in-patient rehab ward 15-West of the Brooklyn VAMC on 12/7, featuring food and soft drinks, desserts, Santa and gifts including heavy fleece-lined hooded jackets and canteen books.

We had a meeting with a representative of the Super Kids Soap Box Derby and the Robotics Department of John Dewey High School on 12/16. VVA 72 is working with them and sponsoring the building of two cars for Brooklyn children with special needs to qualify for and participate in the National Super Kids Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio. The Brooklyn Races will be in June, 2020.

We held a pizza party for the 40 veterans of the Brooklyn VAMC Domiciliary and provided these homeless veterans with heavy fleece-lined hooded jackets and canteen books on 12/18.

We provided heavy fleece-lined jackets to the 48 homeless veterans at the SUS Homeless Veterans' Shelter in Bushwick, Brooklyn, on 12/18.

Thank you for your service and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family.

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#GA-19 USS FRANK E EVANS

Issue: The 74 sailors that were killed on the USS Frank E Evans are not on the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

Background: The USS Frank E Evans was on maneuvers with AHMS Melbourne during the maneuver the Frank E Evans was in a collision with the Melbourne in which 74 American sailors were killed. The collision took place just 200 miles off the coast of Vietnam. At the time the Frank E Evans was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal along with all the ships and their crews that came to her rescue. The criteria for the name to be placed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall are that they earned the right, by qualifying for, at the time Vietnam Service Medal.

Resolved, That: The Vietnam Veterans of America supports having the 74 sailor's names from the USS Frank E Evans on the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

GA-20 CHANGING THE NAME OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Issue: Require VVA's leadership to investigate what is required to change Vietnam Veterans of America's name and then open up membership to include all veterans after the Vietnam-era.

Background: There has been much discussion over the last 15 years about VVA being a last person organization. But no formal vote has been taken. A NO vote on this resolution would make it official.

Resolved, That: Require VVA's Officers and Board of Directors to investigate the requirements to change the name of Vietnam Veterans of America to a name that would entice Post-Vietnam era veterans to join the renamed organization and then open up membership to these newer veterans.

VETERANS BENEFITS COMMITTEE**VB-3 LESS-THAN-HONORABLE ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGES**

History: Adopted in 1991 as L-4-91 (an Update of L-11-83, L-12-83, L-13-83, L-14-83)

Renumbered in 1993 as VA-4-93 Renumbered in 1997 as VA-3-97

Amended in 1999 as VB-3-99 Renumbered in 2011 as VB-3 **Amended** in 2015 and 2019

Issue: In September 2014, former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel signed a directive ordering the Army, Navy, and Air Force implement supplemental guidance involving discharge upgrade application relating to PTSD. The directive may affect up to 80,000 Vietnam Veterans impacted by PTSD and having undesirable or other than honorable discharges. Outreach to veterans from all wars still needs to be accomplished on this issue. Most veterans are unaware that they can still apply to the Board of Corrections of Military Records for upgrades.

Resolved, That: Vietnam Veterans of America continues to seek the repeal of Public Law 95-126 regarding the Carter administration's special discharge upgrade program and is working toward having the Other-Than-Fully-Honorable Discharge replaced with a Certificate of Service.

VB-9 DVA IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS DECISIONS

History: First adopted in 1995 as VA-9-95 Updated in 1999 as VB-9-99 Renumbered in 2011 as VB-9 **Amended** in 2015 and 2019

Issue: Vietnam Veterans of America's Service Representatives report that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) often has failed to implement decisions by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).

Background: In 1988, Congress passed the Veterans Judicial Review Act (VJRA), creating the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). This law stated that the Court's opinions would have binding authority on the DVA in all similar cases 38 U.S.C. §§ 7251, 7261.

Resolved, That: Vietnam Veterans of America, will continue to urge DVA and Congress to ensure that VBA is timely implementing and following all CAVC decisions that create binding law on DVA.

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VB-27 REDUCTION OF DIC SURVIVOR WAITING PERIOD

History: First adopted in 2011 as VB-27 Amended in 2019

Issue: Urge Legislation to Amend the Rules for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) so that Eligible Survivors Can Receive Monthly Benefits after a 1 year waiting period rather than the current 10 year waiting period.

Resolved, That: The Vietnam Veterans of America, urge Congress to pass appropriate legislation to have the waiting period for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation reduced to 1 year.

VB-29 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

History: First adopted in 2019

Issue: Department of Veterans Affairs Quality Assurance Program

Background: The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) increased its decision output by an astonishing 62% in one year, deciding 52,661 cases in 2017 and 85,288 cases in 2018. Veterans Law Judges (VLJs) are expected to decide approximately 25-30 cases a week, giving them often no more than an hour to review thousands of pages in a case file.

Resolved, That: Vietnam Veterans of America, supports the following changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs quality assurance program at the Board:

VA regularly discloses information about its quality assurance program, to include details about its design, how it is administered, and the raw data generated. This will increase public awareness of VA's quality assurance program and encourage robust discussion among stakeholders, Congress, and other interested parties. Included in this disclosure, the Board should report rate of appeal to the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims and outcome by issue (remand, grand, denial, reverse) on a regular basis.

VB-30 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SPINA BIFIDA AND BIRTH DEFECTS PROGRAM

History: First adopted in 2019

Issue: Department of Veterans Affairs Spina Bifida and Birth Defects Program

Background: Children who have spina bifida or certain other birth defects and are biological children of veterans with qualifying service are one of the most vulnerable populations that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) must prioritize. Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and its members organize, facilitate, and run dozens of town halls across the nation each year to educate veterans on the possible health implications for the children of veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. Unfortunately, not many people, including veterans, know about the benefits available for children with certain birth defects due to the exposure of their biological parents) to Agent Orange.

Resolved, That: Vietnam Veterans of America, supports the following initiatives:

Communication, Information, & Outreach Efforts. Work with VA to improve the quality and accuracy of the information that is provided about Chapter 18 benefits to include but not limited to the following:

Improve the information provided in and asked for in VA Form 21-0304;

Improve the call scripts used at VA hotlines, information delivered on VA websites;

Improve the timeliness and quality of information provided by the Denver RO on its spina bifida hotline;

Develop and implement targeted outreach with the goal of improving the application process and connecting eligible, approved beneficiaries with all benefits afforded to them under the law.

Eligible Beneficiary Assistance

Advocate for the implementation of a social worker or claims advocate that is assigned to each case to help a claimant navigate through the eligibility and benefits process of VBA and VHA.

(Continue on pg. 13)

VB-31 PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION IN APPEALS**History:** First adopted in 2019**Issue:** Ensure that veterans and their family members are accorded the full right to representation in all stages of an appeal for VA benefits.**Background:** Under 38 C.F.R. § 20.5, “an appellant will be accorded full right to representation in all stages of an appeal by a recognized organization, attorney, or other authorized person.” In an April 1, 2019 Memorandum, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA) announced that BVA will be implementing 120 day time-limits for VSO Written Briefs (IHPs). This 120 day time-limit applies to appeals in the legacy system and the Appeals Modernization Act system. If the IHP is not submitted within the time-limit, the case will be sent to a Veterans Law Judge without any argument from the representative. This policy conflicts 38 C.F.R. § 20.5 and deprives appellants of their right to representation in all stages of an appeal.**Resolved, That:** Vietnam Veterans of America support the following initiatives:

Work with BVA, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Congress to abolish policy initiatives that inhibit an appellant’s right to representation in all stages of an appeal.

Work with BVA, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Congress to promote policies that further protect an appellants right to representation in all stages of an appeal and to ensure that representatives always have the necessary tools to effectively provide representation.

WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE**WV-2 MEDICAL TREATMENT OF WOMEN VETERANS BY DVA****History:** First adopted in 1983 as R-4-83(Medical Treatment of Women Veterans by DVA Amended and renumbered in 1993 as V-WV-18-93

Renumbered in 1995 as WV-5-95

Amended & renumbered in 1999 as WV-4-99 Amended and renumbered in 2001 as WV-3-01 Amended and renumbered in 2003 as WV-2-03 Amended in 2005 and 2007

Amended and renumbered in 2011 as WV-2 Amended in 2013 as WV-2

Amended in 2015, 2017 and 2019**Issue:** Since 1982, Vietnam Veterans of America has been a leader in advocacy and championing appropriate and quality health care for all women veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has made many innovations, improvements and advancements over the past thirty years. However, some concerns remain respective of its policies, care, treatment, delivery mode, and monitoring of services to women veterans.**Background:** DVA eligible women veterans are entitled to complete health care including care for gender specific illnesses, injuries and diseases. The DVA has become increasingly more sensitive and responsive to the needs of women veterans and many improvements have been made. Unfortunately, these changes and improvements have not been completely implemented throughout the entire system. In some locations, women veterans experience barriers to adequate health care and oversight with accountability is lacking. Primary care is fragmented for women veterans. What would be routine primary care in the community is referred out to specialty clinics in the VA. One third of VA Medical Centers (VAMC) does not have a gynecologist on staff. The number of women Veterans using VHA has risen 80% in the last decade. Women make up nearly 11.6% of OEF/OIF/OND veterans. 57% of these women veterans have received VA health care. The average age of women veterans using the VA are 48.**Resolved, That:** Vietnam Veterans of America will continue its advocacy to secure appropriate facilities and resources for the diagnosis, care and treatment of women veterans at all DVA hospitals, clinics, and Vet Centers. We ask the Secretary to ensure senior leadership at all facilities and Veteran Integrated Service Networks (VISN) be held accountable for ensuring women veterans receive appropriate care in an appropriate environment. We ask that each VISN have a woman veteran collaborating with each meeting. Further, we seek that the Secretary ensures:Streamline eligibility and receipt of information to access health care services for first time users. **(Continue on pg. 14)**

Continue from pg. 13)

Address “sense of mistrust” in developing strategies for recruiting women veterans.

Organize the billing scales clearly for first time users.

The competency and courtesy of staff who work with women in providing gender-specific health care.

Those women veterans are provided women's health care in a timely and geographically accessible way.

Every VA Medical Facility have at least one full-time FTE designated staff for women health.

That reproductive health care expand to ensure complete infertility workups and fertility solutions regardless of marital status

That appropriate training regarding issues pertinent to women veterans is provided.

That there is the creation of an environment in which staff are sensitive to the needs of women veterans; that this environment meets the women's needs for privacy, safety, and emotional and physical comfort in all venues.

Those privacy policy standards are met for all patients at all VHA locations and the security of all veterans is ensured.

That the anticipated growth of the number of women veterans should be considered in all strategic plans, facility construction/utilization and human capital needs.

WV-8 MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)

History: First adopted in 2013 as WV-8 **Amended** in 2017 and 2019

Issue: Currently, instances of sexual assault in the military must be reported through the chain of command. This precludes impartial decision making and creates a biased judicial system for the victim. The creation of a separate and independent office to address such crimes would remove barriers to reporting and provide additional protection and safety for the victims.

Background: Sexual Assault and Prevention Response Office (SAPRO) has developed a Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy, according to DoD, the majority of Military Sexual Trauma (71%) are under 24 years old and of lower ranks; whereas the majority of assailants (59%) are between 20 and 34 years old and of a higher rank than the survivor. There was an increase of 13% women reporting in 2017, while there was no change for men. Survivors may fear that their own actions may be cause for punishment. The threat of retaliation or fear of being reprimanded or disruption of their career is enough to silence many survivors or have them recant their stories. SAPRO reports of 2017-2018 showed that the majority of reporters of Sexual Assault in military academies and armed forces were still subjected to harassment and abusive behaviors.

Resolved, That: VVA will pursue legislation that reassigns complaints of military sexual trauma by service members and all alleged perpetrators outside of their immediate chain of command.

All Retired Committee Resolutions were ADOPTED

MA-13 AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKAN NATIVES AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS

MA-14 AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL EXHIBIT IN THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

VB-7 CLASS ACTIONS AT U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

VB-18 THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS) PROGRAM

VB-20 PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF ACCREDITING DVA MEDICAL CENTERS

WV- 10 TRAVEL FOR VHA TREATMENT

HVC-12 EXTEND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAM CRITERIA FOR VETERANS PLACED IN “HOUSING FIRST” MODEL

(Continue on pg. 15)

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Constitutional Amendments Adopted

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 02 Adopted

Section Affected:

Article 1 National Provisions Section 4 paragraph J

Proposed Change: Strike out paragraph J and insert a new paragraph J.

J After written recommendation from the board of directors of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (AVVA), a separate and distinct corporation not to be confused with Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., the national board shall seat an AVVA liaison to serve as a non-voting special advisor to the national board entitled to be heard on each matter brought before the national board.

J The national board shall seat the national president of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (AVVA) on the national board to serve as a non-voting special advisor entitled to be heard on each matter brought before the national board.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 07 Adopted

Section Affected:

Article 3 Chapter Provisions Section 5, paragraph K

Proposed Change: Strike the words indicated by the strike through and insert the **bold underlined words**.

K The chapter should **shall** seat the elected AVVA representative or the elected AVVA chapter president on the chapter board, who shall serve as a non-voting special advisor **entitled to be heard on all matters** to the chapter board on matters of particular concern to AVVA members.

If adopted the paragraph will read:

K The chapter **shall** seat the elected AVVA representative or the elected AVVA chapter president on the chapter board, who shall serve as a non-voting special advisor **entitled to be heard on all matters**.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment - 08 Adopted as amended

Section Affected:

Article 3 Chapter Provisions Section 6, paragraph A

Proposed Change: Insert the **bold underlined words**.

A The officers of a chapter shall be the president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, or **anyone of the following combined positions:** secretary-treasurer, **vice-president-secretary or vice-president-treasurer**, and such other officers as the chapter board may, from time to time, deem advisable **and as allowed by law**.

POW/MIA Report

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: The number still missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from the Vietnam War is still 1,587. Of that number 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,246 (VN-443, VS-803); Laos-286; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7. Since chartered in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains. The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 996. A breakdown by country of these 996 Americans is: Vietnam - 672, Laos - 279, Cambodia - 42, and the PRC - 3. In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, the formal end of the Vietnam War, for a grand total of 1,059. These 63 Americans, were accounted for by US-only efforts in accessible areas, not due to cooperation by post-war governments in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. A total of 287 have been accounted for from Laos, 727 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC. NO IDs have been announced since July 29th.

Eastern District Report

Sam Hall

VVA Chapters #8, #49, #60, #79, #140, #333, #537, #541, #869



Gayle Anne (Lundy) Hall May She Rest In Peace
 Wife of Eastern District Director Sam Hall

Aug. 18, 1952 – Nov. 03, 2019 FORT ANN – Gayle Anne (Lundy) Hall, 67, of Fort Ann, passed away Sunday, Nov. 03, 2019 in the Charles R. Wood Cancer Center, with her family members present. She was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma 2006 and fought a courageous 13 year battle.

in

Gayle was born on Aug. 18, 1952 in Mary McClellan Hospital, Cambridge. She was the daughter of Malcolm R. Lundy (deceased) and Marion N. (Reid) Lundy.

Gayle graduated from Hartford Central School and was a graduate of Adirondack Community College. For many years, Gayle was employed as a medical assistant and then as the office manager for the medical practice of Cunningham, Spitzer and Villajuan. Gayle was the president and CEO of BRI-Care, Inc., a health insurance consulting company, medical billing and medical coding training company. She retired from Glens Falls Hospital, where she served in the compliance department. Gayle was active in municipal government serving as a councilwoman on the Fort Ann Town Board for 12 years and as Town Supervisor for four years. While serving on the Washington County Board of Supervisors, she served as the county budget officer.

Her willingness to serve was demonstrated by her years of volunteer service. She served for many years as treasurer for the Washington County Republican Committee, president of the Adirondack Chapter of Professional Coders, past president of the Fort Ann Rotary Club, which she proudly endeared as her extended family, and numerous other charitable causes.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Samuel J. Hall; son, Brian J. Hall; grandson, Stanley C. Hall and his mother, Theresa Konicki Hall; brother, William Lundy and his wife, Regina; sister, Kendra Hamilton and husband, Steve; sister, Karen Liebig and husband, Robert; brothers-in-law, Stephen Montgomery and Daniel Hall and wife, Kathy; mother-in-law, Barbara Hall; nephews and spouses, Eric Chapin and Caroline, Russell and Alissa Lundy, Reid and Brianna Lundy, David and Katie Montgomery; nephews, Mark Montgomery, Patrick Lundy, Scott Hamilton, Robert Chapin and Andrew Chapin; nephew and fiancée, Malcom Lundy and Tori Budnik; nieces and spouses, Bethany Linde and Peter, Mallory Chilton and Reeve, and Leslie Campos and Lidio; and niece and fiancé, Rachel Liebig and Jeffery Hoessle.

Gayle has requested that donations be made to the Uniquely You Boutique Salon, checks made payable to The Image Fund. Mail to: C.R. Wood Cancer Center, Glens Falls Hospital, 102 Park St., Glens Falls, NY 12801; or Fort Ann Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 237, Fort Ann, NY 12827.

A thank you to all the medical professionals, friends and family who have helped Gayle in her 13 year journey will be published in the future.

VVA #333

As always, just another tremendous effort on your part putting together an insightful ROCKVETS Newsletter!

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(Continue from pg. 16)

I hope that you and the family enjoyed this summer, it sure seems to have gone by in a flash, but then again many months seem to do so also.

Recently our HANDCYCLE PROGRAM located a disabled veteran Navy Seal Harry Bologna a double leg amputee, although Harry appreciated the offer of a HANDCYCLE, he expressed his wish to rather own an OUTRIGGER CANOE. His wish was granted and as shown in the attached photo, is the proud owner of his desired item. Once again, this could not be made possible without the



"Team effort" of the members in Chapter numerous fund raisers, of course the instrumental. Harry has communicated via

mean to him both physically and emo-

tionally.

"Brothers and Sisters" in need, what the

We continue in our efforts to help our V.A. can't or will not provide, we as a Chapter will attempt to do so. Stay well, God Bless and keep up the good work Pat! Roy

From: Howard Goldin <goldingoose@verizon.net>
To: Roy Tschudy <Ldtrt16@aol.com>
Sent: Sun, Dec 8, 2019 2:53 pm
Subject: Pauline Laurent Query

Recently, our Vietnam veterans chapter 333 fully covered the expense for Pauline Query to visit Vietnam with Howard and others. Pauline was pregnant with her daughter when her husband was killed in action o his tour of duty Vietnam. Please scroll down and read her letter to our chapter upon her return home, this is one more reason why the members of chapter 333 are simply good men.

November 28, 2019

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter #333

New York, NY 10956

Attention: President Jim Hennessy

For all the members of VVA #333

I spent much of 2019 obsessing about my trip to Vietnam. I kept telling people I'm going back to Vietnam. Eventually, I realized I had never been, why did it feel like I had? I only had the images of Vietnam I saw on TV in 1968. I wondered if perhaps I was re-experiencing my husband's anxiety as he prepared to go in 1968 leaving a pregnant wife behind. Added to the mix of anxiety, on Sunday, October 27, just a few days before my departure on October 31, I was ordered to evacuate my condo. Since our big fire in October 2017, wild-fires are an increasing problem in my area. I was able to get back home and get my passport before my departure date. My condo was not damaged.

The trip was challenging: physically, emotionally and spiritually. Every time I wanted to quit and hide out in my room for a day, I imagined what my husband went through when he was in Vietnam. Just the thought of

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that kept me going. Howard Goldin had suggested I take notes and process events after I returned home, which I've been doing for the last week.

So many memorable moments occurred on the trip. I'll just mention a few: On our visit to the Rose School, the first school built by STEP, I could not stop crying when I saw the children meeting us and greeting us with smiles, laughter, performances - treating us like we were rock stars. What STEP has done in Vietnam through 2 men (Howard Goldin and Ed Frank) who have the courage and the strength to make a big difference in the lives of small children is remarkable. Never underestimate the power of 2 men with a mission. With every school and orphanage, we visited, I thought, "Maybe this is what my husband died for?"

My daughter told me before I left that she was having a lot of issues come up about her father and she thought it was related to my trip to Vietnam. After a few days in Vietnam, I received a text from my daughter saying she had decided to go public with her story. She works in the wine industry in Northern CA and someone who publishes a blog had asked her to share her story. So, there I was 9,000 miles from home in the country where her father died reading for the first time her story about growing up without a father and the impact of having a war widow as her mother.

A significant part of the trip was "the pearl necklace." The only jewelry I had from my husband was a single pearl on a gold chain given to me when we were dating in 1966. I decided to wear the necklace while I was in Vietnam. Please ask Howard and Ed to tell you that story. It is obvious to me that my husband's spirit was with me on this trip. I think it always has been, though I'm often not aware of it. The pearl story is undeniably mystical and magical.

The people of Vietnam are humble and grateful to be able to work long days for little money to have a chance at the American Dream. Tano, our guide, is an example of that. His love for the American veterans is demonstrated by his daily tasks of keeping track of all of us, our luggage and handling all the mishaps that occurred on the trip. He was patient, forgiving and kind and went to great lengths to find the Y Bridge.

When our tour bus reached the Y Bridge, the veterans, and the two VA psychologists, Helaine and Barbara, Tano and myself departed the bus and wandered along the narrow streets to the "scene of the crime". Tano had brought flowers and incense. There was a Chinese temple for lost souls nearby. After I read my favorite poem for Howard and expressed my sentiments. Bob Finne, a veteran, said, "Your husband is free of the pain of that war, but I carry it every day" I thanked him for carrying the pain of that war. That pain doesn't go away; you just learn to endure it with the help of fellow survivors who help you bear the burden. Ed Frank asked me to go inside the temple and say the Catholic prayer for the deceased. Each person left a rose and incense on the altar. I was held and supported by all the people on the trip, the veterans, their wives, the 2 VA psychologists and the generous kind Rotarians who do such amazing humanitarian work. I am interested in joining a Rotary group in my town.

The communist propaganda was hard to bear when we watched a film at the Cu Chi Tunnels. Another difficult day was the visit to the Hanoi Hilton Prison. Seeing how the American war prisoner was treated was almost too much to bear.

Several nights we danced to live music at the restaurants where we had dinner. I could go on forever but I'll close by saying thank you again for a life-changing trip. I promise to have it make a difference in my life and to write about it in my current book, and to continue to give back what I have been given by your generous support.

During the holidays, I'll be hosting gatherings at my condo to share my journey with friends and family. I've already been asked to speak to a professional group about my experience of visiting Vietnam.

Thank you for your service in Vietnam and how you contribute to change the meaning and impact of our war. When I was stuck while writing my first book, a generous Vietnam veteran paid for my daughter and me to travel to the Vietnam Veterans Wall in DC. It made all the difference in the world. I was able to finish my first book. On the 50th Anniversary of Howard's death, another veteran, raised funds to send daughter, my grown granddaughters and me to The Wall for Father's Day. Now, this trip to Vietnam will be the final chapter of my book about reconciliation. Thank you for making the trip possible for me. I better get busy working on that book.

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If any of you are interested in reading my first book which details my loss and how I recovered from the loss, please visit my website at www.griefdenied.com or www.grief-coaching.com

I'm so grateful for all who supported me in publishing my first book. Doing so opened my world up to veterans of that war who have helped me heal the wounds of our war.

I'm forever grateful.

Pauline Laurent

(Cont. from pg. 10) Southern District Report

VVA Chapter #32 - Queens, NY

Elmhurst Park Vietnam Memorial Dedicated

Pat Toro, should he have lived long enough, would have been overcome with joy and relief this past week. In 2008, he had a dream to honor all Vietnam era veterans from Queens killed or missing in action (MIA).

In 2008, nearly a decade after the late Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32 president first broached the idea, city officials and dozens of Toro's fellow warriors gathered in Elmhurst Park to unveil renderings of a planned memorial honoring the Queens servicemembers who died during the Vietnam War.

Designed, jointly, by the Parks Department and VVA Chapter 32, the memorial will feature a pair of semi-

circular granite walls flanking space near the park's entrance at Grand Avenue and 79th Street, where the existing flag pole stands.

One wall will bear the words, "Queens Vietnam Veterans Memorial," the crests of all five military branches, the Vietnam Service Medal and an etching of bamboo.

The second wall will contain the names of the more than 300 Queens servicemembers who were killed in action during the war, along with a timeline of the conflict.



ment and VVA Chapter 32, the memorial

the park's entrance at Grand Avenue and 79th Street, where the existing flag pole stands.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial," the crests of all five military branches, the Vietnam Service Medal and an etching of bamboo.

of the more than 300 Queens servicemembers who were killed in action during the war, along with a timeline of the conflict.

The memorial will consist of two semi-circular granite walls. One wall will have the name of the memorial, the five crests representing the military forces, and a Vietnam service medal.

The second wall will have a written history of the war, including key dates and events, as well as the names of the fallen soldiers that have been strategically placed to be lit up in the sun.

Construction of the memorial has long been sought by many of the nearly 59,000 veterans who call Queens home, more than any other borough, led by late former Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32 President Pat Toro.

Prior to his passing in 2014 from cancer related to the chemical Agent Orange, the Marine Corps veteran was a staunch advocate for a borough wide memorial to recognize the sacrifices made by hundreds of Queens residents and their families during the Vietnam War.

"It's been more than a decade since the late Pat Toro first dreamed up the idea of a borough wide memorial honoring the valor and selflessness of Queens service members who never returned home from the Vietnam War," Katz said. "Thanks to the persistence and dedication of so many of his fellow Queens Vietnam Veterans, Pat's dream has become a reality. Please join us in Elmhurst Park as a grateful borough pays tribute to the heroic men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation."

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VVA #126 Angel Amedina Chapter—Manhattan, NY

As we come to the end of 2019, VVA 126 would like to wish our Brothers and Sisters a wonderful holiday and a great New Year. VVA 126 had another great year. We met each month at the Soldiers', Sailors', Marines', Coast Guard, and Airmen's Club in Manhattan. We have averaged 28 members at our meetings. We provided food and drink to all.



Summer BBQ



Lap Robes



Holiday Party



Veterans Day Parade

Some of our accomplishments this summer and fall were;

- 1 - July VVA National Convention - 3 officers attended, and we won the Best Chapter Website Award
- 2 - Summer BBQ on Saturday August 24 with our KAVVA brothers at Jones Beach
- 3 - Poppy Sales - 50 custom cans were created to raise funds
- 4 - Korean Day Parade & Festival - 5 VVA126 members marched with our Korean brothers, wearing our VVA caps and VVA126 windbreakers
- 5 - Veterans Day Parade - planning and execution with marchers (55 people) and a float (28), with Michelle DellaFave singing patriotic songs
- 6 - Veterans Day Post Parade Party - Hosted in Connelly's Pub
- 7 - Creating and distributing VVA merchandise - including caps, patches, windbreakers, coffee mugs
- 8 - Friends of VV Plaza Annual Fund Raiser - attendance (16) at the Metropolitan Club where we honored Paul Bucha, MOH recipient.

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- 9 - Monthly \$2 raffle to encourage participation in monthly meetings
- 10 - "Lap Robes for Veterans" - We bought dozens to present to wheel-chair veterans at the VAMCs in NYC.
- 11 - Holiday Party - Prepared and executed a Party at the SSMCGA Club, with 80 in attendance.
 We were addressed by James Hendon, the new NYC Commissioner of Veterans Services.
 We collected donations for the food, drink, and karaoke entertainment
 We raised funds by having a Prizes Raffle with 19 donated items.
- 12 - VVA 126 joined about 150 others in the ribbon cutting ceremony with brief speeches by Commission of Parks Silver, Borough President Katz, and John Rowan celebrating the opening of this beautiful Queens Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park.

Future Plans

- 1 - Work on obtaining 501c3 designation for VVA126
- 2 - Work on how to resurrect our Donation Pickup in Manhattan
- 3 - Participate in Vietnam Veterans Day in March
- 4 - Plan and execute a Casino Night Fund Raiser in May or June

VVA Chapter #8 Capital District

John A Reitano, Secretary



VVA Chapter #11 - Suffolk County

Clarence Simpson

This is Part 1 of VVA 11 News contribution for the Interchange. More to follow.

1- VVA 11 holds our additional monthly chapter meetings at the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook NY. 2 hours of just Brotherhood conversation and veterans camaraderie. Snacks and coffee too.



(Continue from pg. 21)



Secretary's Report

I would like to THANK all the Chapters, Committee Chairs and Officers of VVA-NYSC for their dedication in sending reports to the On-Line Interchange. As you can see this edition had to be increased due to the volume of information that was sent to me. Please send in your reports in WORD document format not in PDF format.

Reminder, there will be Elections for VVA-NYSC in April this coming year due to that there is NO June meeting because of conflicts. Also, President Ned Foote sent the following Memo:

We had to make some changes to our 2020 State Council meetings. These are the new dates in RED.

If you have made your reservations please call hotel to change to new dates. Remember they are full most of time and if you do not have reservation a month before you may not get a room. So our suggestion is to book now and you can always cancel.

Grant will take care of BOD.

Dates:

January 25, 2020
April 4 changed from April 18
June, NO MEETING
September 26

We had to change April as in conflicted with National changing their date June hotel is booked solid and no other dates in May or July would work for us so best we skip that meeting. Please make note of the changes and get your rooms booked.

Special Thanks to Nick Valenti, who carries six binders full of reports, that he has done on his weekly encounters and for his well written reports!

Feliz Navidad, ¡Muchas felicidades! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo, ¡Próspero Año Nuevo! A todo de mis hermanos y hermanas de VVA.

*Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, and a
Healthy, Prosperous and A Happy New Year.*

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Central District Report

Nick Valenti

VVA Chapters #85, #103, #205, #296, #377, #480, #704, #708, #803, #827, #896, #944

It has been a very busy time in Central District. The following is an update of the reported activity in Central New York.

Chapter #377 along with Chapter #480, Chapter #704, and Blue Knights Motorcycle Club Chapter #17 have concluded the 11th annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor "Tribute Ride." The 98-mile ride is free and open to the public - motorcycles, cars, trucks, planes and helicopters were all welcome. The ride started in Owego, NY and ended in the Village of Hannibal. Special tribute is given to two Medal of Honor recipients - 2nd Lt. Terrence Graves, USMC, of Groton and Sp4 Robert F. Stryker, US Army, of Throop, NY.

Anyone interested in participating in "The Ride" in 2020 can contact Harvey Baker, Chapter #377 at 607-898-3507 or Dan Baker, Chapter #17 of the Blue Knights at 607-229-8153.

Gary Napieracz, President of Chapter #377 reported that his Chapter members and the AVVA of his Chapter participated in collecting scrap metal as a fund-raising activity. Approximately two tons of steel were donated by the husband of Cheryl Wunder - a member of the Chapter. Dan Wunder, Cheryl Wunder and Fred and Ron Dexter worked to load the metal and prepare it for its final destination.

September 20th was National POW/MIA Day. Chapter #377 conducted a Watch Fire at Meyers Park in Lansing, New York. This ceremony has been going on for more than two decades. The Chaplain from Chapter #704 Jerry Fulmer performed the religious service for all in attendance.

Gerri Smith, along with her husband Phil have been publishing the "Nam Express" for many years. They currently live in Hanover, PA. Gerri is still a member of #377 while Phil has his VVA membership with Chapter #1032 in York County, PA. Phil sees the lines of communication opening up among the VVA Chapters as members of #1032 subscribe to the "Nam Express."

This just in from the "Nam Express" people - FREE FLU SHOTS FOR VETS AT WALGREENS. Walgreens is providing free flu shots to VA-enrolled veterans at one of their 9,000-plus pharmacies around the country. It is quick and easy with no appointment needed, and your records will be updated with the VA. Just walk into a local Walgreens with your VA card to get your free flu shot with your VA enrollment. Age and health-related restrictions may apply, and vaccines are subject to availability.

Chapter #944 out of Utica, NY continues to actively participate in their community. The Chapter hosted a wreath laying ceremony at the Gold Star Mothers' monument at the Captain George A. Wood Postal Facility in Utica, NY. Following the wreath laying ceremony there was a dinner at Harts Hill Inn in Whitesboro. Tom Buono, president of the VVA Chapter, said that Gold Star families should always be remembered and the day helps to continue the legacy of fallen soldiers. This was the 14th annual local celebration. When asked by the media for comment Tom said "This is very important because these Gold Star families want their sons, daughters remembered. They cling on to the hope that their sons, daughters, fathers and brothers are always remembered. It's one of our goals to always keep the gold star family's memories alive." National Gold Star Mother's Day is a holiday observed every year on the last Sunday in September.

Tom reported that the New York Yankees honored Jack Henser in the seventh inning of their ball game. Jack is a veteran from Rome and a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter #490.

Chapter #704 has been out and about their county drumming up enthusiasm for their Vietnam Veterans

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County Memorial. On August 22nd they participated in a four-day Bassmaster Elite Fishing Tournament in Union Springs, NY. Their booth accepted donations from the people who attended this annual fishing tournament. It has been estimated that anywhere from 4,000 to 7,000 people attend the tournament over the four-day period of this annual sporting affair.

The Chapter again provided a Color Guard for the annual Torch Run. Participants included Auburn Police, County Sheriff deputies, and students. The run is part of a sixty-mile event meant to raise money for and awareness of Special Olympics - all in the name of making sure people with mental disabilities get a fair shake at proving what they can do and are capable of doing.

On September 14th of September #704 participated in a one-day Craft Fair in Auburn, NY. Handmade quilts from the Quilters of the Finger Lakes, handmade poppies by the Chapter members and a depiction of the proposed County Vietnam Veterans Memorial were highlighted.

The Auburn VVA Chapter joined in with the local County Veterans Service Agency and the local YMCA in hosting a one-day Veterans Resources Fair. The event was a one stop shop to let veterans know of resources available to them as well as to provide knowledge on how to stay healthy and engage in the community. On September 27th the Chapter working in consort with the local Veterans Service Agency attended Military Appreciation Night at the Port Byron/ Union Springs football game. All local veterans were invited along with active duty Military Personnel. At halftime, they were all recognized by everyone in attendance.

On September 28th the Chapter joined in an annual dinner with the Auburn VFW #1975, The Italian American War Veterans Post #9, the Carnicelli-Indelicato American Legion Post #1776. The well attended dinner brought together veterans and their families in an evening of dining, dancing, and comradeship. At the event it was announced that the Chapter had made the final payment on their proposed Vietnam Memorial. Any and all funds gathered up to the dedication will be set aside in a special fund for the purpose of adding names to the "In Honor" Memory Program. This addition to the memorial came about because Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation will vet all applicants for eligibility. If a Vietnam Veteran who returned from the war and later died because of his service we will include his or her name in a separate section of the Cayuga County Memorial.

As District Director for Central District I can report that the Rock and Roll Band Held Hostage has made another release of their song "Show Me The Way Back Home."

A portion of the proceeds of this song will be donated towards the Cayuga County Vietnam Memorial efforts of Chapter #704. I would also like to give everyone a heads up on the upcoming Wreaths Across America ceremony to be held on December 14, 2019. The day is a Saturday, the time noon sharp. This should be the 10th year of participation with my Chapter. Looking forward to spending the day honoring all of our service men and women. Special attention and recognition is given to the Gold Star families in attendance.

I would like to note that in Central District we now share newsletters from Chapter #20 out of Rochester, NY, Chapter #140 out of Orange County, NY, along with our own Central District Chapter #377.

The official New York State Council meeting dates for calendar year 2020 are: January 25th, April 18th and September 26th. No meeting is scheduled for June.

In a final piece of District information, I have been appointed to the Citizens Veterans Advisory Board in Cayuga County. It is our aim to move the needle in the direction of identifying the specialized needs of our veteran community and then develop plans to meet these needs.

Western District Report

Mike Walker

VVA Chapters #20, #77, #193, #268, #459, #865, #978

The chapters in in Western New York are getting ready for the holiday. The two chapters that let me know what's going on are have had their parties and from what I heard both had good turn outs.

With the cold weather here please make sure the older members that are alone are ok and not in need of anything.

I want to wish all Veterans to have a very nice time during the holiday season no matter what you celebrate and a happy and healthy New Year.

VVA Chapter #77

Chapter 77's AVVA made blankets and gifts for the Willow Lodge a 20 bed unit at the VA.



VVA Chapter #268

Gordie Bellinger

September 21 & 22—Upon request from The Sanborn Farm Museum, our Chapter displayed military items, our mobile remembrance wall to our Niagara County KIA's and over two hundred of our Vietnam photos. This was attended by over three hundred people.

November 8—The Lockport, NY YMCA invited all the military organization to display their information on community actives and membership. The chapter played a big part in this event.

November 11—The Chapter attended Veterans Day Ceremonies at the following areas:

Lockport, NY North Park Elementary School;

Lockport, NY Cold Springs Cemetery'

Niagara County Community College Sanborn, NY

November 27—Made a donation to Niagara County Community College Veterans Services to purchase a new coffee maker for the Veteran lounge. This new coffee maker made the Veterans student very happy. Over forty-five students sent us an e-mail Thank You note.

December 7—We will take part in the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony with the Navy Club USA Ship #110

From VVA Chapter #268 - Happy Holiday's

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Membership Report

Ted Wilkinson

Region 2 Director-DE,NJ,NY,PA

VVA Membership Total by Region

Region I	3,950	Region II	14,566	Region III	15,203	Region IV	9,206
Region V	11,765	Region VI	9,602	Region VII	7,736	Region VIII	3,850
Region IX	9,742	Living outside the USA		68			

Top 25 VVA Chapters in Membership ST Chapter #

1. MD 0172	1,010	13. MO 0317	416
2. TN 0203	873	14. TX 0137	410
3. PA 0862	829	15. IL 0299	405
4. MI 0154	801	16. WV 0628	384
5. NY 0077	675	17. ND 0941	375
6. NY 0020	623	18. OK 0751	372
7. FL 1036	604	19. NJ 0012	352
8. AL 1067	502	20. NY 0049	351
9. CA 391	585	21. VA 0227	325
10. MD 451	551	22. CA 0047	324
11. SD 1054	513	22. NY 0082	324
12. NY 0011	499	23. MI 0267	317
		24. TN 1078	314

Twenty-three chapters attended New York State Council meetings during 2019, and nineteen chapters attended all 4 meetings. *11 Suffolk County, 20 Rochester, 32 Queens, 49 Westchester, 72 Brooklyn, 77 Buffalo, 79 Glens Falls, 85 Oneonta, 103 Syracuse, 126 Manhattan, 140 Orange County, 193 Warsaw, 268 Lockport, 333 Rockland, 480 Owego, 704 Auburn, 865 Jamestown, 978 Frewsburg.*

New York state membership has been on a remarkable streak of upward numbers and 2019 will add another year. The pacesetter numbers have reached 6,147 members and growing. Attendance at state council meetings was good again mostly due to hard work of making them very informative and having excellent speakers. Obviously, New York State Council meetings are the place to be.

For Chapters that are slacking all I can say is, you don't know what you are missing!

Each chapter shall elect delegates to the state council, and these delegates shall represent the chapter on all matters to come before the state council. Chapters shall be responsible for ensuring the attendance of at least one delegate per chapter at not less than one half of all of the meetings of the state council during the preceding twelve months, and the unexcused absence of at least one delegate from such meetings of the state council during the preceding twelve months may be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action against the chapter, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the National Disciplinary Policy, adopted by the Corporation

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Veterans Incarcerated & In the Justice System

Nick Valenti—Chair

There is a growing interest at a number of Correctional Institutions in the crocheting programs that currently exist in a number of facilities in New York State. The successful programs such as the one at Auburn Correctional, in Auburn, New York owes it success to the determination of crocheters wanting to make an impact on the community centers that service veterans, children, and the sick. More specifically, their targets include homeless veterans, low income children, food pantries, and hospitalized patients such as Oncology patients.

This report is intended to outline how New York State guides the operations of crocheting programs within their system.

The first thing we need to identify is the relevant guidelines as set down in the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). The reference I am referring to is DOCCS Directive 4911. It is within this framework that any program as the one in Auburn Correctional, is guided by.

There are specific restrictions and conditions that must be adhered to. Currently the ones outlined in the directive are as follows: All yarn crafting tools must be made of **PLASTIC**; there is a size restriction on the size of the needles - the current acceptable sizes are “B-J.” (the millimeter range is 2.25 mm to 6mm); there is also a limit to the number of plastic needles allowed an incarcerated person - currently the number is six (6); the size of the skeins of yarn for an individual cannot be greater than eight (8) ounces. However, for an inmate organization this limit does not apply; and finally, the only colors allowed inside a Correctional Facilities are shades of: **BROWN, GREEN, PINK, TAN, AND WHITE.**

Any group that functions in a New York State Correctional Facility would greatly appreciate that you keep these restrictions in mind when interacting with them and with yarn crafters.

CENTRAL DISTRICT REPORT NICHOLAS C. VALENTI

The July 2019 National Convention was a crucial Convention that will prove to be pivotal in determining the future of VVA. The resolution will guide us over the next two years and its subsequent findings will be voted on at the 2021 Convention. Here is what started the ball rolling: The name of the resolution is “CHANGING THE NAME OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA.” This resolution was debated by more than 600 National Delegates attending the convention. A vote was taken and the resolution was handily passed with a good deal more than the 2/3rd majority needed for passage. Here is a break down of the discussion: **ISSUE** - Require VVA’s leadership to investigate what is required to change Vietnam Veterans of America’s name and then open up membership to include all veterans after the Vietnam-era. **BACKGROUND** - There has been much discussion over the last 15 years about VVA being a last person organization. But no formal vote has been taken. A NO vote on this resolution would make it official. **PROPOSED POSITION** - Require VVA’s officers and Board of Directors to investigate the requirement to change the name of Vietnam Veterans of America to a name that would entice Post-Vietnam era veterans to join the renamed organization and then open up membership to those newer veterans. Require VVA’s Officers and Board of Directors to investigate the requirements to change the name of Vietnam Veterans of America to a name that would entice Post-Vietnam veterans to join the renamed organization and open up membership to these newer veterans. These proposed changes would be presented to the delegates at the 2021 Convention for ratification.

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As I have previously reported the 19th National Convention held in Spokane, Washington heralded some new National Officers. We have a new National Vice President in Tom Burke and a new National Treasurer in Jack McManus. In addition, the delegates elected ten (10) National Board Members At Large and we witnessed the election of a Regional Director in each of the nine National Districts. Our own Region 2 Director Ted Wilkinson will be returning to the helm representing Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The Vendor's Mall at the Convention saw a number of new organizations, and previous organizations strutting their stuff. One that stood out for me was VETERANS RESPONSE TEAMS: Law Enforcement Officers Respecting Service, Restoring Honor for Vets in Crisis.

This group helps law enforcement officers, Veterans Justice Outreach specialists from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and community-based agency representatives to collaborate and implement approaches to de-escalate veterans in crisis in our communities. Programs such as these, help improve public safety, and create opportunities for veterans struggling to re-acclimate to civilian life. These men and women need to have their mental health issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury related to their military service addressed. To access the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) publication go to <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.nicic.gov/UserShared/033091.pdf>.

There is a constant battle for recognition of the differences between veteran and civilian health issues. One of the most gnawing issues is Agent Orange exposure. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recognizes three major risk factors linked to prostate cancer: age, race, and family history. They do not recognize exposure to Agent Orange as a risk factor. What can you do to protect yourself? Have an open discussion with your primary care physician about your risk of prostate cancer, whether at the VA or with a civilian provider. An easy way to facilitate this discussion is to use the Military Health History Pocket Card. The pocket card can be downloaded at www.va.gov/oa/pocketcard/. Another website <http://www.haveyoueverserved.com> also features a pocket card that can be downloaded to facilitate discussion. Want more information? Contact Maureen Elias, assistant director of the Veterans Health Council. She can be reached at melias@vva.org.

At the National Convention we received information on a U.S House of Representative Bill HR-566 and U.S. Senate Bill S-332 referred to as the "Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act." There were three illnesses believed to be caused by contact with Agent Orange. They are: (1) Chloracne - a skin condition, skin rash, looks like acne, appears anywhere on the body anytime, lesions often found behind the ears, armpits, groin region are itchy and get red hot; (2) Peripheral Neuropathy - illness of the nervous system that causes numbness, tingling of hands, feet and legs, weakness of muscles, loss of coordination and loss of reflexes; (3) Porphyrria Cutanea Tarda - a rare illness that can make your liver stop working correctly, can cause your skin to thin, blister & scar, changes in pigmentation when in the sun and excessive hair growth. These three conditions have been added to the list of conditions related to Agent Orange exposure. They have also been included in the Disability Benefits available to those serving offshore - Vietnam Blue Water Navy Veterans.

With the passage of H.R. 299 a new day dawns for the Blue Navy Veteran. Signed by the President on June 25, 2019 the law also affected veterans who served along the KOREAN DMZ ,their exposure dates were expanded from April 1, 1968 - August 31, 1971 to September 1, 1967 - August 31, 1971. Also, children of Veterans exposed to Agent Orange in Thailand from January 9, 1962 - May 7, 1975, who were born with spina bifida are now eligible for compensation, health care, and vocational services. This passage marked the end of years of advocacy.

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Government Affairs Report

Joe Ingino -Chair

Court orders VA to cover veterans' emergency room debts

Court orders VA to cover veterans' emergency room debts

A federal court this week ordered Veterans Affairs officials to reimburse veterans for all expenses at non-department emergency medical centers, a move that could mean payouts of tens of thousands of dollars to patients facing financial distress because of their hospital bills.

FY20 NDAA Conference Report passes both House/Senate Widows Tax Eliminated

On Tuesday, December 17, the United States Senate passed the FY20 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) with a vote of 86-8. The U.S. House passed the FY20 National Authorization Act (NDAA) with a vote of 377-48 on December 11, 2019. This bill contains language that will eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset by January 2023. The bill now goes to the White House, where the President will sign it into law.

When signed into law starting January 1, 2021, the 65,000 families affected by the offset will receive a third of their full SBP payment. The number rises to two-thirds in 2022, and the offset is completely eliminated in 2023. In the final year, families will no longer be able to transfer their SBP benefits to children. That transfer is usually done for tax purposes, and the conference agreement does not address the high taxes that resulted from the 2017 tax reform legislation.

Tens of thousands of veterans sick from Agent Orange exposure still are waiting on the Department of Veterans Affairs to decide whether it will cover their illnesses.

The veteran service organizations and members of Congress who represent them have had enough.

House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., and Rep. Josh Harder, another California Democrat, sent a letter to the White House recently demanding the administration step aside and allow VA to extend disability benefits for four Agent Orange-linked diseases.

The USPS 'Healing PTSD' Stamp Will Raise Money for Veterans



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*At this Holiday Season our
Thoughts turn gratefully to those
Who have made our progress possible
During this past year - 2019
Best Wishes
For a Happy Holiday Season
And A Happy, Healthy*

&

Prosperous New Year -



From

*Vietnam Veterans of America - New York State Council
Officers, Directors and Delegates*

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