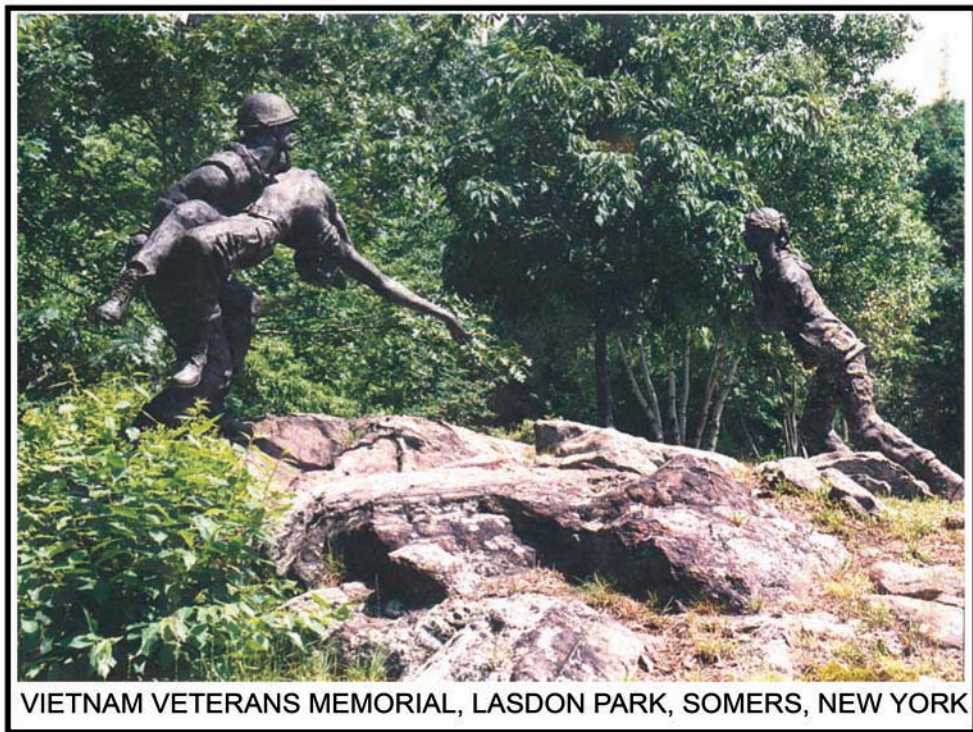


# *Vietnam Veterans of America*



*Westchester  
County  
Chapter #49*

If box is checked  
your dues are due now.

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



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# VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

## Chapter Officers:

President: Robert Jordan.....733-5672  
Vice President: Chester Edwards.....937-4443  
Secretary: Jim LaManna .....793-6077  
Treasurer: Al Singerman .....930-7433

## Board of Directors: (7)

Peter Brown.....273-4135  
Edward Fox.....203-637-3705  
Carl DiLiberto.....462-0782  
Terry Keogh.....428-9845  
Jim McCauley.....238-3514  
William Rod.....406-5858  
Al Zawiski.....428-9352

## State Council Delegates: (8)

Edward Fox	Joe Manna
Dan Griffin	Jerry Morano
Terry Keogh	Al Singerman
Jim LaManna	Al Zawiski

## Veterans Offices:

Yonkers: ..... 377-6700  
Carmel: ..... 845-808-1620

Vet Center: .....682-6250

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

## Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Dan Griffin ..... 813-5049

## Committees:

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

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

### HOURS:

11:00-3:30

SUMMER DAYS WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

WINTER DAYS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

AND HOLIDAYS

864-7263

### Chapter 49

Telephone / Fax Number  
(914) 682-4949

### Website:

[www.vietnamvets49.org](http://www.vietnamvets49.org)

### E-Mail:

Mail to: Chapter49@aol.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month

7:30

Armonk Post 1097

35 Bedford Rd.

Armonk, NY 10504

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

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Please check out the flyer about our Chapter picnic/barbeque to be held in August.**

**I know you all heard about the Assets and Infrastructure Review Commission that recommended to close thirty-five VA Hospitals; including Manhattan, Brooklyn and Castlepoint. Well, eleven Senators agreed to effectively dismantle the AIR Commission. Hooray!!!!**

**Two more diseases were added to the list of presumptive diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange; hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy. Wherever you live call your County veterans service agency to submit a claim. Anyone living in Westchester-call me.**

**Also, the VA is now recognizing new geographic areas for the presumption of Agent Orange exposure. They are Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Guam and Johnston Atoll.**

**If you served in any of these areas, call your County veterans Service agency.**

**Live simply  
Love Generously  
Care Deeply  
Speak Kindly**

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

**Dan Griffin**

---

**Welcome to our newest members.**

**Donald De Falco from Mamaroneck**



# PICNIC



**CHAPTER PICNIC/BBQ**

**AUGUST 20th 12:00 UNTILL?**

**ARMONK AMERICAN LEGION PAVILION**

**HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, SAUSAGE &  
PEPPERS, CLAMS, AND SHRIMP**

**SALADS, CORN, SODA AND WATER**

**ICE CREAM TRUCK**

**MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED BY OUR OWN  
DJ CHESTER EDWARDS**

**50/50 RAFFLE**

**AS ALWAYS THIS GET TOGETHER IS FREE FOR  
US AND OUR FAMILIES**

**I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE**

## **Real Property Veteran Tax Exemption for New York State**

If your town voted to opt in (I believe the only Town that opted out was Briarcliff Manor) then the following is how the exemption works:

- If you served during war time= 15% reduction in assessed value (some towns have a cap)
- If you served in the country that is at war= additional 10% for a combined 25%
- If you have a disability rating then you will receive half of your disability rating in addition.
- If your School board voted to include School taxes, then you will receive them also.

What you need to do is go to your Town Assessor's office with a copy of your DD-214 and a copy of your disability award letter.

All your tax exemptions (Town, County, State) will be taken care of there.

For all Chapter members who live in other states you will have to check with your Town Assessor as for your State's exemption.



# Military Service and Social Security

Earnings for active duty military service or active duty training have been covered under Social Security since 1957.

If you served in the military before 1957, you didn't pay Social Security taxes, but we gave you special credit for some of your service.

You can get both Social Security benefits and military retirement benefits. Generally, there is no reduction of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement benefits. You'll get your Social Security benefit based on your earnings and the age you choose to start receiving benefits.

## Social Security and Medicare taxes

While you're in military service, you pay Social Security taxes, just as civilian employees do. You currently pay a 6.2% Social Security tax on up to \$147,000 of your earnings. The Medicare tax rate is 1.45% on all wages. High-income earners pay an additional 0.9% on earnings above certain amounts.

## How your work qualifies you for Social Security

To qualify for benefits, you must earn credits by working and paying Social Security taxes. The number of credits you need to qualify depends on your age and the type of benefit for which you're eligible. In 2022, you receive one credit for each \$1,510 of earnings, up to the maximum of four credits per year. The amount of earnings needed to get credit for your work goes up each year. No one needs more than 10 years of work, or 40 credits.

## Extra earnings

Your Social Security benefit depends on your earnings, averaged over your working lifetime. Generally, the higher your earnings, the higher your benefit. Under certain circumstances, special earnings can be credited to your military pay record for Social Security purposes.

The extra earnings are for periods of active duty or active duty for training. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

If you served in the military after 1956, you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the armed forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by us.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for periods of active duty from 1957 through 2001 can also be credited to your Social Security earnings record.

- **From 1957 through 1967**, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- **From 1968 through 2001**, you don't need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- **After 2001**, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

The information that follows explains how you can get credit for special extra earnings. This applies only to active duty military service earnings from **1957 through 2001**.

**From 1957 through 1977**, you're credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

**From 1978 through 2001**, for every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you're credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with us for details.

**If you served in the military from 1940 through 1956**, you didn't pay Social Security taxes, but we gave you special credit for some of your service.

**NOTE:** In all cases, the additional earnings are credited to the earnings that we average over your working lifetime, not directly to your monthly benefit amount.

## Your benefits

In addition to retirement benefits, we pay survivors benefits to your family when you die. You also can get benefits for you and your family if you develop a disability. For more information about these benefits, read *Understanding the Benefits* (Publication No. 05-10024).

If you developed a disability while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, visit [www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors) to find out how you can receive expedited processing of your disability claim.

When you apply for Social Security benefits, you'll be asked for proof of your military service (DD Form 214) or information about your Reserve or National Guard service.

## When you are eligible for Medicare

If you have health care insurance from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or under the TRICARE or CHAMPVA program, your health benefits may change or end when you become eligible for Medicare. You should contact the VA, the Department of Defense or a military health benefits advisor for more information.

## You can work and get retirement benefits

You can retire as early as age 62. But if you do, your Social Security benefits will be permanently reduced. If you decide to apply for benefits before your full retirement age, you can work and still get some Social Security benefits. There are limits on how much you can earn without losing some or all your retirement benefits. These limits can change each year. When you apply for benefits, we'll tell you what the limits are at that time and whether work will affect your monthly benefits.

When you reach your full retirement age, we will not withhold your Social Security benefits, no matter how much you earn. If some of your retirement benefits were withheld due to your earnings, we will recalculate your benefit amount to give you credit for the months we reduced or withheld benefits due to your excess earnings.

The full retirement age is 66 for people born from 1943 through 1954, and it will gradually increase to age 67 for those born in 1960 and later. To help you decide the best time to retire, read *Your Retirement Checklist* (Publication No. 05-10377).

## Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to do business with us is to visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) to get information and use our online services. There are several things you can do online: apply for benefits; get useful information; find publications; and get answers to frequently asked questions.

When you open a personal *my* Social Security account, you have more capabilities. You can review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, and get estimates of future benefits. You can also print a benefit verification letter, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, get a replacement SSA-1099/1042S, and request a replacement Social Security card (if you have no changes and your state participates). Access to your personal *my* Social Security account may be limited for users outside the United States.

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so you do not need to speak with a representative. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

A member of our staff can answer your call from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. **Wait times to speak to a representative are typically shorter Wednesdays through Fridays or later in the day.**



Securing today  
and tomorrow

Social Security Administration  
Publication No. 05-10017  
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Military Service and Social Security  
Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



## “SITREP” 2022 – Issue 8

Friday, July 1

*Dear Commemorative Partners,*

*~ Our Flag Does Not Fly Because The Wind Moves It...  
It Flies With The Last Breath Of Each Soldier Who Died Protecting It ~*

This quote (source unknown) is inscribed on the arch shown at right, surrounding the entrance to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park in Trumbull, Connecticut. Recently completed, the arch is a powerful tribute to all who gave their lives defending our Nation’s freedom in uniform, especially our Vietnam veterans.



Arch in Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park in Trumbull, CT.

**Independence Day** is an opportune time to think about America’s freedom. Each service member entering our Nation’s Armed Forces raises their right hand and takes an **oath** to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States.” Their collective sense of “service before self” reflects that of the 56 signers of our Declaration of Independence, who “mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.” As we gather together this year with family and friends in communities across America to celebrate **Independence Day**, please take time to remember the generations of warriors who paid the true cost of the freedoms and liberty we enjoy today!



Just before Memorial Day, in **Issue 6**, we announced a ***Mark your Calendars*** invitation to join us next ***May 11-13, 2023 in Washington, D.C.***, where large-scale events will be hosted on the National Mall to honor Vietnam veterans and their enduring legacy of service! This once- in-a-lifetime ***milestone event***, spread across three days is appropriately titled **“Welcome Home! A Nation Honors our Vietnam Veterans and their Families.”** This event will feature ***Ceremonies*** on the National Mall, an ***Outdoor Multimedia Celebration***, and a ***Walkable Avenue*** of Military Equipment, Interactive Displays and Mini-Stages.



Tribute video narrated by Mr. Sam Elliott, and “Welcome Home!” event webpage.

The ***Ceremonies*** will inspire Americans to embrace the sacred responsibility to honor our Vietnam veterans and their families, while the ***Outdoor Multimedia Celebration*** will portray the story of our Vietnam veterans and their enduring legacy of their service. The latter will also highlight the sacrifices of their families, and the contributions of individual citizens, our allies, the Services and nongovernmental organizations during the Vietnam War period. ***The Walkable Avenue*** will expand on the story of our Vietnam veterans, and contributions of individual citizens, our allies, the Services and nongovernmental organizations during the Vietnam War period. Additional details will be released on our **Welcome Home!** dedicated webpage and via social media in the coming months. ***Enjoy a wonderful Independence Day celebration!***

*~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~*

***Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!***

vietnamwar50th.com



## JULY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
_____						

## AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Chapter BBQ 12:00
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	28	29	30
_____						

## SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 meeting 6:00 board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 POW/MIA Recognition Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 _____	26	27	28	29	30	

## OCTOBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 ----- 30 _____	24 ----- 31 Halloween	25	26	27	28	29



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## WE NEED YOU

### IN THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



#### MEMBERSHIP TYPES and ELIGIBILITY

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

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

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*check one*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam-era Veteran Application: Life Membership - \$50.00  
*(must provide a copy of applicant's DD-214)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Vietnam-era Veteran Application: 1 year -\$20.00, 3 years-\$50.00  
 Associate Membership Life Membership  
 under 59-\$175.00, 60 and over-\$100.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member Financial Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Report of Address Change: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send application and check to:

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

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

or e-mail: [Chapter49@aol.com](mailto:Chapter49@aol.com)

[www.VietnamVets49.org](http://www.VietnamVets49.org)



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

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### RONNY YMBRAS

Vietnam Veteran / Author  
Ron.RUAirborne@gmail.com  
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### MATT YMBRAS

Technical / Marketing / Author  
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