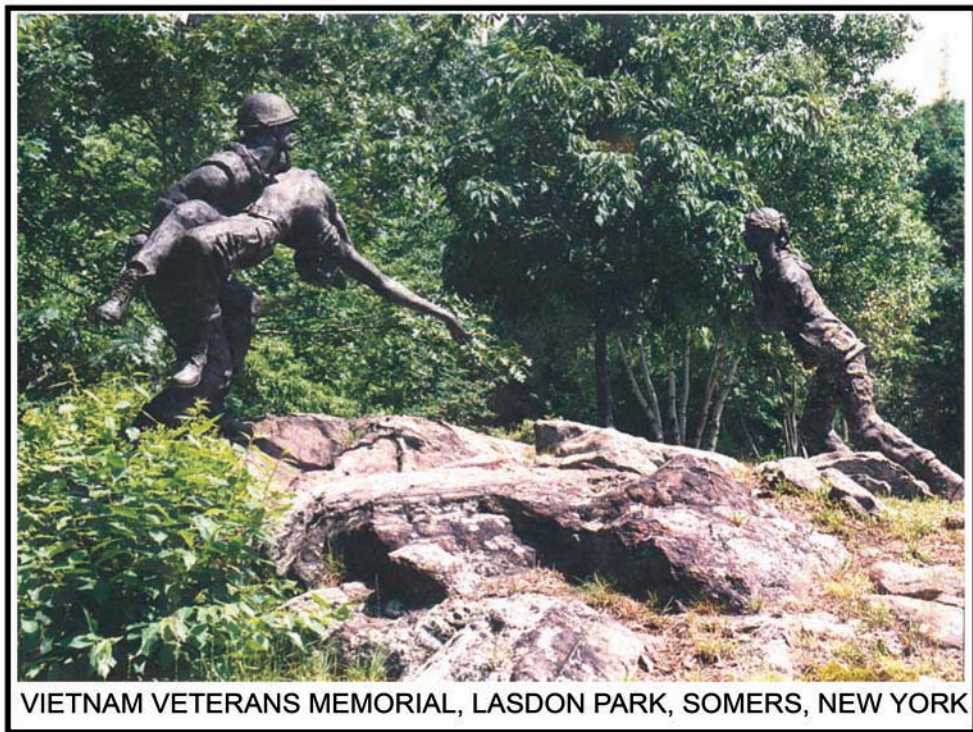


Vietnam Veterans of America



*Westchester
County
Chapter #49*

If box is checked
your dues are due now.

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



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Vietnam Veterans of America
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VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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President: Robert Jordan.....733-5672
Vice President: Chester Edwards.....937-4443
Secretary: Jim LaManna793-6077
Treasurer: Al Singerman930-7433

Board of Directors: (7)

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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

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

We would love to have all of you attend our meetings; held once a Month on the first Thursday of the Month; if the date is changed, I will inform you. Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:30. Our meetings are also on Zoom, to connect by computer go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84554514740>. Or you can call in by phone at 1-929-436-2866, use meeting ID: 845 5451 4740.

In this newsletter is the information for our Scholarships; we send the applications to all the high Schools in Westchester County. But Chapter members children and grandchildren are eligible no matter where they live. Any Chapter members who have a child or grandchild graduating from high School, who does not live in Westchester county-call me, and I will send you or them an application.

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

Take care of yourself and each other.

Dan Griffin

Welcome to our newest members.

John Christopoulos from Tarrytown

Theodore Johnson from Mamaroneck

Henry Mancini from Carmel

Michael Priano from Putnam Valley

Vietnam Veterans of America Westchester County Chapter #49 Scholarship Awards Program

Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter #49, awards six scholarships of \$1,000 each year to high school or vocational school graduates in Westchester County. These scholarships honor six outstanding individuals from our area. The scholarships are named, the Pete Lambert Memorial Scholarship, the Congressman Hamilton Fish Jr. Memorial Scholarship, the Peter T. McCauley Memorial Scholarship, the Anthony Shine Memorial Scholarship, the Jonathan Shine Memorial Scholarship, and the William Suddereth Memorial Scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY: Students who will complete high school in Westchester County this year, are the child or a grandchild of an active-duty service veteran, and plan to attend an accredited college/university or vocational/technical school are eligible to compete for the scholarships. **Please note** that service in the Reserves or National Guard does not make up veteran status unless they were activated for more than 90 days for purposes other than training. **Also note** that the child/grandchild of any veteran is eligible; service does not have to be during the Vietnam era.

HOW TO APPLY: There are five selection criteria that the student must submit to be considered for a scholarship:

1. DD-214 or honorable discharge of parent/grandparent
2. SAT/ACT scores; **Note:** for those who will be attending a vocational/technical school this requirement will be waived. If your School does not offer ACT/SAT tests, then we request that high School staff provide a record of the student's academic or vocational achievements such as report cards or other grade transcripts.
3. A resume of extracurricular activities to include school clubs, sports and student government, work experience, volunteer experience and other interests. Relevant references, with addresses and phone numbers, should be provided.
4. A written statement, not to exceed two typed pages, on the topic "The effect (if any) of my parent's/grandparent's military service on my attitudes toward life and country."
5. Student, parent/guardian, and School staff must sign application.

Students should complete the attached application and return it, along with the other requested items, by **April 1, 2023**, to Vietnam Veterans of America #49

Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 224
Pleasantville, NY 10570

SELECTION OF AWARDEES AND PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS: VVA #49 Scholarship Committee is solely responsible for the selection process. In late April, the Committee will notify those selected for scholarships and their high schools. The acceptance and enrollment of those selected in an accredited college or technical school will be verified. Scholarship awards will be presented at our May meeting or mailed to the awardees.

THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE WILL NOT CONSIDER APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN ALL OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION IN ITS REQUIRED FORM OR ARE RECEIVED AFTER THE SUBMITTAL DATE.

NOTE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS OUTSIDE OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO RESIDE IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY TO APPLY FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIP. PLEASE CALL THE CHAPTER AND WE WILL SEND YOU AN APPLICATION package.

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act Evaluating and Understanding the Benefits with Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Ensuring You Understand the “Offset”

The U.S. Government has recently confirmed the troubling news about toxicants at Camp Lejeune, confirming what many have suspected for decades. *The Camp Lejeune Justice Act* applies to military personnel, their families, and civilians who were exposed to the toxic water supply for at least 30 days between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987. Exposure to the toxic water at Camp Lejeune has caused multiple forms of cancer, neurological disorders, miscarriage, and death, among other injuries. Since the passage of the *PACT Act* in August, mass-tort firms all over the country have been saturating the airwaves with advertising offering speedy settlements with no strings attached.

Vietnam Veterans of America and Bergmann & Moore have worked together for nearly 20 years to provide effective legal representation for veterans (at no cost) who have VA disability benefits claims pending in federal court. Since 2010, Bergmann & Moore has successfully represented over 1,100 VVA members and their families in disability appeal claims.

Recently, Vietnam Veterans of America and B&M expanded their long-standing association to include the historic *Camp Lejeune Justice Act*.

Although the *Camp Lejeune Justice Act* potentially offers significant benefits to veterans and their families, these benefits need to be carefully evaluated by a firm that understands VA disability benefits, as the law contains an offset.

We are not a mass tort firm. We are VA disability benefits attorneys who have represented Veterans, widows, and families for 19 years.

Bergmann & Moore is working with Vietnam Veterans of America to ensure veterans and their families understand the offset and will work to ensure a CLJA benefit is not accepted before the claimant understands whether (and to what degree) VA disability benefits or care may be affected.



Frequently Asked Questions About Bergmann & Moore and the Service Project

Q: Is Bergmann and Moore accredited by VA?

A: Yes. Bergmann and Moore is managed by former VA attorneys who are accredited by VA.

Q: Will VA benefits I have received reduce an award under the *Camp Lejeune Act*?

A: The language of the CLJA indicates that there will be some sort of offset. It's unclear at this time what that offset will be, however. It appears very likely that an award received under the CLJA will be reduced by the amount of VA disability benefits received pursuant to presumptions of in-service chemical exposure at Camp Lejeune. The extent to which this will happen is unknown, however.

Q: Will an award made under the *Camp Lejeune Act* reduce my monthly VA benefits payments?

A: The short answer is that no one knows right now. This is our greatest worry, however – in fact it's why Bergmann & Moore decided we had to be involved in this litigation.

Q: What will Bergmann & Moore do to help prevent my VA and other benefits from being reduced by an award made under the *Camp Lejeune Act*?

A: Although the offset rules aren't even known yet, we're already working with a national firm to create an algorithm to give our clients notice about potential reductions in other benefits they receive. We will also use our experience in VA disability benefits law (we have been devoted to representing veterans and their families for over 20 years) to make sure our clients know of any risks to their current or future VA disability benefits that could occur.

Q: Can I file a VA claim and a (CLJA) tort case?

A: Yes. Bergmann & Moore encourages veterans to file both. To file a VA claim, please reach out to your Vietnam Veterans of America representative.

Q: I have a family member who died at CL. Can I file on their behalf?

A: Yes, survivors and loved ones may also bring suit.

Q: What are attorney fees and costs related to a CLJA claim?

A: We are in support of action by Congress or the Court to reduce the rate that can be charged by any firm. We believe veterans shouldn't be charged unreasonable legal fees – especially ones with added "costs" that can easily amount to over 50 percent of a veteran's award. Our legal fee is, therefore, 33⅓ percent. Not only is this fee well below the going rate, but we will charge no costs on top of that fee.

Q: When did I need to have been at Camp Lejeune?

A: August 1, 1953 - December 31, 1987

Q: Who can I contact?

A: Marc McCabe at MMcCabe@vetlawyers.com

Q: Where can I learn more?

A: For more information please visit: CampLejeuneLitigationTeam.com/vva/ or call 727-742-3188.



The symbolism of the Vietnam Veterans of America flag is explained below:

The background color is golden yellow, the primary color of the Vietnam Service Ribbon.

In the “hoist” of the flag, the seventeen brown stars, arranged in three vertical rows, represent the seventeen official campaigns of the Vietnam war.

The insignia of VVA, including the identification inscription Vietnam Veterans of America is centered between the campaign stars and the “fly” of the flag.

The VVA insignia incorporates the colors and stripes of the Vietnam Service Ribbon, which was awarded to all the men and women who served in Southeast Asia and the contiguous waters or air space from July 4, 1965, through March 28, 1973.

Surrounding the insignia, in natural colors, is a wreath containing a laurel branch and a sheaf of rice stalks. The two are tied together at the base with a strand of black barbed wire. The rice represents Southeast Asia, and the laurel signifies honor to all who served there.

The black barbed wire serves as a reminder of the POWs and MIAs who are still unaccounted for.

JANUARY 2023

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

FEBRUARY 2023

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

MARCH 2023

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

APRIL 2023

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 Easter	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <hr/>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam-era Veteran Application: | Life Membership - \$50.00 |
| <i>(must provide a copy of applicant's DD-214)</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Vietnam-era Veteran Application:
Associate Membership | 1 year -\$20.00, 3 years-\$50.00
Life Membership
under 59-\$175.00, 60 and over-\$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member Financial Contribution: | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report of Address Change: | _____ |

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

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

Send application and check to:
Membership Chair, V.V.A. Chapter #49 PO Box 224, Pleasantville, NY 10570

**Questions? Call the Chapter: Phone/Fax (914) 682-4949
or e-mail: Chapter49@aol.com
www.VietnamVets49.org**

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



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RONNY YMBRAS

Vietnam Veteran / Author
Ron.RUAirborne@gmail.com
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AUSN Regional President – Mid-Atlantic Region

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