

INTERCHANGE ONLINE



THE OFFICIAL ONLINE NEWSPAPER OF THE
NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL

Vol. 34 Issue 02

Veteran's News that needs to be Read

SUMMER 2024



In Memorial—May They Rest In Peace

Inside This Issue

President's Message	3
Secretary Report	5
District/Chapter Reports	5—22
Health?Ageing Report	24
Veteran's News	30—37

Please forward your deceased members with photo, obituary, cause of death to:

Secretary@nyvietnamvets.org

membership@vva.org



May the deceased and his/her bereaved family find comfort, May the deceased and his/her bereaved family find refuge. Oh great, compassionate Buddha, Please accept our sincerest prayer!

VVA Chapter #20

George A. Dadson Sr.
James B. Coates
Thomas W. Curry
Robert J. White
Daniel T. Paprocki
Edwin F. Williams
Earl F. Banenblust
Robert Orvis
Frank E. Lazzaro, Sr

VVA Chapter #32

Frank Pipitoe

VVA Chapter #77

Anthony Grasso
Cosimo Incardona
John A. Walter
Charles P. Infantino
Edward Pace

VVA Chapter #103

Ronald E. Davies

VVA Chapter #140

Harry Muller

VVA Chapter #193

Darryl R. Fuchs

VVA Chapter #268

Dennis Devine
Donald J. Thompson
Gary L. Greenwald
Shannon J. Kennedy
Harry Houghtling

VVA Chapter #333

John P Gobinski

VVA Chapter #377

Gerald L. Gailoir

VVA Chapter #421

Vincent M. Little
Richard A. Martin
Daniel A. Ingellis
James R. Wright
Anthony Triano
Kenneth R. Klingele

VVA Chapter #704

LeRoy Thomas Power

VVA Chapter #803

Kenneth E. Griggs
Joseph D. Place
Francis T. Moretti, Jr.

VVA Chapter #865

Charles P. Painter



VVA-NYSC Meeting Dates 2024
 January 5, 6, 7
 April 5, 6, 7
 June 14, 15, 16
 September 27, 28, 29

On-Line INTERCHANGE is the Bimonthly publication of the VVA-NYSC. Comments and contributions are encouraged and can be sent to: **VVAINTERCHANGE@AOL.COM**
 8 Queen Diana Ln Queensbury, NY 12804

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 VVA-NYSC by the **deadline**. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, grammar and reject any libelous or obscene material.

NEWSPAPER STAFF

Publisher: Ned D. Foote **Editor:** Francisco Muñiz III
E-MAIL: VVAINTERCHANGE@AOL.COM



VVA-NYSC ON-LINE INTERCHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS: VVAINTERCHANGE@AOL.COM Phone: 516.712.4914

OFFICERS	NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
President	Ned D. Foote	518.338.8147	Nedva@roadrunner.com
1st Vice President	Grant T. Coates	607.434.9884	gcoates@stny.rr.com
Secretary	Francisco Muñiz III	516.712.4914	secretary@nyvietnamvets.org
Treasurer	Nicholas DeLeo	570.507.2412	ndeleo52@yahoo.com

DISTRICT DIRECTORS	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
CENTRAL DISTRICT DIRECTOR	Nicholas Valenti	nickvalenti46@yahoo.com
EASTERN DISTRICT DIRECTOR	Sam Hall	Sammyjh49@yahoo.com
SOUTHERN DISTRICT DIRECTOR	John Rowan	jrowan6990@hotmail.com
WESTERN DISTRICT DIRECTOR	Bill Paton	blpaton36@gmail.com

Liaisons	NAME	E-MAIL
Region II Director	Ted Wilkinson 585-322-6722	twilkinson@vva.org
Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA)	Lori Paton—President (C) 716-418-4246 (H) 716-694-4477	greeneyedlady57@roadrunner.com
VA Volunteer Services (VAVS)	Danny Friedman	danny.ola@optimum.net

Legislative Director	Bing Markee	bingvvanys@gmail.com
Sergeant of Arms	Jay Book	jaybook1947@gmail.com

SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM	TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Dolores Garcia—Chief SO	716.857.3344	Dolores.GarciaI@va.gov

President's Report

Ned D. Foote

Well now. Winter finally over? Very mild here most of winter but April made up for it. First, we had 17 inches of snow. Finally went away and we got another storm. Only 6 inches but very wet and heavy. Large tree limbs came down all over my cleaned lawn. But looking good now.

We just had our April meeting. Our January meeting as I said was first time we did not have a quorum. This meeting we had maybe the best turnout ever. We had our solemn ceremony as we remembered our deceased members. We had added Reverend Bob Lewis to the rolls as he was very involved with the program and did write prayers and remembrance. Adrian Cooper read this and did a great job, but Rev will be missed.

Many topics discussed and great conversations had. A few new faces and hope they continue to come to represent their chapters. We still have a number of chapters who have not shown up in years and some relatively close. They do not correspond or answer my emails, so I have no clue what they do but they do their reports. All of you who do come and participate with the Council and National thank you very much. VVA is much bigger than just the chapters and as we move toward that light switch all chapters will need to know what to do so let's hope more will come around and get involved.

We have our Leadership Conference this year in Reno in August. I did ask if anyone will be going from chapters and no response but that is not unusual. The SC will be going so New York will be represented. As I send out monthly reminder that Finance and Election reports are now due, I hope all will get these documents sent in. When you go to vva.org to download new forms, as I said, the new forms have been updated and much less info needed. The 990n that most chapters send please wait that 7 minutes on the IRS website to update and 990n and will say accepted. Also scanning and email is the best way to send. Make sure you send me a copy as that is the only way I can help if the report is lost. Also, when you email National ask for acknowledgement. In years past (I'm talking 40 years) we always seem to have a problem and I do not see that ever not happen.

So have a great summer, next meeting in June for elections. By the way if you want to run for a State Council position, please send a letter of intent to Tom Harris, bkrdad@aolcom.

So, "that's all folks"

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.

NOTE: The Foundation has lost its fundraising contract and is in need of funds to support our Service Officer's Program. Please send donation to the above address.

(Continue from pg. 3)

Secretary Report

Francisco Muñiz III

We need more Chapters to send in their Chapter Reports in a timely manner. Also, could you add the District you belong on the Subject line along with your Chapter number. I have informed the delegates about this issue but no one is following it. Maybe I need to translate the information. Here goes:

Además, ¿podría agregar el Distrito al que pertenece en la línea Asunto junto con el número de su Capítulo? He informado a los delegados sobre este tema pero nadie lo sigue; hoặc Ngoài ra, bạn có thể thêm Quận mà bạn thuộc về vào dòng Chủ đề cùng với số Chương của bạn không. Tôi đã thông báo cho các đại biểu về vấn đề này nhưng không có ai theo dõi; also please **DO NOT SEND PDF files**, I can't copy and paste and don't have the program to convert to MS Word!

We had an extended discussion on the issue that National has taken in requiring their board member to sign a confidentiality statement. That is why we receive no information about what is discussed on the board meetings.

We had 20 VVA Chapters at the last State Council meeting and each gave a verbal report about their activities by their Chapter within their communities. Only 6 Chapters sent in their report for this edition! Some went over their allotted time limits. I have been asking them to send in their reports to place in the VVA Interchange but I get no cooperation. I even said, "give me the paper that you have the report and I will type it out! No help or support. I guess they all signed a Memorandum of Confidentiality like National has done!

Confidential

Coach me and I

Will learn

Challenge me and I

Will grow

Believe in me and I

Will win.

PS. See the VVA National Leadership & Educational Seminars that are scheduled for this event on page 27—30 or go to www.VVA.Org web site and see complete listing with time.

Central District Report**Nick Valenti****VVA Chapters #85, #103, #377, #480, #704, #803, #827, #944**

On March 22, 2024 I received notification that “The Wall That Heals” is coming to New York State again in August. The location of “The Wall” will be in the Village of Penn Yan located in Yates County at the northern end of Keuka Lake in the Finger Lakes Region. For those of you who couldn’t make it when it was in Auburn, New York last year we have another opportunity to see it in New York State. The dates are August 8th – August 11th of this year. The Village itself reported a 2010 Census population of 5,159 people. Getting this visit by the Washinton D.C. folks is quite an accomplishment. It certainly deserves the attention it received when VVA Chapter #704 brought it to Central District. Save these dates and pass the word that if someone missed “The Wall” last year they will have an opportunity again this year.

VVA Chapter #377 under Gary Napieracz along with advocate chapter member Paul Moore is carrying on the charge to get Hmong SGU Laotian fighters the same VA Health Care and Claims Benefits that the Korean Veterans were granted in the American Korean Valor Act signed into law by the President of the United States. It has been publicized that the Minority Affairs Committee chaired by Gumersindo Gomez entertained a presentation in Silver Spring, Maryland on the subject. I don’t know how it will pan out but am glad we are working on recognizing our allies from previous wars. I would image we will know more as we approach the 2025 National Convention where we work on resolutions, as we did with the Korean soldiers who fought along with us.

The diversity I speak of references our Chapters I see them as assets, living every day in pursuit of our mantra “Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another.” In the years you have allowed me to represent you at State Council I have written about the many exploits of our Chapter. I have never stopped recognizing how we have made our mark in the veteran community and in the general public. VVA Chapter #103 can boast of the success of the Vet Center in Syracuse, New York. Syracuse has made the case for all of us in Central District. If we didn’t advocate for ourselves and by extension all veterans it is extremely doubtful that we would have the kind of advocacy we see at the grassroots level. The one example I have some knowledge about is the Onondaga County Vet Center. When “The Wall” came to Auburn I had the pleasure of meeting the Director Stephen Lockwood. He took the time to come to our exhibit and set up shop along with another Vet Center offering counseling services (if needed) throughout the multi-day event. We now stay in contact with one another and he shares his Newsletter with me. A monthly calendar of events that I will share with Central District.

The Spring 2024 edition I am talking about starts with his recognition of National Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29th at the 109 Pine Street, Syracuse location and at the newly opened 502 Broad Street, Utica location. The Utica Vet Center is housed with the “Feed Our Vets” initiative of which VVA Chapter #944 is working with. The latter Center has a licensed therapist on permanent and fulltime basis. Counseling services, include in-person and virtual. Currently, all services are by appointment only. Interested? Call 315-478-7127 or email Stephen.Lockwood@va.gov. The Syracuse to Utica connection was a long time in coming but is here. We now have the opportunity to get the same service from the same provider from Auburn to Syracuse to Herkimer to Utica. How sweet it is.

Here are just a few other items that may be of interest to you and any veteran friend and associate you
(Continue on pg. 7)

(Continue from pg. 6)

have. The month of April will see the Syracuse Center kicking off a Sexual Assault & Prevention Month (SAAPM) Proclamation with the Syracuse VA Medical Center. The Vet Center, VA Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) and VA Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Program are collaborating to spread awareness through various events. For instance, Project Clothesline (raise awareness about the impact of violence and abuse; honor survivors' strength; and to break the silence around their experiences). Denim Day (sexual violence awareness campaign). SAAPM Walk at Onondaga Lake Park (a theme walk on April 26th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Onondaga Lake Park). Need more information call 315-478-7127.

That isn't the end of it, the Vet Center has a number of groups that will attract specific interests. For instance, the Book Club – the Spring 2024 Book Club meets every other Thursday @1000via Zoom. The Photography Group (no experience necessary) meets virtually every Thursday at 1000 AM via Zoom. The Vet Center has a Women's Group that meets in-person every Friday at 2:00 PM. You can also make inquires about the Depression Group and or the Coping with Anger Group. If you have any interest in knowing more about these groups simply call 315-478-7127 and talk to a staff member. What about meeting with a group for Vietnam Veterans? Currently there are two groups being hosted. Just call the Vet Center to learn more.

I would like to mention that the hours of operation for the "Feed Our Vets program in Utica, located at 502 Broad Street are Wednesdays from 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM and on the 3rd Saturday from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The Utica VVA Chapter 944 has made contact with the "Feed Our Vets" initiative. That working relationship has spurred contact between the Chapter and the Vet Center.

There is another asset I wish to bring up when it comes to Central District. That is Clear Path for Veterans. Their Friday Night Fire event includes dinner and snacks by their own Culinary Department providing an evening of fun family activities overseen by Clear Path staff. No registration is required and the event is open to the public. The Canteen luncheons celebrates with the community and connects with the weekly Canteens. The menu changes weekly and is made by the in-house Culinary Department. Everything is complimentary and no registration is required. Want more information call 315-687-3300. Learn about Woodcarving at Clear Path along with Project Healing Waters where you can learn the basics of fly tying and fly fishing. Don't forget their fundraisers go to support the Hospitality Department, Culinary Department with contributions going to ensure the continued success of the Peer and Family Support Programs. The intent is to provide the best care possible to our veterans and military families for any unexpected challenges that might arise.



(Continue on pg. 8)

(Continue from pg. 7)

Veteran's incarcerated and in the justice system

Nicholas C. Valenti - Chair

Incarcerated individuals who donate their time and efforts and work together can devote themselves to serve the veterans and local community outside their facility. The idea of a veterans group raising funds from inside their enclosed walls by collecting donations and auctioning artwork is not unheard of. True, it requires the help of the officials within the correctional campus to pull it off, but it can and has been done before. Where else has this happened? Well, at the Avenal State Prison in Avenal, California. The resemblance to Auburn Correctional in New York State is uncanny as the name of that veterans' group is Veterans Group of Avenal (VGOA). Where do I get my information? WFW Magazine, March 2024 issue. In that issue is the story of how a VFW Post in Sanger, California reinvented itself and found a resource to help keep their Post going with the assistance of incarcerated veterans in the Avenal Correctional Facility. The Avenal veterans wanted to make a difference and have been doing this type of work for a number of years. Much in the same manner as the Auburn Correctional Facility does with its VGOA. The parallels are unmistakable. Auburn, New York and the work of VVA, Chapter 205 going back to the 1980's, along with member of Am Vets Chapter 24 both reinventing themselves to today's VGOA. Raising funds by selling products in the facility and establishing a crochet squad in support of homeless veterans, food banks, disadvantaged children, local hospitals and local veterans service organizations. I must admit working with these men is very satisfying to know you are doing some good in someone's life. In fact, I am not ashamed to quote Jim Anderson of VFW Post 7168, California when he says "One of the most gratifying things I have done is work with this group of veterans over the years." I feel exactly the same way.

So that now I can show you that we can make a difference in the lives of our incarcerated brothers and have a positive impact in our local communities let's take a quick review of what we have done and are trying to reestablish at the Auburn, New York Facility.

Before COVID-19 we had an active Veterans Group in Auburn that worked hard at fundraising. They were involved with selling coffee and coffee products, they repaired and sold devices for the purpose of listening entertainment of fellow incarcerated members, they used the cash they generated to purchase yarn (preferably worsted) to crochet items for use outside the Facility by those not able to buy or procure themselves. These included cancer patients, low-income school children in Elementary School, food bank recipients, homeless (we had veterans living under a railroad bridge just outside the Facility walls) and cash donations to local groups when the funds were available. This financial commitment included participation in the Cayuga County Vietnam Veterans Memorial – a Memorial to the 29 Cayuga County warriors killed in Vietnam who were originally from the county as well as an "In Memory" Program that includes those men and women who returned from Vietnam but later died because of Vietnam. These men put their need to help those of us less able to help themselves before their own needs and wants.

So, what is going on today, well this Auburn Facility has incarcerated individuals motivated to continue

(Continue on pg. 9)

(Continue from pg. 8)

heir efforts. The Pre-COVID-19 schedule hasn't quite totally kicked in yet but they are working on it.

The crochet squad is getting community donations to continue their work. Unfortunately, the Christmas Giveaway failed to materialize in 2023. We hope that with VVA State Council involvement and Community support we can again revitalize this program and reinstitute the community good these men have provided in the past.

With the filling of the Volunteer Staff Supervisor Position on a long term basis at Auburn it is my hope that I will be able to work much more closely with the Imam now that there is a person dedicated to this veteran's group. The good news for me is that I knew him when he was a Chaplain and I was a teacher at the facility some years ago.

In the future there is hope for continued work from a veteran population eager to continue general membership meeting, Board of Director meetings, conducting Veterans Day, Memorial Day, POW/MIA Day events and revitalizing the Christmas Giveaway on an annual schedule will take hold and be part of the landscape of the facility. What can we do to help? Well right know we can continue our yarn collections. Just bring what you can donate to the State Council meeting in Nichols, New York.

Remember, NOT to bring those colors that can be used to represent gang colors. What colors are acceptable? All shades of **WHITE, BROWN, RED, GREEN, PINK, PURPLE AND YELLOW**. Any other colors will be refused admittance. To recap for everyone the last donation saw 173 skeins delivered to the facility. They are being eagerly used by the crochet squad. Nothing goes to waste when we deliver the allowable items for use.

Thank you to all who have contributed. If you were waiting to see what would develop, wait no longer. Be part of something that will make you feel good and join all the other Chapters and Associates that have contributed. I guarantee you will have a sense of pride about what you are doing.

T.E.A.M.

Together Everyone Accomplishes More



(Continue on pg. 11)

VVA Chapter #377 Report

Mike Moran – Secretary

Meeting dedicated to the following Fallen during January & February 2024: 25 Veterans who served their Country from WWII to present, including Chapter Member Gerald “Jerry” Gailor, 77, USN.

Tom Tedesco , AVVA, Cortland County Veterans Rep. introduced Carl Bush of” Clear Path” who spoke of the organization’s facilities & programs for Veterans. He will be the local representative & can be contacted thru Tom. Chapter received a donation and “Thanks” from the Gailor Family for our involvement in Jerry’s Services. Prez. Gary spoke about the NYS Gold Star Family Convention in Auburn, 6:30 pm, April 26. We’ve been asked to provide a Color Guard for the opening ceremony at 7pm. Uniform will be Chapter vests, black pants, black/brown shoes, appropriate shirt. Gary will be the contact.

Cornell ROTC will be contacting Chapter Members by phone on May 26 to recognize Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, March 29. If you see an odd area code on your phone that day, it might be a Cadet/Midshipman! Always a nice thing to do.

J.R. Clairborne, Tompkins County Veterans Rep., spoke of the organizing of the 1st County Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day event on 3/29, tentatively from 2-4pm. Details to follow.

Treasurer Greg spoke of the 9th annual Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day event at the Homeville Military Museum of the Living History Center in Cortland. It will be 10-2pm with Chapter Member Tom Margrave speaking 1130-1230. Lunch provided. Contact him for details. Homeville is also working on a Women Veterans Day event on 6/8/24. If you know a female veteran, contact Greg Harvey at 607-591-7176.

Prez. Gary & VP Jim Evener said that they would not be running for reelection. They’ve done it for almost a decade. Gary spoke of the kinds of events we’ve done and hoped that others would step up and continue/finish them.

On March 29, 2024, the Tompkins County Department of Veterans Services (J R Clairborne & Staff) held its first Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day dinner at LaTourelle Hotel

There was a nice turnout of Chapter 377 VVA & AVVA Members along with other Vietnam Veterans. The day and dinner was to honor all US Service members who served anywhere during years 1965-1975. The food was great.

The Ithaca High School Vietnam Club did a presentation on their recent trip to Vietnam. They spoke of their welcomed interaction with the Vietnamese and showed photos of the beautiful places they traveled to. One of our Members said "it sure didn't look like that when I was there". Their talk was well received.

The NY 125 District Assembly member, Anna Kelles presented a NYS Assembly Citation to Chapter 377 Member Gary Napieracz for his actions for the past 8 years as Chapter President, and for his raising of the public awareness and recognition of Vietnam Veterans in Tompkins/Cortland Counties.

(Continue from pg. 10)

Western District Report

Bill Paton

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

Western District Director Column

Bill Paton

April is election month for our Chapters. Hopefully by the time you read this Chapters have settled in and have their Executive and Board Directors in place. Possibly next month is the time to begin planning for the next fiscal year.

We recently returned from April's State Council Meeting. Very well attended meeting with a lot of great information flowing. Was able to introduce a new President from Chapter 978 in Frewsburg, Stan Collver. The previous President, Adrian Cooper, is currently our State Chaplin.

I was proud to see Scott, Scotty, Dieter Sr. President of Chapter 193 in Warsaw receive the Achievement Award. Scotty well deserved this award as he is a self-effacing person whose Chapter always comes first. He's been through some hard medical issues and his Chapter members have stayed by his side holding it all together, knowing he'd be back at the helm. I first met Scott through Mike Walker a few years back. Mike is no longer with us, but the first dinner with these two is still a memorable one!

Please take the time to read the Agent Orange column. If you are not familiar with the new toxins that may give you free healthcare at the VA, the list is very inclusive.

Also, as you'll be hearing from our State Council President, please get your election and financial reports in, in a timely manner.

As always if you have questions or opinions, please reach me at the below contact information.

Bill Paton Blpaton36@gmail.com 716-208-5211

VVA Chapter #77 Report

Tom Thompson—President

You all know that this past winter was very mild by western New York standards. We were lucky in that respect. On another note our membership has been increasing gradually

(Continue on pg. 12)

(Continue from pg. 11)

for the last few years, but sadly we have had six members pass this year already. Our membership is down to 712. Hopefully this trend will slow but unfortunately father time is against all Vietnam Era Veterans.

There had been no major chapter events scheduled this spring. The BOD and members have been meeting every third Thursday of the month. The BOD has made some changes for upcoming events. The April Fools Day Dance and basket raffle have been cancelled indefinitely. The 50's, 60's and 70's bands we have had at the venues played the music much too loud and participation has declined. They were too loud or we are too old or a combo. Over the past few years our chicken BBQ's were great fundraisers. For the last few years we have hosted a couple Chicken BBQ event fundraisers each season. The BOD has cancelled these also. It seems that many other local organizations have caught on to the idea and have flooded the market weekends and time slots creating extreme competition. We have decided to put our fundraising energy into the Pist-N-Broke weekly car shows. Chapter 77 will be selling Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and Fried Baloney, Pop & water. The car show runs every Monday evening 3pm.- 7pm. weather permitting, May thru early September at Wurlitzer Park. It's a great event featuring over 500 cars and a large viewing and hungry crowd.

The Poppy Squad lead by Joe Pasek begin their first two events on May 18 and May 25 held at Niagara Produce @ Transit(78) and Millersport(263) Amherst and Niagara Produce on Transit(78) Lancaster. They hand out free poppies and small US flags while presenting informational brochures about Agent Orange, The Pact Act and Veterans Benefits. The public always generously donates.

John Heffernan is point man to try and revive a past project. The objective is to go to schools or other interested groups to discuss the Vietnam War. An introduction form letter is being sent to all the schools in Erie and Niagara counties with hopes of obtaining a lot of positive interest response. There are about a dozen chapter members presently involved. If any other members would like to join this group please contact the chapter at vvchapter77@gmail.com. Their visits consist of three sections; general information, personal accounts and a Q&A period. Hopefully this will be a fruitful endeavor.

The April VVA meeting is postponed until the following week. It will occur on April 25, 2024. This is a VOTING YEAR. All Officer and Board of Directors positions are open for nominations. If any member is interested please contact the above email address ASAP to be put on the ballot. You must be present to vote. We are hoping for a great turnout.

The VVA77/VALOR food pantry remains a large part of the Chapter business. We are thankful for the
(Continue on pg. 13)

(Continue from pg. 12)

many food product and monetary donations. Chapter 77 gave food, a ham and two \$25.00 tops gift cards to each needy veteran during the Easter season.

We have mounted 6"x6" porcelain plaques with the Vietnam KIA's pictures, names and a note from the students at the Cheektowaga Middle School who made them as a class project. These plaques represent Vietnam KIA's from Erie and Niagara counties.

The Erie Niagara Sunrise Exchange group provided breakfast at our chapter on Wednesday March 27th for Vietnam Veterans in honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day every March 29th.

I'm looking forward to a happy and healthy spring.

Chapter #77 Member Profile
Michael Reinhardt

Michael Reinhardt entered the service in 1965 after High School graduation. He was deployed to Vietnam in the Spring of sixty-six and assigned to A co 501AVN BN/71st AHC as a door gunner on a UH! -C gunship. The 3rd platoon was designated as the Firebirds.

He rotated back to Ft. Benning Ga and was discharged in 1968. That year he married his wife, Sandy. Mike Reenlisted in 1972 going to flight school finally retiring in 1989 with the rank of CWO-3. Among Mike's medals are 2 air medals and one he is most proud of is the Master Army Aviator Badge!!

Mike continued to serve his country as a Customs Officer specializing in immigration law. He also flew for Mercy Flight as Pilot in Command. Mike Retired after 31 years of Federal service. But even after that he has been a volunteer fireman, a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol and Continues as an Auxiliary Police Officer in the City of Tonawanda.

In 2023 Mike received the Auxiliary Officer of the Year Award!

Mike and his wife Sandy have two Sons, Mike Jr. and John and Six Grandchildren. Sandy has been married to Mike since 1968 and in my opinion should get a medal for being married to a Vietnam Vet for all those years!



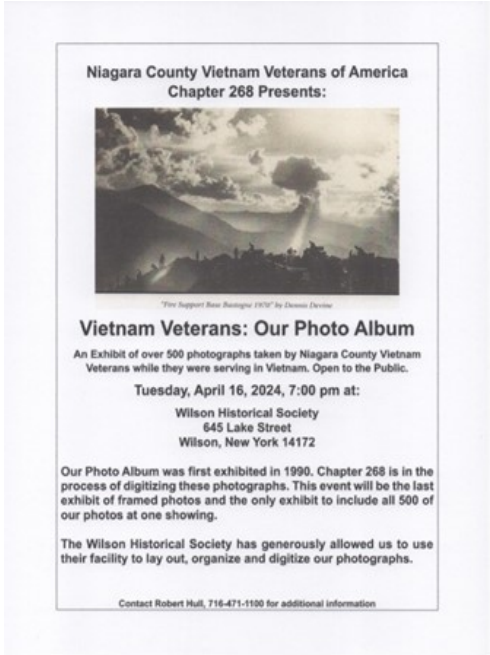
(Continue on pg. 14)

(Continue from pg. 13)

VVA #268 Chapter Report—Western District

Gordie Bellinger

VVA Chapter #268 has been working on converting “Our Photo Album” collection of 500 photos, taken by Niagara County Vietnam Veterans when they were stationed in Vietnam. We will be digitizing these photographs so each member can have a copy. After this process is done. The original photos will go to the Niagara County Historical Society for further generations to view. Yes, we are becoming a part of history.



Eastern District Report

Sam Hall

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

VVA Chapter #333 Report—Eastern District

Ray Furlong – President

Dear Vietnam Brothers and Sisters,

Another year has passed us by and as I often say to my Chapter members, be well, be safe and be PROUD we are the Vietnam Veteran's. This year our Chapter 333 in Rockland County New York celebrated our 35th Anniversary at our meeting. Many of the Charter members came back that night for the celebration from different parts of the country. It was a special night to say the least, many wonderful talks and heartwarming moments and memories. Unfortunately one of our founding members could not be there, the great Jerry Donnellan,

(Continue on pg. 15)

(Continue from pg. 14)

who has passed on. Jerry was a big part of our Legacy and will never be forgotten. A few weeks ago we proudly marched in the Pearl River St Patrick's Day Parade in Rockland. We march for those 58,461 who never marched another step again and the 1577 still MIA. Although its difficult to march for some we had a good turnout and marched with great pride.

We continue to participate in Rockland street fairs and memorial events through out the county. Our Chapter honors all Veterans at Cemeteries with Rifle Salutes and Honor guards at the funeral homes. We continue to share our History in High Schools and Middle schools, with our Vietnam Memories programs, lead by Howie Golden. We offer many scholarships during the year to help young deserving children with their educational expenses. Our Chapter Veteran Ed Frank contributes greatly. We have been having great turnouts at our membership meetings, in the neighborhood of 35 vets at some meetings. Roy Tschudy has recruited as many as 6 or 7 this year alone. Our Chapter Finances are strong and our scholarship programs as well. Our members work very hard to help out with donations. Every month we visit The VA nursing home in Montrose to support our Veteran brothers and sisters and show them Bob Hope shows which they love and enjoy. The years move forward but our Chapter brotherhood remains strong. As President I had the honor of being invited to Washington DC for a celebration of 50 years since the war ended. It was at Washington National Cathedral and was followed by a Legacy Dinner, a very special day for sure.

Two weeks ago one of our valued members Jay Fink passed away. We had a Memorial service at our Legion Post 1600 for Jay and his entire family. A truly moving event and service. Our Chapter set up a re pass for the family and was it was greatly appreciated by his family. I would like to thank all our State and National leaders for their tireless efforts performing the great job they are doing,

God Bless You All.

Schedules for Suffern Middle Schools.

2024 Vietnam Assemblies

Schedule Friday April 12th Auditorium P2 & P3

Period 2 9:52-10:37

Period 3 10:41-11:26

- Students will report directly to the auditorium with their book bags
- Each team teacher who normally teaches that period should go to the auditorium and stay with his/her team to help supervise.
- Please mark students "present" that would normally be in your class but are at the assembly
 - Period 2 (Enright, Morris, Buttigieg, Ielardi)
 - Period 3 (Hoefler, Buhler, Arenholz)

(Continue on pg. 16)

(Continue from pg. 15) VVA Chapter #333 Report

Vietnam Memories Assemblies Schedule _Felix Festa 2024

April 15- April 18 library presentations

HR & Period 1 8:55 - 9:43

Period 2 9:46-10:33

Period 3 10:36- 11:23

Period 4 11:26- 12:13 Grade 8 Lunch

Period 5 12:16-1:03

Period 6 1:06-1:53

Period 7 1:56 - 2:43

Period 8 2:46 - 3:33

Vietnam Veterans Memories Museum Schedule

Saturday, 4/20 Set up of the museum in the library.

Wednesday, 4/24

Full 8th Grade Assembly (Period 2: 8:57 - 9:50)

Wednesday, 4/24 through Monday, 4/29

Individual SS classes will visit the Memories Museum in the Library at the times listed below.

	Wed, 4/24	Thurs, 4/25	Fri 4/26	Monday, 4/29
		Leader in Me Day		
Period 1 (8:00 - 8:53)		Ferraro (23) 9:00 - 9:43	Revicki (23)	Rice (22)
Period 2 (8:57 - 9:50)	FULL GRADE ASSEMBLY	Ferraro (25) 9:47 - 10:30	Revicki (18)	Rice (20) Claro (7)
Period 5 (11:13 - 12:06)	Davan (16) Jones (1)	Ferraro (22) 11:47 - 12:30	Revicki (20)	Barbas (23) Bilingual class
Period 8 (1:42 - 2:35)	Davan (27)	Ferraro (23) Morgan (8) 1:52 - 2:35	Revicki (23) M. Coffey (6)	BREAK DOWN MUSEUM 12:06

***Please note the different times for Thursday, 4/24.**

(Continue on pg. 17)

(Continue from pg. 16)

Betsy Ross School

The second graders at Betsy Ross School would like to invite all veterans and active service members (military, police officers, firefighters, etc.) to a special presentation about “Flag Day.”

Please join us on... Friday, June 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. RSVP: 201-762-2251

Women Veterans Day



Women Veterans Day is observed on June 12 in the United States, a date chosen to mark the anniversary of the [Women's Armed Services Integration Act](#). The date is not recognized nationally, but is recognized by a number of states, either through legislation or proclamation, and organizations.

The stated goal of Women Veterans Day varies somewhat by state, but can generally be acknowledged as an effort to honor the work of women in the [United States Armed Forces](#) and recognize the unique challenges that they have faced.

The date was first recognized when the New York State Assembly declared June 12, 2008, to be Women Veterans' Recognition Day.

New VA Medical ID card

Make sure to look at your V.A. ID card for an expiration date! Front left hand side each card has a date for expiration, it is NOT FOR LIFETIME!

If you are nearing said date or have passed it where you can have a new picture taken, the new card will take 2 or three weeks to arrive in the mail to your home.

Membership Report

Ted Wilkinson – Chair

Decade 2014 - 2024 NY Chapter Membership Growth

Chapter	Sept 2014	April 2024	% +/-
At Large	744	1047	+303
8	53	63	+10
11	447	508	+61
20	579	618	+39
32	246	233	-13
49	276	395	+19
72	166	173	+13
77	593	713	+120
79	88	68	-20
82	327	334	+7
85	43	42	-1
103	202	191	-11
126	102	113	+11
140	118	115	-3
193	124	152	+28
268	43	118	+75
333	211	216	+5
377	65	95	+30
421	229	249	+20
459	46	40	-6
480	80	81	+1
541	36	34	-2
704	49	45	-4
803	179	252	+73
827	28	23	-5
865	182	152	-30
869	44	32	-12
944	73	169	+96
978	24	35	+11
TOTALS	5397	6306	+909

Southern District Report

John Rowan

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

VVA Chapter #72 Report - Brooklyn
Danny Firedman

Brooklyn VVA continues to focus most of our efforts around the veterans at the Brooklyn VAMC, and homeless veterans who receive services there.

On January 15th we provided a pizza party for the veterans in the VAMC's substance abuse rehabilitation ward (15-West), which is a locked ward. These vets are especially appreciative of any recognition from the outside

The week of February 11th was National Salute to Veteran Patients Week and the members of VVA72 made sure our hospitalized veterans were not forgotten.

On February 14th we provided a pizza party for the vets in 15-West.

On February 15th several members of VVA72 distributed gift bags of warm items of clothing to all the in-patients as well as the chemo and dialysis clinics (photo attached).

On March 27th VVA72 President Danny Friedman was the "Honored Veteran" and speaker at the Brooklyn VAMC's Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day Program, which included remarks and introduction by Fort Hamilton Deputy Commander Colonel Robert McTighe.

We purchased \$1,000.00 worth of gifts for the VAMC's annual virtual baby shower for expectant military and veteran families.

We partnered with VFW Post 107 to purchase \$2,000.00 worth of new clothing for homeless and needy veterans.

CDCE (formerly VAVS) Report

Danny Friedman—President

NY Harbor CDCE continues to meet quarterly to address issues related to veteran patients and facilities. A new Chief of NY Harbor CDCE has been hired. Gregg Porter is an Army Veteran and formerly worked for the Red Cross. We look forward to working with him.

There were no other VAVS/CDCE Reports received.

"VVA72 members and CDCE staff distribute gifts to hospitalized veterans."
(Continue on pg. 20)



(Continue from pg. 19)

VVA Chapter #82 Accomplishments - January 2024 to May 2024

Richard Guevara – 1st Vice President

On January 2, 2024, Chapter 82 donated monies to the Nassau County Veterans fund for its food bank.

On January 3, 2024, the chapter president and vice president were invited to attend, and did attend, the 2024 inauguration of the Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor and town board.

On January 4, 2024, Chapter 82 made a donation to the Hagedorn Little Village school, an annual donation, which the chapter makes during the holiday season.

On January 9, 2024, three grandchildren of our members received scholarships at our monthly meeting: Kyle Geddes, Ronan Mac Gilvray and Spenser Jacobs. In addition, Jim White and Joe Dubon were awarded a plaque in recognition of their contributions to the chapter as chairmen of the Poppie and Membership Committees.

On March 3, 2024, we provided the color guard and members of our chapter led the Bethpage St Patrick's Day parade.

May 11, 2024, we will provide the color guard at the Air Force Association Vietnam 50th Anniversary Celebration. Our members will also welcome the guests and provide them with gifts.

On May 25 the Air Force Association will honor female soldiers and veterans. We will again provide the color guard and greet the recipients.

On May 26 we will participate in the Nassau County Memorial Day service at Eisenhower Park. We will provide a color guard and members of our chapter will attend the event.

On May 26 we will provide a color guard at the National Cemetery.

On May 27 we will march at the Hicksville Memorial Day parade. We will also provide the color guard and the firing squad.

Honor Flight Long Island Takes

46 Veterans to Washington, DC

May 4th flight Commemorates non-profit's "over 2,000 flown" milestone. This project was started by Earl Morse and Jeff Miller and has spread all across the United States.

This flight will take 46 veterans to visit their military memorials in Washington DC and commiserate with fellow veterans and exchange stories. Honor Flight's mission is to honor fellow Long Islanders who served in the us armed forces to preserve our freedom by providing free one day trip so that they can see their memorial of their conflict.

(Continue on pg. 21)

(Continue from pg. 20)

VVA Chapter #421 - Staten Island

Sal Napolitano

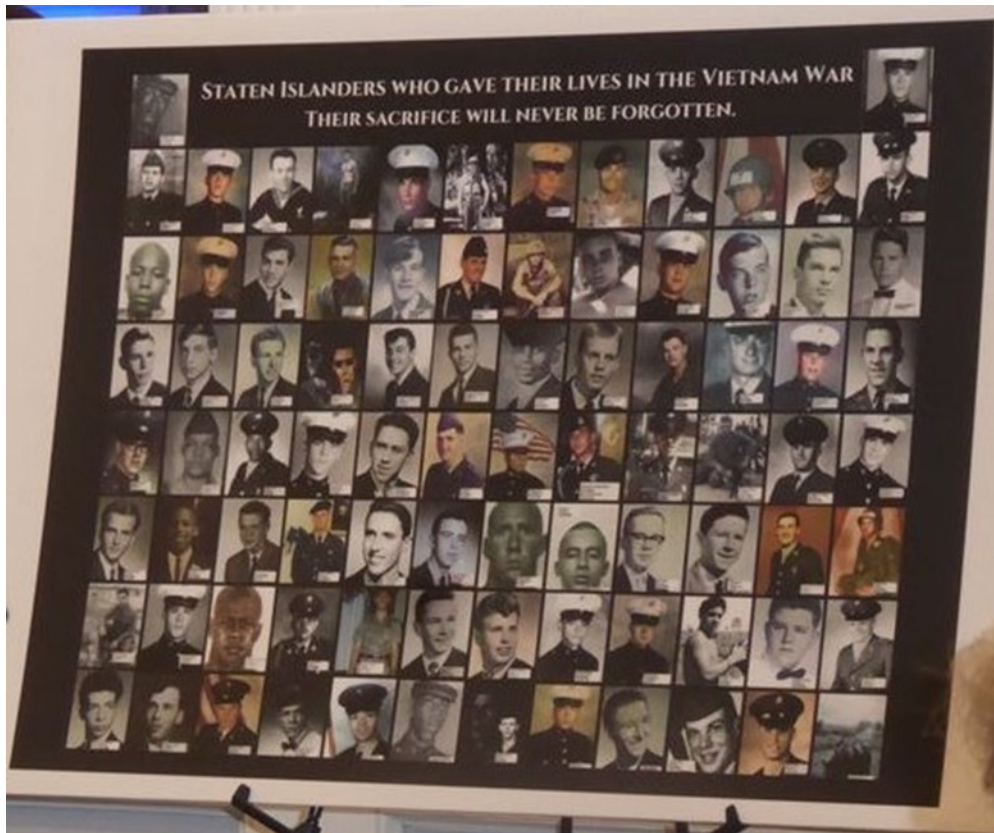
On March 28th Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Breakfast Sponsored by District Attorney Michael McMahon & Borough President Vito J. Fossella

On April 13th Senator Lanza hosted the 16th annual Welcome Home Ceremony



(Cont. on pg. 22)

(Continue from pg. 22)



On April 14 There was a visit to the FOUR CHAPLAINS SHRINE St. Stephen Church in Kearney, NJ
April 22nd Change of Command Ceremony Captain Jonathan Andrechik will assume command of U.S.
Coast Guard Sector New York followed by a frocking ceremony to honor Captain Rita Merchant

We will be presenting our scholarship award to Santina Ruggerio a student at the Father Capodanno
Catholic Academy at a breakfast and ice cream social on May 23rd. The scholarship is to the student of
the Academy's choosing, based upon academics and need.

Goals

Your value does not decrease based on someone's inability to see your worth

GRIEF IS.

GRIEF IS A deep thought you and wished a hun- was a fleeting mo-

GRIEF IS A NIGHT- ing, beating, of you doesn't

Confused and bro- death over and

exhaustingly dissecting it like it was going to change things. But it was only day one of a week-long operation.

"Finish the mission," the radio blared, "CO's orders." The same questions repeated themselves in my head: Why? Why not me — why did I survive?

GRIEF IS A STATEMENT — formulated words of what the heart feels, impulsive, irrational, greedy — temporary relief just to relive it all over again.

GRIEF IS A PROMISE — a series of thoughts under your breath just for you and the one you lost and love. You mumble, stop, and start all over, again and again, just to get it right.

During the plane ride over the Pacific, I rested my head on the window, feeling the cool sensation of the atmospheric air just on the other side.

"I am going to live my life for them. Whatever it takes." I felt an insurmountable amount of guilt about surviving Iraq, and the more I thought about it, the more it haunted me that my friends died at such a young age. We were all boys with aspirations.

"I think I'd want to go back to school. I owe it to myself," Heath and Matt would each say.

I constantly thought about that — their voices in the background. I eventually forced myself into nursing school and, miraculously, completed it. But I didn't stop there. I had my eyes on my bachelor's. I was pursuing a busy life, chasing a promise to myself that I couldn't break

GRIEF IS THE DESIRE TO CLIMB — to endure the pain, wipe the tears, lift our heads, keep moving, and never look back.

For years, I kept myself busy — busier than most — working 12-hour shifts and posting college discussions at odd hours of the night. It was the pure adrenaline of it all that put my next foot forward, always coming back to the plane ride, the promise.

There were moments I'd see their faces — smiling, laughing, as we sat against the cement walls of houses. Even in the middle of the night, unable to sleep, we'd talk about our childhood memories and lifelong dreams — distant ideas to pass the time and keep us alive. A moment later, I'd open my eyes and snap back, the weight of guilt again hanging over me, "I'm alive because of them. I have to live my life for them."



MEMORY— a once tucked away dred, million times ment.

MARE — vivid, liv- haunting, but part want to wake up. ken, I replayed his over in my head,

HEALTH/AGING COMMITTEE REPORT

Tom Harris-Chair

Well, here I sit, waiting for a second Spring snow storm to hit upstate NY this year. The last one was a great test for my snow blower and my physical condition, 17 inches of heavy stuff. Trying to figure out how much weight I had to move. [Hint: Average shovelful of snow weighs 16 lbs times 12 lifts per minute times ten minutes equals 2000 lbs!]

After I finished my third pass in a 24 hour siege I was reading an article about, you got it, shoveling and heart attacks. Although we've covered it this once before at the State Council meeting I thought it would be advantageous to review this timely topic.

In cardio terms when shoveling (or even snow blowing) your heart rate and blood pressure both increase, actually sometimes more than that top level on a treadmill stress test. (This is not good news) Now, add huffing and puffing cold air which causes arteries (think the size of cooked spaghetti) to constrict thus reducing blood supply to vital organs. The Perfect Storm for a heart attack.

Shoveling is particularly strenuous because it uses arm work which is more taxing on your body than leg work. Another tidbit is many people hold their breath during hard work lifting, thus again, increasing heart rate and blood pressure. And yet another tidbit, is the prime time for shoveling is 6am to 10am which is when circadian fluctuations make us most vulnerable to heart attacks. (Didn't know that!)

Who's most likely to run into trouble-those not physically fit (or have a prior cardio condition), smokers, over weight and veterans (just kidding about veterans.)

What you can do to lessen your risks: Push snow rather than lift, dress in layers, take breaks even when it's a crazy blizzard, and don't shovel after eating and drink water. Lift small loads not heavy ones. (Man, I hate heavy wet snow!). Heavy meals will put an extra load on your heart, no alcohol, wear a hat to prevent hypothermia.

Warning signs that you or the buddy next door is having a cardio event:

Squeezing chest discomfort (especially left arm); discomfort in arms, back, neck or jaw (huh, how can you shovel a driveway and not feel discomfort??); shortness of breath; cold sweats.

What to do. Call 9-1-1 if you can or wave down a passing plow.

My suggestion is TO HIRE SOMEONE TO PLOW YOU OUT.

STAY HEALTHY FRIENDS

“The Land that made Me Me”

I have no idea who put this together, but it is wonderful, especially if you're North of 70!

Long ago and far away, in a land that time forgot, Before the days of Dylan , or the dawn of Camelot. There lived a race of innocents, and they were **you and me**.

For Ike was in the White House in that land where we were born, Where navels were for oranges, and Peyton Place was porn. We longed for love and romance, and waited for our Prince, Eddie Fisher married Liz, and no one's seen him since. We danced to 'Little Darlin,' and sang to 'Stagger Lee' And cried for Buddy Holly in the Land That Made Me, Me.

Only girls wore earrings then, and 3 was one too many, And only boys wore flat-top cuts, except for Jean McKinney. And only in our wildest dreams did we expect to see A boy named George with Lipstick, in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We fell for Frankie Avalon, Annette was oh, so nice, And when they made a movie, they never made it twice.. We didn't have a Star Trek Five, or Psycho Two and Three, Or Rocky-Rambo Twenty in the Land That Made Me, Me.

Miss Kitty had a heart of gold, and Chester had a limp, And Reagan was a Democrat whose co-star was a chimp.

We had a Mr. Wizard, but not a Mr. T, And Oprah couldn't talk yet, in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We had our share of heroes, we never thought they'd go, At least not Bobby Darin, or Marilyn Monroe. For youth was still eternal, and life was yet to be, And Elvis was forever in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We'd never seen the rock band that was Grateful to be Dead, And Airplanes weren't named Jefferson , and Zeppelins were not Led. And Beatles lived in gardens then, and Monkees lived in trees, Madonna was Mary in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We'd never heard of microwaves, or telephones in cars, And babies might be bottle-fed, but they were not grown in jars. And pumping iron got wrinkles out, and 'gay' meant fancy-free, And dorms were never co-Ed in the Land That Made Me, Me.

We hadn't seen enough of jets to talk about the lag, And microchips were what was left at the bottom of the bag. And hardware was a box of nails, and bytes came from a flea, And rocket ships were fiction in the Land That Made Me, Me.

T-Birds came with portholes, and side shows came with freaks, And bathing suits came big enough to cover both your cheeks. And Coke came just in bottles, and skirts below the knee, And Castro came to power near the Land That Made Me, Me.

We had no Crest with Fluoride, we had no Hill Street Blues, We had no patterned pantyhose or Lipton herbal tea Or prime-time ads for those dysfunctions in the Land That Made Me, Me. **(Cont. on pg. 26)**

(Continue from pg. 25)

There were no golden arches, no Perrier to chill, And fish were not called Wanda, and cats were not called Bill And middle-aged was 35 and old was forty-three, And ancient were our parents in the Land That Made Me, Me.

But all things have a season, or so we've heard them say, And now instead of Maybelline we swear by Retin-A. They send us invitations to join AARP, We've come a long way, baby, from the Land That Made Me, Me.

So now we face a brave new world in slightly larger jeans, And wonder why they're using smaller print in magazines. And we tell our children's children of the way it used to be, Long ago and far away in the Land That Made Me, Me.

If you didn't grow up in the fiftys, You missed the greatest time in history.

Hope you enjoyed this read as much as I did.
Sent by Joe Brendel, a great friend!

Your VVA Chapter Report could had been placed in this section! With Photos!





*Vietnam Veterans of America
2024 National Leadership & Education Conference
Silver Legacy Resort, Reno, Nevada*

TUESDAY, (August 20, 2024)

8:00am – 5:00pm Situation Room Platinum Room

8:00am – 5:00pm VVA/Media Office

9:00am – 5:00pm Veterans Mall Expo A

1:00pm – 5:00pm On-site registration Gold/Silver Rooms

4:00pm – 6:00pm BOD Meeting Silver Baron A

6:00pm – 9:00pm Welcome Home Party Mandalay Ball Room

(Food service 6:00pm – 7:30pm. Entertainment 7:30pm – 9:00pm) at Circus – Circus

WEDNESDAY, (August 21, 2024)

8:45am – 10:30am Opening Ceremony Expo B

Invocation – Michael L. Swift PRP, CPP-T, VVA Parliamentarian

Presentation of Colors – VVA Chapter 989

Introduction of VVA Officers

Welcome – Jack McManus, VVA President

Keynote Speaker – Brittanie Ngo

Healthcare in the Aging Veteran

The purpose of the lecture is to improve your health and well being by explaining the different VA services available to you. The information is to empower the Veteran and caregiver that the future does not have to be so uncertain if you are proactive in your decisions. Veterans, Spouses & Caregivers are encouraged to attend

Veterans and Aging: What you need to know about Elder Law

As we age, we need to know what we can do to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our assets. In this seminar you will learn about powers of attorney (for healthcare and asset management); different trusts and their benefits and costs; what benefits the

VA has available to support you and your family; and what you can do now to ready yourselves for an uncertain future.

Prioritizing the Issue of the Vietnam War Missing

Presentation of the history of the POW/MIA issue including educational awareness and public education.

Veterans Incarcerated

Veteran Treatment Courts, Veterans Incarcerated, and Veterans Released, how you can mentor. (2) Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The heavy weights soldiers carry home.

Ask a Top Gun VSO

VSOs available to answer questions from VVA/AVVA conference attendees. A panel of Senior VSOs answering general questions from the audience. No personal cases will be discussed as the VSOs can be contacted separately for those matters.

Spousal & Survivor Benefits

As veterans age, spouses and families need to be aware of the benefits due them now and after their Veteran passes. This seminar will be a two-step educational meeting. (1) To provide guidelines on how chapters may conduct community benefit meetings. (2) The VSO will end our session with information and updates on current benefits.

What Veterans need to know about Toxic Exposure Silver Baron D/E and Health Consequences

Review of the PACT ACT, updated legislative changes for toxic exposure, and latest health consequences for men and women veterans and their families.

THURSDAY, (August 22, 2024)**How to become an effective Legislative Advocate**

The seminar is a nuts and bolts hand on experience where you will learn the basic procedures of working with your local elected officials including the "Do's" and "Don'ts"

Provisions in the VVA Constitution that control State Council Silver Baron A and Chapter Structures.

The seminar will review the VVA Constitution and examine the rules stating the specific obligations the VVA, the Chapters, and the State Councils have toward each other. This seminar addresses the requirement of amending the Chapter's governing documents in the event the Chapter is no longer chartered by the VVA. Every is encouraged to ask questions and discuss the effects of no longer having a VVA Chapter.

Suicide Prevention Silver

Methods, tools and techniques for disrupting suicide in Veterans, family member and friends.

The Homeless Aging Veteran

A look at what the VA is providing for the Aging Homeless Veterans. We will also look at what local and State services are needed and provided to this most fragile group of homeless Veterans. The cutting of programs is providing a most desperate situation for all Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Basic Parliamentary Procedures, is it true?**Frequently Asked Questions**

This seminar will practice mock meetings presiding and conducting business in increasingly more complex situations using proper parliamentary procedures. There will be an open forum to discuss a series of questions of truth and frequently asked questions both with citations, and a discussion on the relationship between a set of convention rules and Internet rules.

VA Caregivers Support Program

Presentation will be an overall review which includes the general caregivers support services that are available to enrolled veterans and the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers that involves a monthly stipend.

(Continue on pg. 29)

(Continue from pg. 28)

12:15pm until Free Afternoon to enjoy the area

2:00pm AVVA Annual Meeting Expo C

2:00pm – 3:30pm Korean VVA Honorary members meeting Silver Baron D/E

2:00pm until Films shown

FRIDAY, (August 23, 2024)

POW/MIA Ceremony

**Veterans Benefits VSO Advanced Training (1 of 2) Same day back to back lectures
Admission limited to VVA Veteran Service Officers only)**

VSOs accredited by VVA will be given training on 1) The Caregiver Program including who qualifies, how to file, and how to appeal; 2) Claim sharks – information about predatory claim companies, how to help Veterans identify them, and resources to recover stolen benefits; 3) The Camp LeJeune Justice Act – how to help claimants decide whether to file a claim and overview of the process; 4) The Appeal Process – proper form use, deadlines, and when to choose a Supplemental Claim, Higher Level Review, and Notice of Disagreement (Direct, Evidence, or Hearing)

You have been Elected President – Now what?

This seminar will provide information to New/Current Chapter and State Council Presidents on duties of being President. Includes an understanding of reports and documents needed to carry out your position. Also provided will be a copy of State Council Presidents Handbook

Federal Laws Covering Children with Disabilities

This seminar discusses the current federal laws that cover children with disabilities.

The key parts of each law are covered as well as pitfalls that you may encounter when attempting to access the services that the law mandates.

Duties of the Secretary

This seminar will cover the eleven duties of the Secretary prescribed by Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, along with the twenty-nine duties prescribed by the VVA Constitution

PTSD/Substance Abuse: What You Need to Know Coping

Coping with Aging Stressors

PTSD/Substance Abuse remains a significant concern for our aging Veteran population

In our seminar we will identify stressors related to PTSD/Substance Abuse and explore healthy coping strategies to help Veterans and their family members deal with everyday life events impacting the family unit.

Understanding Healthcare Eligibility and Benefits under the 2022 PACT ACT

Seminar will review eligibility for health care under the PACT ACT of 2022

Inclusive of the March 5, 2024 provision, for veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military.

The VVA Constitution, Council Bylaws, and Chapter Bylaws

This seminar will cover the VVA Constitution and its effects on the State Councils' bylaws and the Chapters' bylaws. What should, and should not, be in the State Councils' and Chapters' bylaws

(Continue from pg. 29)**Membership Info and Updates**

Overview of Membership. How to join/eligibility. Review: Forms, State Council/Officers roles. What's new and upcoming.

Duties of the Treasurer

The seminar will cover the legal, Constitutional and practical responsibilities of a Treasurer at the Chapter and State levels. We will review the current "Treasurer's handbook" for appropriate updates and revisions. Copies of the current State Council/Chapter Treasurer's Handbook will be provided.

SATURDAY, (August 24, 2024)

Amending the Governing Documents of an Affiliate Organization, the Chapter

This seminar will consider the ranking of governing documents of a chapter and the effects the governing documents have from the top down on an affiliate organization.

The seminar will cover the VVA Constitution, the Charter, the Group Letter, the Articles of Incorporation, the Letter of Determination and the constituent bylaws.

What is Killing America's Youth?

We will discuss the ever-changing threat of Drug abuse and Drug Violence in America.

10:30am – 12:00pm Closing Ceremony Expo B

6:00pm – 7:00pm Reception Pre-Function Salon

7:00pm – 10:00pm VVA Awards Banquet Expo B

Editor's Note:

Do you see what you are missing if you do not attend this Leadership & Educational Conference! They should had added a seminar on DISSOLUTIONS for Chapters. VVA Chapters should attend these Leadership & Educational Conference. There will be many lectures by VVA Committees.

Veteran's News Links attached to articles

Two Tours in the Bloody Vietnam War | Full Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PF7rM2C-Hm4>

**A silent killer is stalking veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan
Cancer strikes GWOT vets at rates that recall Agent Orange.
We're not doing enough to support them.**

<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2024/02/silent-killer-stalking-veterans-iraq-and-afghanistan/393831/#:~:text=Yoshida%2C%20who%20spent%20years%20recovering,so%20many%20GWOT%20veterans%3A%20cancer.>

VA Eyes More Medical Care for Vets with Toxic Exposure Issues

As reported February 1 by Leo Shane III for *Military Times*, thousands of veterans who faced toxic exposure risks in the

(Continue on pg. 31)

(Continue from pg. 30)

military may be eligible for expanded healthcare options through VA starting next month, under plans being finalized by department officials. White House leaders last fall said they hoped to accelerate portions of the *Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act* — better known as the *PACT Act* — passed by Congress in 2022 which expanded medical care and benefits eligibility for millions of former service-members. In the last 16 months, about 100,000 veterans have enrolled in VA healthcare, thanks to provisions in the legislation, and more than 697,000 have received benefits claims approved

https://mail.aol.com/d/list/referrer=newMail&folders=1&accountIds=1&listFilter=NEWMAIL/messages/ALQseZlct-k1ZcaW-g5ral_e12k

SWAN Statement in Response to Divisive Op-Ed

Divisive Misinformation Has No Place in Veteran Care

Washington D.C.: In response to the three VA providers who authored an op-ed in [The Hill](#) on 20 January 2024, the President and CEO of Service Women's Action Network (SWAN), Elisa Cardnell provides the following statement:

"SWAN supports all Veterans in fighting for the respect, benefits, and care they have earned by taking an oath and serving this country risking harm, illness, injury, disability, and death. SWAN defends VA values and policy to provide support to all Veterans. SWAN stands against those who seek to use women Veterans as weapons in their prejudices and to spread misinformation and fear to argue against other Veterans. It is shameful that throughout American history people have pitted women and minorities against each other. We will continue to fight for all Veterans' dignity and we will continue to stand against prejudice and bigotry. We will not be used as political pawns. We know who women are afraid of -- it is not LGBTQ+ Veterans."

SWAN's mission is to advocate for, support, and connect service women, past, present, and future. We are a nationwide nonprofit organization that advocates for and supports the needs of both service women and women veterans, regardless of rank, military branch, or years of experience. SWAN's goal is to see service women receive the opportunities, protections, benefits, and respect they earned.

Veterans Emergency Housing Program | New York State Department of Veterans' Services

<https://veterans.ny.gov/veterans-emergency-housing-program>

The Biggest Early Warning Signs Of A COVID-19 Infection Now

<https://www.huffpost.com/entry/covid-early-warning-signs> | 65cb75e7e4b01f4a8b024ea5

Mast Leads Florida Delegation to Rename West Palm Beach VA Medical Center After Past VVA President Thomas H. Corey

Representative Brian Mast (FL-21), with the support of the entire Florida Congressional delegation, introduced a bill on February 13 to designate the VA medical center in West Palm Beach, Fla., as the "Thomas H. Corey Health Care System of West Palm Beach." (Continue on pg. 32)

(Continue from pg. 31)

This legislation will change the name of the VA hospital to honor the life of Thomas H. Corey, a decorated Vietnam War veteran and a life-long advocate for veteran's rights. "Thomas Corey's life shows no injury was big enough to eclipse his mission to serve others," Rep. Mast said. "Renaming the VA medical center after Thomas is a recognition he deserves for his tireless work to locate the remains of his brothers-in-arm left behind in the jungles of Vietnam and his passionate advocacy for veterans in our community." "We owe Thomas Corey and his loved ones a debt of gratitude. His service continued long after his deployment in the Vietnam War, following him to West Palm Beach, where he became a community leader and was an unwavering advocate for local veterans," Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick said. "Naming the West Palm Beach VA medical center in his honor is a small token of appreciation for the countless sacrifices he made." "Tom has been an example to multitudes of veterans, and all who have contact with him," Vietnam Veterans of America National President Jack McManus said. "He showed us that no matter the hardship, if you have the willpower, you can make changes for the better in people's lives. He did this every day, year after year, with commitment and compassion."

<https://mail.aol.com/d/list/referrer=newMail&folders=1&accountIds=1&listFilter=NEWMAIL/messages/AHmzG5lkvRzuZc-wcw8HqBtg9ao#ONE>

Retirees, Civilians, Want to Live in Base Housing? Yes, You Can!

We all know that military members with families are eligible to live in base housing when it is available, while single troops are relegated to living in barracks, onboard ships or, if lucky enough, off base. Did you know that the general public can also live in base housing?

<https://www.military.com/money/home-ownership/renting-house/retirees-civilians-want-live-base-housing-yes-you-can.html>

This past year marked an important moment for Vietnam Veterans of America and for all our nation's veterans, as our members voted to extend VVA's mission with no specified end date.

Our mission remains the same. With your support, we will continue the battle for veterans, their families, and those serving in harm's way.

Together we will fight to ensure America's veterans receive the benefits, services, and protections earned through their service and sacrifice.

Our ability to reach veterans is entirely due to support from donors like you.

VA to Slow Hiring Pace After Adding Tens of Thousands of Workers

As reported February 22 by Molly Weisner for *Federal Times*, after a year of frenzied hiring to fill jobs created by new legislation and chronic understaffing, the VA said it now has the overall personnel it needs, and the pace of hiring will ease as medical centers top out. The Veterans Health Administration reached more than 400,000 staff for the first time in history last year, and brought in more than 61,000 external hires, said VA Press Secretary Terrence Hayes. The department said now it won't be hiring at the same pace, though it will continue to bring on candidates in mental health care and locations with increasing numbers of patients.

Now they are laying off 10,000 VA personnel by not hiring after their forced retirements.

(Continue from pg. 32)

TRUTHS & MYTHS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR

This video was sent to me by a good friend and fellow Vietnam veteran. It is not intended to offend anyone I am forwarding this to. You be the judge as to its validity and accuracy. It is almost 48 minutes long, so allow yourself the time to watch it.

Welcome home Brothers

Tony

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjwyCaiJ0IE>

Toxic Exposure Screenings: Vets Report Spotty Follow-Up on Questionnaire Meant to Boost Health Care and Benefits

Rolled out with great fanfare in November 2022, toxic exposure screenings for all VA patients were mandated by the PACT Act, the sweeping law passed in August of that year that expanded benefits and health care for millions of veterans exposed to environmental hazards during their military service.

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/24/toxic-exposure-screenings-vets-report-spotty-follow-questionnaire-meant-boost-health-care-and.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/24/toxic-exposure-screenings-vets-report-spotty-follow-questionnaire-meant-boost-health-care-and.html?ESRC=eb_240425.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240425)

[ESRC=eb_240425.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240425](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/24/toxic-exposure-screenings-vets-report-spotty-follow-questionnaire-meant-boost-health-care-and.html?ESRC=eb_240425.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240425)

Military Clinicians Not Particularly Happy with DoD's New Electronic Health Records System, Watchdog Finds

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/24/military-clinicians-not-particularly-happy-dods-new-electronic-health-records-system-watchdog-finds.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/24/military-clinicians-not-particularly-happy-dods-new-electronic-health-records-system-watchdog-finds.html?ESRC=eb_240425.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240425)

[ESRC=eb_240425.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240425](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/24/military-clinicians-not-particularly-happy-dods-new-electronic-health-records-system-watchdog-finds.html?ESRC=eb_240425.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240425)

Lifetime Liberty Pass Changes Upcoming For Veterans + Gold Star Families

Pomerance, Benjamin (VETERANS) <Benjamin.Pomerance@veterans.ny.gov>

Many of you are already familiar with the Lifetime Liberty Pass, which currently provides free admission to New York State Parks for Veterans who have a VA disability compensation rating of 40% or higher.

Starting April 1, eligibility for the Lifetime Liberty Pass will expand to encompass:

- All Veterans — regardless of whether they have a VA disability compensation rating — discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and
- Gold Star Parents, Gold Star Spouses, and Gold Star Children

Once issued by the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, the Lifetime Liberty Pass — as the name implies — will never expire.

(Continue from pg. 33)

Additionally, this new law comes with a procedural change that many of you have sought. Beginning on April 1, a Veteran who has the Veteran “distinguishing mark” on their New York State driver’s license or non-driver’s ID card will be able to use that license to gain the free admission at New York State Parks that have a staffed admission gate. (Parks that have only an unstaffed admission kiosk, however, will still require the use of the Lifetime Liberty Pass card).

Please note that the definition in this new law regarding eligibility for Gold Star Parents, Spouses, and Children is taken from Title 10, Section 1126, of the United States Code. It requires that the death occur “while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party against an opposing armed force; or who [lose] their lives after March 28, 1973, as a result of” a terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, or military operations outside the USA while serving as a member of a peacekeeping force.

Additionally, please remember that a Veteran or Gold Star Parent, Spouse, or Child must be a New York State resident to qualify for the Lifetime Liberty Pass.

On April 1, the new Lifetime Liberty Pass application will go live at all State Parks and through this website: [Lifetime Liberty Pass - NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation](#)

Healthcare Legislative & Regulatory Analyst

Logan D. Lecates, JD/MBA

I've attached a PDF list of PFAS cleanup sites to this email (this indicates the current status of cleanup for each location as of 31 December). In addition to that, here is a (non-DOD) map of confirmed and suspected PFAS exposure sites:

<https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/2020-military-pfas-sites/map/>.

You can also type installations into this website to find locations. This feature is convenient because you can pull up multiple bases:

<https://www.nationalinjuryadvocates.com/list-of-military-bases-with-pfas-contamination/>

Rosette Ceremony To Honor 940+ Accounted-for Vietnam War MIAs

If your Missing in Action family member was accounted-for from September 1977 on, and is honored on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, you are encouraged to attend the DPAA-sponsored (Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency) National POW-MIA Recognition Day Ceremony and American Battle Monuments Commission Rosette Ceremony on September 20, 2024, to tap in a bronze rosette by your family member's name. See flier (above), and for a list of names on the Courts of the Missing, see ABMC.gov. If you are planning to attend, please let Sons and Daughters In Touch know by emailing rosetteceremony2024@gmail.com with your name, your loved one's name, and the number in your travel party. We are hoping to host a meal for families and will share those details as they become available.

(Continue on pg. 35)

(Continue from pg. 34)

Troubled USS Boxer Returns Home 10 Days into Deployment Due to Maintenance Issue

The maintenance-embattled USS Boxer is heading back to San Diego just 10 days after deploying due to an engineering issue, as first reported by USNI News and confirmed to Military.com by Navy officials.

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/12/troubled-uss-boxer-returns-home-10-days-deployment-due-maintenance-issue.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/12/troubled-uss-boxer-returns-home-10-days-deployment-due-maintenance-issue.html?ESRC=eb_240415.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240415)

[ESRC=eb_240415.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240415](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/12/troubled-uss-boxer-returns-home-10-days-deployment-due-maintenance-issue.html?ESRC=eb_240415.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240415)

Army Expanding Pre-Basic Training Prep Courses to Bring in More Soldiers and Curb Recruiting Crisis

The Army is again dramatically expanding its pre-basic training courses that were created to get young Americans into compliance with the service's enlistment standards, as those courses are becoming key to curtailing the ongoing recruiting slump.

[https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/09/army-expanding-pre-basic-training-prep-courses-bring-more-soldiers-and-curb-recruiting-crisis.html?](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/09/army-expanding-pre-basic-training-prep-courses-bring-more-soldiers-and-curb-recruiting-crisis.html?ESRC=eb_240410.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240410)

[ESRC=eb_240410.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240410](https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/04/09/army-expanding-pre-basic-training-prep-courses-bring-more-soldiers-and-curb-recruiting-crisis.html?ESRC=eb_240410.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20240410)

Bill in Congress Would Force Action on U.S. Troops' Blast Exposure

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/09/us/pentagon-blast-exposure-brain-elizabeth-warren-joni-ernst.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

New York State Department of Veterans' Services
Advocacy & Assistance Benefits Mental Health
Employment Housing Education Honoring Veterans

WHO WE ARE Mission

The New York State Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) advocates on behalf of New York's Veterans and their families, as individuals and as a group, to ensure they receive benefits granted by law for service in the United States Uniformed Services.

DVS provides free benefits advising. Experienced and dedicated advisors — each a Veteran — work in a network of field offices across the state and offer Veterans and their families with professional help to resolve social, medical, and economic matters.

Veterans Benefits Advisors assist the claimant — whether a Veteran, spouse, child, or parent — in completing applications, obtaining necessary documentation, and filing claims for a broad spectrum of federal, State, local, and private Veterans' benefits. Veterans Benefits Advisors also assist by responding to follow-up correspondence and, appealing an unfavorable ruling.

By working closely with other State, federal, local, and private agencies, DVS utilizes the expertise and resources of others to help Veterans and their families with specific needs, such as economic, employment, rehabilitation, medical treatment, home health care, education, and tax exemption.

Contact the Department: (518)-474-6114 | DVSInfo@veterans.ny.gov

Viviana DeCohen – Commissioner Appointed in 2021, a Vetran of the U.S. Marine Corps

(Continue on pg. 36)

(Continue from pg. 35)

Vietnam Veterans of America National

President Jack McManus presented VVA's 2024 legislative priorities and policy initiatives on March 13, 2024, before the joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees.

(Washington, D.C.) – Vietnam Veterans of America National President Jack McManus presented VVA's 2024 legislative priorities and policy initiatives on March 13, 2024, before the joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees.

policy initiatives: In his testimony, McManus highlighted several of VVA's top legislative priorities and

- Assure full funding of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency so that the 1,577 unaccounted-for American servicemembers from VVA's long-ago war and their survivors can finally find some peace.
- Honor the lifetime of service of disabled Vietnam veteran and Bronze Star recipient Thomas Corey (1944-2022) by passing the Renaming the VA Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, in Honor of Thomas H. Corey Act (H.R. 7333).
- Pass the Donut Dollies Congressional Gold Medal Act (H.R. 3592) to recognize the service of the 627 Donut Dollies who volunteered with the Red Cross during the Vietnam War to serve in perilous, frontline positions.
- Hold an oversight committee hearing on the Toxic Exposure Research Act, which calls for inter-generational research, with the VA Secretary as star witness, to investigate what metrics he used that empowered him to not follow the law.
- Amend the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act 2019 (P.L. 116-23) to extend the arbitrary twelve-nautical mile limitation sufficient to include U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Vietnam veterans who were assigned to the Vietnam Theater of Combat Operations or received the Vietnam Service Medal.
- Call for research on pre-Gulf War burn pit use, including all veterans who were exposed to any toxicants and are still waiting for answers as to their long-term effects. This will begin the work towards the equitable care and treatment of all toxic-exposed servicemembers, and address a misstep in the PACT Act that excluded veterans who served in locations outside of the Middle East and West Asia or before the Gulf War.
- Maintain close oversight of the implementation of the PACT Act, including a transparent review of how TEF dollars are being or will be spent. While VVA is opposed to spending caps on toxic exposure research, it would welcome congressional oversight on spending to ensure that money is being spent in a way that will benefit veterans and their families.
- Compel the VA to execute the Fort McClellan epidemiological study required by the PACT Act to ensure that veterans and others impacted by toxic exposure at Fort McClellan are informed about their right to participate and receive healthcare. Congress must make regular inquiries about toxic exposures on domestic and overseas installations, so that veterans and their families can mitigate the harm caused by toxic exposure.
- Stop delaying and pass The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) to allow combat-disabled military retirees to receive full retirement pay and disability benefits simultaneously.
- Enact legislation reinstating the 48-hour VSO-review period for disability claims. The current

(Continue from pg. 36)

Claims Accuracy Review (CAR) program is failing, with approximately 50% of claims initially denied, and a staggering 80% containing errors at the Board of Veterans Appeals. Reinstatement would allow VSOs to dispute erroneous conclusions and point to errors, improving claims outcomes for veterans and reducing the need for participation in the appellate process.

- Enact legislation prohibiting the reduction of VA disability compensation for incarcerated veterans, placing any balance above 10% into an escrow account until a veteran's release date. By holding justice-involved veterans' money in escrow, we can reduce instability and help them return as productive members of society once they have served their time.
- Act to ensure that a reciprocity agreement with South Korea is entered into immediately so that the veterans covered by the Korean American VALOR Act (2023) can get the healthcare they rightly deserve.
- Address the persistent challenge to access healthcare in rural Puerto Rico by amending the Puerto Rican tax code to draw more healthcare workers. A chronic issue for the Commonwealth is the shortage of employees within the Puerto Rico VA healthcare system. As the veteran population continues to age – 63.9% of veterans in Puerto Rico are aged 65 or older - the need for healthcare workers will continue to increase. Congress must act to eliminate this barrier to care.
- Order the VA to reinstitute the use of physician assistants as mental health treatment providers at VA hospitals and clinics to address the historic difficulties with access to mental healthcare for veterans. Permitting PAs to practice in this space will allow for the dramatic expansion of access to mental health services for our nation's veterans.



COMMITTEES	CHAIRPERSON	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Agent Orange/Dioxin & Other Toxic Exposure	Bill Patton	bllpaton36@gmail.com
Constitution	Grant T. Coates	gcoates@stny.rr.com
Finance	Charles Tipton	ctipton237@yahoo.com
Government Affairs	John Rowan	jrowan6990@hotmail.com
Membership	Ted Wilkinson	Twilkinson.vva.org
POW/MIA & Veterans Initiative (VI)	Grant T. Coates	gcoates@stny.rr.com
PTSD & Substance Abuse	Tom Harris	bkrdad@aol.com
Veterans Affairs	Sam Hall	Sammyjh49@yahoo.com
Veterans Health Care & Aging Veterans	Tom Harris	bkrdad@aol.com
Veterans Incarcerated Committee & In Justice System	Nick Valenti	nickvalenti46@yahoo.com