

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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Westchester County Chapter 49
Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 224
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Vice President: Chester Edwards.....937-4443
Secretary: Jim LaManna793-6077
Treasurer: Al Singerman930-7433

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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

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Dan Griffin	Al Singerman
Terry Keogh	Al Zawiski
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Veterans Offices:

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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:

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Chaplain	Al Zawiski.....428-9352
Communications Director	Jerry Morano..... 937-8984
POW/ MIA	Dan Griffin..... 682-4949
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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 had a great turn out at our BBQ/picnic, about seventy people. Many said they had a good time, and it was good to see some of our members that we usually don't see at our meetings. Elsewhere in this newsletter are photos from the BBQ/picnic.

Our Board of Directors has voted to send \$1,500.00 to the Louisiana VVA State Council to give their members who were devastated by hurricane Ida. Another example of brothers helping brothers.

I am sorry to report that this year we lost a few of our Chapter members; Bob DeMarco, Arthur Smith, Al Stubenvoll, Tom Mazzola and David Hall. May they rest in peace.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is the speech I gave at the White Plains American Legion on Memorial Day; I added some of it and borrowed parts of it from other's speeches. I hope you think it is fitting.

Take care of yourself and each other.

Dan Griffin

Welcome to our newest members.

Matthew Palazola from White Plains

2021 PICNIC





Why do we join veterans groups and go to reunions?

I now know why men and women who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of my comrades drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men will stay close, but all will be on my mind.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades ... such good men.

For countless families across the nation, Memorial day is a stark and often painful reminder of those who were never afforded the opportunity to be honored as veterans for their service to our country.

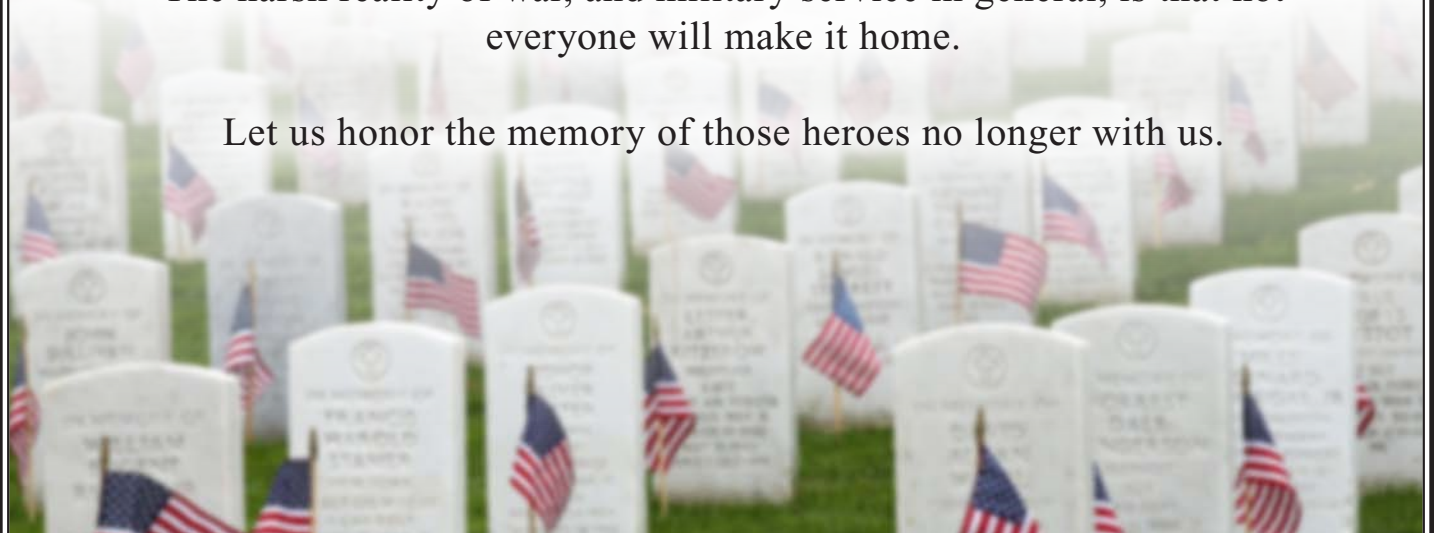
Their sacrifice is a true expression of selfless service..., one that no one would pick for themselves. Whether they volunteered at a time of war, served during peacetime or never expected to wear our nation's uniform until their draft card arrived, they represent the best America has to offer.

We feel their loss roaming the sacred hills of Arlington national cemetery and in other final resting places around the world. Too many mothers, fathers, siblings and children feel the immense weight of seeing an empty chair year-round. For them, Memorial day brings to the forefront what is always operating in the background.

Please join me in recognizing those family members who have lost a loved one in service. Your courage and grace after such unimaginable loss are inspiring. Sending off a loved one so they can serve in combat must be a surreal experience. I suspect conflicting emotions of fear and pride are present in the minds of both service members and their families. Like any other send-off, you hold them tight, tell them you love them and watch them head out until they are no longer in sight. But what makes sending a loved one off to war very different is the all-too real possibility that a uniformed military officer and a Chaplain may show up at your doorstep to deliver devastating news.

The harsh reality of war, and military service in general, is that not everyone will make it home.

Let us honor the memory of those heroes no longer with us.



ODE to the Infantryman

The regular infantryman's combat tour was a year - if he made it all the way - of near total misery, he was always wet and muddy or hot and soaked with sweat, engulfed in the stench of unwashed clothing and bodies. Often, he drank water that was 'fortified' with dead polliwogs and leeches; and he was accustomed to finding leeches in unpleasant places on his person.

Several factors rendered the regular field trooper's existence incomparable to that of anyone else. These factors included carrying everything they needed on their backs; constant vigilance around the clock; unending danger; spirit-draining, back-breaking and exhausting labor; and an existence almost devoid of such creature comforts as frequent baths, clean clothes, beds and uninterrupted nights.

They humped and dug every day, they pulled perimeter guard, or OP duty, no matter what else occurred. All this was interspersed with intentional dashes into combat and those totally unexpected times of terror during firefights and ambushes by the enemy. And with all this, the regular infantry got few breaks, even during occasional stints providing firebase security or palace guard. Exhaustion and sleepiness were the grunt's constant companions.

The infantryman came to the war alone, committed to a one year tour, if he survived the first battle; he was accepted as a veteran. He lived in unrelenting stress and endured unimaginable horrors. Often he would carry the bodies of killed or terribly wounded buddies, sometimes for hours until they could be flown from the field; there was no escape from close companionship with death and maiming. Nothing compares to the regular infantryman's existence in combat, not in the Army and not in life.

Author unknown

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	10	11 911 ceremony Kensico Dam 3:30
12	13	14	15	16	17 POW/MIA Day	18 Pizza party FDR Stress unit 12:00
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER 2021

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

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 VVA Convention NC	3 VVA Convention NC	4 VVA Convention NC	5 VVA Convention NC	6 VVA Convention
7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 12:00
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 meeting Board 6:00 Dinner 6:30 Meeting 7:30	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Wreaths Across America Lasdon Park 12:00
19 Candle Light Vigil Lasdon Park Dusk	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WE NEED YOU

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MEMBERSHIP TYPES and ELIGIBILITY

Individual 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.

Life Membership / Associate Life Membership is available to all who wish to demonstrate a greater commitment to the ideals and work of the V.V.A. (Economically a great deal!)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

check one

Life Membership - \$50.00

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(must provide a copy of applicant's DD-214)

_____ Non-Vietnam-era Veteran Application: Life Membership - \$50.00
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_____ Report of Address Change:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

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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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