



# VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

## Chapter Officers:

President: Al Zawiski ..... 428-9352  
Vice President: Rick Burns ..... 769-7744  
Secretary: Jim LaManna ..... 793-6077  
Treasurer: Al Singerman ..... 930-7433

## Board of Directors: (5)

Bob Kennedy ..... 669-5411  
Terry Keogh ..... 428-9845  
Bob Miller ..... 391-8723  
Ron Stout ..... 739-1088  
Barney Puleo ..... 682-4949

## State Council Delegates: (6)

Dan Griffin  
Jim LaManna  
Barney Puleo

Al Singerman  
Al Zawiski  
Terry Keogh

## Nominating Chairman:

Dan Griffin

## Veterans Offices:

Yonkers: Al Ramsey ..... 377-6700  
Carmel: Brennen Mahoney .... 845-225-2260

Vet Center: 300 Hamilton Ave, White Plains, NY 10601

Roger Paulmeno ..... 682-6250  
Vinnie Matthews ..... 682-6250

White Plains Clinic ..... 421-1951  
23 S. Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

FDR Montrose Hospital ..... 737-4400

## Vets Employment Counselor:

Greg Whittaker ..... 997-4138

Phil Gans ..... 845-356-6438

## Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Director: Vito Pinto ..... 995-2146

## Committees:

Membership Phil Wanderman ..... 963-3034  
Legislation Al Singerman ..... 930-7433  
Comm. Affairs Dan Griffin ..... 682-4949  
POW / MIA Dan Griffin ..... 682-4949  
Member Products Jim LaManna ..... 793-6077  
Color Guard Richard Palazzo ..... 845-298-1793  
Scholarship Bob Miller ..... 391-8723

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

Open Memorial Day through Veterans Day

### HOURS:

Sundays

Noon to 4:00PM

Phone: (914) 682-4949

No answer

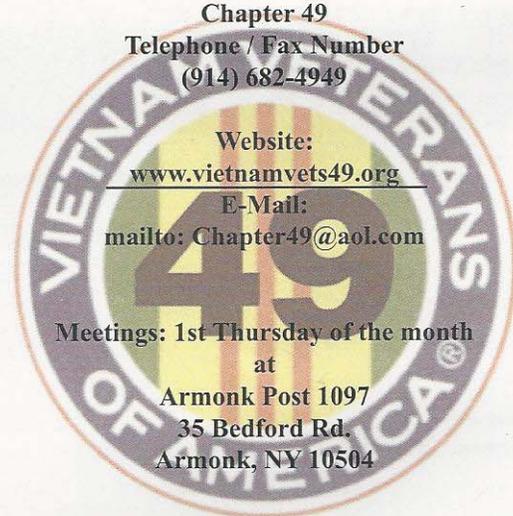
Please leave message

Chapter 49  
Telephone / Fax Number  
(914) 682-4949

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

E-Mail:  
<mailto:Chapter49@aol.com>

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month  
at  
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 are seeing more members attending meetings and that is great; but I think that now that a lot of our members are retiring, they can now attend our meetings and attend some of our functions. Before each meeting at 6:30 we sit down to a great dinner; meat, potatoes, vegetables, salad and desert, all for \$7.50! So if you plan on attending please call or E-mail me so I can tell Tony how many to cook for. Our meetings are held at the American Legion Hall in Armonk, dinner at 6:30 and meeting starts at 7:30. I hope to see you there!**

**Please check our website: [vietnamvets49.org](http://vietnamvets49.org) for the Museum schedule. Besides our usual Sundays we also will be holding talks in the mansion about different subjects. We need a couple of guys to volunteer at the Museum; it is open on Sundays; from 12:00 to 4:00. So if you want to cover a Sunday or two, just come there on a Sunday to learn how to open and close. It is only for hours one or two times a year.**

**I am sure you know that we run the gift shop at the NYS veterans nursing home; stop by sometime. We are open from ten to two every day. And if you would like to fill in for a day, all you have to do is be a cashier. We enjoy talking with the older vets and listening to their stories. Al Zawiski is doing a great job at the shop with help from fellow chapter member Bob Kennedy and some non-member volunteers.**

**We have lost some members due to them moving away or passing away; so when you are out and about if you see a vet, give him an application. When ever I see a bumper sticker or a guy with a hat or patch that says they might be a Vietnam vet I ask them about joining us. A lot of people still don't know we exist, so tell them to call us or check out our website.**

**Our foundation; Base camp Westchester has been very busy buying kitchen kits and paying the security deposits for homeless vets. The foundation also runs the gift shop and we teach homeless vets computer skills; thanks to Stan Mierzwa and Matt Coffey.**

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

**Dan Griffin**





# **news** from Assemblyman Robert J. Castelli

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Contact: (914) 686-7335

## **CASTELLI AGENT ORANGE EXTENDER LEGISLATION PASSES ASSEMBLY**

Assemblyman Robert J Castelli (R, C – Goldens Bridge) once again passed legislation that will aid Vietnam veterans who became ill due to exposure to phenoxy herbicide (Agent Orange) while serving in Indo-China this year.

Assemblyman Castelli noted that the legislation extends from June 16, 2012 to June 16, 2014, the statute of limitations for an injury or death caused by contact with or exposure to phenoxy herbicides for members of the armed forces who served in Indo-China from February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975.

“Thirty-five years after the conclusion of the Vietnam War, veterans are still coming down with serious illness which may be linked to their exposure to Agent Orange,” Castelli said. “This legislation will help make certain that these veterans have legal recourse and are able to receive needed assistance.

Originally introduced as Assembly Bill A8848 by Castelli, himself a Vietnam Veteran who suffers from exposure to Agent Orange, the bill was carried by the Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman and resubmitted as a bipartisan bill. It passed the Assembly today and now heads to the State Senate.

When this law was first enacted, the legislature found that there was credible scientific evidence that exposure to toxic substances such as Agent Orange has caused serious physical disabilities.

The legislature also found that the citizens of the state who were exposed to these substances have been denied access to the courts. “In the interest of justice, and common decency, the claims of Vietnam era servicemen and women should not be bound by a statute of limitations,” Castelli said.

Many Westchester aged 65 and over are confused about Senior Star and the Real Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens. WRO is currently reaching out to make sure that all seniors are getting all the tax exemptions they are eligible for. In summary, the difference between these two exemptions is as follows:

- Senior Star only needs to be applied for once, and the income limit is approximately \$79,000 a year. This exemption saves the homeowner a portion of their school taxes each year.

- The Real Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens needs to be applied for every year, and the income limit is approximately \$37,400 a year. If you apply for and receive this exemption, you automatically get Senior Star. For Seniors with extremely low income, this exemption can potentially save thousands of dollars a year in addition to what they save from Senior Star.

Ask any eligible Senior if they are applying each year for a tax exemption; if not, then you know they are not getting the Real Property Tax Exemption for Seniors. Here is the link to the form for this exemption: [http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current\\_forms/orpts/rp467\\_fill\\_in.pdf](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp467_fill_in.pdf) . The completed form usually should be mailed to the local Tax Assessor's office. Seniors should call their local Tax Assessor's office to find out what the application date is, and to find out where to mail the form.





# **WESTCHESTER MILITARY MUSEUM**



**At Westchester County's Lasdon Park**

## DOCENT COVERAGE CHART

<i>Date</i>	<i>Docent</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
June 3	Mike B.	
June 10	Dan G.	
June 17	Dan G.	
June 24		
July 1	Mike B.	
July 8	Dan G.	Public Program
July 15	Dan G.	
July 22		
July 29	Dan G.	
August 5		
August 12	Mike B.	Public Program
August 19	Dan G.	
August 26	Dan G.	
September 2	Dan G.	
September 9	Dan G.	Public Program
September 16	Mike B.	
September 23	Mike B.	
September 30	Dan G.	
October 7		
October 14	Mike B.	Public Program
October 21		
October 28		
November 4		Public Program (alt)
November 11		Public Program (alt)

**LASDON PARK ♦ ROUTE 35 ♦ KATONAH, NY**

[info@westchestermilitarymuseum.org](mailto:info@westchestermilitarymuseum.org)  
[www.westchestermilitarymuseum.org](http://www.westchestermilitarymuseum.org)



## News Release

Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (Public Affairs)  
Washington, DC 20301-2900

Phone: (703) 699-1169

Fax (703) 602-4375

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2012

### **AIRMEN MISSING FROM VIETNAM WAR IDENTIFIED**

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of two U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

Air Force Lt. Col. Charles M. Walling, 27, of Phoenix, will be buried June 15, at Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. There will be a group burial honoring Walling and fellow crew member, Maj. Aado Kommendant, 25, of Lakewood, N.J., at Arlington National Cemetery, on Aug. 8 – the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crash that took their lives.

On Aug. 8, 1966, Walling and Kommendant were the crew of an F-4C aircraft that crashed while on a close air support mission over Song Be Province, Vietnam. Other Americans in the area reported seeing the aircraft crash and no parachutes were deployed. Search and rescue efforts were not successful in the days following the crash.

In 1992, a joint U.S./Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) team investigated the crash site and interviewed a local Vietnamese citizen who had recovered aircraft pieces from the site. In 1994, a joint U.S./S.R.V. team excavated the site and recovered a metal identification tag, bearing Walling's name, and other military equipment. In 2010, the site was excavated again, and human remains and additional evidence were recovered.

Scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial and material evidence, along with forensic identification tools including mitochondrial DNA – which matched Walling's living sister – in the identification of the remains.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1420.

-end-

**Subject:** DD 214 Increased Social Security Benefits For Vets

## **DD 214 Increased Social Security Benefits For Vets**

**DD FORM 214 -- EXTRA SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT** for those with active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001

See the web site & notes below to possibly increase your Social Security Benefits.

**DD FORM 214 -- SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT** Please share this with anyone who had active duty service between January 1957 to December 31, 2001, and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this:

You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application - which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

Soc Sec website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road.. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001.

FYI - this benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it! We've all been on active duty between 1957 and 2001 or know someone who has.

Passing on good information for all you military folks when you apply for social security. I know this may be too early for some of you to think about social security but, keep living and you will get there.

Regional Resource Coordinator

Maryland's Commitment to Veterans Project State of Maryland- Southern Region Human Services Partnership Building La Plata, Maryland 2064

## Have You Heard? How kids perceive Grandparents

1. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....
- 2.
3. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"
- 4.
3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse, took her teeth out and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"
4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."  
The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"
5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.
- 6.
6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked.  
"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read." 75 7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"
7. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."
- 8.
9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."
10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting." she said. "How do you make babies?"  
"It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."
11. Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."
12. A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog.  
The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child.  
"No," said another. "He's just for good luck."  
A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."
13. A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

## July 2012

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

## August 2012

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



# MEMBERSHIP



WE NEED YOU IN THE VIET-NAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND FEES

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL WHO SHARE OUR CONCERNS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS, AND FAMILIES, VETERAN OR NOT. WE ENCOURAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 1959 TO MAY 7, 1975.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (IND) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.
- ★ ASSOCIATE MEMBER (ASO) - A NON VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT (LMPP) - A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAYMENT ( LMPP ) FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT ( ALPP ) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAYMENT (ALPP) FOR ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

★ THE PLANNED PAYMENT REQUIRES COMPLETION WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS.

★ FEES: ANNUAL FEES OF \$ 20.00 FOR INDIVIDUAL OR ASSOCIATED MEMBERSHIP OR MAKE A PAYMENT OF 50.00 FOR A THREE YEAR MEMBERSHIP AND SAVE \$ 10.00.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

#### CURRENT AGE:

49 AND UNDER.....	\$ 250.00
50 TO 55.....	\$ 225.00
56 TO 60.....	\$ 200.00
61 TO 65.....	\$ 175.00
66 AND OVER.....	\$ 150.00

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- ★ PROOF OF AGE MUST BE SUBMITTED ON ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ COPY OF FORM DD 214 MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR VIET-NAM ERA VETERANS.

## \* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \*

- I AM A VIET-NAM VETERAN / FEE: \$20.00 of 50.00 / Copy of DD 214 is Required
- I AM A NON-VIET-NAM VETERAN AND PLEASE ENROL ME AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF VVA / FEE: \$20.00 or 50.00
- RENEWAL of MEMBERSHIP / FEE: \$20.00 or \$50.00
- I Wish to Contribute and be kept informed  
(Enclosed is my Annual Contribution) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ADDRESS CHANGE (Indicate Chages Below)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: _____	
<input type="radio"/> VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN	
<input type="radio"/> ASSOCIATE MEMBER	
* see note above	

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE of BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make Cheque or Money Order Payable to: V.V.A Chapter #49  
To: Membership Chair, V.V.A. Chapter #49 PO Box 224, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Questions?: Call the Chapter. Phone/Fax (914) 682-4949  
Meetings of the Viet-Nam Veterans of America, Chapter #49  
are held the first Thursday of each Month @ 7:30pm.

Please check current Newsletter for Location.



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**Bagpiper**

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