

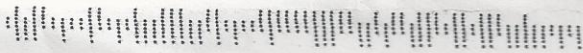
Vietnam Veterans of America



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL, LASDON PARK, SOMERS, NEW YORK



Westchester
County
Chapter #49

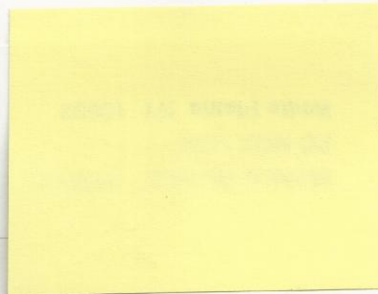


1060281824 B014

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



If box is checked
your dues are due now.



Westchester County Chapter 49
Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 224
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Chapter Officers:

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 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

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
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Open Memorial Day through Veterans Day

HOURS:

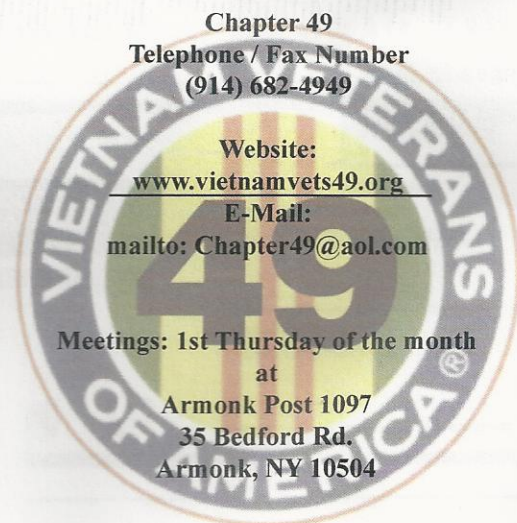
Sundays

Noon to 4:00PM

Phone: (914) 682-4949

No answer

Please leave message



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

Our April 4th meeting is very important! Besides the fact that it is our Annual meeting where we hold our elections; this meeting we will have a guest, Sam Hall who is the Eastern District Director of VVA's New York State Council. Please attend this meeting, even if you do not attend any other meetings throughout the rest of the year. Let's show Sam that we have pride in our chapter. Our Chapter is often mentioned at the State Council meetings because of all the programs we run and the fact that we consistently send in all required reports before the other chapters.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Dan Griffin

.....
Welcome to our new members

Nominations Class Of 2013-2014

Nominations is now being accepted for all Chapter 49 Officers, Board of Directors and State Council Delegates. Any interested parties should submit candidate's names to the chapter as soon as possible. Nominations will be accepted through April 4, 2013, which is the date of Annual Membership Meeting. Remember that you or anyone you nominate must be a member in good standing, which means that your dues are paid up through 2013. Also you can nominate yourself.

Nominations thus far are as follows:

President: Rick Burns _____

Vice President: Al Zawiski, _____

Secretary: Jim LaManna, _____

Treasurer: Al Singerman, _____

Board of Directors (five positions):

Bob Miller, Terry Keogh, Bob Kennedy, Barney Puleo, Carl DiLiberto _____

Nominating Chairman: Dan Griffin

State Council Delegates (six positions): only on even years

Dan Griffin Al Singerman Jim LaManna

Al Zawiski Terry Keogh Barney Puleo

Forward Nominations via phone: 914-682-4949 or mail to: VVA Chapter 49, P.O. Box 224, Pleasantville, N.Y. 10570 or E-mail: chapter49@aol.com

to vote you must attend (NO PROXIES) the April 4, 2013 annual meeting at the American Legion Post 1097, 35 Bedford Road, Armonk, NY - 7:00PM.

Statistics -- The Vietnam Wall

"Carved on these walls is the story of America, of a continuing quest to preserve both democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream."

Something to think about: Most of the surviving parents of the dead are now deceased themselves.

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass., listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 soldiers on the Wall were just 22 years old or younger.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock, was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last scheduled day in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers on the Wall attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia.... wonder why so many from one school?

8 Women are on the Wall -- nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 ~ 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For many Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wife's, sons and daughters.

There are no noble wars.... Just noble warriors.

VA Registers “GI Bill” as a Trademark

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that GI Bill is now a registered trademark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and VA is the sole owner of the mark.

“We will continue to support our Veterans by helping them obtain the best education of their choosing—a right for which they have bravely served, and which they have truly earned,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We all want Veterans to be informed consumers in their educational pursuit.”

On April 26, 2012, President Obama signed Executive Order 13607, directing the VA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education to undertake a number of measures to “stop deceptive and misleading” promotional efforts that target the GI Bill educational benefits of Servicemembers, Veterans, and eligible family members and survivors. One of the key components of the order was for VA to register the term “GI Bill” as a trademark in order to protect individuals and ensure they are directed to the right resources to make informed decisions.

In addition, VA obtained the rights to the *GIBill.com* website after the original owners agreed to give up the site. VA is taking a proactive approach in continuously taking action to eliminate fraudulent marketing and recruiting practices.

“Trademarking ‘GI Bill’ is a great step forward in continuing our mission to better serve this nation’s Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families,” said Allison A. Hickey, VA undersecretary for benefits.

VA will issue terms of use for “GI Bill” within the next six months.

“We want to ensure the right balance with these new guidelines so that our stakeholders can still promote GI Bill and we can prohibit others from using it fraudulently,” said Curtis L. Coy, deputy undersecretary for economic opportunity.

Since August 2009, VA has paid over \$23.8 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to over 866,000 Veterans, Servicemembers, and dependents. VA received over 478,000 Fall 2012 enrollments for Post-9/11 GI Bill.

For more information on GI Bill programs, please visit www.gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-GI-Bill-1 (1-888-442-4551) to speak with a GI Bill representative.

The New Distinguished Warfare Medal:

Good Idea, Wrong Placement

(Washington, D.C.) --“While we welcome the introduction of the new Distinguished Warfare Medal, we have serious disagreement with its ranking above both the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart,” said John Rowan, national president of Vietnam Veterans of America, in reaction to the announcement by outgoing Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

“We certainly agree, as the Secretary stated, that this award ‘recognizes the reality of the kind of technological warfare that we’ve engaged in in the 21st century,’ a so-called commuter combat pilot far from the battlefield, no matter how significant a role s/he may play in surveillance or battle, is far removed from the battlefield,” Rowan said.

“No matter how crucial their role may be, it cannot compare to the warfighter who is placed in harm’s way, facing enemy bullets and bombs, committing selfless acts of valor, getting wounded, sometimes mortally, while in contact with the enemy.

“Sitting in front of a computer monitor, engaging in remote-control combat, simply does not compare to facing a real enemy shooting at you,” Rowan said. “We hope and we trust that the next Secretary of Defense, who served honorably as a combat veteran during the Vietnam War, will rethink this and reorient the order in which the new ribbon is placed.

“We would also hope that the Secretary will consider the issuance of a Combat Aero-Medic Badge to acknowledge the medics and corpsmen who served aboard medevac helicopters during and after the war in Vietnam,” Rowan added. “These men were never recognized for the performance of their duties under extreme circumstances as they were not assigned to the units they were ministering to. This is an injustice that needs to be fixed,” Rowan said, “and the fix is fairly easy.”

VA Issues New Report on Suicide Data

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today released a comprehensive report on Veterans who die by suicide. In the past, data on Veterans who died by suicide was only available for those who had sought VA health care services. Today's report also includes state data for Veterans who had not received health care services from VA, which will help VA strengthen its aggressive suicide prevention activities. The report indicates that the percentage of Veterans who die by suicide has decreased slightly since 1999, while the estimated total number of Veterans who have died by suicide has increased.

"The mental health and well-being of our courageous men and women who have served the Nation is the highest priority for VA, and even one suicide is one too many," said Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "We have more work to do and we will use this data to continue to strengthen our suicide prevention efforts and ensure all Veterans receive the care they have earned and deserve."

In accordance with the President's Aug. 31, 2012, Executive Order, VA has completed hiring and training of additional staff to increase the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line by 50 percent. The Veteran Crisis Line has made approximately 26,000 rescues of actively suicidal Veterans to date. Additionally, VA has initiated a year-long public awareness campaign, "Stand By Them," to educate families and friends on how to seek help for Veterans and Service Members in crisis. VA has launched a national public service announcement "Side by Side."

VA is currently engaged in an aggressive hiring campaign to expand access to mental health services with 1,600 new clinical staff, 300 new administrative staff, and is in the process of hiring and training 800 peer-to-peer specialists who will work as members of mental health teams.

The report issued today is the most comprehensive study of Veteran suicide rates ever undertaken by the Department. On June 16, 2010, Secretary Shinseki engaged governors of all 50 states, requesting their support in helping to collect suicide statistics. With assistance from state partners providing real-time data, VA is better able to assess the effectiveness of its suicide prevention programs and identify specific populations that need targeted interventions.

This new information will allow VA to better identify where those Veterans at risk may be located and improve the Department's ability to target specific suicide interventions and outreach activities in order to reach Veterans early and proactively. The data will also help VA continue to examine the effectiveness of suicide prevention programs being implemented in specific geographic locations or care settings in order to replicate them in other areas if they have been effective.

VA has implemented comprehensive, broad ranging suicide prevention initiatives, including a toll-free Veterans Crisis Line, placement of Suicide Prevention Coordinators at all VA Medical Centers and large outpatient facilities, and improvements in case management and reporting. Immediate help is available at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net or by calling the Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (push 1) or texting 838255.

The full report can be found on VA's [website](#) along with a [summary response](#) from VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Robert A. Petzel.

<http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Suicide-Data-Report-2012-final.pdf>

MARCH 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Pat's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31 Easter	25 MOH Mt.Pleasant 5:00	26 Pizza party FDR stress Unit 5:00pm	27	28	29	30

APRIL 2013

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



★ **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:

VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN

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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