

Vietnam Veterans of America CHAPTER 49 • Westchester County



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL, LASDON PARK, SOMERS, NEW YORK



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

VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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Treasurer: Al Singerman 930-7433

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Dan Griffin	Jerry Morano
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WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

HOURS:

11:00-3:30

SUMMER DAYS WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

WINTER DAYS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

AND HOLIDAYS

864-7263

Veterans Offices:

Yonkers:377-6700
Carmel: 845-808-1620

Vet Center:682-6250

White Plains Clinic..... 718-741-4300
FDR Montrose Hospital 737-4400

Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Dan Griffin 813-5049

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

If you have never submitted a claim for any injuries or illnesses that you incurred in service, then you need to call me @ 914-813-5043. You don't have to live in Westchester County; we can process the claims over the internet. I hear from many vets saying that others were worse off than them; I look at it this way; if you came out of the service changed, then you deserve to be compensated.

**At the VVA National Convention we were awarded newsletter of the year!
Elsewhere in this news letter is a photo of the award**

We would love to have all of you attend our meetings; held once a Month on the first Thursday of the Month; if we need to change the date, I will inform you. If you have trouble seeing at night, you may consider asking your wife to drive you. Then she could visit and eat dinner with my wife Sharon and the other wives. Our FREE Dinner is at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:30. Our meetings are also on Zoom, to connect by computer go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84554514740>. Or you can call in by phone at 1-929-436-2866, use meeting ID: 845 5451 4740.

If you have an Email address, please email me so that I can send you updates as to our activities, and to update you on new VA benefits.

On Veterans Day we will hold our ceremony in Lasdon Park at 2:00 PM.

Elsewhere in this news letter is a flyer about our annual Wreaths Across America ceremony which will be held on December 13th and our Candlelight Vigil which will be held on December 14th.

Also elsewhere in this newsletter is a photo of our Chapter members at our annual BBQ. And the first edition of a continuing list of facts about the Vietnam war.

Take care of yourself and each other.

Dan Griffin

Welcome to our newest members

Frank Lombardo from Ossining



Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter Newsletter of the Year

VVA Chapter 49

Chapter 49

Westchester County, New York

August 8, 2025

New Orleans, Louisiana



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
WESTCHESTER COUNTY (NY)
CHAPTER 49**



**INVITES ALL
VETERANS, FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND
SUPPORTERS OF VETERANS TO
JOIN US AT**

**THE 38ND ANNUAL
CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR THE FALLEN**



**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14, 2025
4:30 PM**

(CEREMONY BEGINS AT DUSK)

**LASDON PARK
TRAIL OF HONOR**

**2610 ROUTE 35,
KATONAH, NY 10536**

YOU DIE TWICE. ONE TIME WHEN YOU STOP BREATHING AND A SECOND TIME, WHEN SOMEBODY SAYS YOUR NAME FOR THE LAST TIME. AS WE DO EVERY YEAR AT DUSK ON THE SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, VVA CHAPTER 49 ASSEMBLES TO HONOR AND READ THE NAMES OF THE 217 WESTCHESTER YOUNG MEN AND 8 NURSES WHO NEVER RETURNED HOME FROM VIETNAM. THE BOY SCOUTS LIGHT 800 LUMINARIAS ALONG THE TRAIL OF HONOR TO SHOW US THE WAY AND TO HELP US REMEMBER OUR HEROES...



Chapter 49 Barbecue





WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

**LASDON PARK
DECEMBER 13th
12:00 PM**

**We will present wreaths at our Vietnam Memorial
and at each one of the statues on the “Trail of Honor”**

**Afterward we will place wreaths at the seventeen trees
at the “Walk of Honor” at Kensico dam**

VIETNAM FACTS

Largest per-capita Loss

Beallsville, Ohio (pop. 475) gained unwanted national attention between 1966 and 1971 by having suffered the largest per-capita loss of life in the Vietnam War. Six young men lost their lives in the war, a terrible and profound loss for this small town.

Highest State Casualties

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate in the nation, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. The state had 711 casualties -- 39.9 deaths per 100,000 people. Oklahoma had the second-highest casualty rate.

Highest High School Casualties

Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia sustained the largest number of Vietnam war casualties of any high school in the nation with 54.

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.

Robert Dale Draper, 19, was killed in an ambush. Stan King, 21, was killed less than a week after reaching Vietnam. Alfred Van Whitmer, 21, was killed while on patrol. Larry J. West, 19 was shot near Quang Nam. Jose Moncayo, 22, was part of an entire platoon wiped out. Clive Garcia, 22, was killed by a booby trap while leading a patrol.

The Buddies from 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. Three hallmark all-American days. Three more names to be placed on the The Wall

NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 USS Westchester Lasdon 10:00
2	3	4	5	6 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	7 Lasdon Ceremony 12:00	8
9	12	11 Veterans Day Lasdon 2:00	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 pizza Party 12:00 FDR Building 15
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 wreaths across America 12:00
14 Candellight vigil	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve			

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Years 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	2	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	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2026

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WE NEED YOU IN THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



MEMBERSHIP TYPES and ELIGIBILITY

Life Membership is open to anyone who served in Vietnam between November 1, 1955 and May 7, 1975, or anywhere between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975

Associate Membership in the VVA is open to all who share our concerns - both men and women, friends, supporters, and families - Veteran or not.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

check one

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

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

Send application and check to:

Membership Chair, V.V.A. Chapter #49 PO Box 224, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Questions? Call the Chapter: Phone/Fax (914) 682-4949

or e-mail: Chapter49@aol.com

www.VietnamVets49.org



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

DENNIS A. STARR

1333A North Avenue
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T 914 654 9200
F 914 654 8016
M 914 714 0046
1 888 837 0080

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Telephone: 914.610.5322 • Email: andrew@exprint.com
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Jesse DeLoughry
Speech Language Pathologist

(914) 860-5459
socialspotslp@gmail.com

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RONNY YMBRAS

Vietnam Veteran / Author
Ron.RUAirborne@gmail.com
914.497.7137

MATT YMBRAS

Technical / Marketing / Author
RUAirborne@gmail.com
914.497.7137



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CONTACT

MATTHEW J. COFFEY
Capt. USNR- Ret.

AUSN Regional President – Mid-Atlantic Region

16 N. Broadway White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 997-7663 ★ (914) 584-5741 Mobile
captmjcoffey@aol.com ★ www.ausn.org