

Chapter 20
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK



Between The Lines

March 2013

Issue 3

Marching Season Begins

VIETNAM

VETERANS

OF



AMERICA

St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 16th

CHAPTER 20 ROCHESTER, N. Y.





MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT MARCH 14TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING



March 17th



First Day of Spring
March 20



The Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly Programs offer free tax help for taxpayers who qualify, and this year they are reaching out to let veterans know about their available services. For more information about these programs, visit:



<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>



Vietnam History

The Kennedy Years



John Fitzgerald Kennedy was a fervent believer in containing communism. In his first speech on becoming president, Kennedy made it clear that he would continue the policy of the former President, Dwight Eisenhower, and support the government of Diem in South Vietnam. Kennedy also made it plain that he supported the 'Domino Theory' and he was convinced that if South Vietnam fell to communism, then other states in the region would as a consequence. This Kennedy was not prepared to contemplate.

Kennedy received conflicting advice with regards to Vietnam. Charles De Gaulle warned Kennedy that Vietnam and warfare in Vietnam would trap America in a "bottomless military and political swamp". This was based on the experience the French had at Dien Bien Phu, which left a sizeable psychological scar of French foreign policy for some years. However, Kennedy had more daily contact with 'hawks' in Washington DC who believed that American forces would be far better equipped and prepared for conflict in Vietnam than the French had been. They believed that just a small increase in US support for Diem would ensure success in Vietnam. The 'hawks' in particular were strong supporters in the 'Domino Theory'.

In 1961, Kennedy agreed that America should finance an increase in the size of the South Vietnamese Army from 150,000 to 170,000. He also agreed that an extra 1000 US military advisors should be sent to South Vietnam to help train the South Vietnamese Army. Both of these decisions were not made public as they broke the agreements made at the 1954 Geneva Agreement.

It was during Kennedy's presidency that the 'Strategic Hamlet' program was introduced. This failed badly and almost certainly drove a number of South Vietnamese peasants into supporting the North Vietnamese communists. This forcible moving of peasants into secure compounds was supported by Diem and did a great deal to further the opposition to him in the South. American television reporters relayed to the US public that 'Strategic Hamlet' destroyed decades, if not hundreds, of years of village life in the South and that the process might only take half-a-day. Here was a super-power effectively orchestrating the forced removal of peasants by the South Vietnamese Army who were not asked if they wanted to move. To those who knew about US involvement in Vietnam and were opposed to it, 'Strategic Hamlet' provided them with an excellent propaganda opportunity.

Kennedy was informed about the anger of the South Vietnamese peasants and was shocked to learn that membership of the NLF had increased, according to US Intelligence, by 300% in a two year time span – the years when 'Strategic Hamlet' was in operation. Kennedy's response was to send more military advisors to Vietnam so that by the end of 1962 there were 12,000 of these advisors in South Vietnam. As well as sending more advisors to South Vietnam, Kennedy also sent 300 helicopters with US pilots. They were told to avoid military combat at all costs but this became all but impossible to fulfill.

Kennedy became convinced that Diem could never unite South Vietnam and he agreed that the CIA should initiate a program to overthrow him. A CIA operative, Lucien Conein, provided some South Vietnamese generals with \$40,000 to overthrow Diem with the added guarantee that the US would not protect the South Vietnam leader. Diem was overthrown and killed in November 1963. Kennedy was assassinated three weeks later.



Nominating Committee

By Chuck Macaluso, Chair

The Annual Meeting & Elections will be held April 11, 2013 at 6:00 PM –

Location: Italian American Sports Club – 1250 Buffalo Road

Driving Directions - The Club is located on Buffalo Road close to the intersection of Howard Road. Directly across the Stone quarry. Next to the Eagles Club and the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

From the East. Heading West bound on 490, exit Mount Read Blvd and turn left. South bound on Mt. Read to Buffalo Road circle, turn right West bound on Buffalo Road. 1.4 miles West bound on the right side North is 1250 Buffalo Rd.

From the West: Heading East bound on 490, exit 33 East bound, Buffalo Road (Gates Center). Head East bound on Buffalo Road. Pass Howard Road 1250 will be on the left North side about .5 miles.

Positions for nominations –

Five (5) Board of Director

The "new" Nominating Committee will also be elected by the membership that evening. A "to date" slate of candidates will be finalized by February 15th and published in the March issue.

- **In order to vote in the Annual Election, voters must be a member for at least 30 days.**
 - **Only paid members with a DD214 on file by 28 February of previous fiscal year are eligible to vote. (For example - 28 February 2013 to vote April 2013).**
 - **A quorum is defined as 10% of VVA 20 membership as of 28 February of the previous fiscal year. Voting for candidates will take place between 6:30 PM till 7:30 PM, after which no new ballots will be taken and votes will be tabulated.**
 - **According to the National VVA Constitution, "Additional persons may be nominated by any member at the Annual Meeting." These candidates will fall under the category of Floor Nominations.**
 - **Floor nominated candidates can only receive votes from members present at Annual Meeting. (A "Special Note" stating such will be placed March and April BTL issues.)**
- Each candidate will address the membership at the March meeting stating their reasons for seeking an elected position.**

Any member interested in running for any of the above mentioned positions, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members:

Chuck Macaluso 225-8288, Dan Corona 406-6108, Pat Pudetti 753-6040



MEET THE CANDIDATES



Dick Oleksyn, Director Candidate

My primary goal is to stand together and be a part of a strong voice of advocacy for every Vietnam veteran, their families, and all veterans. I am a life member of VVA Chapter 20 and have served 18 of my 25 years on the Board of Directors. I co-chaired the VVA NYS convention in Rochester; chaired the 20th anniversary celebration and subsequent annual dinners; was a delegate at VVA National Conventions in 1999 and

2001; served as liaison between the VVA Thrift Store and the BOD pre-LLC; coordinated several bus trips to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC; worked with the Chapter to raise funds and worked on our own Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Highland Park. My wife and I worked on every March for the Memorial (to raise funds needed). I assist on the Veterans Walk at the Memorial as well. I was Social Chair for the Chapter for 10 years. I am a member of the Marching Unit and Honor Guard and have participated in parades and funeral details and many other events. I had the honor to be on the Honor Guard unit for repatriation of two of our MIA's in Arlington Cemetery at their funerals. I also work on details to send boxes to our active duty military in harm's way and conduct tours at the Memorial or address classes of students of all ages as requested on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day.

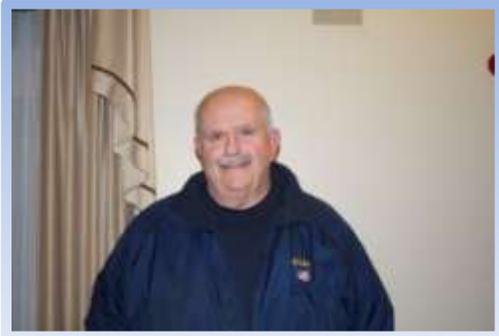
I graduated from Edison Tech in 1964 and was drafted into the US Army in 1965, with a 13-month tour in Vietnam (1966-67) with the 6/71 Arty-Cam Rahn Bay and Nha Trang. I retired from Eastman Kodak Company after 34-1/2 years of service. I cofounded and am active in The Shoremont (neighborhood) Association, Inc., and NYS Certified Neighborhood watch for our community. We work with the police and fire departments and local officials to maintain the integrity and safety of our community. I also belong to AVVA, DAV Post 15 life member, American Legion 474, VFW Post 16 life member and was appointed by the NYS Governor to the NYS Board of Visitors for the NYS Veterans Nursing Home in Batavia. I have served for 8 years in this role. I've been married to my wife, Sue, for 40 years and we have two children—Cory (an IT engineer at Xerox and Past Chief, Lake Shore Fire Department), and Laura (a tenured early childhood teacher who received the VVA college scholarship). She married our son-in-law Kyle in 2011 and now resides in Buffalo. They blessed us with our first grandchild, Luke, last November 1. If elected, I will continue to be a strong voice for the Chapter and every veteran to the best of my ability.



Mike General, Director Candidate

1. My Primary Goal, is to serve all Veterans and their Families.
2. I have been on the Board of Directors of Chapter 20 for 3 years and have enjoyed serving the Chapter.
3. I am the Membership Chairmen and have served in that capacity for 5 years.
4. I have been involved in many Trailer Events and many Veteran's Outreach events through Monroe County.
5. I am a Member of Chapter 20 Honor Guard and Marching Unit.
6. I am Past Commander of Greece Memorial Post 206. (American Legion)
7. I am a Member of Operation Welcome Home.
8. I am a Patriot Guard Member with over 20 Missions.
9. Worked for Honor Flight as The Speakers Bureau Coordinator, also Saturday departures and Sunday Welcome Home.
10. I was in the Air Force from 1962-1966.
11. Past Member of Congressmen Lee's Veteran Advisory Board, current Member of Congressmen Reed's Veterans Advisory Board.
12. Ministry Leader at Hope Lutheran Church for a Small Group named "Hopekeepers". (for people with chronic illness and pain)
13. Married to Diane for 49 years and have a Son and Daughter with 5 Grandchildern.





Mike Sanfilippo, Director Candidate

My name is Mike Sanfilippo and I would like to give you a little background about myself. I served with the US Army for two years in Transportation as a five ton tractor trailer driver driving convoys. I also served eight years in the US Army Reserve 98th Division Committee Group as a Basic Training Instructor at Fort Dix and Fort Leonard Wood.

I graduated from Edison Tech in Rochester. When I returned from the Army, I entered an apprenticeship working as a welder and precision sheet metal fabricator at Uniweld and the old Mixing Equipment Corp. I then spent twenty eight years at Eastman Kodak. After Kodak, I worked as a supervisor for a major security company for four years before retiring. I have been married to my wife Joan for 46 years and we had two daughters and two grandchildren.

I have been a life member of Chapter 20 since the 1980's. I have been a member of the Chili American Legion Post 1830 for over twenty three years and I am also a life member of Chili VFW post 412. I am currently serving as a Vice Commander in both the American Legion Post and the VFW Post. I also served on the board of directors in the American Legion. I enjoy sports such as hunting, fishing, shooting and spending time at my hunting camp in Birdsall.

Most of my years at Kodak included working the "B" trick which prevented me from being as involved in community activities as I would have liked. However, I was involved with the United Way at Kodak for many of those years. I do enjoy spending more time with Chapter 20 activities and recently have been working at the bike runs and the membership trailer.

I find being on the board of an organization, volunteering and working with other people to be very rewarding. I am looking forward to the opportunity to lead Chapter 20 into the future.

MORE BIO'S WILL APPEAR IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE



Friends of the Memorial
To be placed on Volunteer Contact List
Contact: Chuck Macaluso
(h) 585-225-8288
Chuckmac66@yahoo.com

Boy Scout of America
Winter Klondike
January 19, 2013
Honoring Our Veterans

***Morning Flag Raising
Ceremony***



Mendon Ponds Park



Bay Waters District



L to R

<i>Phil Rosini</i>	<i>Navy</i>
<i>Chuck Macaluso</i>	<i>Marines</i>
<i>Ed Kier</i>	<i>Army</i>
<i>Joe Peck</i>	<i>Army</i>
<i>John Sumerville</i>	<i>Coast Guard</i>



Chapter 20 Members

*Joe Peck
C.P. Maloney
Elmer Brown
Ed Kier
Chuck Macaluso*

Ahaaaa

To sleep in the snow again!!



22 Degrees F.



Flag Retirement Ceremony



Honoring our POW/MIAs (Joe)

***Honoring all on
"The Wall" (Ed)***



***Honoring the 280 Veterans
commemorated at the
Greater Rochester
Vietnam Veterans
Memorial (Chuck)***

New benefits available for Agent Orange illnesses



Being added to the list of presumptive conditions from exposure to Agent Orange. The diseases include B-cell leukemias such as hairy-cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease, bringing a total of 14 conditions assumed to be associated with Agent Orange.



National Vice President, Fred Elliott and his wife, Marie, presenting VVA's wreath on Veterans Day, November 2012 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

SHOW YOUR PRIDE

Vietnam Veterans of America
3" Car Window (Outside) Decals



\$3.00 each

Available at all membership meetings
Or contact Joe Peck at ~ jpeck2@rochester.rr.com



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: VALENTINO GATTO

Our January and February BTL were two great newsletters that Marie and Fred Elliott and Chuck and Joan Macaluso have put together for Chapter 20 members. They are doing a fantastic job. I would like to thank them for their great effort, knowledge and time that they put in.

I also cannot say enough to the members of Chapter 20, especially the volunteers that donate their time.



On January 26th, I attended the NYSC meeting in Owego, where we interacted with different Chapter members. Fred Elliott, National Vice President, spoke about the legacy of War and Agent Orange along with Nancy Switzer, AVVA, President.



Other delegates from Chapter 20 that attended the NYSC are from left to right: Ron Trovato, Fred Elliott, Chuck Macaluso, Jerry McDermott and Joe Peck.

When we presented Rich Ide of Dick Ide Honda with the Certificate of Appreciation for their role in the Day of Hope, he said that: **ALL VETERANS WILL GET 15% OFF OF SERVICE WHEN THEY SHOW VA CARD AT ANY DICK IDE DEALERSHIP!** (Cannot be combined with any other offer)!





MEMORIAL REPORT

Website <http://rochestervietnammemorial.org/>



Memorial Tours & Presentations

Persons interested in onsite tours or presentations at schools or organizations, contact: Chuck Macaluso
(H) 585-225-8288
Chuckmac66@yahoo.com

Remembering our Fallen Heroes – March



Larry Duane Metcalf	3/1/1942
Kenneth Edwin Koch	3/4/1949
Theodore Shorack	3/6/1929
Ralph Eugene Schieb	3/6/1945
Sylvester McFarland	3/8/1948
John Frank Leone	3/9/1947
Robert B. Beale	3/11/1939
James A. Hockridge	3/12/1944
Richard Allen Carapezza	3/13/1948
Lynn Bachmann Jr.	3/15/1945
Wallace Roberts	3/17/1928
Harold Bradley Nadeau	3/17/1947
Richard Lee Malone	3/18/1950
David John DeRue	3/19/1947
Leonard Ashworth Coles	3/20/1945
Dennis Joseph Keenan	3/22/1943
Michael Alexander Nederlk	3/22/1948
Gary Roger Kooman	3/23/1946
David Allen Curtis	3/23/1949
Elwood D. Covey Jr.	3/29/1943
Marlin L. Siegwalt	3/30/1937
Nicholas Anthony Natale	3/31/1948



POW/MIA Chairperson, Joe Peck

An important but sometimes forgotten milestone has recently passed in American history. February 12th was the 40th anniversary for the release of American POW's from North Vietnam. Following the Paris Peace Accords of 1973, 591 American POW's were returned to the US by North Vietnam on February 12th during operation "Home Coming". At the time, the US had listed about 1350 Americans as POW's / MIA's and roughly 1200 personnel were reported as KIA / Body not recovered.

With that said, a recent report from the Defense Prisoner of War* Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), the Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action (JPAC) and the National League of Families indicate that an American Navy Pilot has been recovered and recently accounted for. This now changes the total number of Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War to **1653**.

LT. Richard Lee Laws, US Navy from Sacramento, California was a Pilot of a F-8E Crusader as part of Attack Squadron 24 aboard the USS Hancock. On April 3, 1966, while on a strafing run during a mission over North Vietnam, Lt. Laws radioed that his aircraft had been hit by enemy ground fire. The lead observer of that mission witnessed Lt. Law's aircraft impact into a hillside and explode near a rural village called Xuan Du. Many years after the war, on three separate occasions, different joint recovery teams consisting of Vietnamese and Americans visited and excavate the crash site. The remains of Lt. Richard Lee Laws were returned to the US on November 11, 1995 and with the help of modern day DNA testing, identified on December 3, 2012. He was officially accounted for on January 17, 2013. The family will gather on May 10, 2013 in Annapolis, MD. in the chapel at the Naval Academy where a military funeral for Lt. Laws will be held. After 47 long years, he no longer has been lost in a foreign land. He is finally home where his family and a great full nation will honor him.



Richard Lee Laws

There are also reports of the recoveries and identifications of individuals from the following wars:

- Pfc. Glenn S. Schoenmann, US Army was lost on Dec. 12, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Dec. 12, 2012.
- Sgt. Erving A. Fricke, US Army was reported lost on Nov. 28, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Dec. 13, 2012.
- Pfc. Roosevelt Clark, US Army was reported lost on Nov. 28 1950 near the town of Usan, North Korea. He was accounted for on Dec. 13, 2012.
- Cpl. Edwin L. Gafarneau, US Army was reported lost on Dec. 2, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Dec. 17, 2012.

POW/MIA Continued

- PFC. Bobby L. Byars, US Army was reported lost on Dec. 12, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Jan. 4, 2013.
- Pfc. Weldon A. Davis, US Army was reported lost on Nov. 30, 1950 near Somindong, North Korea. He was accounted for on Jan. 9, 2013.
- Cpl. Robert G. Archer. US Army was reported lost on Dec. 2, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was accounted for on Jan. 14, 2013.
- Cpl. Robert W. Scott, US Army was reported lost on Dec. 1, 1950 near the town of Usan, North Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 16, 2013.
- PFC. James R. Hare, US Army was reported lost on Feb. 13, 1951 near the town of Hoengsung, South Korea. He was accounted for on Jan. 19, 2013.

Until they are all accounted for and returned, we will never forget them and for those true hero's who have been returned, we have waited and prayed for you and now you can finally rest in peace. You are finally home brothers for they no longer have you.



**Health Affairs Committee Chairperson,
Jerry McDermott**

Greetings to the Ides of March Fit Vet Challenge participants. We are half way there! There being 2 months into our 5th Annual Fit Vet Challenge efforts to set healthy goals for 2013 and beyond. So think of it as being on the 50 yard line, and the goal (line) is becoming ever closer. Don't stop now! Remember the reasons your started...(1) New Year-New You! (2) Set a Goal for yourself, better health, more awareness for healthy habits, foods, and exercise to maintain your weight. (3) Friendly bragging rights between Chapter # 20 service branches...who will be the "biggest losers" this year? Setting goals...no matter how small they first may appear to be is how we do reach the finish line. You can do this! Just be patient and determined to change one (1) thing you do on a daily basis. This one thing can lead to a better, healthier you, so just try. As an example of what might work for you, trying portion control, yep think about the serving size of what you are eating...you don't have to supersize everything. Or perhaps trying adding some fruit to your daily meal plan. Remember Wegmans "strive for five" program, it does work to make you consciously think about adding more fruits and veggies to you diet. So with two down and two to go, keep at it! Move more...eat less! Exercise when you can, even a little bit of movement adds up. Thank you for your participation and efforts.

HEALTH AFFAIRS (continued)

“A man’s health can be judged by which he takes two at a time-pills or stairs”. Quote by Joan Welsh

REMINDER: Missed VA Appointments If you have a scheduled VA appointment and find out that you will not be able to keep the appointment, please call the VA at: 585-463-2757. This will allow the VA to possibly schedule other veterans in your time slot. Our region (Rochester) has one of the lowest “no show” rates in the country. Thank you for your efforts.

NYS Council News: Jan. 26, 2013 meeting in Owego, NY. Ron Trovato and I were ask to join a newly formed committee along with Tom Harris from Saratoga Springs, NY to address issues facing Vietnam veterans as we aged and grow older. This yet to be named NYS committee will be charged with presenting information, and speakers to the quarterly council delegate meetings that can be brought back to each chapter membership regarding “quality of life” issues, concerns, best practice approaches to deal with our general transitioning into an aging veteran population. Such issues as Social Security, Medicare, Long Term Health, volunteering were topics discussed for future reviews. Regardless of who or where you live, health and wellness should be “job one” for all of us, and together we can leverage the best of what we learn and experience. Both Ron and I are honored and pleased to accept this endeavor and look forward to making contributions to this newly formed committee.

September 2013 will be Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and duly recognized by NYS Governor Cuomo, with NYS Council support to all veterans for screening and testing. Finally, please check out the website for NYS Council at www.nyvietnamvets.org when possible. This should be a regular “favorite site” used to keep you inform about many NYS and national VVA issues. For example, the current info on the site has stories and links about “The Truth About the Agent Orange in Vietnam” by Richard E. Phenneger. This story and related links to Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. report to Secretary to the VA, May 1990 are very revealing and make for interesting reading for all veterans.

FEBRUARY WEIGH-IN

Please note that the pounds gained/lost only include those who were present for January and February weigh-ins.

FEBRUARY 14TH WEIGH-IN			
BRANCH	# OF PARTICIPANTS	AVG. WEIGHT	GAIN/LOSS
AIR FORCE	6	217.8	-10.8
ARMY	20	216.9	-0.6
NAVY	6	189.1	-4.4
MARINES	11	215.4	1.4
TOTAL	43	209.8	-14.4



Incarcerated Veterans Committee Report by Ron Trovato

Greetings from frozen Stalingrad.....I mean Rochester. A shout out to Craig McLaren from Chapter 190 (Atmore, Alabama) in a much warmer climate, for all his work for the National Incarcerated Veterans Network. Their Chapter was experiencing financial difficulties due to the closing of the leather shop there for eight months but they are back on track making wallets and other items and selling them. Once again, thank you for the donation of goods to Chapter 20, many of them went to the vets at the Canandaigua VAMC.

Past Chapter 205 President Robert Ahalt passed away over Christmas while at the Wende Correctional Facility and I appreciated their chaplain sharing that news with me. A shout out too for Shirley Martinez and Dan Waters at the Auburn Correctional Facility for their volunteer work with the vets there and for taking in our latest yarn donation. There is an umbrella veterans organization known as the Veterans Group of Auburn that has continued the work of Chapter 205 and we heard that the veterans of Modern Warfare has started up a new chapter there as well. They too are knitting items to donate and collecting food and clothes for homeless vets. There is also a Dogs 2 Vets Program in the Auburn area that matches vets suffering from PTSD with shelter dogs. This is a non-profit organization and to learn more you can check them out online at ClearPathForVets.com.

The vets at Attica have also reorganized as the Attica Active Veterans Group and they have continued the efforts of Chapter 489 there. The vets are having their Spring Cookout scheduled for 6/9 and we hope to be able to attend. A final and well deserved shout out to Jack Michel from Chapter 77 who goes into Attica regularly and works with the men there. I saw Jack at the NYSC Meeting in January and we commiserated over the years of being denied entrance to a prison because names are left off the gate pass. This is a fact of life for volunteers and happens at times and it is discouraging after taking a long drive to a correctional facility. But it has happened to all of us and we learn to roll with the changes.

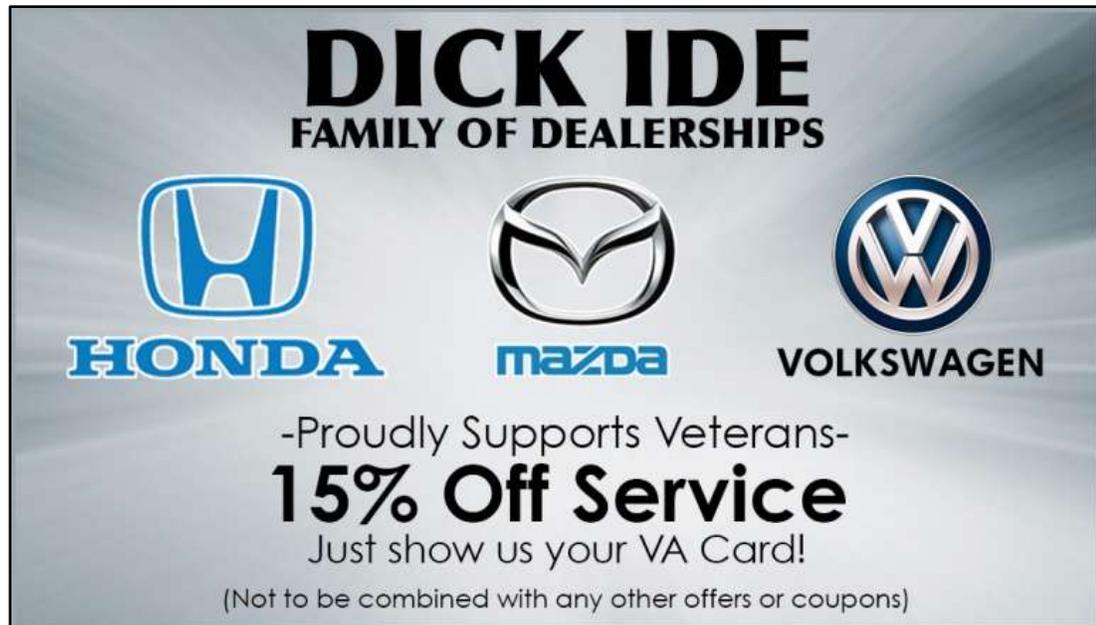
Finally, Ned Foote, President NYSC, green lighted a new committee that Tom Harris from Chapter 79 suggested. This committee would deal with problems unique to an aging veterans population such as delayed onset PTSD, retirement issues, chronic illness, loss of loved ones, care giving and hospice. Ned volunteered/ordered/ drafted/put the arm on Jerry McDermott and myself and the three of us met informally while at the NYSC Meeting. This is a great idea on Tom's part and we are looking forward to our involvement.

VVA Chapter 20

Annual Dinner April 20, 2013

*Golden Ponds Restaurant & Party House
500 Long Pond Road Greece, New York 14626*

You will be receiving your invitation in the mail



DICK IDE
FAMILY OF DEALERSHIPS


HONDA


mazda


VOLKSWAGEN

-Proudly Supports Veterans-
15% Off Service
Just show us your VA Card!
(Not to be combined with any other offers or coupons)

Gary Lewis and the Playboys



On Saturday night, February 9th, Fred and Marie Elliott attended a fund raising event in Honeoye Falls for the Mendon Public Library. Because Gary Lewis lives in the area, he and The Playboys were the headliners for the event. The opening act was a band named "8 Days a Week;" do I really have to tell you that they did all Beatles' tunes ?

For those of you who may not know, or have forgotten, Gary is the son of Jerry Lewis of Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin fame. And of course, like so many of us, Gary was drafted into the U.S. Army. He never made it to Vietnam but he served his country honorably. (Gary now has a Chapter 20 challenge coin.)

Gary Lewis may be a senior citizen like most of his audience, but he and his band rocked the place. They opened their show with Del Shannon's "Runaway" and never let up. Of course, they played all their hits from "This Diamond Ring" to "She's Just My Style."

And because you can't go anywhere without seeing another Chapter 20 member, we saw Tom & Kathy Gleason there and talked with them between sets.
(article submitted by Fred Elliott)

Annual Legislative Breakfast

Sunday February 10th and it's six degrees above zero but the sun is shining so it's off to the American Legion's Forty & Eight Chateau on University Avenue for the Annual Legislative Breakfast. This annual event is hosted by the City of Rochester's Veterans Memorial and Executive Council.

Representing the Chapter were Valentino Gatto, Joe Peck, and Fred Elliott. And of course, as County Service Officers, Pat Pudetti and Ken Moore were also there. Chapter 20 AVVA member, Lee Kauffman was also there.

Representing the legislative side of issues were, John Pileto from Congresswoman Slaughter's office, State Senators Ted O'Brien and Joe Robach, Frank Allkofer from State Senator George Maziarz's office, and Eric Cooper from State Senator Mike Nozzolio's office. The State Assembly was represented by State Assemblymen Mark Johns and Joe Morelle. The County Executive Director, Maggie Brooks was there as was Darrel Porter, the Deputy Mayor for the City of Rochester. Laura Stradley, Director of the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency was in attendance as was Paul Cimminelli, Chair of the Monroe County Executive's Veterans Advisory Committee.

Many issues were discussed: Credit for Military Service for veterans in the NYS retirement system; enforcement of the NYS Flag and Pledge laws; consideration of military training in granting certain certifications and licenses; free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for active duty military personnel; a real tax exemption for veterans posts that rent space to non-exempt organizations; a veterans exemption for school taxes.

Also discussed was a bill to the NYS Division of Veterans Affairs to apply to operate and maintain a State Veterans Cemetery in New York. Senator Nozzolio and Assemblyman Morelle are working on this. Senator Robach and Assemblyman Morelle are working on a solution to the State Liquor Authority's "30 day billing policy" which unfairly works against many veterans posts.

Certain counties and cities within NYS have been consolidating service in an effort to save money, but this often results in limiting resources and opportunities for veterans. More information is needed about this issue. It will be discussed at the County Executive's Veterans Advisory Committee.

State Senate Bill S01213 would alleviate many of the academic challenges imposed by different state education systems that the children in military families face when moving from state to state. The bill is now in the Education Committee. There is no companion bill in the State Assembly. State Assembly Bill A02572 will give preference to service disabled veteran owned small businesses with respect to state contracts. This bill was referred to Governmental Operations. There is no companion bill in the State Senate.

State Senate Bill S04387 relates to the alternative veterans property tax exemption and authorizes active members of the military to apply for such exemption. It has been referred to the Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs Committee. The State Assembly companion bill is A07957. These bills would also amend the current law to allow for other than a DD-214 to be used as proof of service when applying for the exemption.

There was also a discussion about the VA Outpatient Clinic (ROPC) on Westfall Road. The ROPC has to vacate its current location by October 2016 and is presently looking for a new location that will allow for expansion from its current 40,000+ square feet to over 80,000+ square feet with parking for 400+ vehicles. Ideally, the ROPC would be named a "super clinic" by the VA which would remove it from the oversight of the Canandaigua VAMC and add services on-site that are not presently available in Rochester.

The final item for discussion was the absence of a Director for the State Division of Veterans Affairs. There has been no Director appointed for 6 months or more. Everyone was encouraged to email the Governor's office about this situation. You may do so at www.governor.ny.gov/contact/GovernorContactForm.php - I did.

Attention – AVVA Members

At our meeting on April 11, 2013, we will hold an AVVA Chapter Representative Election. For those that are interested in becoming our elected chapter representative, please send your letter of intent to Suzanne Oleksyn via email (soleksyn@yahoo.com) or at the Chapter address (VVA Chapter 20, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612). Your letter of intent must be sent or postmarked 30 days before the April 11th meeting. To be eligible for qualification as the chapter representative you must be an AVVA member in good standing, be 18 years of age and be an active participant in Chapter 20. Please include your AVVA Membership Number in your letter of intent. The voting will take place prior to the Chapter 20 elections on April 11, 2013. The ballots will be



Birthday & Anniversary Recognition



Attention Members:

If you would like your birthday or anniversary noted in our monthly issues please send in dates and name(s) for either and we will include in appropriate issue.

Marie ~ mdavias@rochester.rr.com

***Happy Birthday to Nancy VanApeldoorn
3/23/50***

Congratulations to Rick and Nancy Switzer on the birth of their granddaughter, Madison Evelyn-Lee Tompkins born on 2/10/13

With our Annual Dinner coming up in April, it's time to think about those who serve the chapter as well as all veterans. There are several awards given each year and we are fortunate to have many in both our chapter and our community who work diligently above and beyond their normal duties to serve our veterans. Consider those around you and nominate them for one or more of the following awards

Awards

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The community Service Award recognizes a group, organization or individual who has demonstrated a strong sense of community service and who favorably recognizes and relates to the Vietnam Veterans issues.

My nomination for this award is _____ because _____

VETERAN SERVICE AWARD

The Veteran Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication in improving the conditions of the Vietnam Veterans and /or the Community. (There may be up to 3 awards presented annually).

My nomination for this award is _____ because _____

THE ROGER ROBACH AWARD

The Roger Robach Award is given to an individual who has spent a minimum of ten years working for the betterment of all veterans in New York State.

My nomination for this award is _____ because _____

DON AND RORI MURRELL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Don and Murrell Humanitarian Award is given to an individual who has accomplished an extraordinary effort on behalf of active duty personnel and /or veterans and their families. (All individuals are to be considered for this award regardless of Chapter or veteran affiliation).

My nomination for this award is _____ because _____

Please consider nominating those who you feel go above and beyond their normal duties and submit your nominations to the Secretary, Joe Peck at jpeck2@rochester.rr.com

You can also email Marie Elliott at mdavias@rochester.rr.com for an electronic version of these nomination forms. Deadline for all nominations is March 14th 2013.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Sex () M () F

Address: _____

Home Phone: () _____

City: _____

Work Phone: () _____

Zip: _____ County _____

Email Address: _____

Sponsor: _____

I am not a Vietnam Vet, but I want to help Vietnam Veterans and their families. Please accept my donation: _____

Payment Options: () Check () Money Order

() \$10 () \$20 () \$50 () Other (\$ _____)

Return this application, *along with a copy of your DD214* to:

Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612
Attn: Membership

Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 (in-country Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975 (for Vietnam-era veterans)

VVA is a non-profit service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.

Term: () 1 year: \$20 () 3 years \$50

() Life Membership:

\$200 (ages 56-60),

\$175 (ages 61-65),

\$150 (ages 66 -71)

\$100 (ages 72+)

BETWEEN THE LINES:

Between the Lines is published monthly by Chapter 20, Vietnam Veterans of America. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Chapter 20 or the Vietnam Veterans of America, its' officers, board of directors or the general membership. *Between the Lines* can be viewed on the Chapter 20 website at www.vva20.org.

We welcome letters to the editor, poetry, original articles and suggestions. Submissions should include name and phone number and can be sent to *Between the Lines*, P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612 or emailed to chuckmac66@yahoo.com. We reserve the right to edit for space and clarity and to not use materials we think inappropriate for the publication. **Deadline for submissions for each issue is the 10th of the preceding month.** **Exceptions may be granted by contacting the editor.**

Vet Gatto Contractor

Valentino G. Gatto



585-259-9605
 vgatto@rochester.rr.com

310 Judy Ann Dr.
 Rochester, NY 14616



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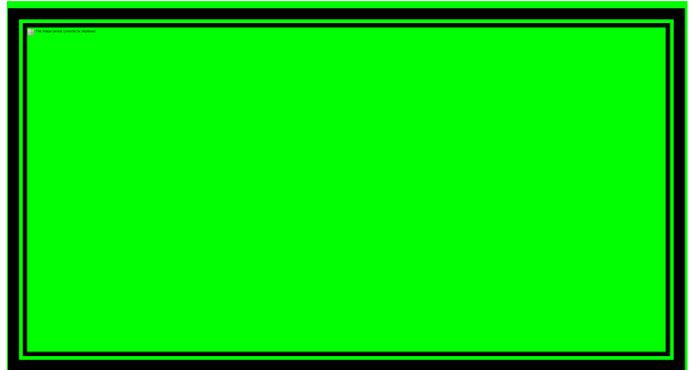
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 Irondequoit NY, 14609
 585 - 288 - 8465
 intem22@frontiernet.net



JIM LILL
 Direct: (585) 654-3029
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BOARD MEETINGS

March 5, 2013

April 2, 2013

May 7, 2013

June 4, 2013

July 2, 2013

August 6, 2013

September 10, 2013

October 1, 2013

November 5, 2013

December 3, 2013

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

March 14, 2013

April 11, 2013

May 9, 2013

June 13, 2013

July 11, 2013

August 8, 2013

September 12, 2013

October 10, 2013

November 14, 2013

December 12, 2013



UPCOMING EVENTS

Day-of-Caring May 9, 2013

Lilac Festival May 10-19, 2013

Memorial Day Ceremony May 27, 2013

Monthly Membership Meetings start at 6:30 pm

At the Italian American Sports Club, 1250 Buffalo Road, Rochester

Driving Directions to the Italian American Sports Club:

The Club is located at 1250 Buffalo Road close to the intersection of Howard Road, directly across from the stone quarry, next to the Eagles Club and the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

From the East: Heading west on 490, exit Mt. Read Blvd. and turn left; south on Mt. Read to Buffalo Road circle, turn right, west on Buffalo Road, 1.4 miles, the Italian-American Sports Club is on the right side.

From the West: Heading east on 490, exit 33 east, Buffalo Road (Gates Center); head east on Buffalo Road; continue past Howard Road; the Italian-American Sports Club will be on the left side in about .5 mile.

Contact Information – P.O. Box 12580, Rochester, NY 14612 ~ www.vva20.org ~ (585) 482-7396

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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 Veterans Walk-C. Macaluso... chuckmac66@yahoo.com..... 225-8288 h
 Women's Affairs - Rosemary Rossi-Williams
 rossiwilliams@gmail.com..... 738-6138 c

c=cell h=home w=work

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND INFORMATION

Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial 753-7275
 (enter 9; enter 2 to leave a message)
 Ira Jacobsen American Legion Post #474..... 663-7030
 VA Outpatient Clinic..... 465 Westfall Rd..... 463-2600
 Veterans Outreach Center 546-1081
 VA Vet Center..... 232-5040
 Veterans Administration..... 800-827-1000
 Monroe County Veterans Service Agency..... 753-6040
 e-mail: serviceofficer@yahoo.com
 VA Veterans Benefits Hotline..... 800-827-1000
 VA Veterans Bill of Rights..... 800-342-3358
 VA Medical Center in Batavia..... 297-1000
 VA Hospital in Buffalo..... 716-834-9200
 VA Medical Center in Canandaigua..... 394-2000
 VA Medical Center in Bath..... 607-664-4000
 Vietnam Veterans of America National Office..800-882-1316
 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund "The Wall"..202-393-0090
 National League of Families
 MIA/POW Updates..... 202-223-6846
 Richards House at VOC..... 506-9060
 The Resource Center at VOC..... 546-4250
 Stars & Stripes The Flag Store..... 546-3524
 Persian Gulf Vets, Inc..... 385-4097
 Operation Welcome Home..... 234-4694
 National Caregivers Support Line..... 855-260-3274
 Homeless Hotline..... 877-424-3838
 Suicide Hotline..... 800-273-8255

WEB SITES/E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Veterans Widows International Network
 members@aol.com/vetwidows
 NYS Department of Health
 www.health.state.ny.us/nyvets
 Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Highland Park
 www.rochestervietnammemorial.org/The_Memorial
 Operation Welcome Home
 www.operationwelcomehome.org
 VVA New York State Council
 www.nyvietnamvets.org
 Honor Flight
 www.HonorFlightRochester.org

MISCELLANEOUS

VVA Vehicle Donations..... 224-8484
 VVA Chapter 20..... info@vva20.org..... 482-7396

Upcoming Events (2013):

March 14	Presentation of Candidates
March 26	VVM Groundbreaking D.C.
April 6	NYS Council Meeting
April 11	Chapter 20 Election Night – VVA & AVVA
April 11-14	Gold Star Mothers' Convention
April 20	Chapter 20 Annual Dinner
April 20/21	Honor Flight Mission 27
May 9	Day of Caring
May 10-19	Lilac Festival
May 18/19	Honor Flight Mission 28
May 27	Memorial Day
June 15	NYS Council Meeting
June 15/16	Honor Flight Mission 29
August 14-17	National Convention in Jacksonville, FL.
September 21	NYS Council Meeting

Do you know a veteran who is homeless?

The VA's National Homeless Veterans Hotline

The hotline provides 24/7 access to VA Medical Centers in conjunction with the National Network of Homeless Services. Studies show a huge correlation with successful re-entry into the communities provided at the time of the call.

1-877-424-3838
24/7 365 days/per year

Could someone you know be in crisis?

The VA's National Suicide Crisis Line

1-800-273-TALK or 1-800-273-8255
24/7 365 days/per year

Provides professional counseling to veterans, their family members or friends.

MyHealtheVet

MHV provides access to:

- Online prescription refills with the VA
- Trusted health information
- Links to Federal and VA benefits and resources
- Personal Health Journals and Health e-Logs

The mission of My HealtheVet (MHV) is to improve health care for ALL veterans, independent of where they receive care, by providing health information and health assessments via the Internet. MHV is a web site designed for veterans and their families with the goal of optimizing veterans' health care. It is for all veterans and offers additional services to those receiving care at VA medical centers.

MHV registrants will also be able to view appointments, co-pay balances and copies of key portions of their VA medical records online and much more as additional functionality is released. This is available to veterans, their families, veteran advocates and VA employees. Non-veterans are welcome to use many of the features, although they will not have access to all functions VA patients have.

“ MHV is a web site designed for veterans and their families with the goal of optimizing veterans' health care.

You can access the website at www.myhealth.va.gov. You will need to register to use key features and will be assigned a User ID and Password for return visits. Please note that in order to access enhanced options of this website, you must complete an "In Person Authentication" (IPA) at your local VA facility. This step provides for confidentiality of your information and is required by The Privacy Act, Title 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 552a, implemented by Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §575-1.584.