

# VIETNAM VET "GAZETTE"

Issue 159

Together Then .... Together Now

December 2015



In Service to America

## Chapter 862 Meetings

### BOD Meeting

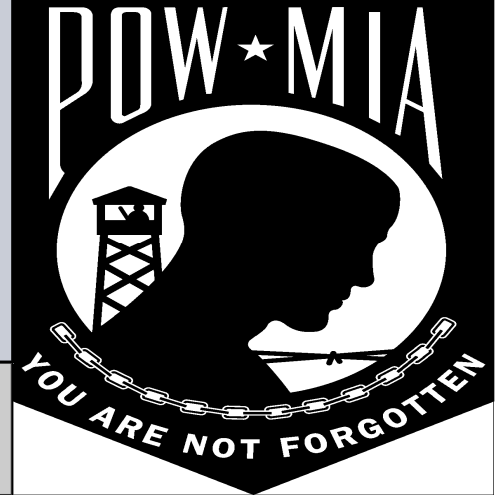
2nd Wed of the Month

### Membership Meeting

3rd Wed of the Month

7:00 PM at the  
ROCHESTER VFW

Be Sure To See  
Important Dates to Remember  
Upcoming Events— Page 15



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and plans to attend the membership meeting on December 16th to celebrate another great year assisting and supporting our fellow veterans. We may be another year older, but we still have enough time and energy to continue our mission to help our current military members and veterans who may be less fortunate.

To do that, we need to share the work because none of us can carry the load alone. Three of the most time consuming positions in the chapter are the President, Secretary and Treasurer. However, in the past years we have overloaded one of those positions to include the duties of secretary, newsletter editor, webmaster and single point of contact (SPOC) for all communications. Our chapter has grown to the point where a single individual should not be expected to handle all four tasks. However Lee Corfield has done this for many, many years. Well, Lee and the chapter now need your help.

Lee has been the Chapter 862 Secretary since its very beginning and he wants to continue to participate and be actively involved in our Chapter. However, he has asked to step down as Chapter Secretary in the April elections. We can all agree that is not an unreasonable request. Lee has worked long hours to update the chapter website and has volunteered to concentrate his time as the webmaster. So we will need to fill the other two positions, the "elected" position of Chapter Secretary and the "volunteer" position of Newsletter Editor.

The position of **Secretary** is required and must be filled. Without the burden of publishing a monthly newsletter and maintaining the website, the task load for the secretary will be greatly reduced and easily manageable. So please consider running for Chapter Secretary.

The position of **Newsletter Editor** is optional. However, it would be embarrassing if the 3rd largest chapter in the country couldn't find a member (or members) who would edit and publish a newsletter. So I hope that someone will step up to continue this publication.

Please consider these two positions. Don't wait. Submit your name as a candidate for Secretary to the Nomination Committee. As far as newsletter editor, that transition can begin at any time. The format is established, it isn't difficult, and can be fun and very rewarding.

Thanks in advance. See you on Wednesday.

Larry Googins, President

**Chapter 862 Officers & Committees**  
(All 724 Area Codes unless noted)

**Executive Officers**

Larry Googins.....President.....869-7090  
 Bill Laughner.....Exec VP.....601-3597  
 Rich Kamzelski ...1st VP.....494-5752  
 Cliff Hawes.....2nd VP 728-5065  
 Lee Corfield.....Secretary ....775-3027  
 Jake Barsottini...Treasurer.....601-7293

**Board of Directors**

Gary Shaffer .....3.....643-8941  
 Rich Tindell .....3.....622-0724  
 Pete Herman.....3.....712-4324  
 Michelle Wilcox ....2.....847-3463  
 Don Villella .....2.....843-7401  
 Philip Morris.....2.....643-5725  
 Chuck Inman.....1.....709-7747  
 Rich Raich.....1.....412-974-6282  
 Nick Pavkovich.....1.....847-0592

**Delegates**

Bill Laughner .....601-3597  
 Lee Corfield.....775-3027  
 Larry Googins.....869-7090  
 Philip Morris.....643-5725  
 Chuck Inman.....709-7747  
 Terri Carr .....330-692-1849  
 Pete Herman.....712-4324  
 Jake Barsottini.....601-7293  
 Ray Rapp.....316-6786  
 Michelle Wilcox .....847-3463  
 Nick Pavkovich .....847-0592  
 Rich Raich... Alt.....412-974-6282

**Standing Committees**

**Agent Orange / Dioxin**

Mike Coligure .....412-613-1810

**Audit**

Bill Winkle .....774-2626

**Community Services**

Chuck Inman .....709-7747

**Finance**

Bill Winkle .....774-2626

**Government Affairs**

Bart Farzati .....777-2193

**Membership**

Gary Shaffer.....643-8941

**Minority Affairs**

Reuben Fuller .....378-4990

**POW / MIA**

Phil Morris .....643-5725

**PTSD / Substance Abuse**

Rich McCracken.....266-4914

**Public Affairs**

**(Vacant)**

**Veterans Affairs / Benefits / Advisor**

Kathy Nairn .....770-4450

**Woman Veterans**

Michelle Wilcox .....847-3463

**POW / MIA - Information taken from the  
Nat League of POW/MIA Families**

**AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR:** In mid-October and again more recently, DPAA posted changes to the list of Vietnam War missing and unaccounted-for US personnel, now numbering **1,624**. For various reasons, including wishes of the family, DoD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates and sometimes not even made, as was the case with the most recent changes. Several of those named in DPAA announcements this year demonstrate how remains repatriated many years ago can now be identified using scientific technology and processes that weren't available in earlier years. The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 959. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to 1,022. Of the 1,624 still missing and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,266 (VN-467, VS-799); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to locations of loss. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

**DPAA DIRECTOR COMPLETES VISITS TO CAMBODIA, LAOS & VIETNAM:** DPAA Director Mike Linnington recently returned from his first-ever trip to any of the most directly engaged Vietnam War countries. He first visited Cambodia, though for just one day, then made official calls in Vientiane, Laos, then flew by helicopter to visit DPAA and Lao personnel conducting field operations. He returned to Vientiane before going on to Hanoi to meet with senior officials there. This important visit appears to have been mostly introductory and came at a time of ever-increasing political and economic relations, as well as bilateral military-to-military cooperation. He also visited US and SRV personnel conducting field operations in Vietnam before flying back to the US, arriving in time for a DPAA-hosted Family Update in Portland, ME, on November 14th. A report will be provided when available.

**MORE GOOD NEWS:** DPAA Director Linnington has decided to invite representatives of responsible national Veteran organizations to attend and observe briefings at DPAA-hosted Updates. The League deeply appreciates this return to including our Veterans in these meetings around the country. Though pretty general in content, the briefings given are firsthand and provided by responsible US officials. Since DPAA is stressing the importance of outreach and transparency, the DPAA-hosted Updates provide an opportunity for both.

**POW News (cont on Page 3)**

**VVA 862 Committees (Cont)****Special Committees****Color/Honor Guards**

Ray Litzinger.....378-5855

**Highway Clean UP**

Charles Ray.....827-8310

**Homeless Veterans**

Bill Porupsky.....495-7051

**Newsletter / Webmaster**

Lee Corfield.....775-3027

**Nominating / Scholarship**

Lon Hogue.....846-8857

**Veterans Assistance**

Bill Laughner.....601-3597

**Other Positions****Chaplain**

Don Villella.....843-7401

\*

**AVVA Chapter 862 Officers**

President Bobbie Morris 643-5725

V.P. Marji Slawianowski 378-7315

Secretary Veronica Grant..462-3717

Treasurer Sue Bridgewater 643-0731

**AVVA BOD**

Keith Black.....513-3177

Carl Curtis.....869-0294

Sandy Giordano.....203-4569

**Parliamentarian**

Veronica Grant.....462-3717

**Chaplain**

Barb Googins.....69-7090

**Membership**

Susan Smith.....728-6741

**POW News (cont from Page 3)**

**ACCOUNTING RESULTS:** Although the pace of joint field recoveries and investigations related to the Vietnam War has resumed to a higher level, the Vietnamese, in particular, have repeatedly called for increasing the pace and scope of such operations, in fact since 2009. It is crucial that there be no reduction in DPAA's budget or the number of personnel to enable overdue responsiveness to Vietnam's longstanding request. Now is not the time to pull back on fielding teams to accomplish the Vietnam War accounting. In fact the political climate, regionally and bilaterally with Vietnam, lends itself to expanding cooperation across the board.

It is the League's hope that there will be no further reluctance to moving full speed ahead. The Vietnam War POW/MIA accounting mission is running out of time; that is the reality in terms of eye-witness accounts, immediate family members and preservation of skeletal material under very hostile conditions.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ENSURE THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MUST BE NO REDUCTION IN BUDGET AND PERSONNEL FOR THE NEW DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA).**

You are here: Home / Updates / Vietnam's Ability to Account for American's Missing From the Vietnam War

November 24, 2015 Family members, veteran organizations and other POW/MIA supporters throughout the country consistently opposed steps to improve economic and political relations with Vietnam until their leadership decided to cooperate fully to resolve the POW/MIA issue. The League supported a policy of reciprocity – steps by the US to respond to efforts by Vietnam to locate and return remains and provide issue-related archival documents. During the initial stages of the normalization process, important leverage was lost without commensurate results; however, there has since been greater responsiveness.

One way of viewing what the US knows concerning Vietnam's ability to respond more fully is to look at what US intelligence and other data confirmed at the end of the war. At that time, roughly 200 missing Americans were last known alive in captivity or reported alive in close proximity to capture. Vietnam knows that these highest priority cases are directly related to the live prisoner issue, but thus far has accounted for fewer than expected of these Americans by returning identifiable remains. Also, archival documentation is as yet incomplete. In all but roughly 30 of these cases, joint field investigations have reportedly been sufficient to confirm death. Logically, if deceased, remains of these Americans should be easiest to recover, as they were in captivity or on the ground in proximity to Vietnamese forces (other than those who died in captivity in South Vietnam). Also, logically, Vietnam should possess and be able to provide helpful records; thus, recent initiatives by Vietnam to renew working level archival research and records access are encouraging and most welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Morris POW Chairman

## Minutes from November 18, 2015 meeting

**Called to order by** President Larry Googins @ 7:00 PM

**Opening Prayer** by Chaplain Don Villella. Attendance was **127**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**VVA Motto: "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"**

**Roll Call of Officers** 12 – Present 0 – Absent 3 – Excused

**Introduction of Guest Speaker** – Chelsea Herdt-Dawson (Charlie Herdt's daughter) presented thank you letters and a donation of \$100.00 from the kindergarten students of Beaver Falls Central School. Lon Hogue reminded the members that Chelsea was a former scholarship recipient and updated the progress of other recipients.

**Introduction of Guests or Prospective Members** – Dan Vaughn, Lorenzo Williams and Greg Goosic.

**Members Sick or in Distress** – Ken Pingatore, Kathy Miller, Jake Barsottini, Harry Suttelle and Rich Orson.

**Secretary's Report: Minutes:** Were accepted as read.

**Communications** - All communications were read.

**Treasurer's Report:** was read by Treasurer Jake Barsottini. Approved pending audit.

There being no BOD meeting November 11th, no recommended motions were brought to the floor.

**Agent Orange** - Mike Coligure – attended Rolling Thunder National Convention in Washington, DC. Thanks to members for phone calls made to legislators on Nov. 4.

**Gov't Affairs** - Bart Farzati – statistics on VA work product in Beaver County. Kathy Nairn is the most productive non-veteran Veterans Service Officer in the state.

**Membership** - Gary Shaffer - Membership **735/ 565 (70) LIFE**. Is contacting inactive members from State list.

**POW MIA** - Philip Morris - stated that there are still 1623 left. JPAC still has 90 unidentifiable remains.

**Honor Guard** – Ray Litzinger - reported on recent funeral and upcoming dinner at the Monaca American Legion at 2:00 PM on Sunday.

**Veterans Assistance** - Bill Laughner – assistance requested for 83 year old veteran for furnace replacement. Motion was made by Pat Rapp, 2nd by Don Villella to donate \$500.00. Motion Carried. An additional personal donation was made by Philip Morris of \$100.00. There is a list of agencies for assistance.

**Minutes (con't on Page 5)**

**Minutes (con't from Page 4)**

**Festival of Trees - Chuck Inman** – mentioned dates & times and had a sign-up sheet for manning the VVA table.

**Wreaths Across America - Chuck Inman** – is taking donations towards Wreaths Across America.

**President's Report:** - Larry thanked all for great turnout for Veteran's Day parade. Went over the upcoming Chapter-Sponsored Events. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration pins are available.

**TET REUNION PARTY** – February 20. Posters are available for advertisement. Planning meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 PM at the Rochester VFW. Raffle tickets are available as are stars for the STARS fundraiser. **Tickets are \$25 and can reserve a table for 10 @ \$250.00** Bill Laughner is in charge of reservations.

**Exec VP Bill Laughner** – no report.

**1st VP Rich Kamzelski** - Christmas Vigil will be held from 6:00 PM December 24<sup>th</sup> through Noon Christmas Day. Will have signup sheet at December meeting.

**2nd VP Cliff Hawes** - Excused.

**AVVA - Bobbie Morris - Membership 147 / 69 LIFE.** Recognized new member. VISTA awards were presented to Sue Bridgewater, Laura Beitsinger, Sandy Giordano and Keith Black. Thanked all who attended the Agent Orange Balloon Release on November 11<sup>th</sup>. A donation of \$100.00 was given to Midland VFW Post 8168. Bobbie Morris stated that there is no AVVA meeting in December. AVVA will be providing the Christmas meal for the membership after the general meeting.

**Good of the Chapter:**

**Philip Morris** talked about the financial problems of the Midland VFW and the request for funds to hold the annual Breakfast with Santa. Motion was made by Lon Hogue, 2nd by Steve Kisio to donate \$1000.00. Motion Failed. Motion was made by Dave Thompson, 2nd by Ray Litzinger to donate \$400.00. Motion Carried.

**Linwood Alford** talked about the upcoming Christmas Parade in Beaver Falls on November 28<sup>th</sup>. They are honoring Vietnam Veterans and there will be two trucks (one which is handicap accessible) to ride on. Members are encouraged to attend. Meet at the BF American Legion at 5:00 PM.

**Charles Ray** talked about the veterans being served by the Darlington food bank and requested funds to purchase Giant Eagle gift cards. Motion was made by Rich Tindell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wally Chevron to donate \$250.00. Motion Carried.

**Closing Prayer** by Don Villella

**Motion to adjourn** by Bill Winkle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Harlow. Motion Carried.

**Respectfully Submitted**  
**Michelle Wilcox, Acting Secretary**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 11/13/2015

**Contact:** David Cowgill, Communications Manager  
[david.cowgill@va.gov](mailto:david.cowgill@va.gov), 412-822-3318

*VA Healthcare – VISN 4 Announces New Healthcare System Director  
Karin McGraw Brings Wealth of Knowledge and Experience to VA Pittsburgh*

**PITTSBURGH** — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Karin McGraw as the new director of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Ms. McGraw will oversee delivery of health care to approximately 69,763 Veterans with an operating budget of \$583 million.

“We are excited to bring Ms. McGraw on board as the new director of the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System,” said William H. Mills, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 4 interim director. “Her leadership experience will be a valuable asset for the facility, the employees and volunteers, and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve. We anticipate she will arrive at the healthcare system within the next 45 to 60 days to begin her appointment.”

McGraw joined VA more than 36 years ago and has held progressive leadership positions in VISN 6. Most recently, she served as the medical center director for the Beckley VAMC in Beckley, West Virginia. McGraw served as the associate director at the Beckley VAMC from May 2004 to April 2008. She began her career as a staff nurse at the Beckley VAMC and progressed through the years to serve as the acute care service line chief. She earned her undergraduate degree in nursing from West Virginia University and her Master of Science from Bellarmine University.

With more than 3,531 employees, VA Pittsburgh proudly serves Veterans throughout the tristate area of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. The healthcare system’s University Drive campus, located in Pittsburgh’s Oakland neighborhood, offers acute care and operates 146 beds split among medicine, surgery, neurology and critical care as well as 78 inpatient behavioral health beds. The healthcare system’s H. John Heinz III campus, located in O’Hara Township, is home to a 225-bed community living center and an outpatient-based Ambulatory Care Center. This campus is also home to a 65-bed Veterans Recovery Center and 31 psychiatric residential rehabilitation treatment beds.

McGraw’s appointment fills the vacancy left by Terry Gerigk Wolf who vacated the position in June 2014.

## Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Dinner

Hopewell VFW — November 14, 2015

Once again, VVA 862 was proud to be one of the sponsors for this event.

This year's **4th Annual DAV Volunteer Service Award** went to Executive Vice President **Mr. William "Duckman" Laughner**

Making the Presentation was Robert "Cam" Adamson from D. A. V. Chapter #107



## What is Bee Squad for Veterans Charities?



**Bee Squad for Veterans Charities** is a **501(c)3** made up primarily of civilians and veteran family members who love and want to help veterans in need primarily throughout Western PA and Eastern Ohio. They hold fund raising events on face book as well as downtown Pittsburgh. When our brother Tony was in need due to losing his home to a fire, they came through in spades with more than \$1200 in gift cards and cash.

I write this because our BOD recently donated to a two tour IRAQ veteran who lost his home on November 25th to a fire in Jefferson Twp, Ohio. He has a wife and two children. The board voted to give the maximum we could, \$250 with the intent of asking the membership to approve more if necessary., I don't know if we have any members beside myself who are involved with this organization, but I just wanted everyone to know they are legit and very supportive of any veteran or their family in need.

They are also presently raising funds to assist my two children with medical expenses as a result of their chemical related problems.

**Thank You All!** I will keep you informed when any event of significance comes up that we may want to help with. To find out more about them visit: [www.beesquad.org](http://www.beesquad.org).

**Jake Barsottini, Treasurer**



**Look at your ticket stub(s) for the M-1 Raffle held on Veterans Day**

**If you have Ticket “341”**

**please contact Rich Raich to claim your prize. 412-974-6282 (You will need to show us the stub)**

## **RED CROSS “BLOOD DRIVE” for VVA 862 member “John Bowden”**

**Date:** Tuesday, December 29

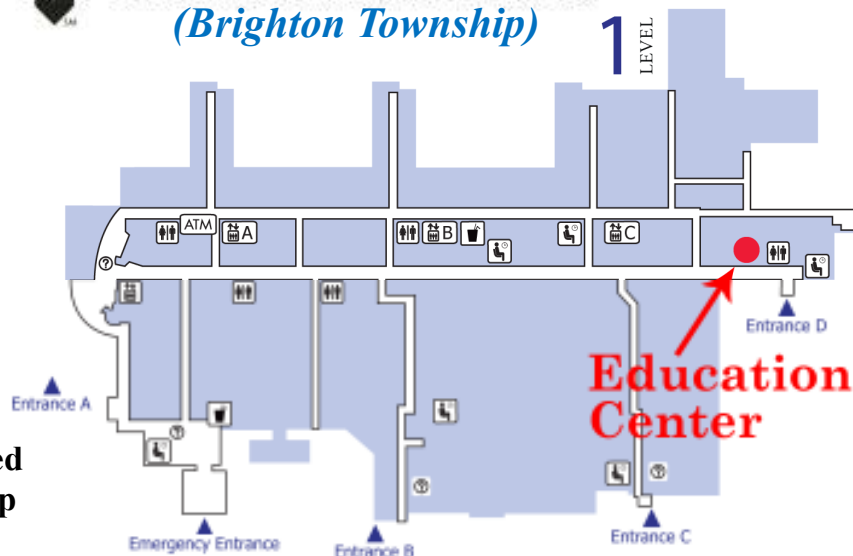
**Location:** Medical Center  
(Education Center)-  
Entrance “C” or “D” (see map at right)

**Time:** 11:00 AM till 4:30 PM

This Blood Drive is being co-sponsored by VVA 862. Please come out and help one of our brothers.



**HERITAGE VALLEY BEAVER**  
(Brighton Township)





**Associates of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 862**  
**November 18, 2015**

A regular meeting of the AVVA Chapter 862 was opened by President Bobbie Morris at 6:00 p.m. with a word of prayer by Chaplain Barb Googins, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the POW/MIA.

All Officers and Board Members were present, except Vice President Marji Slawianowski.

President Morris welcomed Life Member Cheryl Vaughn to the meeting.

Sue Bridgewater, Treasurer gave the Treasurer's report. Treasurer's report approved pending audit.

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter was made by Judy Hage and seconded by Barbara Kamicker. Motion carried.

Membership Chair Susan Smith reported that our Chapter has 147 members and 69 are life members. Our Chapter is in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the state. Life Membership sale continues through December 31st for \$75.00; our chapter will pay \$25.00 of the \$100.00.

VISTA Chair Laurel Beitsinger reported that there is an increase of VISTA hours being sent to National. Keith Black, Laurel Beitsinger, Sue Bridgewater and Sandy Giordano received VISTA pins from National for reporting their volunteer hours.

A motion to donate \$100.00 to the Midland VFW Auxiliary 8168 to buy Christmas gifts for veteran's children was made by Barb Googins and seconded by Sandy Giordano. Motion carried.

A motion to reimburse Rita Swesey \$30.17 for ribbon for the Festival of Trees was made by Carl Curtis and seconded by Judy Hage. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm; the next meeting will be January 20, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at the VFW Post 128 in Rochester, PA.

Submitted by,

*Veronica Grant*

Veronica Grant,  
Secretary, Chapter 862

DRAFT UNTL APPROVED

*Merry  
Christmas*  
*from AVVA*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO OUR  
MEMBERS**

**January**

Mary Alice Bernstein .....Jan 2  
 Charles Elia .....Jan 2  
 James Shumaker .....Jan 2  
 Charles Tarr .....Jan 4  
 Jack Wagner .....Jan 4  
 Lynwood Alford .....Jan 5  
 Bill Harlow .....Jan 5  
 Michelle Wilcox .....Jan 5  
 Dennis Graham .....Jan 6  
 Rich Tindell .....Jan 6  
 Jerome Szatkowski .....Jan 7  
 John Voycik .....Jan 8  
 Dan Nightingale .....Jan 9  
 Geraldine Pierce .....Jan 9  
 Larry Pearsol .....Jan 9  
 Dan Pratt .....Jan 9  
 Bob Schmetzer .....Jan 9  
 Herb Gruntz .....Jan 11  
 Dave Landsbaugh .....Jan 11  
 Rich Evans .....Jan 12  
 Wes Hill .....Jan 12  
 Nick Williams .....Jan 12  
 Dan Erzen .....Jan 13  
 Mike Hornick .....Jan 14  
 Allan Jones .....Jan 14  
 Bill Fisch .....Jan 15  
 Bill Herstine .....Jan 15

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO OUR  
MEMBERS**

**January**

Jerome Gogolin .....Jan 15  
 James McGeehan .....Jan 16  
 Tony Spataro .....Jan 16  
 Mark Buczko .....Jan 17  
 Bob Dunlap .....Jan 17  
 Don McCuean .....Jan 17  
 Mike Mikulich .....Jan 17  
 Dennis Johnson .....Jan 17  
 William Sobona .....Jan 17  
 Don Griener .....Jan 18  
 Al Cooper .....Jan 19  
 Dave Hendrickson .....Jan 19  
 James Huntsman .....Jan 19  
 Terry Speerhas .....Jan 20  
 Joe Todorowski .....Jan 20  
 Milen Cokrljic .....Jan 21  
 Don Miller .....Jan 23  
 Dennis Curtin .....Jan 25  
 Alex Sebastian .....Jan 25  
 Mike Galbraith .....Jan 27  
 Rich Wertz .....Jan 27  
 John Krul .....Jan 27  
 Steve Kisio .....Jan 30  
 Bob Eiler .....Jan 31  
 Tracey Escamilla .....Jan 31  
 Rich Kulpa .....Jan 31  
 Philip Lucca .....Jan 31

**Lee's Tid Bits:**

**Remember this question  
From a past newsletter?**

**“Are you reading your newsletter?”**

If you remember, I conducted a survey just to see how many people would respond. Do you know how many replies I had? Well, **I got a total of 38, out of 460 emails. 8%!**  Now does that tell me anything? It may mean that I just might be wasting my time putting a newsletter together each month.

Another indication is the number of phone calls that I get asking questions that could have been answered by reading the newsletter. It's making me think that everything that goes in the newsletter should be moved to the website. So I think we are going to look into this.

**About the new website**

You will most likely find out in January that just about everything will be on our new VVA 862 website. We are getting close to getting it finished. We are down to the last two sections, **“Newsletters”** and the photos, which will now be called the **Gallery”**

If there are any announcements for VVA members it will be under VVA 862. If there are any AVVA announcements, it will be under AVVA 862. Same for any other Committee. Ex Agent Orange. Most likely, those will be the three main areas where you will find Announcements.

***Merry Christmas &***

***Happy New Year***

*Lee*

*Next VVA 862 Meeting  
December 16th- 7:00 P.M*

Vietnam Veterans of America



Chapter 862 - Southwestern PA

17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**TET PARTY  
 REUNION**

Saturday, February 20, 2016

*The Fez*

2312 Brodhead Road - Hopewell Township, PA

Doors open at 5:00 PM—Program starts at 6:00 PM—Dinner follows



*Program Features*



Memorial Ceremony for Beaver County Veterans Lost in Action  
VVA Chapter 862 Color Guard & Marine JROTC Color Guard



Tickets only \$25 - Tables of 10 may be reserved for \$250

*Price includes Buffet Dinner, Draft Beer, Soft Drinks, Coffee & Dessert \* Cash Bar available*

Music & Dancing by **Rudy Zetz**

Call for tickets NOW: **724-843-6828** (tickets sell out early)

To order tickets by mail, send check with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:  
**VVA Chapter 862, 119 Jonathan Drive, Darlington PA 16115**



**Last month this offer will be available!**

**Once in a LIFETIME Membership Offer (Now in PROGRESS)**

**Starting the first of August, we're making a Once in a Lifetime Membership offer. Until December 31,**

**VVA 862 HAS OFFERED TO PAY THE 1ST \$25.00!**

"You" can purchase your Vietnam Veterans of America Life Membership for just \$75.00. There are no age restrictions, no small print, no contingencies. It's that simple. This has never happened before. It probably won't happen again.

**Eligibility hasn't changed.** Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

This deal applies **only to those who apply for life membership between August 1 and December 31 of this year.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE FROM VVA NATIONAL:**

**There will be no refunds for those who applied before August 1, and no discounts for those who apply after the end of the year.**

**Please Note:**

**At this time VVA Chapter 862 is offering to pay the 1st \$25.00 of this \$100.00 offer which means your only paying \$75.00 for a LIFETIME Membership. You can't beat that.**

**DON'T DELAY - "APPLY TODAY TO GET THIS OFFER.**

***AVVA also is offering a reduction in life membership dues.***

**VVA CHAPTER 862 IS ACCEPTING ORDERS** for memorial walkway bricks to be placed at the Vietnam Memorial in Beaver. You may honor Veterans of the armed services, loved ones and friends (*both living and deceased*) with an "In Memory of" brick. You may also want to honor your American Legion post, your Veterans of Foreign Wars post and/or all Veterans Service Organizations. Orders are accepted year round, with placement every spring and fall. Engraving is donated by Rome Monument in honor of county veterans.

**Brick Walkway Order Form**

Please PRINT all information clearly in BLUE or BLACK ink only.

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

contact telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Sizes Available** (*check one*) Checks payable to: **VVA CHAPTER 862**

**8" x 4"** **\$75**  
3 lines,  
13 characters\*


**8" x 8"** **\$200**  
6 lines,  
13 characters\*


\* includes punctuation and spaces

**Mail completed forms to:**  
**William Laughner**  
**119 Jonathan Drive**  
**Darlington, PA 16115**

**Please Note:**

The views and opinions are solely that of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions or policies of the Vietnam Veterans of America, (National, State or Local).

All articles written by the editor unless otherwise stated.  
Submissions will be gladly accepted by the editor

Lee Corfield - Editor VVA 862 Beaver Co., Pa  
140 Knob Vue Drive  
Freedom, Pa. 15042

We reserve the right to edit submissions as space allows.



**"TET Party Reunion Tickets"**

Are available NOW

Call me at **734-843-6828**

or

mail a check to me at:

**Bill Laughner**  
**119 Jonathan Drive**  
**Darlington, PA 16115**

You may reserve a table of 10  
for **\$250.00** or  
buy single tickets for **\$25.00** each.

## A Story Not Told Is a Story Not Heard

Since 2012, the oral history partnership between the Veterans Breakfast Club and the Veteran Voices of Pittsburgh Oral History Initiative has preserved and documented the stories of hundreds of veterans with a Western Pennsylvania connection.

The Veteran Voices of Pittsburgh Oral History Initiative is an educational media organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Its mission is to capture, preserve, and share the voices, images, and experiences of local veterans of all eras and branches of service.

“We believe that a story not told is a story not heard,” says Kevin Farkas, “so in addition to preserving stories for our history archive, we also present veterans’ stories to the public, encouraging others to witness and share them widely—especially with our younger generations.

Our free, searchable online archive contains complete live-recordings of breakfast story telling events, audio short stories, video interviews, historic and contemporary photographs, written memoirs, transcripts, and other written accounts of local veterans.

[Veteran Voices of Pittsburgh Oral History Initiative](#) <<<<Click on **Blue Area**



Several of our VVA 862 members have already had their histories recorded with Kevin.

If you haven't had yours done yet, contact Kevin. If anything, your Grandkids will appreciate it. .

**Click on the Link for more Info**

Kevin Farkas is organizational director and executive producer of the Veteran Voices of Pittsburgh Oral History Initiative, as well as director of multimedia with the Veterans Breakfast Club.

Kevin is a native of Beaver County and veteran of the US Navy.

### Rec'd from **the VETERAN** Nov - Dec 2015 List of “TAPS”

**Ronald A. Cholewinski** 67 Died May 22, 2015 - LIFE member of VVA 862. He served with US Army in Vietnam. He was from the Pittsburgh, Area.

**George A. Grates Jr.** 57 Died Jan 10, 2007 - LIFE member of VVA 862. George also served with the US Army while in Vietnam. He was from the Ford City area.

These members never told their next of kin about our VVA 862 Honor Guard and the services we provide. Talk to your family now before it's too late. There is a good chance these brothers never got the proper Veterans Burial Service that “All Veterans” are entitled to.

"TOGETHER THEN"

**Calendar of Events for 2015**

"TOGETHER NOW"

**December**

- Dec 7 "Pearl Harbor Day" 74 years
- Dec 9 VVA 862 BOD Meeting Rochester VFW  
7:00 PM
- Dec 11 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM  
Midland VFW
- Dec 12 "Wreaths Across America - Gazebo  
Beaver  
[Contact Chuck Inman for Details](#)
- Dec 16 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM  
REFRESHMENTS After the Meeting
- Dec 25 "Merry Christmas"
- Dec 31 "New Year's Eve"

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**DON'T FORGET**

**NEXT VVA /AVVA 862 MEETING  
WILL BE:**

**DECEMBER\ 16TH, 2015**

**ROCHESTER VFW  
179 VIRGINIA AVE  
ROCHESTER, PA 15074**

**AVVA & VVA Meet @ 7:00 PM**

**Calendar of Events for 2016****WOW!**

Here it is December already. Its that time of the year. If you have events coming up in 2016, PLEASE send them to me this month so I can set up the **Calendar of Events for 2016** in the January Newsletter like I always do.

I'm not sure how the new Secretary will do it, come next June but I still plan on sending out the Weekly Updates by Month up 'til then.

Like this month with the Veterans Breakfast being held at the Seven Oaks CC on December 2nd, that was close enough to the beginning of the month to include it with the November 29th Updates.

**ATTN: Widows of Veterans**

Dear Veterans,

Good morning. I would like to share that there is also home health care help available for *widows* of Veterans.

This I personally just found out about ...as I am caring for my mom, who has Alzheimer's. This will be a great help ...as it is free of cost, once the application is complete. The organization is called :

<http://www.Veteranshomecare.com>

Or call:

phone number: [888 411 8033](tel:8884118033)

Nancy Rekowski

# VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY VETERAN WHO SERVED ANYWHERE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR ERA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I served in the US military (for other than training purposes) between 8/5/64 & 5/7/75  
or

\_\_\_ I served in the US military in Vietnam between 2/28/1961 and 5/7/1975

\_\_\_ DD-214 enclosed (Applications without DD-214 will be processed as Associate Memberships)

\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER

\_\_\_ RENEWAL - Membership Card # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I wish to join the Associates of the Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) - \$20.00 /Year

Type:

\_\_\_ **1 Year Individual Membership - \$20.00**

\_\_\_ **3 Year Individual Membership - \$50.00**

\_\_\_ **Individual Life Membership - \$100.00**



Return this form to:

**GARY SHAFFER  
VVA CHAPTER 862  
709 OHIO AVE  
MIDLAND, PA 15059**

