

VIETNAM VET "GAZETTE"

Issue 137

Together Then Together Now

January 2014



In Service to America

Up-Coming Meetings

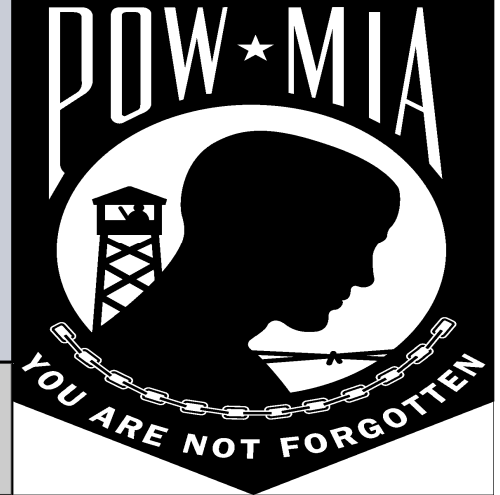
BOD Meeting
2nd Wed of the Month
7:00 PM

3rd Wed of the month
AVVA - Meets 6:00 PM

Regular Meeting
7:00 PM

at the
ROCHESTER VFW

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



President's Message

Something on my mind....and this came about after talking to a Marine Brother on the phone.... It should not be a "Marine Thing" but should be something Air Force, Navy, Army, and Coast Guard do. We are in loss of Brothers and Sisters, everyday. Too many and it hurts, most recently Peter-San....like most, it hurts to think of the ones we love and lost.

When we were finished talking on the phone the Brother said to me, "Love Ya Man !" and before we hung up....we talked about his remark and it's something to think about. He said to me, " I said to you 'Love Ya Man' because who knows, this may be the last time we speak to each other." So true. Nothing is wrong with the greeting of a handshake and a HUG or when we say, "So Long" a HUG and "Love Ya Man" or "Love Ya Girl." The last thing I said to Peter-San (Petrosky) is "Love Ya Peter-San" and he whispered and moved his lips and said " Love Ya Skip-San." That was special and will always be remembered and sadly.....That was final !!!! Life is very short and each one of us could go today or tomorrow....So tell your spouse, your children, grandchild.... "I love you" and mean it....Because of Nam, many of you won't let friends "cross over that line" because again like Nam, the FNG's you knew you would lose them...today you won't let everyone get close to you because you know the pain when you lose him/her. You didn't even want to know his name because the next firefight he could be gone. He had to earn the trust and once he did he was VERY special,,,,,Someone you would remember for a lifetime....the friendship that only those of you in combat could share.

So next time you see a brother or sister.....tell them Love Ya Man or Love Ya Girl. It may be the last time you can tell them they are special.

Welcome Home, Walk Tall, Walk Proud
Skip

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

Executive Board

L. Skip Haswell ..President.....495-9612
 Bill Laughner... Exec VP.....601-3597
 Rich Kamzelski ...1st VP.....494-5752
 Tom Robes.....2nd VP.....728-4334
 Lee CorfieldSecretary.....775-3027
 Larry Googins.....Treasurer869-7090

Board of Directors

Jake Barsottini1.....601-7293
 Don Villella1.....843-7401
 Philip Morris.....1.....643-5725
 Gary Shaffer2.....643-8941
 Rich Tindell2.....622-0724
 Pete Herman.....2.....712-4324
 Cliff Hawes.....3.....728-5065
 Chuck Inman.....3.....709-7747
 Rich Raich.....3.....412-974-6282

Delegates

Skip Haswell.....495-9612
 Bill Laughner.....601-3597
 Lee Corfield.....775-3027
 Larry Googins.....869-7090
 Rich Kamzelski.....494-5752
 Philip Morris.....643-5725
 Rich Tindell622-0724
 Chuck Inman.....709-7747
 Terri Carr330-692-1849
 Pete Herman.....712-4324
 Dave Kane.....847-0634
 Tom Reilly.....709-8617
 Ray Rapp.....1st Alt.....316-6786
 Michelle Wilcox ..2nd Alt.....847-3463
 Jake Barsottini.....3rd Alt.....601-7293

COMMITTEES
*** Chairman**
Agent Orange

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

Color/Honor Guards

Ray Litzinger*.....378-5855

Community Affairs

Dan Sinclair*.....846-7475

Constitution & By-Laws

William Weiss*.....827-2460

Finance

Larry Googins*.....869-7090

Homeless Veterans

Bill Porupsky*.....495-7051

Legislative

Bart Farzati*.....777-2193

Membership

Gary Shaffer*.....643-8941

Merchandise

Bill Laughner*.....601-3597

Minority Affairs

Reuben Fuller*.....378-4990

Vets 4 Vets

Tom Robes728-4334

POW Update

UPDATED: December 14, 2013

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: There are still **1,643** personnel listed by the Department of Defense (DoD) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DoD recently posted the identification of **SSG Lawrence Woods, USA/SF**, of TN, listed as KIA/BNR in South Vietnam on October 24, 1964. His remains were recovered on April 13, 2010 and identified September 4, 2013. Earlier, DoD posted the identification of **Colonel Francis J. McGouldrick, USAF**, of CT, listed as MIA in Laos on December 13, 1968, as now accounted for. His remains were repatriated May 22, 2012 and identified August 28, 2013. The number of Americans announced by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 940. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and ID'd before the end of the war, bring the official total of US personnel accounted-for from the Vietnam War to 1,003. Of the 1,643 unaccounted-for personnel, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,275 (VN-469, VS-806); Laos-308; Cambodia-53; PRC territorial waters-7; over-water losses on DoD's list of No Further Pursuit cases number well over 600.

LEAGUE CHAIRMAN MEETS WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

Chairman of the Board Ann Mills-Griffiths met on December 4th with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to discuss the way ahead for the entire accounting community. Recognizing the growing negative impact on Vietnam War accounting being caused by the US bureaucracy's internal dysfunction and bias in pursuing accounting objectives, the League leadership, supported by League Advisors, determined the need to develop a cohesive structure to reorganize the entire effort. Critical hearings held on August 1st in the House and Senate reinforced the urgency of moving quickly due to investigations and assessments demanded by Congress, the usual outcome of lawmakers frustrated in seeking answers to questions based on unverified, misleading accusations from biased, relatively uninformed individuals. Rather than awaiting results from further internal investigations and assessments, and based on decades of experience dealing with successive organizations and administrations, Mills-Griffiths sought suggestions from former and current US officials known to be firmly committed to the mission. The task was made more critical by negative media focused on the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). The Secretary pledged to carefully review the background memo and proposed reorganization and respond directly to the League.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE & JOINT CHIEFS CHAIRMAN PLEDGE SUPPORT:

On September 20th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, in remarks at the Pentagon's ceremony commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition day, stated in part, "Words and promises cannot make the lingering uncertainty, the headache, and the heartache go away. But I hope it provides comfort to know that as long as members of our Armed Forces remain unaccounted for, the Department of Defense will do everything – whatever we can to find them and bring them home....we will not rest until we fulfill this pledge – no matter how long it takes....Today, as the POW/MIA flag is raised in communities across America, we pledge to live by its creed, **'You are not Forgotten.'**"

VIETNAM: US-Vietnam POW/MIA Consultations were held September 26th, led by JPAC Commander Maj Gen Kelly McKeague, USAF, with DPMO, DIA's Stony Beach and Embassy-Hanoi participation. A commemorative dinner was held the night before to celebrate recent years of steadily improving POW/MIA cooperation. Although invited to attend, the League's Chairman of the Board regretted and sent a letter that was read aloud and well-received, according to the JPAC Commander. The Joint Field Activity (JFA) in Vietnam, scheduled for November, was initially postponed due to lack of funding. Once agreement was reached on a Continuing Resolution to temporarily fund the government, the Vietnam JFA was back on, though significantly reduced in scope and now completed.

POW News (cont on Page 3)

**VVA 862
COMMITTEES (Cont)**

Scholarship

Lon Hogue*846-8857

Sgt of Arms

Roy Barlett*378-0272

Veterans Affairs - Advisor

Kathy Nairn.....770-4450

Veterans Assistance Committee

Bill Laughner*601-3597

Hospital Committee

Lon Hogue*846-8857

Women Veterans

Michelle Wilcox...*847-3463

Auditing Committee

Bill Winkle*774-2626

Wayne Cumer947-3859

Joe Maverro.....494-1505

Webmaster

Lee Corfield*775-3027

n3ial@comcast.net

Nominating Committee

Lon Hogue*846-8857

Bart Farzati777-2193

Ken Pingatore876-0335

PTSD

Rich McCracken *266-4914

POW / MIA

Phil Morris* 643-5725

AVVA 862 - Officers

President..Bobbie Morris...643-5725

V.P. Marji Slawianowski...378-7315

Secretary .Donna Corfield .775-3027

Treasurer .Sue Bridgewater. 643-0731

AVVA BOD

Betty Jacobs774-7350

Sue Petrosky643-8999

Barb Googins869-7090

**AVVA Membership Chair
&**

Parliamentarian

Veronica Grant.....462-3713

Chaplain

Barb Googins869-7090

POW News (cont form Page 2)

In a very important development, Vietnamese Deputy Minister of National Defense LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh was in Washington, DC, for October 29th bilateral Defense Policy Dialogue. In response to a League request, Minister Vinh and his delegation met with Chairman of the Board Ann Mills-Griffiths on Sunday, October 27th. Mills-Griffiths thanked Minister Vinh for taking the time to meet and for significant improvements in cooperation, particularly since 2009, Minister Vinh first stated 1) he had brought more documents sought by the US to turn over to DoD officials, 2) agreed to additional US personnel operating in the central provinces, and 3) saw no problem with permanent stationing of the two DIA specialists, providing their mission was clear, i.e. focused solely on POW/MIA-related information, indicating it should simply be handled as other such requests through the US Embassy. Minister Vinh asked for additional US emphasis on and support for addressing “war legacy issues,” including demining and humanitarian assistance for the disabled and their families, and for information that might help locate Vietnamese who died and whose remains are not yet recovered. He suggested that bilateral US-Vietnam cooperation on the humanitarian accounting mission should be publicized to serve as an example to the world of what can be accomplished by working together on such matters. In a post-DoD meeting wrap-up, observers reported that Minister Vinh indicated there were no barriers to his government’s willingness to assist and again suggested publicizing the success of bilateral US-Vietnam cooperation on the humanitarian accounting mission.

Chairman’s Comment: There was noticeable warmth and responsiveness during discussions with the Deputy Defense Minister, a willingness to cooperate that has been evident to the League since 2009 and, along with the improved level of cooperation, there have also been a significant improvements in the professionalism of working level officials, clearly having received authorization and encouragement from senior officials. These welcome developments, especially a commitment that there are “no barriers” to POW/MIA accounting cooperation by such a senior MND official as Senior LTG Nguyen Chi Vinh, bode well for achieving greater success on Vietnam War accounting, so long as US Government funding and personnel levels meet long-established agreements..

CAMBODIA: Consultations were held September 30th in Phnom Penh, led by JPAC Commander Maj Gen Kelly McKeague, USAF, with DPMO, DIA’s Stony Beach and Embassy-Phnom Penh participation. It is hoped the legal obstacles raised by the US bureaucracy will not recur to pose further difficulties for JPAC teams and counterpart Cambodian officials who, though puzzled, have been most patient. The long-delayed JFA in Cambodia was scheduled to take place from October 23 – December 6th but was again postponed, as noted above. Operations in Cambodia by two Recovery Teams (RTs) and one Underwater Recovery Team (URT) have been postponed twice this year.

LAOS: On August 16th, US-Lao Bilateral POW/MIA Consultations, also led by the JPAC Commander, with DPMO and Embassy-Vientiane representatives participating, were held in Vientiane, Laos. The talks were the most productive such discussions in quite some time. At long last, the Lao Government agreed to allow the Defense Intelligence Agency’s (DIA’s) Stony Beach POW/MIA specialist to pursue field investigations year-round, on an as-needed basis. Though the details have yet to be worked out, the League welcomes Lao responsiveness to specific appeals, including approval of year-round Stony Beach investigations, contracting the use of smaller helicopters, and on-site base-camping. These Lao Government decisions are in keeping with the improved political, economic and military relationship. The agreement on base-camping was to have been tested during the October 16 – November 29th JFA that was postponed due to lack of funding.

**Ann Mills-Griffiths
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families**

Minutes from December 18th, 2013 Meeting

Meeting called to order by Exec Vice Pres Bill Laughner @ 7:00 PM with Pledge of Allegiance and an Opening Prayer by Chaplain Don VILLELLA. Attendance was “ 138 ”

Veterans “Sick or In Distress” - None mentioned at this time

Guests and/or Prospective Members - Michael Stovall, Roland Mayer, Bob Brown, Pat Macey, & Lynwood Alford.

Roll Call of Officers - 12 - Present 0 - Absent 3 - Excused

Secretary’s Report: Minutes: were accepted as printed in the recent Newsletter.

Communications - Were read by Secretary Lee Corfield

Treasurer’s Report: was read by Treasurer Larry Googins to be accepted as read, pending audit.

Recommended Motions by the BOD that need approved by the body;

- (1) Motion was made by Ray Litzinger, 2nd by Jake Barsottini to donate \$100.00 to the Stanley Marchetti Funeral Fund Motion Carried
- (2) Motion was made by Al Whitehill, 2nd by Dennis Smith that we allow Gary Shaffer pursue looking into the paperwork to make MOH recipient Leslie Sabo from Ellwood City an Honorary Life Member of our chapter. Motion Carried. This all has to go through VVA National and may take a few months.
- (3) A recent audit was done and everything was in order. Motion to approve the audit was made by Frank Petz, 2nd by Ralph Cordes Motion Carried.

Committee Reports:

Membership: VVA - 627 LIFE - 437

Vets 4 Vets - Tom Robes explained to the new members as how the Vets 4 Vets works.

Legislative- Bart Farzati gave his report on several veterans issues. He mentioned some of the Bills they are working on.

Agent Orange - Mike Coligure spoke about what he is doing with the Agent Orange Posters.

Veterans Court - Larry Googins gave a report on what is going on with the Beaver County Veterans Court. These cases are handled by Judge Kim Tesla. He gave a full explanation on how it works.

“We need more Mentors” to assist with these cases. See Larry if you’re interested

AVVA - They now have 138 members. Bobbie gave a report on what they are working on. Tomorrow they will be going to the Beaver Valley Nursing Home to visit Veterans in South Beaver Twp. Bobbie thanked everyone for helping her brother Tony Yannachione.

Tet Party - Bill Laughner spoke about having tickets for the TET party. He also has raffle Tickets. TET Party will be Feb 15th, 2014 at the Fez in Hopewell.

Western PA Fallen Heros -- Service will be June 14th at Rochester High School. Bike run will go from Flag Plaza and end at Rochester High School field.

Old Bus - None at this time

New Business - Charles Ray spoke about local food banks for children. Fed Ex Ground is matching funds being donated.

Good of the Chapter - Lee spoke about going All Electronic in January. He spoke about the upcoming Air Force Museum trip. Weekly Updates will also be on the Website. Chuck Inman spoke about Wreaths Across America. He thanked everyone for there support. This year’s total was over \$3400.00 for 340 wreaths.

Rich Kamzelski spoke about the Christmas Tree Vigil that will be held at our Memorial in Beaver

Next meeting will be **January 15th, 2014**. The meeting for “The Wall That Heals” will be January 20th, 2014.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted Lee Corfield - Secretary

Veterans to Receive 1.5 Percent Cost-of-Living Increase

New Rates for Compensation and Pension Benefits in 2014

WASHINGTON - Veterans, their families and survivors receiving disability compensation and pension benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs will receive a 1.5 percent cost-of-living increase in their monthly payments beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

“We’re pleased there will be another cost-of-living increase for Veterans, their families and their survivors,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “The increase expresses in a tangible way our Nation’s gratitude for the sacrifices made by our service-disabled and wartime Veterans.”

For the first time, payments will not be rounded down to the nearest dollar. Until this year, that was required by law. Veterans and survivors will see additional cents included in their monthly compensation benefit payment. For Veterans without dependents, the new compensation rates will range from \$130.94 monthly for a disability rated at 10 percent to \$2,858.24 monthly for 100 percent. The full rates are available on the Internet at www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp.

The COLA increase also applies to disability and death pension recipients, survivors receiving dependency and indemnity compensation, disabled Veterans receiving automobile and clothing allowances, and other benefits. Under federal law, cost-of-living adjustments for VA’s compensation and pension must match those for Social Security benefits. The last adjustment was in January 2013 when the Social Security benefits rate increased 1.7 percent.

In fiscal year 2013, VA provided over \$59 billion in compensation benefits to nearly 4 million Veterans and survivors, and over \$5 billion in pension benefits to more than 515,000 Veterans and survivors.

For Veterans and separating Service members who plan to file an electronic disability claim, VA urges them to use the joint DoD/VA online portal, eBenefits. Registered eBenefits users with a premium account can file a claim online, track the status, and access a variety of other benefits, including pension, education, health care, home loan eligibility, and vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

For more information about VA benefits, visit www.benefits.va.gov, or call [1-800-827-1000](tel:1-800-827-1000).

Death Notices:

Sandra K. Birnesser Shephard - 65 of Valencia Pa. Sandra passed away on December 3, 2013. Sandra was the sister of AVVA member Marlene Laughner of Darlington, Pa.

Gary L Roberts - 68 of Beaver Falls, Pa. Gary passed away on December 6 2013. Gary was a U S Navy Vietnam Vet and member of VVA 862.

Stanley Marchetti - 75 of Slainsville, Ohio. Stanley passed away on December 8, 2013. Stanley was the brother of VVA 862 Life Member David Marchetti of Coraopolis, Pa.

Lorice Jean Brown - 86 of Columbia Station, Oh. Lorice passed away on December 9,2013. Lorice was the mother of VVA 862 Life member Richard Brown also from Columbia Station, Oh.

J. Richard Johnson 97 of Altoona, Pa. Rich passed away on Dec 20th, 2013 and was the father of VVA 862 LIFE member Jerry Johnson who drives to our meetings from Altoona every month

Kimberly (Brown) Gottschalk - 48 of East Palestine, Oh. Kim passed away on Dec 23rd, 2013 and was the Step Daughter of VVA 862 member Richard Hogue.

“MAY THEY REST IN PEACE”

“WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA”**Service was held on December 14th, 2013**

I would like thank all those who participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony . It turned out to be a great day, the snow really added to the atmosphere. Thanks to Michelle Wilcox for the Anthem and songs she led. 1st Sergeant Curtis and 1st Sergeant Short with there squad of JR.ROTC for the excellent job with Colors and distribution of the wreaths to all Monuments in the parks. The Sponsors and Persons selling Wreath Sponsorships deserve a "Well Done". We were able to provide 340 Wreaths on Veterans Markers at the "Cemetery of The Alleghenies", that's three times as many as last year , we all can take pride in our efforts.

Thanks,
Chuck (COASTGUARD)

During the Wreaths Across America ceremony,

The Ambridge Jr ROTC Troops proceeded to carry the Wreaths to the WWI, WWII KO-REA & VIETNAM Veteran memorials that are placed in the different parks in Beaver. It sure was cold out there but we appreciate your participation during this event.

Also, many thanks to all those VVA & AVVA members who came and participated in this event.



AVVA CHAPTER 862



Together Always

Another great and busy 2013 for our Chapter from fund-raising, educating veterans & families about Agent Orange, PTSD, legacy of our children and Reaching out into our community for Veterans in need. Honoring and remembering our Veterans who have gone before us.

I know that we have the BEST chapter in the Nation! We are Looking forward to another great year in 2014 for Chapter 862.

On behalf of AVVA have A Happy & Blessed New Year!

Bobbie Morris - AVVA 862 President



A couple pictures from our Christmas visit to Beaver Valley Nursing and Rehab Facility visiting Beaver County Veterans. I think each and every resident shed tears and was so grateful that we visited and brought gifts. Carole (activity Director) called to share that they are still talking about the 862 visit and wanted to see if we can come again.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**

January

- Mary Alice Bernstein..... Jan 2
- James Shumaker Jan 2
- Charles Tarr 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
- Mary Carr..... Jan 12
- Rich Evans Jan 12
- Wes Hill..... Jan 12
- Nick Williams..... Jan 12
- Dan Erzen Jan 13
- Mike Hornick..... Jan 14
- Laura Evangelista Jan 15
- Bill Fisch..... Jan 15
- Bill Herstine..... Jan 15
- Jerome Gogolin..... Jan 15

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**

January

- James McGeehan..... 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
- Tom Harper Jan 21
- Don Miller Jan 23
- Dennis Curtin..... Jan 25
- Pete Petrosky 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
- Randall Savor Jan 31

Lee's Tid Bits

Air Force Museum Trip

I'm really getting pumped up for all those going on this trip. I know there are a lot who have always wanted to go but just never went. Not only myself, we have 7 other Air Force personnel that are going. Some of who were even stationed at Wright Paterson Air force Base for a period of time.

To get an idea what we will be doing go to the site below and look around. You might find an area you want to read about now, before we go.

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/>

Suggestions for the future!

US Army Museum @ Ft Belvoir Va.

US Navy Museum @ Washington DC

U S Coast Guard @ New London CT

U S Marine Museum @ Quantico Va

We all have a deep respect for all the branches of our Armed Forces. We are all proud of all of our brothers and sisters in our VVA 862 chapter, no matter what branch they served. Yes! We do a lot of harassing but it is always in fun.

Hey! The Air Force couldn't take them all!

These trips could be arranged, doing maybe one each year. Preferably someone from that branch of service organizing the trip like I have done for the Air Force this year.

Lee

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 County, Pa

140 Knob Vue Drive

Freedom, Pa. 15042

We reserve the right to edit submissions as space allows.

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.

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

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*

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

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* includes punctuation and spaces

VVA 862 WEBSITE

Please Note: Our Chapter Web site has been updated with several "Links" with more being added everyday. Check all the "Links" !

["Agent Orange"](#) Link now has a Reference to all the Illnesses Related to Agent Orange along with the Birth Defects and it also includes the "Faces of Agent Orange" This would be a Good Link to refer your friends to that don't know what Agent Orange is and how it can affect your family.

Watch Daily for any ["Special Announcements"](#)

Go to <http://www.vva862.org> & "Check it Out"

National Museum of the United States Air Force - "TOUR"

We will drive out on our own on Friday June 6th. Tour the Museum on Saturday, and drive home on Sunday. It's about a 5 to 6 hour drive, pending on how you drive. You can't get in the rooms till after 3:00 PM so you can plan your trip accordingly. So far 35 people are interested but there is room for more. Everyone will be on their own schedule. Some people like to take their time and read about the history.

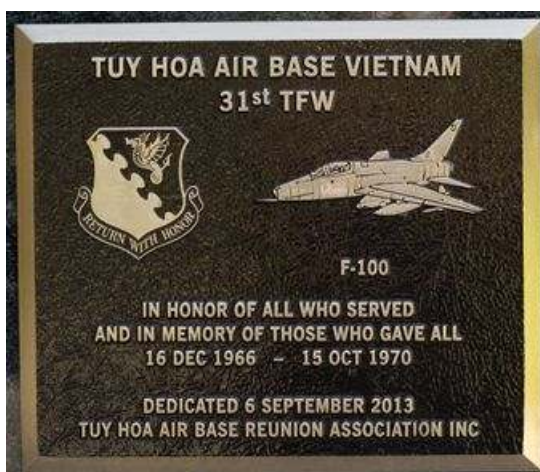
Actually, it's hard to do this all in one day, with so much to see and read. Once you check out of the hotel on Sunday morning, We can go back to the museum and see what you missed. Then leave from there to head home.. This is up to you.

Dates : June 6th & 7th, If you decide to go back Sunday, be sure to check out of your room Sunday morning before you go back to the museum.

Prices: There are 20 rooms blocked so far. 18 gone but I can get more. Looks like the price will be \$105.00 per night which is reasonable. This will cover the Full Hot Buffet in the morning. Deadline Date is May 7th, 2014. You must have your reservation in by then!

To make your Reservations: Call the Holiday Inn Express Dayton/Fairborn at:

(937) - 426 -7800 and use the Group Name - (VVA 862) when you register.



Legislative Update January 2014

After passing the House by a vote of 227 to 195 and the Senate by a vote of 64-36, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 became law with the president's signature on December 26th. The two year budget deal includes a provision that reduces working age retirees' annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) by one percentage point until they reach the age of 62 but breaks with legislative tradition and does not grandfather members already retired or still serving. The Military officers Association of America estimates that an E-7 retiring this year with 20 years of service would see an average loss of over \$3,700 per year by the time he/she reaches age 62 – overall impact: \$83,000 loss by age 62. The new force structure will likely force out nearly 100,000 troops, many of whom will leave with an early and already reduced retirement. Even though the bill includes a COLA “catch-up” clause at age 62 that recalculates the follow-on retiree's annual pay base, the financial loss of the years between retirement and age 62 are permanently lost. “From the outset, the architects of the BBA insisted that the COLA adjustment would exempt disability retirees. After MOAA's review of the language, we discovered that it contains no exemption for Chapter 61 retired pay or for certain survivors' benefits. Other budget-saving measures in the agreement include a provision altering retirement contribution amounts for federal (civilian) retirees. However, these provisions apply only prospectively to new hires, grandfathering current employees into their retirement system. Military retirees were not afforded this protection.” *MOAA weekly legislative updates December 2013*

This bipartisan agreement reduces the deficit by \$23 billion—without raising taxes. It also maintains about 90% of the sequester cuts. If not repealed, this provision takes effect in December 2015.

Here's how our local representatives and senators voted on the budget act and their phone number should anyone care to voice their opinion:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Senator Bob Casey | Yes | Phone: (202) 224-6324 |
| Senator Pat Toomey | No | Phone: (412) 803-3501 |
| Representative Keith Rothfus | Yes | Phone: (724) 359-1626 |
| Representative Tim Murphy | Yes | Phone: (412) 344-5583 |
| Representative Mike Doyle | Yes | Phone: (412) 390-1499 |

As a result of intense lobbying by many veterans and military organizations, there are already bills introduced to reverse the military pension cut. HR 3788 introduced by Rep. Fitzpatrick and cosponsored by PA representatives Rothfus, Murphy and Kelly would reverse the pension cuts and find savings from illegal wage earners by requiring a valid SSAN to claim the refundable portion of the child tax credit. A similar effort was attempted by in the Senate by Senator Sessions by way of an amendment to the Senate budget bill. Sessions' motion failed on a 46 to 54 party-line vote, with North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan crossing the aisle as the lone Democrat to vote with the Republicans.

Keep in mind that this cut in promised benefits applies ONLY to military retirees and “does not” apply to any compensation you may receive from the VA.

The national Defense Authorization Act has passed congress and been signed by the President. Of particular interest to the Pittsburgh region is that part of the bill that bans funding for another round of BRAC. The 911th Air Reserve Station and the CE Kelly support facility in Oakdale PA were proposed for closure in the 1995 and 2005 BRAC rounds with the 911th surviving but the Kelly facility closing.

Bart Farzati - VVA 862 Legislative Chair

Vets 4 Vets Chairman Tom Robes says **"THANKS"**

To all the members of VVA & AVVA 862 - We collected \$ 425.00 in donations from our members at our December meeting and \$840.00 was donated in Pete Petrosky's name at the funeral home (Thank You Sue). Giving us over \$1200.00 to give to Veterans or family members of Veterans. This year we have given out over \$1400.00 this Christmas. This past year, 2013, our members gave over \$1650.00 in collections at our monthly meetings, and Corey Allinder gave \$1000.00 from the Blaine Allinder Golf outing. Also, one of our members donated \$1000.00, in December, which, he wants to remain anonymous. We also received several checks of \$100.00 from our members during 2013,

We, the Chapter have given out over \$3,500.00 to Vets or Cancer victims this year. I want to thank all of our members and especially the Chapter Associates, that donated a 1/4 of the 50/50 money each month. that totaled over \$1,100.00. Thank You to Bobby Morris and all your wonderful chapter members. As anyone can see, we, Vets Helping Vets, reached out and helped people all year. If anyone has someone in need, or knows of someone, please call me at 724-728-4334. Georgiann and I get great satisfaction in helping individuals from our fund and I am so proud to be able to do this in the name of our Chapter's "Vets Helping Vets" .

**Thank You.
Squirrel (Tom) and Georgiann Robes**

*

"Special Thanks" from Jim Trozzo

I read the card the members of 862 sent to my daughter, son-in-law and grandson. I was so touched and honored that a bunch of guys thought so much of a young boy struggling with cancer, to send him some cards so he can eat some food on the way to Children's hospital. He can't make it the entire distance without getting sick because of the medicine, so they have found that a stop at Sheet's breaks up the trip.

Thank you all so very, very much.

Jim "TROZ" Trozzo

**Vietnam 70 & 71
6994th Security SQ.**

*

Brutality of War Course @ CCBC

There is a course being offered at the Beaver County Community College on Wednesday, April 2nd , 2014, from 1830-2030 hrs, STC Room 4130. This course and I quote the brochure "This is a story about the brutality of war when no men are winners and victory is a high body count. U.S. military brass resurrected the old policy of attrition towards the enemy. Learn why it didn't work and reasons for this failure."

Registration for this particular evening's course is January 6th, 2014. I thought this might be added to our monthly newsletter as I am interested in who is teaching this course and what will be said. **The cost is \$27.00**

Jim McGeehan - VVA 862

Vietnam Veterans of America



Chapter 862 - Beaver County

15TH ANNUAL

TET PARTY

Saturday, February 15, 2014

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
JROTC Honor Guard, Taps & 21 Gun Salute

Special Musical Guest Star – Ricky Lee



Tickets only \$25 - Tables of 10 may also be reserved for \$300

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

Music & Dancing by **Rudy Zetz**

Call NOW for Tickets: **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



VVA 862 = VETERAN'S OWNED AND/OR OPERATED BUSINESSES**Automotive**

Hague's Automotive Products (*Ralph Hague*) Beaver Falls, Pa. 1-877-377-7392
 Fred's Auto Shop (*Fred Fattore*) 1400 Airport Rd. Aliquippa, Pa. - 375-3812
 Uneeda Tire Co (*Tim Mulhollen*) - 624 8th Ave Beaver Falls, Pa. 843-3208
 Butch's Auto Clean - (*Gary Gilchrist*) - Beaver Falls, Pa 724-359-7465
 Brown's Auto Shop - (*Les Brown*) Aliquippa, Pa. 724-495-2699
 Pelloni's Auto Repair - (*Rich Pelloni*) Industry, Pa. 724-643-4844

Construction/Contracting

TEC Electric (*Tom Cekovich*) Electrical Work Beaver Falls, Pa. 846-9864
 General Contractor *A. Michael Galbraith*, Baden, Pa. 869-2366
 City Hardware (*Don Pickering*) 726 Midland Ave, Midland, Pa. 643-4570
 Flooring *Wynn Starr* - "All Types" - Aliquippa, Pa. 724-643-6207
 Abraham's Outdoor Power Equipment (*Mitchell Abraham*) - North Apollo Pa- 567-7671
 Dump & Back Hoe *Wm O'Brien* 141 Beaver St Fallston, Pa. 846-7332

Food

Kelly's Riverside Saloon, (*Lisa Kelly*) Bridgewater, Pa. 728-0222
 Brighton Hot Dog Shoppes (*Frank Papa*) 300 S. Walnut Ln Beaver Suite 400 Beaver, Pa. - 775-9070
 Wooden Angel/Wooden Indian (*Alex Sebastian*) Bridgewater, Pa. 774-7880
 Punk's Ice Cream Shoppe (*Mariellen Ketterer*) Rt. 65, Baden, Pa. 869-1967

Health

Chiropractor *Dr. Julius Bergiel*, 92 Pleasant Dr. Aliquippa Pa.- 375-2000
 Chiropractor *Dr. Michael Sisk*, 200 9 St. Monaca , Pa.. 774-8068
 Beaver Valley Nursing & Rehab (*John Papasodero*) Beaver Falls, Pa. 846-8200
 MD, Ear Nose Throat Surgery/Allergy (*John Straka*), 1099 Ohio River Blvd Sewickley, Pa. 412-741-5670
 Atcheson Oral Surgery (*David Atcheson*) 255 3rd Street Beaver, Pa 724-728-1700

Services

PA Guardianship Services, LLC - (*Drew/Doris Grivna*) 724-601-4696 Co-ordinator dmgpags@gmail.com
 Pa Metal - Stainless Steel Fasteners Nuts to Nails (*Jerry Fisher*) 724-728-9370
 Detective Agency/Security *Charlie Herdt*, Beaver Falls, Pa. 891-6244
 Huntsman's Funeral Home (*James Huntsman*) Rochester, Pa. 775-0655
 Duck Ticket Sales (*Wm. "Duckman" Laughner*), 843-6828 "Our Biggest Fund Raiser every Year"
 Attorney (*Gene Martucci*), 190 W. Washington, Rochester, Pa. 728-3000
 D.J. (Oldies Music) (*Jeff Hess*), Beaver Falls, Pa. 846-3961
 D.J. (Old Time Rock & Roll) (*Dick Bell*) - Beaver Falls, Pa. 843-2759
 Voices - Digital Music For All Occasions - (*Rudy Zetz*) - 724-622-0069
 Beaver County Veterans Affairs Director (*Kathy Naim*) Beaver, Pa. 728-5700 Court House
 Inkstar Printing *Sue & Rich Fudurich* - Beaver Falls, Pa. - 847-2940 print@myinkstar.com
 Haircuts *Tony Pietrandrea*, Koppel, Pa. 843-0649
 Fig Tree Travel (*Dan & Kathy Varna*) - Freedom, Pa. www.figtreetravel.com or 724-728-4624
 Specializing in Disney, Princess, Carnival Cruise & Apple Vacations
 Darlington Lawn Service (*Charles Ray Jr.*) - Darlington, Pa. 724-513-7804
 Keep It Short Landscaping & Lawn Care (*Corey Allinder*) - Aliquippa, Pa. 724-630-3453
 LSG Enterprises Inc (*Tee Patillo Jr*) Roll Off Containers Office Clean Out Services - Aliquippa, Pa. 375-2542
 Oxford Realty (*Rudy Zetz*) - 1289 Brodhead Rd Monaca Pa 724-774-7373
 Howard Hanna Realtor - (*John Sergeant*) 412-252-5500 Ext 253 johnsergeant@howardhanna.com
 Rochester VFW Hall Rental (*Tom Crawford*) 724-774-4378 [Where we hold our VVA Meetings!](#) 5000 Sq Ft.

Miscellaneous

Ambit Energy - (*Phil Talbott*) 330-303-5934 Turn Your Energy Into Income
 E.M. Jewelers (*Eddie Marx*) 517 Locust Place, Sewickley , Pa. 412-741-1111
 Rose Mary's Corner (*Dan Murdoch*) Rochester, Pa. Fine Antiques, Architectural & Accessories 728-1558
 King Beaver Cigars (*Vince Orend*) 1106 Penna Ave Monaca PA 724-774-5166
 Steve's Gunsmithing (*Steve Martin*) - Monaca , Pa. 724-683-0553
 Jamison Taxidermy (*Jack Jamison*) - Rochester, Pa. 724-581-8518

Let's "Patronize" our Vietnam Veterans Chapter 862 Members - "When at all Possible"

"TOGETHER THEN"

Calendar of Events for 2014

"TOGETHER NOW"

Jan

Jan 8 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Jan 10 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 Midland VFW
 Jan 15 AVVA Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Jan 30 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg

February

Feb 12 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Feb 14 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Feb 15 "TET Party" - Fez Hopewell
 Feb 19 AVVA Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Feb 27 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg

March

Mar 9 Daylight Savings - "Begins"
 Mar 12 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Mar 14 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Mar 15 - 16 PASC Meeting - State College - Ramada
 Mar 19 AVVA Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Mar 27 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg

April

Apr 5- 6 Maple Syrup Fest 1st Day Brady's Run Lodge
 Apr 9 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Apr 11 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Apr 14 Golf League Begins - Stonecrest 5:30 PM
 Apr 16 AVVA Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Apr 17 Golf League Begins - Fox Run 5:30 PM
 Apr 24 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg

May

May 7 Vietnam Veterans Day in Pa
 May 9 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 May 10 VVA 862 Banquet Rochester VFW
 May 14 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 May 20 WWII Bus Trip Contact Jerry Fisher 724-709-3614
 May 21 AVVA Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM
 May 22 Flags on Graves - Sylvania Hills
 May 24 Highway Clean up - Rt 18 Meet @ 9:00 AM
 May 26 **Memorial Day - Parade—???????**
 May 29 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg

June

June 6 -7 US Air Force Museum Trip - Dayton, Ohio
 June 11 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 June 13 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 June 14 US Army Birthday 1775
 June 14 "Fallen Hero's Ride" Rochester PA
 June 15 "Father's Day"
 June 15 "Support the Troops Rally 5:00 PM Beaver
 June 18 AVVA Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM
 June 26 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg

July

July 4 4th of July Parade - Midland, Pa.
 July 9 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 July 11 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 July 16 AVVA Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM
 July 31 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg

August

Aug 4 U S Coast Guard Birthday
 Aug 8 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Aug 5 - 10 VVA Nat Conference - Hyatt - Wichita, KS
 Aug 13 VVA 862 Picnic - Industry Park No BOD Meeting
 Aug 15- -17 Bridgewater River Regatta
 Aug 19 - 23 "Hookstown Fair" VVA Booth
 Aug 20 VVA Meeting 7:00 PM
 Aug 23 VVA 862 "Duck Race" @ Fair 6:00 PM
 Aug 28 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg
 Aug 30 4th Annual Blaine Allinder "Golf Outing"

Sept

Sept 10 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Sept 12 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Sept 17 VVA Meeting 7:00 PM
 Sept 18 - 21 Kokomo 32nd Vietnam Vets Reunion
 Sept 18 US Air Force Birthday-1947
 Sept 23 - 28 "Wall That Heals" Beaver, Pa.
 Sept 25 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg
 Sept 27 POW / MIA Ride to the Wall Registration 1:00 PM
 Leaves Rochester VFW 4:00 PM
 Sept 28 "Gold Star Mothers" Day

Oct

Oct 8 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Oct 10 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Oct 13 U S Navy Birthday
 Oct 15 AVVA Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Oct 18 Hi-Way Clean-Up - Rt 18 9:00 AM
 Oct 18 - 19 PASC Meeting State College - Ramada
 Oct 30 PTSD Meeting 7:00 PM Rochester Municipal Bldg

November

Nov 2 Daylight Savings - Ends"
 Nov 14 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Nov 10 US Marines Birthday
 Nov 11 **Veterans Day—Parade -?????????**
 Nov 12 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Nov 19 AVVA Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Nov 25 "Happy Thanksgiving

December

Dec 7 "Pearl Harbor Day" 73 years
 Dec 10 BOD Meeting Rochester VFW 7 PM
 Dec 12 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Dec 13 "Wreaths Across America - Gazebo Beaver
 Dec 17 VVA Meeting - 7:00 PM / Party afterwards
 Dec 25 "Merry Christmas"
 Dec 31 "New Year's Eve"

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 2/28/61 and 5/7/75

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

____ Renewal Membership Card # _____ New Member: _____

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

Type:

- ____ **1 Year Individual Member-** \$20.00 ____ **3 Year-** \$50.00
- ____ **Life Member Optional Time Payment \$50 down/ \$25/mth**
- ____ **\$250.00 (Ages 49 and under)**
- ____ **\$225.00 (Ages 50-55)**
- ____ **\$200.00 (Ages 56-60)**
- ____ **\$175.00 (Ages 61-65)**
- ____ **\$150.00 (Ages 66 +)**



Return this form to:

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

Fraud Alert for All Veterans – Don't Carry Your VA Card in Your Wallet

November 8, 2013 – If you are a veteran and you have been issued a VA card, you need to start treating it like your social security card.

When you don't have anything on your calendar requiring it – like an appointment at the VA – **leave it at home**. An ABC News affiliate in Florida has discovered that every single VA card issued since 2004 contains the social security number of the person the card was issued to in a bar-code on the front of the card. More importantly, the bar code can be deciphered by anyone who has a free bar-code-reader on their smart phone.

According to the report, the VA has known about this issue for years but has failed to correct it. And they haven't been proactively notifying veterans about the issue. They claim to be working on a new generation of their card but it will not be available until sometime next year.

Any veteran who has lost their VA card should be concerned. Not only could they be subject to financial identity theft but it is also possible that they could be targeted for healthcare ID theft. That's because the VA handles both medical and retirement benefits for veterans.

At ACCESS, we haven't seen this reported on a national basis but we believe that it should be. Below, you will find the video report out of Florida. <http://youtu.be/4ycbVaOk6To>

—Jim Malmberg, ACCESS, American Consumer Credit Education Support Services
Source: www.GuardMyCreditFile.org (retrieved Jan 7, 2014)