

# VIETNAM VET "GAZETTE"

Issue 154

Together Then .... Together Now

July 2015



In Service to America

## Up-Coming Meetings

**BOD Meeting**

2nd Wed of the Month

7:00 PM

**Regular Meeting**

3rd Wed of Month

**AVVA meet at 6:00 PM**

**VVA meet @ 7:00 PM**

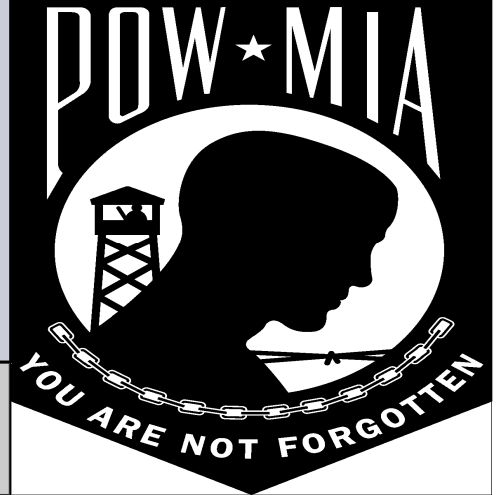
at the

**ROCHESTER VFW**

Be Sure To See

**Important Dates to Remember**

*Upcoming Events— Page 17*



## 4th of July Parade



It seems like spring just arrived and we're already in Midland for the Independence Day Parade.

Although we had heavy rains the night before the parade, the skies slowly cleared as if someone was watching over us and wanted to see another beautiful day for the annual parade in Midland. The residents from this town and many other surrounding neighborhoods again filled the streets of Midland dressed in red, white and blue and waving flags for the parade.

Members from the Chapter 862 and the Color Guard gathered to honor our country's heritage and either march or ride in this huge annual parade. It is truly amazing to see the number of people, families, and children who come to watch the parade.

We are all getting a little older and so had Pete Petrosky's watch tower that had been towed at the Midland parade for the past six years. The tower was retired this year and Rich Raich's M-37B1 cargo truck was added.

However, we will never forget the watch tower that was the highlight of the parade for years. More importantly, we will never forget our brothers who gave us those memories and were watching over us on this day that we celebrate our nation's independence and national heritage.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the parade and represented Chapter 862. Have a great summer and mark your calendars for the Annual Picnic on August 19th at Industry Park.

Larry Googins, President



*To Pete-san and Squirrel,  
and to all those who have  
gone before us, we  
celebrate this day with  
you for giving us our  
freedom to honor our  
country.*

**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

**Standing Committees**

**Agent Orange / Dioxin**

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

**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  
National League of POW/MIA Families**

**AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR:** There has been no published change to the number still unaccounted-for since the April 10th Update. For various reasons, including wishes of the family, DoD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates, and others are likely pending. Several of those named this year were examples of how remains repatriated many years ago can now be identified using contemporary science that wasn'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 956. 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 1,019. Of the **1,627** still unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,269 (VN-467, VS-802); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These numbers occasionally fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss.) The League seeks the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

**NEW DPAA DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED:** LTG Mike Linnington, USA, retired from active duty on June 17th, has been announced as the new permanent Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). He previously served as the Military Deputy to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. While always cautious to not overstate support for people named to positions of responsibility in the POW/MIA accounting mission, it is no overstatement to recognize his outstanding background. LTG Linnington was born in Cape May, NJ. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1980 and was commissioned an Infantry Officer. His civilian education includes a BS from the US Military Academy at West Point, NY, and an MS in Applied Mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. His military education includes the Infantry Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses at Ft Benning, Georgia, US Army Command and General Staff College at Ft Leavenworth, KS, and the National War College in Washington, DC where he earned a Masters Degree in National Security Strategy. His 33 year active duty career includes duties in key command and staff positions at Ft Ord, CA; Ft Riley, KS; West Berlin (Divided), Germany; multiple assignments at Fort Campbell, KY; the Republic of Korea, and several tours in Washington, DC (Army and Joint Staffs). From Jun '02 to Jun '04, then COL Linnington commanded the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) where he deployed both in Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom. After selection to Flag Rank, LTG Linnington held positions of responsibility at Ft Benning, GA (Deputy Commanding General), West Point, NY (Commandant of Cadets), Kabul, Afghanistan (International Security Assistance Force), and in Washington, DC

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

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

Ray Litzinger.....378-5855

**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 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..... 869-7090

**Membership**

Susan Smith .....728-6741

**POW News (cont from Page 2)**

(Commander, US Army Military District of Washington). LTG Linnington assumed his duties as Military Deputy to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) in July 2013, the position from which he retired on June 17, 2015. LTG Linnington's wife of 32 years is the former Brenda Zachary of Salinas, CA. They have two children, a son, Army CAPT Michael, and a daughter, Tracy, a Program Manager, Navy Federal Credit Union; she and her husband are expecting the Linnington's first grandchild soon.

**Chairman's Comment:** I attended LTG Linnington's retirement on June 17th and had talked with him in his POW/MIA advisory role to Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth, VADM Mike Franken and Maj Gen Kelly McKeague relating to the "complete reorganization" of the entire community. As a result, I can attest to the esteem in which he is held by a broad cross-section of military and civilian personnel. From the lowest level to those at the top, all seem to genuinely like and admire him. LTG Linnington will be sworn in on Monday, June 22nd, as the civilian Senior Executive Service Level 3 Director. It is my hope, prayer and expectation that he will work to achieve the objectives we share, and do so with honor, integrity, humility, dedication, energy and determination. That is all we can ask. All we should expect is his very best effort, and we do, but he will also need our full support and that of the currently demoralized former JPAC and DPMO workforce. Therefore, we, the Vietnam War families and our many concerned Veteran groups, individual Veterans and civilian supporters, ask all POW/MIA-related personnel – especially the experienced civilian core – to set aside the countless obstacles and justifiable frustrations you have endured over far too many years and focus on what is possible with our new DPAA Director. I believe DPAA truly can become the accounting agency we all have sorely missed since 1992, a cohesive, interagency US Government priority that will, with the support of all, achieve the fullest possible accounting, the League's longstanding, entirely reasonable objective.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Philip Morris

**For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans,**

call (703) 699-1420 or

visit the DPMO website at [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)

**Minutes from June 17, 2015 meeting**

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

**Opening Prayer** by Chaplain Don Villella.

Attendance was “ 145 “

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Roll Call of Officers** – 14 - Present 0 - Absent 1 - Excused

**Introduction of Guests** - Mike Blackwood, Blackhawk Golf Course. Presented a check to the chapter for \$4,000.00 from the 1st Annual Armed Forces Golf Outing.

**Guests:** Rich Jackson, Robert Nichter,

**Call for Veterans “Sick or In Distress”** – Paul Sucinsk VVA 862 member in Norton, Ohio.

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

**Communications** - All communications were read.

**Newsletter** - All newsletters were mailed out to all the VSO’s in our area.

**Website** - N/A

**Treasurer’s Report:** was read by President Larry Googins.

**Motions Recommended by the BOD**

- (1) Motion was made by Luke Patrino 2nd by Dave Kane to pay the Gas & Electric Bill for the Vet from Butler that needed assistance. Total of both was **\$1,319.21**. Motion Carried. Explanation was given by Carl Curtis pertaining to this veteran’s circumstances.
  - (2) Motion was made by Dave Kane 2nd by Gary Myers to donate \$250.00 to the Monaca Sons of the Legion Post 580 to help with the expenses of their upcoming trip to Youngstown, NY. Motion Carried.
  - (3) Motion was made by Dave Walker 2nd by John Szatkiewicz to donate \$500.00 to the “It’s About The Warrior Foundation event, Christmas In July at the Buffalo Hollow outside Unity Ohio. Motion Carried.
- Agent Orange - Mike Coligure - spoke about how Bill Muns brought into the county pertaining to Agent Orange.

**Gov’t Affairs** - Bart Farzati - Bart spoke about happenings around the area

**Membership** - VVA - 710, Life - 510

**Minority Affairs** - Reuben Fuller gave a short report.

**POW MIA** - Phil Morris - Phil stated that there are still 1627 left. He stated how our Honor Wagon was used for the Korean Vet returned home last week.

**Honor Guard** - Rich Raich - Rich reported on recent funerals we did, events were Flag Raising for Warriors Call Boxing, Support the Troops Rally. Upcoming events Relay 4 Life, 4th of July Parade in Midland, Buffalo Hollow in Ohio, Beaver Valley Yacht Club.

**Veterans Assistance** - Bill Laughner - Bill spoke about a phone call he received. He encouraged everyone to get into the VA system if not for yourself, do it for your family.

**Old Business** - Larry spoke about the work of Dave Kane and Bob Gwin for the work they did on the Support the Troops Rally. Dave Kane thanked all who helped. Larry mentioned about the papers that are on the tables pertaining to the upcoming events. Sept 2nd VBC will be at 7 Oaks CC. He referred to the list.

Ellwood City PO is being renamed for MOH Leslie Sabo. Altzheimers Walk on Sept 12th.

Larry spoke about VVA National doing a \$100.00 Life Membership Program from Aug 1st thru Dec 31st.

Larry spoke about the Write up in the Beaver County Times that Justin Criado wrote pertaining to the Support the Troops Rally.

**Minutes (cont on Page 5)**



## Minutes from Page 4

**Presidents' Reports:**

**Exec Bill Laughner** - Bill spoke about the BCCI Gun Bash that was in the newsletter. They are honoring four Veterans Organizations, (1) Crusaders in America, (2) Legacies Alive, (3) VVA 862 & (4) It's About The Warrior Foundation.

**1st VP Rich Kamzelski** - Relay 4 Life Event coming up this weekend.

**2nd VP Cliff Hawes** - Cliff spoke about the Ryan Reott Golf Outing and the upcoming Duck Race. Dates on Duck tickets will still be good only a week later. Hookstown Fair changed the dates this year as it has always been the 3rd weekend of the month of August. This year they moved it to the last week of the month. Duck Race will actually be the 29th of August.

**AVVA - Bobbie Morris** - AVVA 143 / 55 LIFE Members They are also going to do a Membership Drive from Nov to Dec. This also includes VVA if you want to join. She has Paper Safes to hand out. Winner of 50/50 was Sue Smith.

**New Business** - N/A

**Good of the Chapter** - Phil explained about 2 events being the same day. September 12th, Alzheimer's Walk will be at 9 AM, POW Ride will be at 3:00 PM, Free Dental June 27th in Butler. VBC wants to put on a Military Ball in October. DAV will be at Coraopolis VFW in July.

Luke Patrino spoke about the 7th Memorial Run in Ohio. He spoke about an Organization in Ohio that also helps Veterans. Homeless Veterans Initiative. He has tickets for sale all money goes to the Homeless Vets.

Jerry Fisher spoke about Signs and Banners not being allowed to be hanging on the Veterans Bridge. If you see anything hanging on the bridge, Please take it down.

Flag Raising at the Beaver Valley Yacht Club. Is Aug 15th. Rich Raich spoke about the M-1 that the Honor Guard is raffling off. He gave a complete explanation.

Motion to adjourn:

**VVA 862 Past President Skip Haswell was asked to come up and speak.** At this time Skip was given a gift as a token of appreciation which was a Marine cuckoo clock. Also another plaque from the Chapter and a Mug from AVVA as he was their 1st AVVA Life Member. Nancy Hoffman (Gold Star Mother presented Skip with a special Challenge coin. Very Few people have them. Skip thanked everyone for everything.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Lee Corfield - VVA 862 Secretary

## (2) STAIR CLIMBERS - AVAILABLE

I have a lady who wants to donate 2 stair climbers.

The ones that take you up the stairs.

Do you know of anyone who will/can take these off of her hands.

All questions pertaining to this must go thru Corey. He should be able to answer all your questions. He is trying to help this lady get rid of these.

**Contact info below:**

Thanks

**Corey Allinder 724-630-3453 [coreyallinder@gmail.com](mailto:coreyallinder@gmail.com)**

## Death Notices

**Jack W. Susie Sr 72** of Vanport, Pa. passed away on Thursday June 18, 2015. Jack served with the US Marines in Vietnam.

**Paul H. Suscinski** - 67 of Norton, Oh. Paul served with the Marines in Vietnam and used to ride to the meetings with Luke Patrino.

**Hazel V. Fritsch 83**, of New Sewickley Twp. Hazel was the Gold Star Mother of Andrew J. Fritsch II who was killed in Vietnam in 1970

**May They Rest In Peace!**

## BCCI Gun Bash Ticket “Explanation”

(As seen on Page 14)

As previously reported our Chapter has been selected as one of the beneficiaries for the 2015 BCCI Gun Bash. The bash tickets are now available. **Ticket cost is \$50.00** and you can purchase a kicker for another **\$20.00** which means you have two chances to win. Also when you purchase a ticket and a kicker you become eligible for a \$1500.00 cash drawing. We have many tickets available to sell and we will receive a portion of the proceeds from each ticket we sell.

If you want to buy a ticket or sell some tickets please **contact Bill Laughner at 724-843-6828 or Lee Corfield at 724-775-3027.**

**We ask all members to consider helping with this great project .**

I am extremely disappointed that we have not received any calls for individuals wanting to buy a ticket or sell some tickets to their friends. I know there are gun enthusiasts out there who will buy tickets to this Bash.

**Chapter 862 members, let's step up to plate and sell some tickets.**

Remember our Chapter will receive a portion of the proceeds from each ticket we sell.

**WILLIAM G. LAUGHNER**



This is the trailer for an **upcoming movie on the Tomb of the Unknown** guards.

The trailer is worth a watch, and we all should see the documentary movie when it comes out. When and where, I do not know.

<http://www.theunknownsmovie.com/>

**Can't wait to see this movie! No doubt it will be awesome.**

## **Perspectives: Reducing Suicide Among Women Veterans Begins With Changing Military Culture**

In response to the June 8, 2015 article in the LA Times written by Alan Zarembo, detailing the staggering suicide rate of female military veterans, I feel like I owe our society straight talk. Women veterans don't want XY-sex determination to matter, but military culture seems averse to this idea. Advocates for women veterans have had to champion female-specific requirements, from body armor to maternity leave, all while trying not to lose ground in debunking misperceptions regarding their inferiority to the men in their units.

Chromosome pairing didn't matter though when Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester of the 617th Military Police Company, a National Guard unit out of Richmond, Kentucky, was pinned down by enemy fire after her convoy was ambushed on March 20 when anti-Iraqi fighters. Hester purportedly led her team through the "kill zone" and into a flanking position, where she assaulted a trench line with grenades and M203 grenade-launcher rounds. She was credited with clearing two trenches and killing three insurgents. Something tells me her anatomical makeup had no bearing on her valor, sacrifice, and commitment that day. At least there's no mention of it in her Silver Star citation. Nor was there a mention of this in the Silver Star citation for Army Specialist Monica Lin Brown, who saved the lives of fellow soldiers after a roadside bomb tore through a convoy of Humvees in the eastern Paktia province in April 2007.

Veterans who happen to be female faced a gross lack of preparedness by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and local communities when they returned from battle. This lack of preparation continues as the government has yet to do serious studies on the impact military service on female-specific issues or the competence of VA clinicians to address these issues. One might conclude that our only hope lies in women veteran advocacy groups, whom you would expect to fight for these types of studies and a review of inequitable training standards. Advocates who debunk creeping myths that "moms" and their propensity for suffering Post Traumatic Stress or debilitating pain or family problems or hormone complications or other female-specific "issues" need not apply. How has that worked out so far?

The reality is our society does not appear ready to see a woman who served in the same light as a male veteran. The men are the heroes who have been honored publicly and the women are the rescued who served as administrative personal or "place holders" for the real military. Case in point, Google the name Jessica Lynch. She was an Army Private First Class who was captured by the enemy when her convoy was ambushed by Iraqi forces during the battle of Nasiriyah. The headlines read, "Jessica Lynch: scared when rescue began" or "Jessica Lynch: Iraq still haunts my dreams 10 years after" or "Jessica Lynch: I was raped." Headlines not typically associated with male combatants. But one need only read quotes from Lynch herself, and you will see that even she downplayed her combat role in the experience. She testified in front of Congress that she had never fired her weapon, her rifle jammed, and that she had been knocked unconscious when her vehicle crashed. When asked about her status as a hero, she stated, "That wasn't me. I'm not about to take credit for something I didn't do...I'm just a survivor." Even if we accept the accuracy of her account, she still had more heroism in her left pinkie than the scores of men and women who'd never worn a uniform or faced a deadly enemy. Lynch's case drew more detractors who questioned the narrative, one she did not advance and went out of her way to minimize, instead of recognizing the profound price she paid for raising her right hand to defend the country after the attacks on September 11, 2001

**.Perspectives: Reducing Suicide Among Women (cont on Page 13)**

**\*\* CRUISING IN HOPEWELL \*\***

**ROBERT W. YOUNG POST #8805  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
138 STONE QUARRY ROAD  
HOPEWELL, PA  
724 - 378 - 3993**

**JULY 18, 2015 12PM – 5PM**



**ANTIQUE, CUSTOM, CARS, TRUCKS, & BIKES**

**ALL YEARS WELCOME!!!!!!!**

**\*\*\*\*DASH PLAQUES \*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* RAIN DATE AUG. 15, 2015\*\*\*\*\***

*FREE ADMISSION*

**PAVED PARKING LOT  
MUSIC, FOOD, & BEVERAGES**

**\*\*\*50/50 RAFFLE\*\*\***





## Associates of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 862

**June 18, 2015**

The June 18, 2015, meeting of the AVVA was opened by President Bobbie Morris. Sandy Giordano said an opening prayer.

Larry Googins presented a check to the AVVA from Cory Allinder. Larry also went over some upcoming events.

Treasurer Sue Bridgewater gave the Treasurer's Report.

A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Keith Black and seconded by Sue Bridgewater. Motion carried.

AVVA Chapter 862 now has 141+2 members of which 55 are life members. Life membership special going on from Nov 1 to Dec 31. The cost will be \$100 and this is for new or existing members.

Bobbie thanked all who helped with the Support the Troops Rally.

Bobbie showed everyone what she purchased for a thank you for Skip at a cost of \$51.93. Motion to reimburse Bobbie was made by Judy Hague and seconded Linda Szatkiewicz. Motion carried.

Judy Hague made a motion to pay InkStar \$15.00 for membership certificates was made by Judy Hague and seconded by Keith Black. Motion carried.

Bob Gwin gave the report on the Support the Troops Rally. Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 will be the wrap up meeting.

Carl Curtis explained about the veteran and his family and what the e-motion that was sent out was all about. The family is very grateful for all the help. Carl thanked the AVVA for their help. The motion was approved. Motion carried

Carl Curtis will be representing AVVA Chapter 862 at the National Convention.

Bobbie went over the by law changes that will be voted on at the convention. Bobbie also went over who was running for office.

Sandy Giordano asked for pictures from the Support the Troops Rally.

Meeting Adjourned

Donna Corfield, Acting Secretary

*Next AVVA 862 Meeting  
July 15th - 6:00 P.M*

**KOKOMO VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION SEPTEMBER 16th - 20th, 2015****NOTICE TO ALL VVA 862 MEMBERS HEADED TO KOKOMO!****Updated list of room reservations for Kokomo as of July 2nd, 2015****Check in Wed Sept. 17, Check out Sunday Sept 20th.**

1. Skip Haskell, double/double
2. William Stokes, double/double
3. William Stokes, double/double
4. John McPherson, double/double, rollout
5. Aaron Johnson, double/double
6. Luke Patrino, double/double Balcony
7. Luke Patrino, double/double Balcony
8. Ron Gardner, double/double
9. Rich Raich, double/double
10. Laughner, Laughner 2nd Floor Suite
11. Larry Googins, double/double
12. Frank, Ralph, Rick double/double rollout
13. Lee & Sean Corfield 3rd Floor Suite
14. Joe Feltz, double/double 1st Floor handicapped
15. Snakedog & Larry Tanner double/double
16. Roy Barlett double/double
17. Anthony Pallatto King Bed
18. Clem Blazewick/Jim Fisher Double/double
19. Don Vilella double/double
20. John Szatkiewicz double/double
21. Tom Cekovich King

**Check in Thursday Sept. 17**

1. Rich Gillin Double/double

**Check in Friday Sept. 18**

1. Bob Uznack Double/double
2. Barry Beitsinger king

**NOTE!**

PLEASE REVIEW THE ABOVE LIST TO MAKE SURE I HAVE YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT . IF NOT CORRECT EMAIL ME AT [wlaugh@comcast.net](mailto:wlaugh@comcast.net) .

**WILLIAM G. LAUGHNER**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO OUR  
MEMBERS**

**July**

Albert Walters.....July 1  
 John Elliott.....July 2  
 Charles Inman.....July 2  
 Dan Householder .....July 2  
 Ray Nixon.....July 2  
 Gary Wink .....July 2  
 Ron Grimes.....July 3  
 Luke Patrino.....July 3  
 Bill Bert .....July 4  
 Rich Raich .....July 4  
 Bob Weidman .....July 4  
 Bonnie Reilly.....July 5  
 Bill Boucek II .....July 6  
 Ronald Dominici.....July 7  
 Scott Jacobs .....July 8  
 William Reed.....July 9  
 Elder Vogel.....July 9  
 Rich Baker .....July 10  
 Louis George III .....July 10  
 Joe Nako.....July 10  
 Nick Vietz.....July 10  
 Chuck Forster.....July 11  
 Jim Haller.....July 12  
 Jim McTaggart.....July 12  
 John Wakeley.....July 12  
 Roy Barlett.....July 13  
 Stephenie Bollard.....July 13  
 Art Ford .....July 13  
 Donald Schweitzer.....July 13

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
TO OUR  
MEMBERS**

**July**

Dennis L Smith..... July 13  
 Dennis J Smith..... July 14  
 Randy Tallon ..... July 14  
 Jim Boots..... July 17  
 Wm Frye..... July 17  
 Huxley Lipscomb ..... July 17  
 John Malack ..... July 19  
 Barry Beitsinger ..... July 20  
 Tom Devin..... July 20  
 John Vongray ..... July 20  
 George Haskell..... July 21  
 Dennis McFee..... July 21  
 Ken Phillips ..... July 21  
 Joe Prodonovich ..... July 21  
 Ron Justi..... July 22  
 Albert Goldfinch..... July 23  
 Gale Mussey ..... July 23  
 Dave Ondrusek..... July 24  
 Cliff Pflugh..... July 24  
 Ross Prinkey..... July 24  
 Gary Shaffer ..... July 25  
 Ben Wright ..... July 25  
 John Kramer ..... July 26  
 Larry McGowan ..... July 26  
 Rodger Mineard..... July 26  
 John Ferguson..... July 29  
 Kathy Miller ..... July 29  
 Charles R. Smith..... July 29  
 Jim Eakles ..... July 30  
 George Eresh ..... July 30

**Lee's Tid Bits:**

**Rain Rain Rain!**

Please go away so we can at least enjoy part of the summer. Every time you want to do something it's raining.

We do have a busy summer ahead of us. Please look at the Calendar of Events on Page 17 and find something where you can help. We're not saying to help with every event, Just pick one. Every little bit helps.

**Do you have your Duck Tickets yet!**

Hey! How about taking some of them "Duck Tickets"! Fill one out for each of your Grandkids. I've been doing that for years. They all have a chance at winning. Once you do that, then bring them down to the Hookstown Fair on Saturday evening and have them yelling their Duck Numbers on the side of the Creek banks along with everyone else. It's fun just to sit back and listen. No One has a clue where their duck is at while the helpers are assisting them down the creek.

You know, years ago, when Skip started asking us if we wanted to buy a Duck, We all thought he was losing it, He was, he just didn't know it yet. No, It has turned out to be our biggest fund raiser of the year. Get a hold of Cliff and get your tickets now. Don't wait! *Lee*

**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

*Next VVA 862 Meeting  
 July 15th - 7:00 PM*

# IT'S ABOUT THE WARRIOR FOUNDATION

IT'S ABOUT THE WARRIOR



FOUNDATION

[www.IATW.us](http://www.IATW.us)



## Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Seminar

Featuring

**JEREMIAH WORKMAN,**

Navy Cross Recipient and Author of *SHADOW OF THE SWORD*

Hosted by: Sally Wiggin

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 19, 2015, 1- 6 pm

**WHERE:** Heinz Field – Press Box Dining Hall

**WHO:** ANY veteran, from ANY era and their families are welcomed to attend this FREE seminar, lunch buffet social hour and tour of Heinz Field after seminar from **4-6 PM.**

**WHAT:** This three-hour seminar will offer insight into living with post-traumatic stress disorder, offering perspectives from USMC Navy Cross recipient Jeremiah Workman, USAF Silver Star recipient Mike Sears and USMC double amputee Brandon Rumbaugh. A presentation from Dr. Sasha Mondragon will also serve as an open forum for this three-hour seminar

**RSVP:** Register at: [www.iatw.us](http://www.iatw.us) by **September 15, 2015**

**CONTACT:** 724-712-1355 or [itsaboutthewarrior@zoominternet.net](mailto:itsaboutthewarrior@zoominternet.net)

## Make The Connection

**“Make The Connection” is a publicly available free website that features more than 500 videos of Veterans and their loved ones speaking about their experiences with mental health and everyday life during and after the service. Through candid, powerful first-person stories, those who are facing challenges — both Veterans and their family members—can hear from their peers that treatment works. Recovery is possible, and they are not alone. All activities on the website are completely anonymous and never stored. Make the Connection is also on Facebook and YouTube.**

**VVA can help spread the word about this wonderful web site to help Veterans. If you copy the below websites and paste them into your browser it will lead you into the actual site itself. You can limit where you want to explore by checking all the specifics that pertain to your experience. There is also downloadable and printable material if you so desire. The Communications associates are excited about introducing this new and exciting concept to VVA State Council and hope that chapters across the Commonwealth will help spread the word. This editor was personally contacted by Sandy Wacker and asked to spread the word to fellow veterans. So, check it out and we would love to have your input.**

**If you need special assistance of any kind, Sandy Wacker will help you process your concerns at (202) 333-0400**

<http://www.MakeTheConnection.net/Resources/Spread-the-Word>.

<http://www.facebook.com/VeteransMTC>

<http://www.youtube.com/VeteransMTC>

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### **.Perspectives: Reducing Suicide Among Women (cont from Page 7)**

I often wonder whether veterans like PFC Lynch, Sergeant Hester, or Specialist Brown cope with insecurities about taking their rightful place alongside their male counterparts. More alarmingly, I wonder how many women veterans let those insecurities take them to places so dark that any alternative to living seemed better. Hopefully, the article in the LA Times will force us to stare into the face of high suicide among America's women veterans and take steps to end the precipitous loss of our sisters-in-arms.

*Sherman Gillums, Jr., retired U.S. Marine and paralyzed veteran, Deputy Executive Director of Paralyzed Veterans of America*

Special Thanks to Michelle Wilcox , VVA 862 Women's Vets, for this article



# BCCI Athletic Supporters 7th Annual Sportsman's Bash

## ADMIT ONE - Ticket Pre-Event - \$50.00 Event Day - \$75.00

Saturday, August 1, 2015 • Wally World Doors Open at 5:00pm/Raffle 6:30pm - 10:30pm  
Free food and drink\* for 1 (One) • Unlimited chances to win the raffle items listed on this ticket.



Time	BCCI Entertainment	Price
5:00-6:00	Opening Ceremony	
6:05		
6:30	\$500 Cash	\$500
6:33	Glock Model 23 .40 Caliber Pistol	\$645
6:35	Barnett Quad 400 Crossbow	\$400
6:40	Remington 30-06 Model 783 Bolt Action Rifle	\$400
6:43	CVA Optima TH .50 Caliber In-Line with Scope	\$360
6:45	\$500 Cash	\$500
6:48	PSE Compound Bow Brute X #60 Package	\$500
6:50	Benelli 12 Gauge M2 Tactical Shotgun	\$450
6:53	Ruger SR .40 Caliber Pistol	\$550
6:55	Stihl MS 192 12" Light Weight Chainsaw	\$400
6:58	Marlin 45-70 Lever Action Rifle with Scope	\$500
7:00	\$500 Cash	\$500
7:03	Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm Pistol	\$635
7:05	Traditions Hawkenwood .50 Cal Flintlock	\$440
7:10	Stoeger 12 Gauge P-350 Turkey Gun	\$380
7:15	Savage Arms 20 Gauge Slug Gun Model 220	\$550
7:18	Springfield XDS .45 Caliber Pistol	\$630
7:20	Rossi Rio Grande Stainless 30-30 Rifle	\$450
7:23	Mossberg 12 Gauge 9 Shot Tactical Shotgun	\$500
7:25	Crvena Zastava Mauser M2447 8mm Rifle	\$600

Time	BCCI Presents	Price
7:28	BCCI 7th ANNUAL BASH CASH KICKER DRAWING	\$1500
7:30-8:00	BCCI Presents	Delaneys
8:05	Ruger SP101 .357 Magnum Pistol	\$650
8:08	Altobelli Sporter 12 Gauge Shotgun	\$450
8:10	Barnett Brotherhood Crossbow Package	\$550
8:15	Century Arms 7.62x39 Cal. Assault Rifle w/30 rd clip	\$700
8:18	Lake Erie Walleye Charter	\$700
8:20	Sig Sauer 320 Compact 9mm Pistol	\$765
8:25	Beretta Tikka T3 Light .270 Caliber Rifle	\$750
8:30	Penguins Niagra Club Seats (4) with Parking Pass	\$750
8:35	Bushmaster 83 AR-15 5.56 Assault Rifle	\$800
8:40	Sports Afield 32 Gun Safe	\$900
8:45	Axiom Excaliber Matrix Single Limb Crossbow	\$900
8:48	Remington Model 760 30-06 Rifle	\$950
8:50	Kimber CDP Micro .380 Caliber Pistol	\$980
8:53	Milwaukee 18 Volt Fuel Lithium-Ion 6 Tool Combo Kit	\$1200
8:55	Franchi Instinct 12 Gauge Over/Under Shotgun	\$1400
9:00-9:55	BCCI Presents	The Christian Beck Band
10:00-10:25	Special Raffles	(10 drawings/sold separate)
10:28	2015 Suzuki KINGQUAD 400	\$7000
10:30-12:00AM	BCCI Presents	Donnie Iris & The Cruisers

**THIS TICKET ADMITS ONE INDIVIDUAL-PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY**  
BCCI Athletic Supporters Inc. is a charitable, non-profit corporation registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State

**\* SPECIAL RAFFLES ARE NOT PART OF THIS TICKET. TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

All items not claimed after 30 days of the event become the property of BCCI. All unsold tickets are the property of BCCI. No refunds for any reason whatsoever. Rain delays possible. Entertainment subject to change. No prize substitutions or trades. See back of this ticket for rules & regulations. [www.bccibash.com](http://www.bccibash.com)

**4152**

**Buyer - Please Retain This Portion • Seller - Do Not Separate Kicker Tickets, Sold or Unsold**

**BCCI BASH 7 BCCI** **4152**

**Ticket Pre-Event - \$50.00 Event Day - \$75.00**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SELLER: \_\_\_\_\_ PayPal

Make checks payable to BCCI Athletic Supporters, Inc.

**BCCI BASH 7 BCCI** **4152**

**Kicker Ticket - \$20.00** Must be purchased at time of sale

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SELLER: \_\_\_\_\_ PayPal

Please Print Clearly - DO NOT SEPARATE - NO REFUNDS

SELLER - DO NOT SEPARATE

Sample of Ticket for the Sportsmans Bash

### DUCK RACE TICKET SALES

Duck Race "Ticket Sales" will be at the Chippewa Wal-Mart on **Saturday July 11** and again at the Center Township WalMart on **Sunday July 19th**. Please let me know if you can help by an email to: [hawes131@comcast.net](mailto:hawes131@comcast.net) or a phone call to 724-888-6272. AVVA members also needed. Also if you have sold tickets, please send them to me at 131 Cedar Ridge Drive, Monaca, Pa 15061, or bring them to the next regular meeting on July 15th.

Cliff Hawes  
2nd VP

## VVA 862 GOLF SEASON

2015 GOLF SEASON HAS BEGUN

MONDAYS- 3:30 - **STONECREST GOLF COURSE**  
THURSDAYS 3:30 - **FOX RUN GOLF COURSE**

COME AND JOIN US  
IN THIS  
FUN GOLF LEAGUE

**Contact** - Don Vilella **724-843-7401** or Cliff Hawes **724-728-5065**



## This Week in History July 1-7, 1968

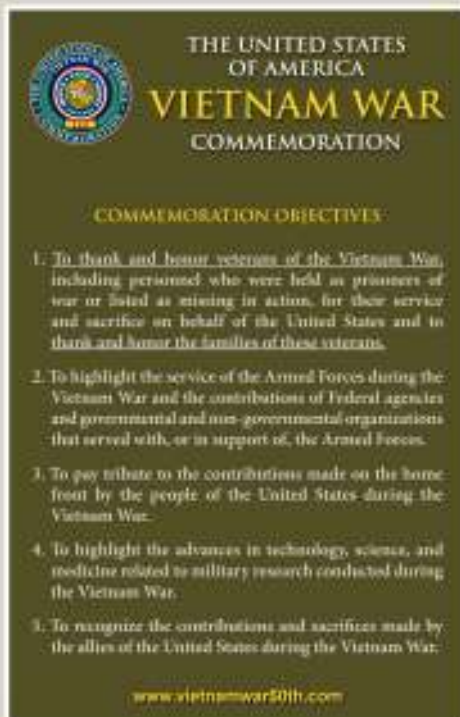
**Operation Thor**, the joint mission to attack and destroy North Vietnamese long range artillery facing the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), coast artillery batteries, anti-aircraft positions, and staging areas for infiltration, supplies and transport, took place July 1-7, 1968. The targets were in the Cap Mui Lay sector, the furthest southern coastal area of North Vietnam. It ran up the coast from the southern edge of the DMZ for almost nine miles and inland just more than 15 miles.

Preparation for Operation THOR called for the movement of artillery batteries to prepared temporary positions. U.S. Marine and Army artillery included three Army Battalions of 175mm guns and 8 inch howitzers, and six Marine batteries of 155mm and 8 inch guns and howitzers. Naval gunfire support came from two cruisers and six destroyers.

United States Air Force aircraft included the entire 3rd Air Division of B-52Hs based on Guam, five Tactical Fighter Wings, two Tactical Reconnaissance Wings, and light spotter aircraft from the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron. The First Marine Air Wing employed consisted of five Attack Fighter Squadrons, five Attack Squadrons, and a Reconnaissance Squadron. Lastly the U. S. Navy provided 13 fighter and attack squadrons flying from four aircraft carriers. Extensive target lists were compiled ahead of the operation.

In the first phase of Operation THOR, 664 U.S. aircraft and 114 B-52 sorties attacked in concert with the Navy cruisers and destroyers. These attacks, lasting two days, destroyed and damaged enemy installations. Damage to anti-aircraft and coastal batteries enabled spotter aircraft and naval vessels to approach targets closer than previously possible. By the beginning of Phase Two, the third day of Operation THOR, improved reconnaissance had enlarged the target list. Artillery of the land forces and the Navy's cruisers and destroyers continued to fire against North Vietnamese anti-aircraft positions. By the beginning of Phase Three, light Marine and Army Spotter aircraft were able to operate well into North Vietnamese airspace. Their presence allowed engagement of more targets with greater accuracy. Observers reported that little or no farming or other domestic activity was occurring in the Cap Mui Lay sector. Observers on the ground in the air and at sea recorded the impact of the strikes. Over 600 secondary fires and explosions were observed. The operation ended the night of July 7.

By the end of the mission, 8,363 tons of bombs were dropped and 42,209 shells were fired. One Army soldier and one Air Force pilot were killed. Six aircraft were lost. An estimated 789 anti-aircraft and 179 artillery pieces or positions were destroyed along with other installations and material. The long term impact of this short campaign was that American observation aircraft were able to fly over the region, and anti-aircraft fire was reduced by 80% until overflights of the North were banned by President Johnson on November 1, 1968.



Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 862 has joined hundreds of other organizations as a Commemorative Partner to support the Vietnam War Commemoration Objectives described here. We will continue to provide more information about this program, but for now information can be found at the following website: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com>

Larry Googins, President

"TOGETHER THEN"

## Calendar of Events for 2015

"TOGETHER NOW"

## July

July 4 **4th of July Parade - Midland, Pa. 10:00 AM**  
 July 8 VVA 862 BOD Meeting -7:00 PM Rochester VFW  
 July 10 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 6:00 PM Midland  
 VFW Park  
 July 14 Veterans Breakfast - Robert Morris 8:00 AM  
 July 15 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW  
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM  
 July 21 - 25 VVA National Convention - Springfield Il.

## August

Aug 1 BCCI Gun Bash— 5:00 PM  
 Aug 4 U S Coast Guard Birthday 1790  
 Aug 12 VVA BOD Meet 5:00 PM - VVA 862 Meet 7:00 PM  
 Aug 14 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 6:00 PM Midland  
 VFW Park  
 Aug 14 - 16 Beaver River Regatta (Opening 6:00 PM)  
 Aug 19 VVA 862 Chapter Picnic - Industry Park  
 Aug 25 - 29 "Hookstown Fair" VVA Booth  
 Aug 29 VVA 862 "Duck Race" @ Fair 6:00 PM

## September

Sept 2 Vets Breakfast Club Seven Oaks C. C. 8:00 AM  
 Sept 5 5th Annual Blaine Allinder "Golf Outing"  
 Sept 9 VVA 862 BOD Meet - 5:00 PM - VVA Meet 7:00 PM  
 Sept 11 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 6:00 PM Midland  
 VFW Park  
 Sept 12 POW/MIA Ride Registration Starts 1:00 PM  
 Leaves Rochester VFW 3:00 PM  
 Sept 16 **"NO MEETING"**  
 Sept 16 - 19 33rd Vietnam Vets Reunion - Kokomo In.  
 Sept 18 US Air Force Birthday 1947  
 Sept 27 "Gold Star Mothers" Day

**Veterans Breakfast Club**  
**Seven Oaks Country Club**

**DATE: September 2nd, 2015**  
**TIME: 8:00 AM**

*Mark Your Calendars Now!*

**Be sure You Call Todd and make  
 your reservation.**

**412-623-9029**

**VVA 862 will be the sponsors!**

## October

Oct 3 Highway Clean-Up - Rt 18 9:00 AM (Rink)  
 Oct 8 WWII Bus Trip  
 Contact Jerry Fisher 724-709-3614  
 Oct 9 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland  
 VFW  
 Oct 10 Rain date for Highway Clean Up  
 Oct 13 U S Navy Birthday 1775  
 Oct 14 VVA 862 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM Rochester VFW  
 Oct 21 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW  
 VVA 862 Meeting -7:00 PM

## November

Nov 1 Daylight Savings - Ends"  
 Nov 3 Election Day "Be Sure to Vote"  
 Nov 7- 8 PASC Meeting State College - Ramada  
 Nov 10 US Marines Birthday 1775  
 Nov 11 **Veterans Day—Parade—New Brighton, Pa.**  
 Nov 11 VVA 862 BOD Meeting -7:00 PM Rochester VFW  
 Nov 13 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland  
 VFW  
 Nov 18 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM  
 VVA 862 Meeting -7:00 PM  
 Nov 25 "Happy Thanksgiving"

## December

Dec 7 "Pearl Harbor Day" 74 years  
 Dec 10 VVA 862 BOD Meeting Rochester VFW 7 PM  
 Dec 11 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland  
 VFW  
 Dec 12 "Wreaths Across America - Gazebo Beaver  
 Dec 16 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM REFRESHMENTS  
 Dec 25 "Merry Christmas"  
 Dec 31 "New Year's Eve"

**Veterans Breakfast Club**  
**Robert Morris**  
**Moon Twp**

**DATE: July 14, 2015**  
**TIME: 9:00 AM**

*Mark Your Calendars Now!*

**Be sure You Call Todd and make  
 your reservation.**

**412-623-9029**

# 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**

