

VIETNAM VET "GAZETTE"

Issue 153

Together Then Together Now

June 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

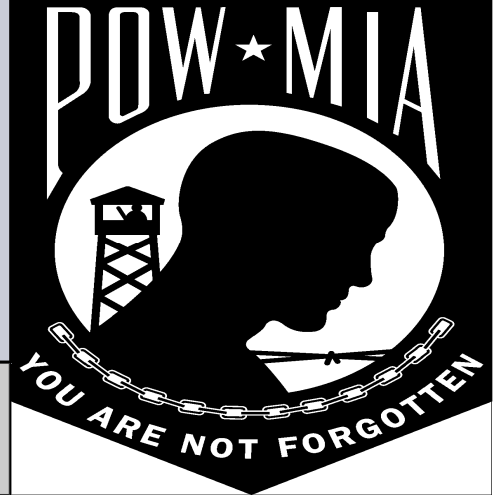
at the

ROCHESTER VFW

Be Sure To See

Important Dates to Remember

Upcoming Events— Page 17



FLAG DAY

On May 21st, an "army" of volunteers "invaded" Sylvania Hills Memorial Park to place flags beside the gravestones of each military veteran.



Members from Chapter 862 and the Rochester VFW, led by Joe Maverio, joined other civic organizations including the Beaver Army JROTC, Boy Scout & Girl Scout troops, local Volunteer Fire Departments and many others in placing over 4000 flags in honor of our veterans.

The view of these memorials, each adorned with a US Flag is an

awesome and inspiring sight. If you haven't seen this yet, you are missing a beautiful display of pride for our veterans.

On June 14th of each year, Americans celebrate Flag Day to honor the flag and to commemorate our flag's adoption. The US flag represents freedom and has been an enduring symbol of our country's ideals since its early days. Americans also remember their loyalty to the nation, reaffirm their belief in liberty and justice, and observe the nation's unity. We honor this day by displaying the US flag at homes and public buildings. Also, many communities observe this day with flag-raising ceremonies, Flag Day services, musical salutes, parades, or special recognition awards. Also, on the same day, the United States Army celebrates its birthday.

Our Chapter honors this day by sponsoring the **Support Our Troops Rally at Quay Park in Beaver**. The event is completely free, paid for by donations from our local community. The event begins promptly at **5:00 PM** and includes the flag presentation by our Chapter 862 Color Guard, free food and drinks, flag handouts, and patriotic music performed by several local individuals and groups. All you need to do is bring your favorite lawn chair and a plan for an enjoyable evening, while celebrating our freedom and honoring our military.

Don't miss this chance to show our support for our troops. Remember our motto, "**Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.**" Let's show our military veterans and our community that we mean it. Thank you.

Larry J. 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.....Secretary775-3027
 Jake Barsottini...Treasurer.....601-7293

Board of Directors

Gary Shaffer3.....643-8941
 Rich Tindell3.....622-0724
 Pete Herman.....3.....712-4324
 Michelle Wilcox2.....847-3463
 Don Villella2.....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 Laughner601-3597
 Lee Corfield.....775-3027
 Larry Googins.....869-7090
 Philip Morris.....643-5725
 Chuck Inman.....709-7747
 Terri Carr330-692-1849
 Pete Herman.....712-4324
 Jake Barsottini.....601-7293
 Ray Rapp.....316-6786
 Michelle Wilcox847-3463
 Nick Pavkovich847-0592

Standing Committees

Agent Orange / Dioxin

Mike Coligure412-613-1810

Community Services

Chuck Inman709-7747

Finance

Bill Winkle.....774-2626

Government Affairs

Bart Farzati777-2193

Membership

Gary Shaffer.....643-8941

Minority Affairs

Reuben Fuller378-4990

POW / MIA

Phil Morris643-5725

PTSD / Substance Abuse

Rich McCracken.....266-4914

Public Affairs

(Vacant)

Veterans Affairs / Benefits / Advisor

Kathy Nairn770-4450

Woman Veterans

Michelle Wilcox847-3463

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

Several of those named serve as examples of how remains repatriated many years ago can now be identified using contemporary science that wasn't available in the early 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-1,267 (VN-465, VS-802); Laos -304; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7.

ONGOING POW/MIA REORGANIZATION: Things continue to move fairly rapidly and with no small amount of confusion and dissonance internal to the three major organizations—DPMO, JPAC and LSEL—being restructured into one agency, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA. RADM Michael T. Franken, USN, appointed by Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USDPA) Christine Wormuth as the Interim Director, met with the Board of Directors on March 14th. His presentation gave reason for optimism that he was open to new ideas, such as Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) now under consideration. The League Board welcomed the concept, while recognizing that P3s would likely be more useful on WWII incidents that occurred in Europe, as well as Pacific Islands and other countries in Asia, than to Vietnam War losses, noting longstanding, hard-earned agreements reached with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, for USG access in the context of bilateral government-to-government cooperation.

Chairman's Assessment: Secretary Hagel's personal involvement and commitment gave reason for optimism that the reorganization he directed would prove to be beneficial. The outcome is now less certain; however, senior military officers were selected to restructure the various elements into one efficient, effective agency with higher priority and support. Clearly, former Secretary Hagel was determined to "get this right" and was not tolerant of excuses; however, initial implementation by the PACT, The Clearing and other inexperienced staff showed reluctance to build on strengths and look for ways to improve the existing process. While that may seem simple, educated insights from experienced, dedicated professionals were neither sought nor welcomed by the earlier transition team

POW News (cont on Page 3)

VVA 862 COMMITTEES

(Cont)

Special Committees

Color/Honor Guards

Ray Litzinger.....378-5855

Homeless Veterans

Bill Porupsky495-7051

Newsletter / Webmaster

Lee Corfield.....775-3027

Nominating / Scholarship

Lon Hogue846-8857

Veterans Assistance

Bill Laughner601-3597

Other Positions

Chaplain

Don Vilella843-7401

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 Grant462-3717

Chaplain

Barb Googins.....869-7090

Membership

Susan Smith728-6741

POW News (cont from Page 2)

. We urged Under Secretary Wormuth to proceed thoughtfully, and she did, supported initially by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (ASD/SOLIC) Michael Lumpkin and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Community Outreach René Bardorf. Since January of this year, reorganization has primarily been in the hands of Interim Director RADM Mike Franken, USN, assisted by Maj Gen Kelly McKeague, with LTG Mike Linnington, USA, in an advisory role.

A permanent Director is due to be in place before the League’s 46th Annual Meeting in June.

**POW Chairman
Phil Morris - VVA 862**

**NOW, YOU TALK ABOUT A TRUE
“REFLECTIONS PICTURE”**

VVA 862 member, Rich Gillin at the “Wall” in Washington DC



Minutes from May 20 2015 meeting

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

Opening Prayer by Chaplain Don Villella.

Attendance was “ 140 “

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call of Officers – 13 Present – 2 Absent – 0, Excused

Awards Presentation of Award to - Jim McGeehan by (Rich Tindell & Kathy Nairn) Jim was presented with his medals he never received from Vietnam. Along with the regular Vietnam Ribbons, 19 Air Medals, 3 Bronze Stars

Introduction of Guests

It's About the Warriors Foundation - Brandon Rambaugh, Explained about the It's About the Warrior Foundation and how they do help veterans from all wars, not just post 911.

Compeer Corps Program - (Roy Ramone) Roy explained how this program works and what they do.

Other Guests: William Schmuts, Dennis Nolder

Call for Veterans “Sick or In Distress” – Dave Wienmen, Hank Labik, & Phil Morris

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 gave the Treasurer's Report due to Jake's Absence.

Board of Directors Report

Motions Recommended by the BOD

Kathleen Swazuk (speaker at our Membership Awards Dinner) gave Gary Shaffer a check for \$150.00 for her life membership. Since there is \$100.00 remaining in the ½ price life membership allocation, Gary suggested paying ½ of her membership cost.

1) Motion by Dave Marchetti 2nded by Skip Haskell to return \$75 to Kathleen Swazuk for the ½ price membership. Motion Carried.

PASC President Tom Haberkorns's expenses are paid by PASC when they came to our Membership Awards Dinner.

2) Motion by Tom Cekovich 2nded by John Statkiewicz to give \$165.55 to PASC to cover Tom Haberkorns's expenses to attend our VVA 862 Awards Dinner. Motion Carried.

Terri Carr requested an American Flag for the Blood Drive on May 22nd.

3) Motion by Dave Marchetti 2nded by Ken Pingatore to give Terri Carr an American Flag to be given away as a door prize during the upcoming Blood Drive. Motion Carried.

Attendees at VVA National Conference are Larry Googins, Jake Barsottini, Michelle Wilcox, Terri Carr, and Philip Morris. PASC will pay \$500 for Larry and Jake (PASC Exec VP and PASC Treasurer) and \$200 for Michelle, Terri and Philip (Delegates)

4) Motion by Dave Marchetti 2nded by Sam Giordano to cover the expenses for Larry Googins & Jake Barsottini above the \$500 that PASC is paying and Michelle Wilcox, Phillip Morris, & Terri Carr above the \$200.00 that the PASC is paying, for travel expenses (gas & tolls), lodging, meals and registration. Motion Carried.

Minutes from Page 4

Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 - Bart Farzati & Mike Coligure gave an explanation and letter.

5) Motion by Bill Winkle 2nded by Ralph Cordes to cover Mike Coligure's cost to print the items up that he needs to contact our Congressmen. Motion Carried.

Mike is setting up a table at Rolling Thunder (Headquarters) where he can pass out the Agent Orange information all over the US. Cost is estimated around \$200

6) Motion by Bill Winkle 2nded by Ralph Cordes to cover Mike's total cost for Agent Orange information. Motion Carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Agent Orange - Mike Coligure - Gave more information on Agent Orange. Explained about the 3 letters for you to pick up in the back. Explained how we need more help in the chapter.

Gov't Affairs - Bart Farzati - Bart talked about where the 3 letters are going in the back. He also spoke about an upcoming Defense Bill.

Membership - Gary Shaffer - VVA - 703 LIFE - 511

POW MIA - Phil Morris - In Hospital

Women's Vets - Michelle Wilcox - N/A

Honor Guard - Rich Raich - Gave report on recent events they did and went over upcoming events.

Vets Asst Program - Bill Laughner - N/A

President's Reports

Chapter Sponsored Events - Larry explained the sheets on your tables with the list of upcoming events

Other Items. Larry spoke about donating items to the group in Ambridge needing exercise equipment.

Vice Presidents' Reports

Exec Bill Laughner - Bill spoke about the upcoming Kokomo Reunion, BCCI Sportsmen's Bash from Blackhawk H.S.

1st VP -Rich Kamzelski - Has the list he's passing out for Volunteers to Sign up, for the Relay 4 LIFE coming up. June 19 & 20th.

2nd VP - Cliff Hawes - Cliff spoke about the upcoming Duck Race. He has Tickets available now. Come up and get yours. Also he needs Volunteers to help with the race.

AVVA Bobbie Morris - President Bobbie Morris gave a report on what they are working on. She went over the Agent Orange Fund and how it works. AVVA had made a motion for \$250.00 towards Mike Coligure's Rolling Thunder Trip to Washington DC. In a few weeks. 50/50 is \$230.00. Won by - Rich Orsen who gave \$100.00 back to AVVA. Eagle Picture was won by Al Whitehill.

New Business

Chapter Service Officer Training - Larry gave an explanation about the training coming up at State College.

Chapter Service Officer Training - PASC will pay 1/2 room charges.

(7) Motion by Frank Petz, 2nded by Tom Cekovich to pay 1/2 room charge, travel and meals

Good of the Chapter -Tom McCormack asked for help to load his container that's headed for Panama on June 9th. Dave Kane spoke about needing help with the upcoming Support the Troops Rally.

Pete Herman spoke about and upcoming Baseball Game in Butler (Pullman Yards)

Kaleb Martin (Previous Ambridge JR ROTC Commander), stopped by to say Hi to everyone and Thank everyone again for the help we gave him last year.

Summary Motions/Tasks - Charles Ray Thanked all those who helped with highway Clean up.

Rich Tindell explained the upcoming Vietnam Bus Trip he's trying to put together.

LIFE Membership Drawing winner was Dale Gower

Mike Blackwood from Blackhawk Golf Course spoke about the recent 1st Annual Armed Forces Golf Outing.

Sandy Giordano asked for more pictures for the VVA Photo Albums

Closing Prayer - Don Vilella

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted—Lee Corfield VVA 862

“Special Announcements” from VVA 862

Need help for the Upcoming **“Relay 4 Life”** Event.

Looking for people to put a couple of hours, between (12 midnight to 7:00am) Friday midnight to Saturday morning, at Brady's Run Walking Park as Security for The **Relay for Life (CANCER)**. 19-20 Jun2015

Call Kamm 724-494-5752.

*

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 .

WILLIAM G. LAUGHNER

*



FLAG ETIQUETTE

The United States Flag Code established advisory rules for display and care of the flag of the United States. It is Chapter 1 of Title 4 of the United States Code (4 U.S.C. § 1). The US Supreme Court does not allow for punitive actions for disrespect of the Flag as enforcement would conflict with the First Amendment right to freedom of speech. That said the code specifies that the US Flag is a living thing and should always be given the respect it deserves. The Flag not only represents the country, but those who sacrificed and/or died for their country in military service, key government service and first responders. If you disrespect the flag by not properly caring for it or displaying it you disrespect all those who sacrificed and died for the freedoms you enjoy.

The US Government does not specify proportions for the Flag except for military use. The American Legion suggest the following: For hanging from a staff on a building or home, 3x5, 16 foot pole 3x5, 20 foot pole 3x5 or 4x6, 25 foot pole 4x6 or 5x8, 30 foot pole 5x8 or 6x10 35 foot pole 6x10 or 8x12, 40 foot pole 6x10 or 8x12. Flags reserved for the US Military are the post flag which is 10feet by 20 feet, the garrison flag which is 20 feet by 36 feet and the Storm flag which is 4 feet 2 inches by 8 feet.

The US Flag should be raised at sun up and lowered at dusk unless there is a light on the flag. The US Flag should never be flown in the rain, snow or high winds with the exception of the polyester sewn all weather flag which can be flown in the rain or snow but should always be taken down in high winds (straight winds of 30 miles per hour or more and wind gust of 40 miles per hour or more. Leaving the flag up in high winds damages the flag and often tears the flag from the lanyard or rings.

The flag when hung on a building or home should always have the stars at the peak and it must always be flown on its own right (Towards the left as you look at it). I often see flags on homes improperly flown on the left side of the door or house. This is disrespectful to our flag. When a flag is displayed over a street it must always hang with the field of blue and stars at the peak and to its own right.

When a flag is taken down it should never be allowed to touch the ground or floor. It should never be allowed to sit inside bunched up. It should always be properly folded or if on a house pole, parade pole or speaking pole it should be properly sheathed. I have mine sheathed and can show anyone how to do so or to properly fold the flag.

Except for specific designated days, the flag may never be flown at half staff unless directed by the President of the United States or the Governor of a State. Local governments and mayors may not order the flag to be flown at half staff except for the Mayor of Washington D. C. (This is because the district is not a state or territory and does not have a governor.

All weather flags should be washed when they become soiled and any flag can be repaired if it can be restored to its original condition. Otherwise you should dispose of the flag by giving it to a Veterans Service Organization, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America who can give it the proper burning ceremony.

When a flag is raised or lowered it should always be saluted by military personnel, veterans, police officers and fireman in uniform. Veterans may render the hand salute even when not in uniform. Civilians salute by placing their right hand over their heart. No other flag should ever be placed above the American Flag.

When multiple flag poles are used, the American Flag should be in the center and on the highest pole.

FLAG ETIQUETTE (cont on Page 8)

FLAG ETIQUETTE (cont on Page 8)

The designated days to fly the flag at half mast are: {Presidents Day - the third Monday in February, Memorial Day - The Last Monday in May Flag Day - June 14, Veteran's Day - November 11, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day - July 27, for thirty days after the death of a president - both current and former, for ten days after the death of a vice-president, speaker of the house or chief justice of the Supreme Court, and the days between the death and burial of a Supreme Court Judge, former vice president, state or territory governor, or military department secretary. Other than these designate days, remember that only the President of the United States or a State Governor can order the flag to be flow at half mast.

What to the colors of the flag stand for: Red symbolizes hardiness, valor and blood, shed for liberty. White symbolizes purity, innocence and equality. Blue represents vigilance, perseverance, justice and fraternity. The stripes of the flag represent the first thirteen colonies, the stars on the field of blue represent the current number of states. For further explanation of flying, folding and caring for the flag please see the flag code, contact any veterans organization or myself.

POW/ MIA Flag

The POW/MIA Flag s an American flag designed as a symbol of citizen concern about US Military personnel taken as prisoners of war (POWs) or listed as missing in action (MIA). The POW/MIA Flag is flown every day over the white house, war memorials and many State Houses and Municipalities. With the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization act the POW/MIA Flag was specified to fly at a minimum each year on Armed Forces Day - Third Saturday in May, Memorial Day - Last Monday in May, Flag Day - June 14, Independence Day - July 4, National POW/MIA Recognition Day - Third Friday in September and Veterans Day - November 11. When flown on the same pole as the American Flag the POW/MIA Flag should not be larger than the American Flag and it takes immediate precedence below the American Flag and before any other flag including a State Flag.

I could write a book on Flag etiquette but all of the information is available on the web. As a veteran of more than 20 years and four combat tours, I am personally offended as should everyone in the community when someone disrespects our flag or displays it improperly.

Please take a moment to reflect on the blessings and freedoms we have as a result of those who served and continue to serve us in the military, police and first responders, especially those who died in the line of duty.

You can send questions or comments to Jake Barsottini at jbarsottini@gmail.com or you can call him at **724-601-7293**.

**From Jake Barsottini
Treasurer VVA Chapter 862**

*



Associates of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 862 May 20 2015

A regular meeting of the AVVA Chapter 862 was called to order 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 for Vice President Marji Slawianowski and Board Members Keith Black and Carl Curtis who were excused.

President Morris introduced guest Marcy Scott, President of the Board at Mental Health.

A motion by Judy Hage to accept the minutes of April 15, 2015 as drafted in the May newsletter, seconded by Sandy Giordano. Motion carried.

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

Membership Chair Veronica Grant reported that our Chapter has 141 members and 56 are life members. Chapter 862 is #3 in the top 25 chapters.

President Morris congratulated Sandy Giordano for winning the AVVA Member of the year award and Susan Fudurich for receiving the President's Award; she also thanked Barb Googins and Donna Corfield for a nice job done at the spring banquet.

Carl Curtis AVVA Board Member will attend the Convention to vote on new by-laws and National Officers.

A motion to help defray the cost of Printing of Agent Orange Posters for the amount of \$262.48 was made by Donna Corfield and seconded by Linda Szatkiewicz. Motion carried.

A motion to reimburse Bobbie Morris for ink was made by Judy Hage and seconded by Sandy Giordano. Motion carried.

A motion to put a cap on the Tom Robes Cancer Fund for the amount of \$2,500.00 so monies can be used to help veterans with other needs was made by Donna Corfield and seconded by Linda Szatkiewicz. Motion carried.

A motion to reimburse Sandy Giordano \$8.28 for photo albums was made by Barb Googins and seconded by Sue Smith. Motion carried.

A motion to reimburse Judy Hage \$13.66 for tickets for the 50/50 raffle was made by Barb Googins and seconded by Bob Gwin. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm; the next meeting will be June 17, 2015 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

KOKOMO VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION SEPTEMBER 16 - 20 2015
NOTICE TO ALL VVA 862 MEMBERS

AS WE HAVE DONE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS CHAPTER 862 WILL BE GOING TO KOKOMO, INDIANA TO ATTEND THE **33rd ANNUAL VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION**. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 40 ROOMS RESERVED UNTIL AUGUST 19, 2015.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING PLEASE EMAIL ME AT wlaugh@comcast.net AND INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER .

WE HAVE A MEMBER WHO VOLUNTEERED TO DRIVE A VAN, SO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING IN THE VAN, PLEASE INCLUDE THAT IN YOUR EMAIL.

ROOM RATES AT THE MARRIOTT THIS YEAR WILL BE **\$119.00 PER NIGHT**.

ESTIMATED COST TO RIDE IN THE VAN IF THERE ARE 6-8 RIDERS WILL BE BETWEEN \$65.00 - \$80.00 PER PERSON.

THE (20) ROOMS RESERVED SO FAR:

DON VILLELLA

STOKES (2) Rooms

JOHN MCPHERSON

TOM MCCORMACK (FRIDAY & SATURDAY)

AARON JOHNSON

LUKE PATRINO (2) Rooms

TONY PALATTO

BLAZEWICK

SNAKEDOG (2) Rooms

RON GARDNER

RICH RAICH

LAUGHNER, LAUGHNER, HASWELL

GOOGINS

CORFIELD

PETZ

BARLETT

CORDES, HOGUE, PETZ

If your name is not on the list and you have reserved a room,
Please email me at wlaugh@comcast.net

WILLIAM G. LAUGHNER

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

Veterans Court

Larry Googins is one of the Mentors and is very familiar with what is going on with the Beaver County Veterans Court and how it works.

These cases are handled by Judge Kim Tesla.

“We need more Mentors”

to assist with these cases.

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor,

Please contact Larry Googins

724-869-7090

or

Email - ljgoogins.vva862@comcast.net

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**

JUNE

- Gary Wadatz.....June 1
- Robert BogovichJune 2
- Jim RoseJune 2
- Rodger Iben.....June 3
- Chuck MusserJune 3
- Dave BollmanJune 4
- Pam Haswell.....June 4
- Bill BradleyJune 5
- James WrzesinskiJune 5
- Matthew McCauleyJune 6
- Larry BatesJune 7
- Ralph HagueJune 7
- Chuck MusserJune 8
- Paul SummersJune 8
- Les BrownJune 9
- Linda DavisJune 10
- Jim JuilleratJune 10
- Tee Patillo.....June 10
- Jim Barnes IIJune 11
- Don EilerJune 11
- Chuck BowersJune 12
- Larry KingstonJune 12
- Bill Porupsky.....June 12
- Dave KaneJune 13
- Mike Krechowski.....June 13
- Ed VanRyn JrJune 13
- Bill Grandstaff.....June 13

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**

JUNE

- Ron Patterson June 14
- John Wargo June 14
- Ken Pingatore..... June 15
- Brian Shumaker June 15
- Ed Bryson June 16
- Connie McCracken ... June 16
- Charles Schrankel..... June 16
- Bob Fisher..... June 17
- Dan Godich..... June 17
- Allys Boyer..... June 18
- Tom Reilly June 18
- Julius Bergiel..... June 19
- Georgiann Robes..... June 20
- John Bevins..... June 21
- Ray Litzinger June 21
- Joe Pucci June 21
- Louis Nudi June 22
- Milton Pettapiece June 22
- Tom Sypolt..... June 22
- Ron Johnston..... June 23
- Bill Wauthier June 23
- Ken Hughes June 24
- Ron Gabler June 25
- Eugene Mittica June 25
- Joe Mavero June 26
- Ralph Cordes..... June 30
- Bob Good June 30
- Gene Rees..... June 30

Lee's Tid Bits:

Vietnam Memorial in Beaver

When you get on our vva862.org Website, you will see I've updated the picture of our Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Beaver. Larry Googins took some good pictures during Memorial Day. It's always nice to have fresh pictures. You will see our updated picture on the last page of the newsletter.

Secretary & Newsletter Editor in 2016

As I stated at the Awards Banquet when they kept wanting to install me. Next year you will be installing a new Secretary. Like the ad on TV, I'm giving my, instead of 15, one (1) year notice. By my calculations, I have edited 153 issues of the Vietnam Vet Gazette. I also took over the Webmaster a few years back. I will keep the Webmaster position. I've had these 3 positions since we started. This will give the chapter change. I feel there are some very smart people in the chapter that could handle one of these positions. I just took these positions when we started the chapter in 2000 cause I had everything in one computer, and we've grown from there. In January we'll start looking for candidates for these (2) positions. This will give people a chance to start thinking about it and 4 months to train them.

Lee

Death Notices

Jack D. Pegg - 82 of Beaver Falls, Pa. Died on May 22nd, 2015. Jack was the brother of VVA 862 LIFE member Richard Pegg.

May He Rest In Peace

*Next VVA 862 Meeting
June 17th - 7:00 P.M*

The Risk of Over-Thanking Our Veterans

By KEN HARBAUGH JUNE 1, 2015

TRAVELING through an airport recently, I witnessed a now-commonplace ritual: military personnel getting head-of-the-line privileges in the boarding area. As we complete the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, one of the legacies of the longest war in our history is how the public has rallied to support those who served.

While this can seem superficial at times, there is not a vet alive who would prefer the other extreme. My father served in Vietnam, and the welcome home his generation received was a national disgrace. Unfortunately, the modern-day lionization of veterans has itself gone too far. In Washington, this knee-jerk support has resulted in policy decisions that will hurt both vets and the larger public over time. Since 2000, the Department of Veterans Affairs has seen its budget nearly triple. Its programs run the gamut from burial benefits to job training. But among the biggest cost drivers is the disability-compensation system, which now approaches \$60 billion per year. These disability payments are separate from medical costs associated with treating an injury, and are set at varying levels to compensate injured veterans for an assumed inability to work. The average payout has risen 60 percent (inflation-adjusted) since 2000, and the proportion of veterans receiving some form of compensation has nearly doubled.

And while most vets who receive disability checks deserve them, one of the worst kept secrets among those seeking a disability rating is that the system can be beaten. Claim the right combination of symptoms, whether you are suffering or not, and there is a decent chance you can get a monthly disability check, tax free, for the rest of your life. There are even blogs out there to walk you through the process of claiming an injury that cannot be disproved.

Sometimes it takes no effort at all. When I left the Navy in 2005, I filled out a form and got a medical exam in order to document a fractured shoulder that I had sustained in the line of duty. Soon after, I received a rating and my first monthly direct-deposit payment.

Not feeling entitled to anything other than medical care, I attempted to discontinue the payment, but was told there was no process for doing so. Even my ability to hold a full-time job had no bearing on my disability rating.

Matt Richtel wrote a thoughtful piece on the "thank you for your service phenomenon" a few months ago. "To some recent vets — by no stretch...

As a nation, we have no greater duty than to care for those who have fought our battles.

But the current disability-compensation regime demands a closer look, not only for the sake of financial prudence but also to avoid creating a culture of dependency. A recent [study](#) by Mark Duggan, an economist at Stanford, linked rising disability payments to increased unemployment among veterans. The author suggests that such payments may reduce the "recipient's propensity to work" because disability checks obviate the need for a job.

Someday, once all the backlogs at Veterans Affairs are cleared, many will declare "mission accomplished." But this is when the real problem will emerge. The annual cost of disability compensation is rising steadily, to \$60 billion today from \$20 billion in 2000. That curve continues to bend upward. The American public will move beyond superficial expressions of support and ask, "Is this bill too high?" They are the ones, after all, who are stuck with the tab. Payouts set to top \$100 billion are going to draw attention.

Thanking Our Veterans (cont on Page 13)

Thanking Our Veterans (cont from Page 12)

So how did we get here? Over the last 14 years of war, America has experienced a perfect storm of sympathy for veterans: a combination of unmet needs like vets waiting for care, an admiring but ultimately disengaged public and a political class with almost no military experience that feels it lacks the moral authority to say no. Today, it is taboo to question the honor of a veteran seeking compensation, and those who dare challenge the benefits system are deemed insufficiently patriotic.

Policy updates can address some of this. Veterans Affairs should look harder at ways the system is being gamed, and abuses should be ended much as we go after phony workers' compensation claims. There should be an option for those who want to document injuries to guarantee medical care, but who do not want a compensation payment. And we should double down on programs like job training that empower veterans as opposed to creating dependencies.

We have come a long way since Vietnam, and for that we should be grateful. But over time, an act as simple as honoring service members at the airport can morph into something altogether dishonorable. As veterans, we should not demand more than we are owed. As a society, we should have the guts to push back when necessary, and elect leaders who can make tough choices about issues such as Veterans Affairs spending. Above all, we must guard against the day when the benefits veterans have rightfully earned become a source of resentment to those they have faithfully served. □

Ken Harbaugh, a former Navy pilot and mission commander, works for [Team Rubicon](#), a veteran-based disaster-relief organization.

Our local Law Enforcement members will enjoy this.



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

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

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*

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

* includes punctuation and spaces

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

Senator Elder Vogel Jr.'s

FREE

Rain or
Shine

2015 Kids Extravaganza

Saturday, June 27, 2015 • 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Community College of Beaver County – Athletics and Events Center

1 Campus Drive, Monaca, PA 15061

*Brewster's Real Ice Cream
and Edible Arrangements
will be on hand providing
free samples!*

Senator Vogel's Kids Extravaganza is a fun and free way to gain valuable information on programs and benefits available to help your family and children. The Kids Extravaganza will feature representatives from state, county and local organizations as well as free refreshments.

*Celebrity Chef Justin Miller
will be signing copies of the new
PA Preferred Recipe Book.*

Pittsburgh Zoo • 2015 PA Honey Queen • Beaver County Model Railroad
Hookstown Fair Queen and Princess • River Valley Tang Soo Do Academy
Electronic Caricatures and Fingerprinting • Chalk Hair Coloring • Face Painting
Balloon Artist • Bunny Barn • PA Woodmobile • PennDot & Trucks
.....Crafts, Games, Giveaways and Door Prizes!

Photos not representative of actual zoo animals that will be present.

Gather up those Grandkids and Go!

"TOGETHER THEN"

Calendar of Events for 2015

"TOGETHER NOW"

June

June 10 VVA 862 BOD Meeting -7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 June 12 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 6:00 PM Midland VFW Park
 June 14 US Army Birthday 1775
 June 14 **"Support the Troops Rally @ 5:00 PM Beaver**
 June 17 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM
 June 19—20 "Relay 4 LIFE Event—Brady's Run Lodge
 June 21 "Father's Day"
 June 27 - 28 PASC Meeting - State College @ Ramada

July

July 4 **4th of July Parade - Midland, Pa.**
 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 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 4 U S Coast Guard Birthday 1790
 Aug 12 VVA BOD Meeting 5:00 PM
 VVA 862 Meeting 7:00 PM
 Aug 14 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 6:00 PM Midland VFW Park
 Aug 14 - 16 Beaver River Regatta (Opening Ceremony 6:00 PM)
 Aug 19 VVA 862 Picnic - Industry Park
 Aug 25 - 29 "Hookstown Fair" VVA Booth
 Aug 29 VVA 862 "Duck Race" @ Fair 6:00 PM

Next Veterans Club Breakfast
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!

September

Sept 5 5th Annual Blaine Allinder "Golf Outing"
 Sept 9 VVA 862 BOD Meeting - 5:00 PM
 VVA Meeting 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 4:00 PM
 Sept 16 - 19 33rd Vietnam Vets Reunion - Kokomo In.
 Sept 18 US Air Force Birthday 1947
 Sept 27 "Gold Star Mothers" Day

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
 Oct 24 - 25 PASC Meeting State College - Ramada

November

Nov 1 Daylight Savings - Ends"
 Nov 3 Election Day "Be Sure to Vote"
 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 / 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**

