

VIETNAM VET "GAZETTE"

Issue 157

Together Then Together Now

October 2015



In Service to America

Up-Coming Meetings

BOD Meeting

2nd Wed of the Month
7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

VVA meet @ 7:00 PM

at the

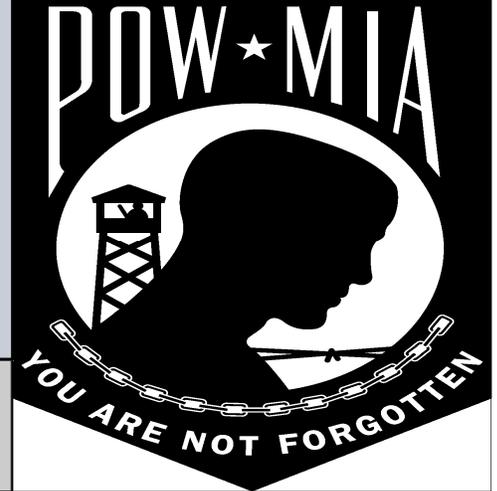
ROCHESTER VFW

AVVA meets @ 6:00 PM

Be Sure To See

Important Dates to Remember

Upcoming Events— Page 17



September Activities

September was a busy month for our chapter with several major events occurring.

On September 2nd, Our chapter sponsored the Veterans Breakfast Club gathering at Seven Oaks Country Club. The VVA 862 Color Guard presented the colors and Lee Corfield sang the National Anthem. We presented a short video describing the mission of the Vietnam Veterans of America and the VVA founding principle.

Then on September 12th, the 14th annual POW/MIA Run was held, beginning at the Rochester VFW and traveling throughout Beaver County. The motorcycle run ended at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Beaver for a brief POW/MIA ceremony, reading the names and acknowledging our Beaver County veterans who sacrificed their lives for our country. Our Color Guard again presented the colors in their traditional professional custom.

September 16-20 was the Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana. Over fifty (50) chapter members or spouses from our chapter attended the event. As usual, it was an outstanding and rewarding reunion. If you have never attended this event, you have missed one of the most memorable gatherings of fellow brothers and veterans and a fitting dedication to our country.

Then on September 30th, VVA & AVVA Chapter 862 sponsored the annual Gold Star Mothers Banquet at the Wooden Angel in Bridgewater. The Wooden Angel and owner VVA 863 life member Alex Sebastian served an outstanding dinner. Twenty-two (22) Gold Star Mothers and/or Family members along with Thirty-five (35) VVA/AVVA Chapter 862 members/spouses honored our fallen brothers and vowed again "Never to Forget." VVA Chapter 862 life member, Rev. "Ben" Wright spoke about the pain and sacrifice that the families endure.

(Pictures of these events are posted on page 6)

Larry Googins, President

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

Executive Officers

Larry Googins.....President.....869-7090
 Bill Laughner.....Exec VP.....601-3597
 Rich Kamzelski ...1st VP.....494-5752
 Cliff Hawes.....2nd VP 728-5065
 Lee Corfield.....Secretary775-3027
 Jake Barsottini...Treasurer.....601-7293

Board of Directors

Gary Shaffer3.....643-8941
 Rich Tindell3.....622-0724
 Pete Herman.....3.....712-4324
 Michelle Wilcox ...2.....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 Laughner.....601-3597
 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

Auditor's

Bill Winkle.....774-2626.

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
 Nat League of POW/MIA Families UPDATE: September 21, 2015**

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: There was recently an unannounced change to the number of Vietnam War missing and unaccounted-for US personnel. For various reasons, including wishes of the family, DoD announcements are often delayed far beyond the ID dates and sometimes not even made, as was the case with the most recent change, though not a recent ID, but reportedly in 2012. Several of those named this year were examples of how remains repatriated many years ago can now be identified using scientific technology and processes that weren't available in earlier years.

The number of Americans now listed by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 957. 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 1,020. Of the **1,626 still missing** and unaccounted-for, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,268 (VN-467, VS-801); Laos-302; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be buried with full military honors.

Army Maj. Dale W. Richardson, 28, of Mount Sterling, Ill.; **Staff Sgt. Bunyan D. Price Jr.**, 20, of Monroe, N.C.; and **Sgt. Rodney L. Griffin**, 21, of Mexico, Mo, have been accounted for. Price was buried Apr. 11 in Belmont, N.C.; Griffin was buried Apr. 25 in his hometown; Richardson was buried Aug. 29 in Mountain View, Ark.; and the group remains representing the crew will be buried Oct. 20 in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington D.C.

Richardson, Price, and Griffin, all assigned to 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, were passengers aboard an UH-1H Iroquois (Huey) helicopter that was en route to Fire Support Base Katum, South Vietnam, when it was diverted due to bad weather. After flying into Cambodian airspace, the aircraft came under heavy enemy ground fire, causing the pilot to make an emergency landing in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. The Huey's four crewmen and its four passengers survived the landing. One crewman was able to evade being captured by enemy forces and later returned to friendly lines. The other three crewmen and one passenger were captured. Two of the captured crewmen were released by the Vietnamese in 1973, and the remains of the other two captured men were returned to U.S. control in the 1980s and identified. Richardson, Price, and Griffin died at the site of the crash during a fire fight with enemy forces. Their remains were not recovered after the fire fight.

In the identification of **Richardson**, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) analyzed circumstantial evidence and used forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his sister.

POW News (cont on Page 3)

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

Ray Litzinger.....378-5855

Highway Clean UP

Charles Ray.....827-8310

Homeless Veterans

Bill Porupsky495-7051

Newsletter / Webmaster

Lee Corfield.....775-3027

Nominating / Scholarship

Lon Hogue846-8857

Veterans Assistance

Bill Laughner.....601-3597

Other Positions**Chaplain**

Don Villella843-7401

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)

In the identification of **Price**, scientists from DPAA and AFDIL analyzed circumstantial evidence and used forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his brothers and sisters.

In the identification of **Griffin**, scientists from DPAA and AFDIL analyzed circumstantial evidence and used forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his brothers.

Information obtained from post-war US field operations reveals that central Vietnamese authorities systematically recovered American remains. Eyewitnesses reported central-level supervision of remains recoveries of US personnel not yet repatriated. Vietnam's leaders have repeatedly pledged to renew and increase their own efforts to locate and return remains and provide relevant documents. They have moved incrementally, but have not yet been as fully cooperative as hoped. With the establishment of full diplomatic and economic relations, plus ever-expanding bilateral military relations and strategic dialogue, it is also hoped Vietnam will further accelerate unilateral efforts to close these historic gaps.

President George W. Bush formalized criteria for steps Vietnam should take unilaterally to be fully responsive on the accounting effort. His March 20, 2002, Certification to Congress was followed and further defined by Secretaries of State Powell and Rice three additional times and, on March 7, 2008, the Obama Administration issued its Determination to Congress stating in part, "...we urge Vietnam to work aggressively to improve tangibly its unilateral provision of POW/MIA-related documents and records, focused initially on archival data pertaining to Americans captured, missing or killed in areas of Laos and Cambodia under wartime Vietnamese control. Vietnam should also focus greater attention on locating and providing information on discrepancy cases with priority on those last known alive in captivity or in immediate proximity to capture, and to locating and repatriating the remains of those who died while in Vietnamese control that have not yet been returned. The United States also calls upon Vietnam to continue permitting our recovery teams to have access to restricted areas for the sole purpose of conducting our humanitarian accounting operations." Vietnam's cooperation continues to improve, including provision of archival documents, and access to sensitive areas and witnesses has increased.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil or call (703) 699-1420.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Morris - VVA 862 POW Chairman

Minutes from August 12, 2015 meeting

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

Opening Prayer by Chaplain Don Villella.

Attendance was “ 106 “

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Introduction of Guests - John Gillespie, Chuck McClevish, John Schweith, & Skip Haswell

Call for Veterans “Sick or In Distress” – Pete Herman, Ray Litzinger, Harry Suttelle, Don Villella

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 - Lee & Larry gave an update on what is going on with our Website. It will be all redone, within a few weeks.

Treasurer’s Report: was read by Treasurer Jake Barsottini. He went over all accounts.

Motions Recommended by the BOD .

- (1) Motion was made by Wally Chevuront, 2nd by Bill Winkle to accept Jake’s Resolution that he explained to the body. Motion Carried.
- (2) Motion was made by John Szatkiewicz 2nd by Dave Kane to donate \$150.00 to the upcoming POW Luncheon put on by the Beaver County VA Office Motion Carried
- (3) Motion was made by Lloyd Haswell, 2nd by Sam Giordano to allow Hawk Miller to provide the PA System for the POW Service at our Memorial on Saturday at a cost of \$50.00. Motion Carried
- (4) Motion was made by Sam Giordano, 2nd by Dave Kane to allow the trip to Kokomo be a chapter sponsored event. Motion Carried

Legislative - Bart Farzati - went over several items. Chuck Schrankle spoke on the VA Accountability Act.

Membership - Gary Shaffer - Membership Total 725 512 - LIFE

Winners of Life Membership were won by Ron Gardner who is giving it to someone & Don Brise

POW MIA - Phil Morris - POW Ride will be Sept 12, leaving from The Rochester VFW at 3:PM. Memorial Service will be at 5:00 PM. There are still 93 MIA from PA. 4 - MIA from Beaver County. TET Reunion will be coming up in February 2016. TET Meetings will be starting up in a few months.

Honor Guard - Rich Raich - Rich reported on recent funerals we did, and upcoming events.

Gold Star Mothers Dinner - Chuck Inman - gave his report on the upcoming Gold Star Mothers Dinner to be held at the Wooden Angel September 30th, 6:00 PM. Cost will be \$25.00 each.

Alzheimer’s Walk - Chuck Inman said it will be held at Pavilion #3 at Brady’s Run at 9:00 AM on September 12th, 2015.

DAV Dinner - Cam Adamson - Spoke about the dinner being held on Nov 14th and will be held at the Hopewell V. F. W. Cam spoke about what will be going on at the dinner.

Minutes from Page 4

President's Report: - Larry went over the upcoming Chapter Sponsored Events.

Exec Bill Laughner - Bill thanked all those who helped out with the Hookstown Fair . The Fair BOD did not charge us for the booth.

1st VP Rich Kamzelski - Thanked all those who came down and helped out at the Beaver River Regatta.

2nd VP Cliff Hawes - Cliff had to leave but Larry Googins read his report. Cliff thanked all those who sold the tickets for the Duck Race. He listed recent stats from the Duck Race.

AVVA - Bobbie Morris - AVVA 148 / 56 LIFE Members She recognized some of their new members. They will be hold an Agent Orange Poppy Sale in October. Watch for details in the Friday updates. AVVA is also holding a FIRESALE in recruiting new members for AVVA. AVVA drawing was won by Larry Googins who donated it all back. AVVA/VVA Challenge coin was won by John Harvey.

Good of the Chapter - Tom McCormack spoke about loading another truck for Panama. Honor guard practice will be Midland VFW Park at 6: PM. Jake Barsottini thanked Bill Laughner for what he has done with the Duck race for the past 14 years. Larry spoke about the 50th Vietnam Commemoration. He spoke about the pins he has to pass out to all Vietnam Era Vets. Sandy Giordano spoke about a Horse Race the Aliquippa Class of 1966 is having in November. Anyone who wants to donate, contact Sandy. Next Bus trip to Washington DC is for WWII & Korea War Veterans will be Oct 8th.

Closing Prayer by Don Vilella

Motion to adjourn by Wally Chevuront, 2nd by Ron Heitzenriter Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted

Lee Corfield - VVA 862 Secretary

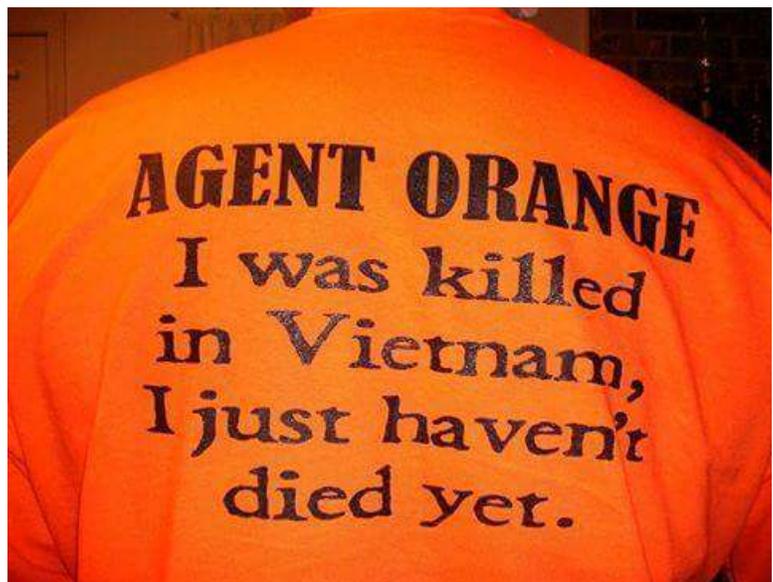
OCTOBER

is

"AGENT ORANGE"

AWARENESS

MONTH





Veterans Breakfast Club—9/2/2015



POW/MIA Run—9/12/2015



Kokomo—2015



POW/MIA Run—9/12/2015



Kokomo—2105



Gold Star Mothers Banquet—9/30/2015

Kokomo "Comments"

Every year, after we come back from the Kokomo Vietnam Vet Reunion, I ask for those who went for the 1st time, commonly known as FNG's (First timer, New Guys) to send me what they thought about their first trip to Kokomo. Well, This time I received several comments from several people. Of which some have gone many times.

from VVA 862 Past President Lloyd "Skip" Haswell (Florida)

No....I am many things but not a FNG when it comes to Kokomo. As you may know I missed this year as Pammy and I went west. I have been going to Kokomo for over 20 some years. When I die I will have my ashes spread at Kokomo so I never miss another reunion.....and for those who say.... **"maybe next year" make plans now to go in Sept. 2016**

from Scott & Bonnie Little (Michigan) (I sent them a note as to why they weren't at Kokomo this year)

Hi Lee, Thanks for thinking of us. Believe me we sure missed Kokomo and all of you. Our daughters planned a family trip out to Yellowstone, so we were gone for about 3-1/2 weeks. It has been a very busy summer and already winter is breathing down our necks, 28 degrees this a.m. With frost. We will not miss next year, I'm sure it was another great year. Harry has kept in touch with us, was sorry to hear his health was keeping him away. Again thanks for thinking of us, you're all like family, we WILL see you next year....

Love, Bonnie...Hugs to all...

from Larry Tanner (Pennsylvania)

Hi Lee

No FNG here as I have been to Kokomo about half a dozen times now. It has always been the same for me. As the time draws near for leaving, so goes the anxiety of making the trip with all the preparation, all the old thoughts and haunts but then all of a sudden, it's time to go.

I have always thought it best to be the one in the background with the camera taking the pictures during the opening ceremonies. It has always brought out more emotion than I ever wanted to deal with so it was just easier keeping a little distance. I felt the same way this year as previous years but as the very beginning of the ceremony started , I moved down to the right end of the stage fence. I still wasn't sure that I would join in but I needed the fence to lean on as my legs were turning into jello. Shortround was standing to my left and at some point I told him that I very much wanted to do this. He made a place for me at the rear right corner of the roll and we proceeded with the unrolling of this giant.

Then in procession, we lead this huge flag across the way to the Memorial Garden. The front end or top was mounted to the hoists and the lifting began. It was a breezy day to say the least. As the flag is winched up the poles, the people anchoring on the front and sides of the flag diminish as their portion leaves the ground. Now we are anchoring only the rear corners and back edge when the wind gusts slightly and someone screams **" DO NOT LET GO OF THE FLAG "** so we held tight .

The only problem with this is that I was the only 5 foot & 7 inch person left among taller people that were completely outstretched. With the flag rolled in the end of my clenched fists, I left the ground, about 6 inches . I felt the wind let off and they finished raising the flag to the top.

Riding in the Huey's is always a rush to the senses but taking a ride on the back of that flag will be a forever memory also.

The power of the moment blended into what turned into a great trip.

Thanks to All Larry Tanner

Kokomo Comments (cont on Page 8)

More Kokomo Comments (cont from Page 7)**from Barry Bietsinger (Pennsylvania)**

Lee,

I was glad that I went to Kokomo. I had heard everyone talking about it so I decided to go and see for myself. I was not disappointed. The welcome celebration for first timers was great. I think everyone in the entire place came up to the stage to say "Welcome Home Brother." To see so many fellow veterans and their families enjoying the event was great. The Kokomo veterans really did a nice job organizing the reunion. I only wish that I had been able to find some of my fellow veterans from the 67th EVAC hospital in Qui Nhon. The hand-made cards and cookies given to us by the children thanking us for our service was really appreciated.

Barry Beitsinger

from Clem Blazewick (Pennsylvania)

Hi Lee

Well for one thing they forgot to have the FNG'S on stage to identify themselves\, etc. That's always nice to learn who's new there! I happened to meet, accidently and by luck, two nurses that also served at the 93rd Evac Hospital. They should have been on stage.

Also, the 'rock' music is nerve racking for us 'elderly' veterans. Hopefully, there won't be as much of that next year.

Take Care, Clem

My Comments

Yes! The beautiful "Opening Ceremony" always gets to everyone. They (Kokomo Vietnam Vets) do a heck of a job putting this together. Jim Murray has been narrating this for years and does a beautiful job. You can always tell, It comes from the heart! When you're listening, It hits home for most of us.

I do have to agree, they usually invite the FNG's up on stage and tell where they are from (Unit they served with in Vietnam) and what state they are from. That way we can listen to see if we were there together. A lot of memories have been refreshed this way, some good, some not so good.

Now, as far as the music went, I can honestly say it was really good until the **Madison Rising Band** came on Saturday afternoon. That was when a lot of us up and left. They were announced as America's #1 Patriotic Band. For the lack of better words, I don't know who did the numbering, but I don't think I'd rate them as number one. Maybe number them like the Vietnamese did in Vietnam and for our age group, I'd have to rate them **Numba 10!** If you know what I mean. Sorry only my opinion. When they started warming up, I knew we were in trouble. When they started out with our National Anthem (Motley Crue Style,) We knew it was time to leave cause, it was only going to get worse from there. That's not they way it's to be done, I don't care what there Title is, or who or where they are from. I did hear they were from Philadelphia. That makes me almost embarrassed to say I'm from Pennsylvania also. Sorry Again, Only my opinion. I'm 68 years old, and yes, I'm probably a baby to the group but I've been singing since I was 8 years old. That's not the way the National Anthem should be done. People today want to sing it and play it their way. Sorry, Guess I'm old fashioned. I can't describe the comments about this band on here but let's just say if they are on next year's line up for one of Saturday's Bands, we may consider leaving Saturday to head back to Pittsburgh. Nuff Said! on that item.

Now, as far as everything else, in the evenings on the 1st floor of the Marriott, I was playing Pittsburgh Oldies. I'd pick out songs and try to stump the group to see if they remember that particular song. I had my little speaker over against the wall and had my Pandora fired up. Through my Blue Tooth, I had that speaker pumping out the sounds. It was fun because, I'd find a good oldie and Tony Pallatto would yell out the name of the song and the group that did it. He was a tough one to stump.

By the Way, for those who did not make it this year, from the Marriott on Day light, (Michelle) and Evening turn (Penny) and the crew all said to say Hi and they are already looking forward to next year.

Lee

**Associates of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 862
September 09, 2015**

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

All Officers and Board Members were present, except Keith Black who was excused.

President Morris welcomed new members: Linda Zachodni, Diane Swan, Sandy Turner, Mary Kay Parsons, Rebecca Martucci and Jake Barsottini (dual member).

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

A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the August newsletter was made by Sandy Giordano and seconded by Marji Slawianowski. Motion carried.

Membership Chair Sue Smith reported that our Chapter has 147 members and 56 are life members. There will be a separate application for a life membership during the fire sale which will be on line sometime in October. President Morris will also have the applications at our next meeting.

VISTA forms may be turned in to our Chapter's VISTA Chairperson Laurel Beitsinger at our meetings and she will mail them to Jeri Wallas.

An E-motion was approved by the Officers and Board Members to donate \$125.00 for a basket for the Alzheimer's Walk.

A motion to donate 21 Agent Orange Pins to PASC for the Widow's Project was made by Sue Bridgewater and seconded by Sandy Giordano. Motion carried

A motion to purchase 200 Agent Orange Pins for our chapter was made by Barb Googins and seconded by Linda Szatkiewicz. Motion carried.

A motion to buy a Life Membership and give a Certificate to all Gold Star Mothers who attend the GSM Banquet in September was made by Donna Corfield and seconded by Judy Hage. Motion carried.

A motion to donate a \$100.00 basket and \$100.00 for food to the POW/MIA Bike Run was made by Judy Hage and seconded by Sandy Giordano. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm; the next meeting will be October 21, 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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**
October

Dan Kownacki	Oct 1
Domenic Lombando	Oct 1
Ed Bernstein.....	Oct 3
Sam Boorse.....	Oct 3
Robert Frechione	Oct 3
Ken Melesky.....	Oct 3
Richard Griser.....	Oct 3
Don Vilella	Oct 3
Steve Bavaro.....	Oct 5
Al Hancq.....	Oct 5
Francis Brice.....	Oct 5
Jim McKinney	Oct 5
Mark Johnson.....	Oct 5
Jim Trozzo	Oct 5
Gerald Beal	Oct 6
Ken Caplinger.....	Oct 6
Joseph Spanik	Oct 6
Livio Pagani.....	Oct 6
Walt Acheson.....	Oct 7
John Cairns	Oct 7
Dave Dacko	Oct 7
Bart Farzati	Oct 7
Rose Landsittel	Oct 7
Charles T Smith.....	Oct 7
Joe Suders	Oct 7
John Barnes Sr.....	Oct 8
John Boback.....	Oct 9
Regis Dolnack.....	Oct 10
Alice Bilbo.....	Oct 11
Wayne Freed.....	Oct 11
Alvin Trautman.....	Oct 11
Sandra James	Oct 12
Roy Roper.....	Oct 12
Larry Rubinosky	Oct 12
Ron Steiner	Oct 12
Cam Adamson	Oct 13

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**
October

Al G. Martin	Oct 13
Sue Petrosky.....	Oct 13
Rudy Katrencik.....	Oct 14
Bobbie Morris.....	Oct 15
Tom Czerpak	Oct 16
Bud Gamble.....	Oct 17
Aaron Johnson Jr.....	Oct 17
Noreen Allinder.....	Oct 18
Skip Haswell.....	Oct 18
Ken McDaniel	Oct 18
Tom Moore.....	Oct 19
Nick Vujaklya.....	Oct 19
Bill Muns.....	Oct 20
John Sperry.....	Oct 20
Wayne Torrance	Oct 21
Robert Grier.....	Oct 22
John Sperry.....	Oct 22
John Devlin	Oct 23
Jim Woods.....	Oct 23
Jerry Johnson.....	Oct 24
Rich Orsen.....	Oct 24
Willie Gilmore.....	Oct 25
Woodrow Main.....	Oct 25
Pat Kalish	Oct 26
Wayne Kemp	Oct 26
Dennis Mozes.....	Oct 28
Tom Wilcox.....	Oct 28
William Gandjos.....	Oct 29
Dave Marchetti.....	Oct 29
Carl Marchionda.....	Oct 29
Alex Wisbeth.....	Oct 29
Larry Weyers.....	Oct 29
Rich Gillin	Oct 30
Jim Jamieson	Oct 30
Walt Opat	Oct 30
Ray Fulmer	Oct 31

Lee's Tid Bits:

Wow! Another fantastic job, done by the Howard County Vietnam Vets who just recently hosted the 33rd Kokomo Vietnam Veterans Reunion. I feel sure everyone had a great time. I asked those who were FNG's to send me a little note for the newsletter. **See Pages 7 & 8.**

Every year we have new people attending and not only is the Huge Opening Ceremony an awesome event to attend, but the "Welcome Home" that you receive when you don't expect it from the "Old Dudes Rock Band" on Saturday afternoon kind of catches you off guard too.

Wow! What great comments about the Kokomo Reunion. From carrying the flag during the opening ceremony to Saturday evening. The hand shaking & back slapping was unbelievable. It's always great to see the "Ole Timers," I'll use ole Gunny (Marine) as an example, he comes by every year and gives VVA 862 that special Welcome & Hug. Doesn't make a difference what branch of service you were in, and if you're the Wife or Girlfriend, You get the Hugs too! We all look forward to seeing him (and many others thru the years) and he looks forward to seeing us. That's just the way it is folks. Every year people come as strangers and leave best friends and they can't wait till next year.

Speaking of next year, Mark down these dates. **Sept 15th thru the 18th 2016.**

Make your plans now. After the 1st of the year, they will be taking reservations.

Lee

*Next VVA 862 Meeting
October 21st - 7:00 P M*

Once in a LIFETIME Membership Offer (Now in PROGRESS)

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

"You" can purchase a Vietnam Veterans of America Life Membership for **just \$100**. There are no age restrictions, no small print, no contingencies. It's that simple. This has never happened before. It probably won't happen again.

Send us \$100 by check with your "Transfer Slip" and you will be made a life member of VVA 862 here in Southwestern, PA.

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

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

If you've been considering becoming a life member, now is the time to act. It's such a good deal that even if you haven't considered a life membership, you should take advantage of this limited-time offer.

AVVA also is offering a reduction in life membership dues.

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

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

Please Note:

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

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

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

We reserve the right to edit submissions as space allows.

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

Where Have All The Statesmen Gone?

By Jake Barsottini

An Uninformed Electorate Becomes Sheep Heading To The Slaughter Leading To The Demise Of Our Democratic Republic! [Part I](#)

As we head into a new season of Local, State and National elections I feel compelled to write my fellow citizens again. I am writing to inform you that since the founding of our nation in 1776, 239 years ago and our first constitution in 1787, 228 years ago we as a nation have given up more liberty, ignored our constitution, and have become sheep being led to the slaughter.

When Benjamin Franklin was approached by a group of citizen asking what sort of government the delegates to the First Constitutional Convention created, his answer was "A republic, if you can keep it." In my opinion, his brief response **must** not cause "We The People" to under-value its essential meaning: "Democratic Republics are not merely founded upon the consent of the people, they are also **absolutely dependent upon the active and informed involvement of the people** for their continued good health and to maintain our freedoms. Over time, "We The People" have become apathetic to this notion, the consequences being the loss of more freedom, overreaching and ineffective governance, and governance by the corruption of our system. You ask how our system has become corrupt, look at the power now concentrated in a large private banking system and large multinational corporations.

"Voter Ignorance: The Enemy Within." Thomas Jefferson warned that an uninformed electorate would destroy the freedoms of the republic when he said **"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, ...it expects what never was and never will be."** As citizens we not only have a right to vote but an obligation to be informed and do so. As a democratic republic, we are required under our constitution to elect representatives who represent all of the people. As Thomas Jefferson said about a republic: **"The minority should never suffer under the tyranny of the majority."** This is one of the reasons we elect representatives. Our representatives should be and in the past were Statesmen and Leaders.

What is a Statesman you may ask? A Statesman is a person, male or female who by definition is **"a wise, skillful and respected political leader."** The key word here is respected. Nowhere in this definition from Merriam-Webster do you see the words liked or popular. **"One versed in the principles or art of government; especially one active in conducting the business of government or shaping its policies."** **"A political leader regarded as a disinterested promoter of the public good"** You may ask me what this means or why I say where have all the statesmen gone? I will explain in my own words. Our leaders at every level of government should be aware and familiar with the problems we face. In the case of a municipality which is where all of the public policies must start, our leaders must be aware of the issues facing us locally, especially financial, infrastructure and safety. Our elected officials are responsible for doing what is best for the common good, even when it is not especially believed to be what the majority wants. At the State and National level it is equally important that we have true statesmen not politicians who are behold to special interests. We need to understand at all levels of government what the priorities of government are, its limitations under the constitution and its responsibility to maintain our freedoms. Our statesmen should provide budgets that keep us out of debt by reducing spending and not raising taxes unless absolutely necessary for the common good.

Where Have All The Statesmen Gone?

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An Uninformed Electorate Becomes Sheep Heading To The Slaughter Leading To The Demise Of Our Democratic Republic! **Part II**

Voting Rights and Responsibilities: "We the people" means that we have a right and responsibility to vote our conscience but also to be informed and vote for the common good. Political Parties have been the downfall of this Republic. Why do you think George Washington made the statement: **"However, [political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion."** It is evident that Washington knew our party system would lead to the **"corruption of leadership and the void of statesmanship."** Too many citizens have become so involved in the party system that those few who do vote, often vote a straight ticket or vote based on name recognition, ballot sequence or popularity and not on the issues requiring experience and true statesmanship.

The Responsibilities of the People and Our Elected Officials: Thomas Jefferson was most likely the greatest statesman of our history and a prophet in a sense of what was to come of our nation if we did not heed the words of our founders. Many of his most famous quotes ring true today. **"It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world."** We have become a nation and state of debt borrowing excessively to pay for what we want and not what we need. Fortunately at the borough level, this is almost impossible to do since our debt and taxes are limited by State Law. Too bad the State and Federal Government do not have similar limits. Another quote by Jefferson that has proven true: **"I predict the future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."** **"My reading of history is convinces me that most bad government results from too much government"** Again Jefferson's words ring true. We have become a nation dependent upon government instead of dependent upon each other. We have become a nation of entitlement. This includes our Corporations as well as the people. Government subsidies to Big Banks and Corporations (Corporate Welfare) serve no common good but are rather non-productive and foster loss of jobs and income disparity. Likewise, making people dependent on government creates poverty, destroys personal self esteem, integrity and solid work ethic. While we have an obligation to provide safety nets for those who truly need them, government should not waste our resources without gaining something in return. Foreign aid, especially to enemies of this nation is rampant. Big Banks, Wall Street and Multinational Corporations are controlling not only our economy but the economies around the world. In 1802, Thomas Jefferson said: **"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflations, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property - until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered."** [authors notes: this includes securities, funds and the Federal Reserve which is a private banking system, quasi government agency] **"To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."**

Knowledge is Power: In summary, it is incumbent upon all of us to gain knowledge. Our Country and Community can survive war, natural disaster, a slow economy and just about anything thrown our way.

"But as a democratic republic, we will never survive an ignorant and uninformed electorate."

Renaissance Rhythm Chorus

invites ALL Veterans to our annual show **at Monaca Turners**

We have been invited to represent the state of Pennsylvania to perform a musical tribute saluting America's military & fallen heroes May 28-30, 2016 in Washington D.C. We would like to present this program first to our Beaver County and surrounding areas Veterans.

***Come join us for a dinner and show
created especial for you!***

Wear your uniforms and/or covers (if they still fit)!

October 24, 2015

(on Brodhead Road, Center Township, across from Penn State)

Dinner will be served at - 6:00 pm

Show will start at - 7:30 pm

Dinner & Show or just the Show - \$25.00 per person

Seniors 60 and over & Students - \$20.00

To purchase tickets please call Margie at 724-456-5211

Joining us will be:

VVA 862 presenting and retiring the colors

Ambridge ROTC Unit performing their military marching moves

Local Veterans distributing programs, escorting audience members

Renaissance Rhythm chorus and quartets

There will also be a raffle, Chinese Auction and military memorabilia.

“GO NAVY”**Twenty-two additional Naval ships added to the list...**

The VA has recently updated the list of ships that operated in Vietnam to add 22 new ships.

The list can help Vietnam-era Veterans find out if they qualify for presumption of Agent Orange exposure when seeking disability compensation for certain related diseases.

Please go to this website and see if they have added your ship.

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp>

Speaking of NAVY! You may want to check these guys out!

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/IXIHv1-YPxM?rel=3D0&autoplay=3Dtrue>

14th ANNUAL POW / MIA RIDE

Gold Star Mother Nancy Hoffman enjoys the Ride w/ Lee Corfield

Even though it was a light drizzle, It was a nice ride.



"TOGETHER THEN"

Calendar of Events for 2015

"TOGETHER NOW"

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 Butler VA "Flu Clinic" Roch VFW 3 PM to 7
 This is for "Flu Shots Only" PM
 Oct 21 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester
 VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Oct 25 U. S. NAVY Band at Soldiers & Sailors Hall
 7:00 to 9:30 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.**
Line Up will be on 2nd Ave (9:30 AM)
Exact location will be in Nov Newsletter
 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 After the Meeting
 Dec 25 "Merry Christmas"
 Dec 31 "New Year's Eve"

Mysterious Vietnam Memorial....

Never heard of this before. Quite amazing out in the middle of nowhere.

Quite remarkable both for content and location. This memorial, far from civilization, is, without doubt, the most endearing of memories of soldiers who fought and died in SE Asia. An unknown, hidden, and powerful tribute to men who received NO honor recognition, or respect from the country they loved...

"God has eyes", "He sees" and "He knows" (There are many translations to this)

This video was taken by some dirt bike riders along the continental divide in Colorado, who stumbled upon a Vietnam memorial in the woods.

Whoever did it, put a lot of time and money into it.

Evidently hunters and possibly some Vets must be aware of it as there are numerous 7.62, 30.06 rounds and good luck coins on the ledges between the stones.

Who built it and how did it get there? In the middle of nowhere!

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=axhZ0Tx2L4U

Special Thanks to VVA 862 LIFE member Denny Curtin for this "Item of Interest"

I'd be willing to bet a group of Vietnam Veterans from Colorado built this.

"Special Thanks" to those Brothers & Sisters who put this together, wherever you may be!

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**

