

VIETNAM VET "GAZETTE"

Issue 156

Together Then Together Now

September 2015



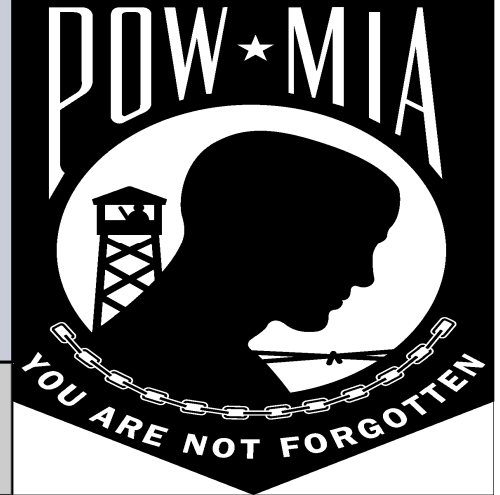
In Service to America

Up-Coming Meetings BOD Meeting

2nd Wed of the Month
5:00 PM

Regular Meeting
VVA meet @ 7:00 PM
at the
ROCHESTER VFW

Be Sure To See
Important Dates to Remember
Upcoming Events— Page 19



"Special Thanks"

Goes out to the Hookstown Fair Board

I want to "Thank" everyone who helped at the Hookstown VVA 862 Fair booth. It's a long five days that could not have been done without your help. I will not take a chance of listing names for fear of forgetting someone.



Photo by Terri Carr

The PX sales were close to \$700.00 and we received close to \$100.00 in donations. We also had a number of people take information on Agent Orange and VA benefits that we had available at the booth.

We usually have to pay close to \$200.00 to the Fair for the commercial space where we set up our booth. This year they did not charge us, so that was a donation from the Hookstown Fair Board.

Lastly we picked up two new "Life Members" that we know of for sure. There could be more as we gave out a number of the \$100.00 Life Member applications where the Chapter will pay \$25.00 so the final cost to a new life member is only \$75.00.

Bill (Duck) Laughner
Executive Vice President
Chapter 862

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

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: There still has been no published change to the number 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, meaning other IDs 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 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.

NEW DPAA DIRECTOR NAMED & NOW MOVING FORWARD! LTG (Ret) Mike Linnington, USA, was named Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), and sworn in just before the League's 46th Annual Meeting. 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, varied background.

Important now are the several steps he has already taken that clearly reveal he is moving energetically, though thoughtfully, to follow the directive issued by former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to "completely reorganize" the POW/MIA accounting community. While structural change is always rife with turmoil and uncertainty, Mr. Linnington is moving out smartly. His restructure plans, though still evolving, appear to be dramatically moving the mission forward and, importantly, are adhering to Secretary Hagel's directive to "build on the existing strengths" of the accounting process. As a result, he is moving beyond the recommendations he received from Vice Admiral Michael Franken, USN, whose vision for DPAA related more to a concept for production of "products" than to a viable plan to pursue accounting objectives for missing US personnel and their families.

Already confirmed is that former JPAC Detachments in Thailand, Vietnam and Laos will continue to be Detachments 1, 2 and 3, respectively, reporting to incoming Deputy Director, BG Mark Spindler, USA. Long-serving civilian specialists in the Detachments, recognized as indispensable, are expected to be extended indefinitely. The small contingent of personnel deployed to support operations in Europe will also continue as a Liaison Office, possibly reporting to a European Regional Director. Placement in the new structure of the Joint Commission Support Directorate (JCSD) is not yet known, but has unique status due to supporting the US-Russia Joint Commission (USRJC) on POW/MIA Affairs, with a presidentially named Chairman, General Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAF (Ret).

There is also a very high priority being placed on success of the Public Private Partnership (P3) initiative, viewing the broad areas in which potential partnerships (public/private, public/public, tri-party, etc.) could be formed as a means to augment the experienced field assets and resources that have focused primarily on Vietnam War accounting. P3 offers significant opportunities to expand the overall accounting efforts to produce results more rapidly through applying some contractors' efforts to archival research, investigations and recoveries that pertain mostly to WWII, Korean War (disinterment and IDs) and Cold War loss incidents.

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 Grant462-3717

Chaplain

Barb Googins..... 869-7090

Membership

Susan Smith728-6741

POW News (cont from Page 2)

A symposium was held in Hawaii, immediately following the “Blessing & Dedication Ceremony” on July 27th. League Chairman of the Board Ann Mills-Griffiths represented the POW/MIA families by helping to cut the traditional lei. Following the formal raising and permanently-lighted posting of the US, POW/MIA and State of Hawaii flags and an invocation by a Navy Chaplain, Director Linnington gave remarks, followed by the late Senator Daniel Inouye’s long-time Chief of Staff, Jennifer Sabas, whose remarks were inspirational. Prayers and blessings by a native Hawaiian clergyman concluded with the PACOM Band playing the Military Service Songs, after which a reception was held in the front foyer of the new, incredible DPAA building. The League sincerely thanks dedicated civilian Johnie E. Webb, Jr., retired Army LTC, former Commander of the Central Identification Laboratory, Deputy to the Commander of JPAC, and currently Interim Deputy Director of External Communications for DPAA. His long battle, fully supported by the League, to see completion of the new DPAA building has finally ended in success. We can only hope that his historic dedication to the accounting mission will be rightfully rewarded in the new DPAA structure.

This symposium began on July 28th and was scheduled to provide an opportunity for DPAA leaders, including interim-appointed Directors and Deputies, to utilize the newly improved restructure as the basis for helping to determine a viable sub-structure, moving tasks and numbers of personnel as required, but getting to a nearly finalized structure. Final structural decisions are expected as early as Friday, August 7th, but it is anticipated that full operational capacity won’t be reached until the end of this year or in January, 2016. Having said that, Mr. Linnington has stated his expectation that there will be in-process reviews, assessments and, potentially, adjustments as implementation occurs.

All are anticipating the announcement soon of a senior civilian deputy to the Director whose office will be in DC and who, presumably, will have direct responsibility for managing and administering the work of the DC-based headquarters. That will likely mean several directorates, including External Communications (public affairs, public diplomacy, outreach, congressional relations/liaison, educational programs, etc.), Policy and Strategy (international relations, domestic education and outreach programs and coordination), P3 (the boundaries have yet to be set, but are inclusive), an Archival Research & Analysis group, and many administrative and oversight requirements.

Chairman’s Comment: Mike Linnington knows he has a very challenging road ahead to earn the trust of a dedicated and talented workforce, as well as add the kind of people he wants and can depend on to move DPAA forward. He is moving NOW and already has learned far more than one would expect after such a very short time in the position. He pledged at the League’s 46th Annual Meeting that he is in this for the long haul and knows it will take time, but asked for support, assistance and patience as he tackles the challenges. I’m convinced that Mike Linnington IS the right guy, and this IS the right time and the best circumstances we, the POW/MIA families, have seen since 1992 to obtain answers we have worked to achieve since the League was formed in 1970.

**Respectfully;
Philip Morris
POW/MIA Chairman**

**Don’t Forget: See Page 17
POW Ride September 12th**

Minutes from August 12, 2015 meeting

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

Opening Prayer by Chaplain Don Villella.

Attendance was “ 100 “

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Introduction of Guests - Bill Newtz , Joyce Grivna,

Call for Veterans “Sick or In Distress” – Ray Litzinger, Bob Grant, Bart Farzati, Pete Herman, Jim McGeehan, Ron Heitzenrater.

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 Denny Smith 2nd by Joe Gallagher to donate \$250.00 to the Combat Chapter22-2 vets in Natrona Hts. (Walt Opat) for there Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Parade. Motion Carried.
- (2) Motion was made by Bill Harlow 2nd by Bill Winkle to give 500.00 to the Combat Vets Chapter 12 - 3 of Ohio (Luke Patrino). Motion Carried
- (3) Motion was made by John Szatkiewicz 2nd by Steve Kisio to give \$500.00 to the Crossroads Homeless Shelter in Beaver Falls. Motion Carried
- (7) Motion was made by Terri Carr 2nd by Alex De La Cruz to give \$250.00 in honor of Greg Scalp to help with expenses traveling back & forth to Pgh hospitals. Motion Carried

Membership - Gary Shaffer - Membership Total **711 512 LIFE** - Chapter will pay \$25.00 of the \$100.00 Membership Drive now in Progress that VVA National has going on. You can now get a Life Membership for \$100.00 of which Chapter 862 will pay \$25.00 of that \$100.00.

POW MIA - Phil Morris - Phil stated that there are still **1627** left still Missing In Action / POW’s
POW Ride will be Sept 12, leaving from The Rochester VFW at 3:PM

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

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 Walk - Chuck Inman said it will be held at Pavillion #3 at Brady’s Run at 9:00 Am on September 12trh, 2015.

Beaver River Regatta - Frank Petz - stated that it will be held on August 21 22 23. stop down and visit our booth Always a great time.

Minutes (cont on Page 5)

Minutes from Page 4

Presidents Report: - Larry went over the upcoming Chapter Sponsored Events.

Exec Bill Laughner - Bill spoke about the Hookstown Fair and how we participate, and the times. If you want to work the booth, Please sign up soon. August 25th thru 29th. Bill gave all the details.

1st VP Rich Kamzelski - No Comment

2nd VP Cliff Hawes - Cliff spoke about the upcoming Duck Race and where we stand on the Duck Ticket Sales. The cleaning of the course will be this coming Friday.

AVVA - Bobbie Morris - AVVA 147 / 55 LIFE Members Bobbie rec'd an AVVA Award for turning in the most hours per chapter in the Nation. She introduced one of their new members Joyce Scriva. Fire Sale for AVVA/VVA Membership Drive is running from Nov 1st thru Dec 31st. They also will pay \$25.00 of the \$100.00 fee. This goes for current members and new members

Good of the Chapter - John Szatkiewicz suggested that more people go to the Gold Star Mother dinner, Jerry Fisher mentioned a few upcoming events. Marine Core Ball will be starting up again on November 7th. Next Veterans Breakfast Club breakfast will be on Sept 2nd at Seven Oaks Country club. VVA 862 will be sponsoring it. Our chapter should make a good showing.

If you have questions pertaining to the meeting, stick around afterwards and find that Committee Chair and ask them your questions.

Phil Morris went over all the details about our VVA 862 picnic next Wednesday.

Closing Prayer by Don Villella

Motion to adjourn by Bill Harlow, 2nd by Bill Winkle. Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted

Lee Corfield - VVA 862 Secretary

Interesting Information from Don Villella who takes care of sending out flowers!

We have sent out 62 funeral roses for Vietnam Veterans so far this year. We sent out 66 for all of last year, and we have sent out 604 since June of 2004 when we started the project.

WOW They sure do add up, Don't they! Thanks Don

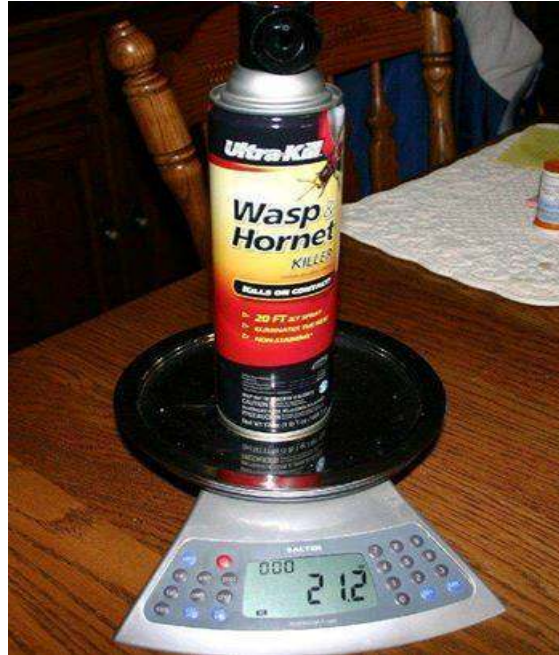


VVA 862 Received “Membership Growth Award” from VVA National

WOW! What can I say. I worked with Gary a lot of years at Horsehead Corp. When I almost died in 2006, Skip Haswell came in the hospital and said, I think you should give one of your positions up. He said I have someone to take your place. I said, OK, I'll give up Membership Chair. He said Gary Shaffer is going to take your place.. I thought Holy S—! You must be kidding me. At that time we had 323 members. Gary had a hard time walking and talking at the same time. You know what, we all harass him to death but you know what, he doesn't take No for an answer if he can help it. We are now at 711 members. That means he's got 388 members since taking over. He passed me up!

Gary is one of our Vietnam Era Vets who does a great job for the chapter as our Membership Chair.,, and when it comes to selling tickets, that's a whole other story. I'll put him against anybody who thinks they sell a lot of tickets. **LOOK AT HIM, “PROUDER THAN A PEACOCK”!!!** Great Job Gary!!





If you don't own, or want, a gun, and even if you do, here's a way to wreck someone's evil plans for you. Did you know this? I didn't. I never really thought of it before. I guess I can get rid of the baseball bat. LOL But seriously, this is great info! Be sure to SHARE!!!

Wasp Spray -- A friend who is a receptionist in a church in a high risk area was concerned about someone coming into the office on Monday to rob them when they were counting the collection. She asked the local police department about using pepper spray and they recommended to her that she get a can of wasp spray instead.

The wasp spray, they told her, can shoot up to twenty feet away and is a lot more accurate, while with the pepper spray, they have to get too close to you and could overpower you. The wasp spray temporarily blinds an attacker until they get to the hospital for an antidote. She keeps a can on her desk in the office and it doesn't attract attention from people like a can of pepper spray would. She also keeps one nearby at home for home protection. Thought this was interesting and might be of use.

On the heels of a break in and beating that left an elderly woman in Toledo dead, self defense experts have a tip that could save your life.

Val Glinka teaches self-defense to students at Sylvania Southview High School . For decades, he's suggested putting a can of wasp and hornet spray near your door or bed. Glinka says, "This is better than anything I can teach them." Glinka considers it inexpensive, easy to find, and more effective than mace or pepper spray. The cans typically shoot 20 feet; so if someone tries to break into your home, Glinka says "spray the culprit in the eyes". It's a tip he's given to students for decades.

It's also one he wants everyone to hear If you're looking for protection, Glinka says look to the spray. "That's going to give you a chance to call the police; maybe get out." Maybe even save a life.

Did you also know that wasp spray will kill a snake? And a mouse! It will! Good to know, huh? It will also kill a wasp!!!

And best of all, immobilize a human.

COMBAT RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION (CRSC)

CRSC applies to those that are retired from the service and are receiving military retirement pay, have a VA assigned Service Connected Disability of at least 10% that is attributable actual combat operations, have waived the VA compensation from retirement pay and have filed a CRSC Claim with their specific service branch.

When a CRSC Claim is approved, your VA Disability Compensation will no longer just be deducted from the retirement payments. The VA Disability Compensation amount will be added to the retirement pay received tax free.

The rules and requirements that cover the CRSC program are listed in Title 10 U.S. Code, 1413a and in DoD 7000.14-R, Vol 7B, Chapter 63. These can be viewed by entering either reference into a search engine on the internet.

The CRSC Claim is filed with the individual service branch using DD Fm 2860. It is important to use the DD Form 2860 dated Apr 2008. Do not try to use a DD Fm 2860 dated prior to 2008. The older forms contain a much different Preliminary Criteria that may unnecessarily eliminate otherwise eligible applicants. Follow the instructions precisely. It has been found that the least bit of submission error can result in a claim denial.

Some items within the DD Fm 2860 require some additional explanation:

Any documents sent with your claim must be a COPY of the original documents because they will not be returned. Preliminary Criteria supporting documentation required will, as a minimum, include DD 215/215, Military Retirement Orders or Reserve Point Computation, and any VA Disability rating decision documents. The VA documentation must include your service connected disability percentage of 10% or more. The VA decision documentation should include your disability code. Example: VA Code 9411 is for PTSD. The CRSC Office will contact DFAS and your service branch personnel HQ to verify some of the data submitted and to confirm that you are receiving military retirement pay.

The section that covers the Final Criteria requires a much more concise record of your injuries. Purple Heart Recipients must prove that their Purple Heart was as a DIRECT result of armed conflict with specifics in terms of how the injury occurred and any other documented statements that specify the injury was the result of armed conflict, hazardous service, simulated war duties, or as a result of contact with an instrumentality of war. Those that were not awarded a Purple Heart are also required to provide the same types of proof of injury. Just because a person was assigned or was performing duty in a combat zone does not qualify for CRSC consideration. Actual copies of documented proof that the injury was as stated must be submitted. If, for example, you were wounded from shrapnel from a NVA rocket attack, there must be a document to state that you were injured by an NVA rocket. Proof of this situation may show up in a medal citation for the incident or you could be mentioned in a unit morning report that includes the incident. It is up to the applicant to dig up and provide any and all proof to support a claim. If you submit proof, such as, the morning report that you may have received for a unit archive or historical organization, include the addresses and contacts necessary for the CRSC office to verify your documents. If you lost your hearing as a result of an enemy mortar detonating near you, the medical report should state that your hearing loss was the result of a mortar explosion near you. If your disability is the result of Agent Orange, the disability must be stated that it was actually caused by Agent Orange/herbicides. Agent Orange disability is the only Vietnam related disability that will be accepted by the CRSC evaluators as a presumptive causal disability determined by the VA. Gulf War veterans may also get presumptive disability consideration for Mustard Gas and Lewisite exposure disability, as determined by the VA.

It must be noted that in most instances, the employees in the CRSC offices are civil servants and therefore may be limited in their knowledge regarding combat operations. They are bound only by the regulatory guidance provided to them. It should also be noted that there should be no limits for providing the most concise and specific documentation will improve the chance that the claim will be approved.

Submitted by Don King

Life Member VVA 862

Phone - 724-657-8662 Email - (dking61@comcast.net)

33rd Annual Vietnam and all Veterans Reunion Kokomo Indiana

September 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th 2015



Wednesday September 16 8:00 P.M. Pre Reunion Concert Featuring "HEADED TO ROSEDALE"

Thursday September 17th Schedule

- 11:30 am Opening Ceremonies
- 1:00 pm Rodney Collins & Second Hand Smoke
- 3:30 pm Jason Emery
- 5:00 pm Zach Day & Full Throttle
- 8:00 pm The Junk Yard Band

Friday September 18th Schedule

- Noon Opening Ceremonies
- 12:45 pm Brad Flook Guest Speaker
- 1:30 pm Russ Chandler
- 5:00 pm Ron Jones & Old Dudes Rock
- 8:00 pm The Joel Young Band

Saturday September 19th Schedule

- 11:30 am Opening Ceremonies
- 12:15 pm Green Beret Lenny Corso
- 1:00 pm Rev John Steer sings for you
- 3:00 pm Dan Nightingale
- 4:30 pm Angelina (comedy)
- 5:00 pm We The People
- 5:30 pm Madison Rising Americas most patriotic band here from Philadelphia Pa
- 8:00 pm The Bluz Brothers ... back by Popular Demand from Chicago Il

Sunday September 19th Church 9:30AM with Rev John Steer & Rev Dennis Chapman

American Legion Post 317 Greentown Indiana Color Guard

Sound and lights furnished by Tri Tech Light & Sound



Ride of the Brother with their Tribute Trike **"NEVER FORGET"** on Display

military vendors - not for profit vendors - food vendors- military displays
Speakers on the issues - unit reunions and pictures - silent auction - flyover

Sponsored by the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Organization.
At Veterans Park, 8 miles east of highway US 31 Kokomo on State Road 26!
Open to ALL Veterans and Patriotic public

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 August 5th 2015****Check-In Wednesday September 16th - Check-Out Sunday, September 20th**

Bill Stokes--Double/Double

Bill Stokes--Double/Double

John McPherson--Double/Double w/ Rollout

Luke Patrino--Balcony

Luke Patrino--Balcony

Ron Gardner--Single

Rich Raich--Single

Aaron Johnson--Single

Bill /Marlene Laughner, Bob Laughner--2nd Floor SuiteLee/Donna Corfield, Sean/Dawn--3rd Floor Suite

Larry/Barb Googins -- Single

Joe Feltz Double/Double 1st Floor. Handicapped

Snakedog Smith--Balcony

Larry Tanner--Balcony

Roy Barlett--Double/Double

Clem Blazewick/Jim Fisher--Double/Double

Ralph Cordes Rick Hogue, & Frank Petz--Double/Double w/Rollout for Ralph

Don/Gloria Villella--Double/Double

John Szatkiewicz--King

Tom Cekovich--King

Rich/Bonnie Gillin--King - Check-Out Saturday, September 19th

Check-In Thursday, September 17th – Check-Out Sunday, September 20th

Anthony Pallatto--King

Check-In Friday, September 18th - Check-Out Sunday, September 20th

Barry Beitsinger--King

Bob Uznack--King

Check-In Thursday, September 17th - Check-Out Monday, September 21st

Marene Chiesa

NOTE!**PLEASE REVIEW THE ABOVE LIST TO MAKE SURE I HAVE YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT . IF NOT CORRECT EMAIL ME AT wlaugh@comcast.net .**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS
September**

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Leland Foy | Sept 1 |
| Edward Zivic | Sept 1 |
| Paul Cupp Jr..... | Sept 2 |
| Vernon Kaminski..... | Sept 2 |
| Bruce Brown..... | Sept 3 |
| Roy Hoak | Sept 3 |
| Zane Bloom | Sept 4 |
| Ron Taylor | Sept 4 |
| Donna Doughty..... | Sept 5 |
| Ken Dunn..... | Sept 5 |
| George Haught..... | Sept 5 |
| Tim McCray..... | Sept 5 |
| Cindy Rossi..... | Sept 5 |
| Norman Fortune..... | Sept 6 |
| Reuben Fuller..... | Sept 6 |
| Dan Sinclair | Sept 7 |
| Gerald Stewart Jr. | Sept 7 |
| Jim Gibboney..... | Sept 7 |
| Robert Davies | Sept 8 |
| Leland Foy | Sept 8 |
| Chet Kozlowski | Sept 8 |
| Tom Pashuta | Sept 8 |
| George Porvaznik | Sept 8 |
| Robert Feick..... | Sept 10 |
| Tom Sochor | Sept 10 |
| Robert Brown..... | Sept 12 |
| John Girting | Sept 12 |
| Tim Milligan..... | Sept 13 |
| John Sergeant..... | Sept 13 |
| Fred Spigler | Sept 13 |
| Ray Carter Sr. | Sept 14 |
| Homer Tack..... | Sept 14 |
| Jim Hill | Sept 15 |

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS
September**

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Steve Yurich..... | Sept 17 |
| Bob Weismantle..... | Sept 17 |
| John Potopa | Sept 18 |
| Larry Archer..... | Sept 19 |
| Michael Galvin..... | Sept 19 |
| Gary Prentice..... | Sept 19 |
| Roy Whipple..... | Sept 19 |
| James Sneed | Sept 20 |
| Rick Ruperto..... | Sept 21 |
| John Wilson..... | Sept 24 |
| Mark Szedny..... | Sept 21 |
| Frank Wilson..... | Sept 21 |
| Joe Subroski | Sept 22 |
| Robert Ketterer..... | Sept 23 |
| Marty Sinclair..... | Sept 23 |
| Gregory Rice | Sept 24 |
| Joe Checca..... | Sept 25 |
| Craig Martin | Sept 25 |
| Patrick McMullen..... | Sept 25 |
| Paulena Melvin..... | Sept 25 |
| Wendell Berkey..... | Sept 26 |
| Frank Bovalino..... | Sept 26 |
| Aaron Kotys | Sept 26 |
| Sandy Kopac..... | Sept 27 |
| Frank Kosela..... | Sept 27 |
| Bill Marshall..... | Sept 27 |
| Mike Oravitz..... | Sept 27 |
| Tony Yannachione | Sept 27 |
| John Albrecht | Sept 28 |
| Paul Smedley..... | Sept 28 |
| Bill Dunn..... | Sept 29 |
| Gary Fleeson..... | Sept 29 |

Lee's Tid Bits:

Wow! What a summer!

I found some nice Bumper Stickers and some are quite hilarious as the one I put on Page 5. I'm going to start placing them in the newsletter to make you think a little!

August was a busy month for sure. Glad it's over. Now this month we all look forward to the Kokomo Vietnam Veterans Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana. Always a great time. I don't usually put the Schedule for Kokomo in the newsletter but this way others can see what we enjoy out there, along with BS'ng with a few thousand other Vietnam Vets. Always an awesome time. The stories told are unbelievable, for sure. What's always nice about the Kokomo Vietnam Vets Reunion is. You never see anyone falling over drunk or staggering around. I think for our age group, those days are over. You never see any fights. I guess you could say those days are long behind us as well. Heck, with 350 Vietnam Vets passing every day, we're just lucky to be here.

Something else I've noticed

It's great seeing the new faces at some of the different events along with obtaining some new Honor Guard members. It helps out all the way around. Never know when somebody can't show up. Great having the extra people.

See you next month!

Lee

*Next VVA 862 Meeting
September 9th - 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.

Special hangar breakfast and demonstration at the 911th Airlift Wing on Patriot Day (9/11)



Friday, September 11

Breakfast and Demonstration at the 911th Airlift Wing on 9/11 Patriot Day

Friday, **September 11, 8:30am**

911th Airlift Wing
2475 Defense Ave
Coraopolis, PA 15108

Google Map location: <https://goo.gl/maps/5gKCX>

\$15 per person. MUST PRE-PAY WITH BIRTHDATE BY SEPTEMBER 1

Send names and birthdates of all attendees with check for \$15 made out to "Veterans Breakfast Club" to:
200 Magnolia Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15228
by Sept. 1

All attendees **MUST** present valid photo ID with birthdate to enter base. Hangar breakfast with walk through C130 aircraft, weapon & engine displays and demonstrations.

Questions? Contact Todd at 412-623-9029 or todd@veteransbreakfastclub.com

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

Brick Walkway Order Form

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

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

contact telephone number: _____

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

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

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

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* includes punctuation and spaces

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

Please Note:

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

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

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

We reserve the right to edit submissions as space allows.

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

THE GREAT VVA 862 “DUCK RACE” of 2015

Chairman’s Report

It appears that we have had another successful Great Duck Race again this year. Thanks goes out to the many members and some of the wives for their participation and assistance in the selling of the tickets, special sales events at Walmart, Duck Race course clean-up, and at the race itself. When there are many hands, the load is light. Here are some of the notable facts from this year’s race:

We netted over \$7,000.00 for the chapter

97.8% of tickets were sold

Over 165 tickets were not returned by members of the chapter

121 of those unreturned tickets were sold as numbers at the fair

One of the winners, Roger Baker, returned his \$100.00 winnings to the chapter

Duckman Bill Laughner is a great mentor and very patient (sometimes)

The three top ticket sales people were; Gary Shafer \$960, Charles Ray \$500, & Bill Laughner \$400.

There were several members who sold over \$200 of tickets

Also, to those of you who sold tickets, a great big “Thank You”.

I must say that this was quite a learning experience and a lot of work. I now have a new appreciation of what Bill “**The Duckman**” Laughner has done for this chapter, and to imagine that he has done this year after year after year. Makes me feel old just thinking about it. Next time you see Bill, be sure to shake his hand, buy him a beer and thank him.

Cliff Hawes, 2nd VP Chapter 862
Duck Race Chairman

Duck Race Winners Listed Below:

1st Pl # 681 Denise Frye Monaca, Pa.

2nd Pl #233 Christine Girata Monaca, Pa.

3rd Pl #299 Andy Grasick Harmony, Pa.

4th Pl #1916 Marcy Carpenter Georgetown, Pa.

5th Pl #170 Lillian Kane Hookstown, Pa.

6th Pl #1441 Craig Morgan Freedom, Pa.

7th Pl #23 Terra Zahn Industry, Pa.

8th Pl #1176 Don Orend Beaver, Pa.

9th Pl #1369 Eddie Marx Sewickley, Pa.

10th Pl #565 Roger Baker Beaver, Pa.

Last Pl #103 Dan Menosky Bristolville, Oh.



Photo by Terri Carr



Photo by Alma Beck



POW-MIA VIGIL

Annually presented by:

Vietnam Veterans, Inc.

Veterans from all conflicts and the general public are invited to participate.



Sept. 19, 12p.m. – Sept. 20, 2p.m.

At



Soldiers & Sailors
Memorial Hall & Museum Trust, Inc.



**Join VVI as they raise awareness & remember all
Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action**

Saturday – 12p.m. – Opening Ceremony on Soldiers & Sailors Patio

Show your Patriotism and Honor the POW/MIAs by bearing the U.S. Flag for 15 minutes.

5PM – Art and Inspiration International presents

Kathleen Trew Swazuk: Wartorn Heart

Poetry and Art Inspired by the Vietnam War

In the Soldiers & Sailors Auditorium.

Kathleen Trew Swazuk served as a U.S. Army nurse at Long Binh, Vietnam.

Artandinspiration.org

Dusk – POW-MIA Candlelight Ceremony

Sunday – 2p.m. – Closing Ceremony

FREE PARKING available in UPMC lot on Bigelow Blvd, across from Soldiers & Sailors

Email: vietnamveteransinc@gmail.com

Website: www.VietnamVeteransInc.com

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum Trust Inc. is a proud sponsor of this annual remembrance

4141 5th Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15213

www.SoldiersAndSailorsHall.org



**BEAVER
COUNTY'S
14th
ANNUAL
POW/MIA
RUN**



**IN HONOR OF POW/MIA'S
FROM ALL WARS**

SATURDAY - September 12th, 2015

50-50 RAFFLE

GIFT CERTIFICATES

DOOR PRIZES

**“Donations” WILL BE ACCEPTED
Run will leave the Rochester VFW at
3:00 P.M. “SHARP”**

**Staging will begin at 12:00 Noon
Return to Rochester VFW for an evening of
Fun - Food - DJ - Dancing**

**Any Questions? Contact: Rochester VFW Post 128
179 Virginia Ave
Rochester Pa 15074
724 -774 - 4378
E-mail - vfwpost128@comcast.net**

**“No”
Registration Fee!
*
They've Already
Paid the Price**

Study finds links between Agent Orange and Bone Marrow Cancer

Servicemembers exposed to [Agent Orange](#) during the Vietnam War are at higher risk of developing the precursor stage of a bone marrow cancer, according to a study published Thursday in the Journal of the American Medical Association Oncology.

The study provides the first scientific evidence for a link between the precursor stage of multiple myeloma -- a cancer of white blood plasma cells that accumulate in bone marrow -- and [veterans](#) exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange, according to the study's 12 authors, who are associated with medical centers across the U.S. The precursor, called monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, or MGUS, is not in and of itself a problem.

"MGUS is not a cancer," said Dr. Nikhil Munshi, who specializes in multiple myeloma at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School in Boston. "A very large majority of patients with MGUS remain MGUS all through their lives with no real consequence."

MGUS virtually always precedes multiple myeloma, but the mechanisms that trigger its onset are not fully understood, said Munshi, who was not involved in the study but wrote an editorial published in the same issue of JAMA Oncology.

Previous studies have linked other insecticides, herbicides and fungicides to higher risks of MGUS and multiple myeloma.

Agent Orange was used during Operation Ranch Hand in Southeast Asia to clear jungle foliage from 1962 to 1971. It was usually sprayed via aircraft. Since then, Agent Orange has been linked to a host of health problems and diseases in many servicemembers.

The Veterans Administration maintains a list of "presumptive diseases" assumed to be related to military service that automatically qualify them for [VA benefits](#). The Institute of Medicine has identified seven cancers with a positive association to Agent Orange, including chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma -- all of which have been accepted by the VA as presumptive diseases.

Multiple myeloma is a VA presumptive disease, but it has been classified as having "limited or suggestive evidence" of a link to Vietnam War veterans' exposure to herbicides, the authors of the JAMA study wrote.

The study looked at specimens from two groups of [Air Force](#) veterans that had been collected and stored in 2002 by the Air Force Health Study. A group of 479 veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange during Operation Ranch Hand were compared with a second group of the same size that had similar duties in Southeast Asia from 1962 to 1971 but were not involved with the herbicide. The Air Force Health Study had sampled servicemembers in the two groups in 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2002 for exposure to Agent Orange and to 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, or TCDD, which is an unintended contaminant of the herbicide considered the culprit for so many of its adverse effects.

The researchers found that the prevalence of MGUS in Ranch Hand veterans was twice as high as in the comparison group, with 34 of the 479 Ranch Hand veterans having MGUS compared with 15 out of 479 in the control group.

That translated to a 2.4-fold increased risk of MGUS for Ranch Hand veterans over their counterparts when adjusting for factors such as age, race and other physical traits. "That's an important number," Munshi said. Researchers also found significantly higher levels of TCDD in the Ranch Hand veterans who had developed MGUS, he said.

Because all cases of multiple myeloma originate from MGUS, the study has provided the first scientific evidence for a direct link between Agent Orange and multiple myeloma, he said.

"TOGETHER THEN"

Calendar of Events for 2015

"TOGETHER NOW"

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 Alzheimer's Walk Brady's Run Pavilion #3
10 AM
- Sept 12 POW/MIA Ride Registration Starts 1:00 PM
Leaves Rochester VFW 3:00 PM
POW Service at Vietnam Memorial in Beaver
5:PM
- Sept 16 **"NO MEETING" Due to Kokomo Weekend**
- Sept 16 - 19 33rd Vietnam Vets Reunion - Kokomo In
- Sept 18 US Air Force Birthday 1947
- Sept 27 "Gold Star Mothers" Day
- Sept 30 Gold Star Mother's Banquet -Wooden Angel
6:00 PM

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 US 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
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.**
- 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"

Bridgewater Regatta:

We would like to Thank All, that showed up to help out at the Tent Fri, Sat, & Sun, and also with Setup/Take-down of Tent and Supplies. Crowd wasn't as Big this Year but I hope All had an Enjoyable Time. A lot of Good Fun and Camaraderie had by All. **These Events that we do could not be successful without your Help, Good Job.**

Thank You, Brothers and Sisters
Frank, Chuck, Kamm

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**

