

INTERCHANGE ONLINE



THE OFFICIAL ONLINE NEWSPAPER OF THE
NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL

Vol. 31 Issue 03

Veteran's News that needs to be Read

FALL 2021



IN MEMORIAM



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Daniel C. Haupt

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



VVA-NYSC Meeting Dates 2022
 January 21, 22,
 April 22, 23
 June 17, 18,
 Sept. 23, 24

On-Line INTERCHANGE is the Bi-monthly publication of the VVA-NYSC. Comments and contributions are encouraged and can be sent to:

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of this organization. Individuals with different viewpoints and opinions are invited to submit them to the VVA-NYSC by the **deadline**. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, grammar and reject any libelous or obscene material.

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Francisco Muñiz III



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President's Report

Ned D. Foote

We had our September meeting and had our Memorial Remembrance Service for our members who have passed away since 1981. The list is getting way too long so please stop.

For some reason this meeting was our least attended. After not meeting for a year and half due to COVID, I thought we would have good turnout. I thought you would be interested in the Amendments and Resolutions that will guide the organization for next two years as not too many years left.

For the convention it looks like we also may have the least attended from NY. I think this COVID pandemic has a lot to do with members losing interest. We have not met as State Council in over a year and many Chapters have not physically met even though some had Zoom meetings.. As we are now having meetings it is not the same. I also feel it and my fire has died a bit but I'm trying to build myself back up. We should still have enough interest in VVA as we age out as we had when we aged in.

My main interest is in our Service Officer Program when we talk about VVA future. As you know our State Council still employs two full time Service Officers. Although we have stopped taking new claims, we still have around seven hundred in the appeal process and have some that are 5 or more years old. National is continuing taking claims and when a claim is taken today, we may have 5 years or more trying to get it adjudicated. With average age of VVA member being 74 and as some think we will last forever, do the math.

We are dying at a very fast rate, and I do not know too many of us who do not have health issues.

So yes, Convention is really needed to determine what VVA has to do. We have a major split as what to do to fade away and especially with Service Officers program. Some BOD members and the wannabe leaders will not look at this issue with open eyes. Some have no clue what a Service officer does or what the program does. They are not involved or have even one in their state. Many members do not know what an Service Officer does even though they are receiving disability payments. Some of the ones who think we can just give our claims to someone else is very mistaken and need to do their homework before thinking they know all and send the wrong message.

Enough of my soapbox but I am passionate about this and have worked many years for NY Service Officer program raising funds and managing our Service Officers the best I can.

Our State Council BOD will again meet this December in Saratoga to plan our goals for 2022. We hope all our board members will attend but we still have two on the sick list. Let's keep thinking of them. Mike Walker and Joe Ingino. You guys need to get well.

All of you who will attend Convention or maybe it will be over when you read this, I hope a renewed interest will begin and even have our state meetings get back even better than pre-COVID. Much work still left to be done!



New York Vietnam Veterans Foundation

We provide grants to Vietnam Veterans of America-New York State Council, (VVA-NYSC) a veteran's service organization that advocates for legislation at the State and Federal level of government to provide housing, education, health and mental care services to veterans and their families.

We provide funding for VVA-NYSC Veteran's Service Officer program that assist veterans with their military disability compensation and pension claims from the Veterans Administration.

We advocate for better Federal and State veteran's benefits and veteran preferences in government employment. VVA Chapters within New York State, assist widows, widowers, and orphans of our veterans. The organization organizes programs that enrich the lives of Vietnam veterans, as well as veterans from past, current wars, and their families.

We have an active Agent Orange committee that helps Vietnam veterans receive up to date information on prostate cancer, diabetes, and other chemically-related diseases.

We have an updated database of agencies that provide:

- Listings of Veteran Job Fairs offered by county or veteran service organizations;
- Counseling for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);
- Outreach programs that support returning veterans' reentry into civilian life;

For disabled veterans, this can be even more difficult than a tour of duty.

We do this all year long, but without your gift and the gifts of other supporters, nothing can be done to help those that are so deserving of it. However, we have much more to accomplish.

We, the New York Vietnam Veterans Foundation, have a mission to keep advocating for and helping these veterans. We ask you to join us in our mission to provide assistance, guidance, training, and education to all veterans of past, present, and future military conflicts.

So let us continue to work together to ensure our national heroes receive everything that they are entitled to receive for their sacrifice and service to our nation.

President Francisco Muñiz III

Vice President Ned D. Foote

Treasurer Grant T. Coates

Secretary Nick Valenti

Directors Sam Hall

Stan May

You can send your tax deductible donation, to the extent allowed by law, directly to the Foundation at NY Vietnam Veterans Foundation, 48 March Lane, Westbury, NY 11590-6302.

NOTE: The Foundation has lost its fundraising contract and is in need of funds to support our Service Officer's Program. Please send donation to the above address.

The Covid 19 pandemic has lasted over a year and a half and during this period New York VVA has increased membership by more than 250!

September 31,2021 Rosters Statistics

Chapter		Members	Delegates
AT LARGE	0000	989	10
ALBANY	0008	66	2
SUFFOLK	0011	525	11
ROCHESTER	0020	620	13
QUEENS	0032	239	5
WESTCHESTER	0049	362	8
BROOKLYN	0072	191	4
BUFFALO	0077	691	14
GLEN FALLS	0079	72	2
NASSAU	0082	318	7
ONEONTA	0085	41	1
SYRACUSE	0103	198	4
MANHATTAN	0126	110	3
ORANGE COUNTY	0140	125	3
WARSAW	0193	156	4
NIAGARA COUNTY	0268	115	3
ROCKLAND	0333	207	5
FINGER LAKES	0377	95	2
STATEN ISLAND	0421	266	6
DUNKIRK	0459	40	1
OWEGO	0480	81	2
PUTNUM/DUTCHESS	0541	36	1
AUBURN	0704	48	1
ELMIRA	0803	243	5
HERKIMER	0827	23	0
JAMESTOWN	0865	153	4
DUTCHESS/COLUMBIA	0869	31	1
ENDICOTT	0896	43	1
UTICA	0944	153	4
FREWSBURG	0978	37	1
TOTAL		6274	128

Delegate strength as of
2/28/2021

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2021 New York State Council Attendance

Chapter		June 19th	Sept 25th
AT LARGE	0000		
ALBANY	0008		
SUFFOLK	0011		
ROCHESTER	0020	X	X
QUEENS	0032	X	
WESTCHESTER	0049	X	X
BROOKLYN	0072	X	X
BUFFALO	0077	X	X
GLEN FALLS	0079	X	X
NASSAU	0082	X	X
ONEONTA	0085	X	X
SYRACUSE	0103	X	X
MANHATTAN	0126	X	X
ORANGE COUNTY	0140	X	X
WARSAW	0193	X	X
NIAGARA COUNTY	0268		
ROCKLAND	0333	X	
FINGER LAKES	0377	X	
STATEN ISLAND	0421		
DUNKIRK	0459		
OWEGO	0480		X
PUTNUM/DUTCHESS	0541	X	X
AUBURN	0704	X	X
ELMIRA	0803		
HERKIMER	0827		
JAMESTOWN	0865	X	X
DUTCHESS/COLUMBIA	0869		
ENDICOTT	0896		
UTICA	0944		
FREWSBURG	0978	X	X
TOTAL		18	16



VVA National News

Convention

John Rowan – Pres/CEO

For the first time since our Founding Convention in 1983, the Twentieth National Convention will be held in November from the 2nd to the 6th. This will be our first national meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. Everything is in flux so it is not clear what the final rules of attendance will be. The Convention Planning Committee will keep us informed as we get closer to the date.

I hope that everyone has gotten their vaccinations. In fact, some of us may be eligible for a booster shot. If you fall into this category, we advise you and your companions to get them. For whatever reason, if you are not vaccinated, you may be required to get tested. Whether or not we will be required to wear masks inside is up in the air. As we get closer to the Convention, we will keep everyone informed about the local rules. The variants of the coronavirus are very deadly, so please take all precautions seriously.

Our work on behalf of veterans has extended beyond our peers who served in the Vietnam War. Most recently, we helped Post-9/11 veterans get assistance in identifying the residual effects of burn pits and other exposures and ensured that they receive the health and education benefits that were denied to us.

We can rightfully be proud of our efforts, but are we done?
While the veterans today are doing well, we still see too many suicides.

If we are to live up to our motto, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another,” we must prepare for a transition. The last Convention discussed two possible routes. One resolution made it simple: Change VVA’s name, change our membership to include those who followed us, and continue our existing operations. Another resolution charged the leadership to identify or create a new veterans organization with which we could enter into an agreement to assume our operations, particularly the veterans benefits and government affairs programs.

Both resolutions were rejected. However, Resolution GA-21 was approved, which tasked the Officers and Board with investigating the feasibility of creating a new organization with a new name. A full report on the results of our investigation is being prepared that will be presented to the delegates at the Convention.



Covid 19 Health Advisory

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Should these new COVID-19 requirements cause those already registered to cancel their previous delegate registration, VVA will return their paid convention fees. Conversely, should these new, enhanced COVID-19 prevention actions permit you to now attend the convention as a registered delegate, VVA will consider extending the early registration fees.

CONVENTION PRE-ENTRY and PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Upon arrival at the VVA National Convention site, all attendees must provide proof they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or they have tested negative for COVID-19 no more than 24 hours prior to arrival.

You will be required to sign the VVA Coronavirus/COVID-19 Statement of Understanding and Agreement, which will be provided at registration.

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This applies to all delegates, guests, spouses, caregivers, vendors, staff, and accompanying parties. You must show one of the following:

- A) Your Official Vaccination Card

OR

- B) Proof of a Negative COVID-19 test, taken no more than 24 hours prior to your arrival, that documents you do not have the COVID-19 virus.
- Face masks must be worn when indoors, regardless of vaccination status. This is for all business establishments and public places, as mandated for all persons throughout Guilford County, N.C.
- Physical distancing of six feet will be observed at all times, in all convention venues
- No handshaking, touching, or hugging is permitted.

Secretary's Report

Francisco Muñiz III

As you may have noticed that the front page of the newspaper had to be changed due to the large number of death notifications. It seems that Vietnam veterans are dying faster and younger than the World War II and Korean veterans. VVA continues to fight for proper care and presumptions of many disorders caused by Agent Orange and other factors due to our exposure in Vietnam.

As you know many of us have health issues but we continue on working on veteran issues and concerns. But we also monitor our health and follow up with our medications and physician office healthcare visits. We need to be in charge of our health and medical decisions. I know of individuals who had a triple by-pass on the heart, nine stents and the last procedure they had to use radioactive elements to open one artery because it was clogged so dense. I have known of individuals who have had 15 stents and they are still living an active life and helping veterans achieve their goals. You need to have a positive outlook to survive! Be active, eat properly and follow physician's advice. Most important **KEEP THE FAITH!**

The *VVA-NYSC On-Line INTERCHANGE Newspaper* has sent in a letter of support from Region II Director, Ted Wilkinson, for nomination for **VVA National State Council E-Newspaper of the Year Award 2021**. It will be our 5th award if we are nominated and chosen by the Awards Committee members. If you want to receive the VVA-NYSC On-Line INTERCHANGE in your E-mail box, send your request to NEDVVA@ROADRUNNER.COM to be placed on mailing list.

I have decided to add a new column beginning this edition. It will feature biography of our VVA members through out New York State. If you know of someone who should be recognized please send in a biography of the individual.

I was able to get many of our deceased VVA members from the VVA Veteran TAPS column. Please send in your deceased member, along with a brief bio and next of kin, to the following e-mail: secretary@nyvietnamvets.org as well to the National Office to the attention of Father Salois. Rev. Lewis will send a personal sympathy message to the next of kin.

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VVA is still trying to document the cause of deaths of each Vietnam veterans for a cause and effect due to our service in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

The VVA has a full, detailed, and expansive obituaries, going back to the year of 2009, and can be seen online at: www.vva.org/taps.html

Please send in your Officers, Chapter Reports, Committee Reports in MS Word in a timely manner. Do not send PDF files because I do not have a program to convert them to MS Word format. So send your reports in a timely manner. Thanks for your support.

**Never regret a day in your life;
Good days give happiness,
Bad days give experience,
Worst days give lessons,
And best days
Give memories!**

Gordie Lane Chapel Dedication & Memorial Service

VVA-NYSC Treasurer
Nick DeLeo

On August 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Syracuse, NY there was a dedication of the chapel in memory of Gordie Lane who was instrumental in having the chapel restored along with restoring the cemetery grounds and plaza.

This event was attended by VVA NY State Council President Ned Foote, Eastern District Director Sam Hall, Central District Director Nick Valenti, and Treasurer Nick DeLeo. Former Central District Director Ron Fairbanks, and NY State Council Finance Chairman Charlie Tipton attended this event as well. Both are members of Syracuse VVA Chapter 103. Gordie was President of VVA 103 for several years.

This veteran's cemetery and chapel weren't in very good condition for a long time until Gordie was instrumental in having these updates made during the past decade. There were 12 speakers at this memorial service and they all mentioned how Gordie was able to enact changes at the Syracuse VA and very good at persuading politicians and public officials to assist him and other veterans on behalf all central NY Veterans.

They all spoke about Gordie's unique personality and forceful methods to achieve his goals on behalf of his fellow veterans. He always complained to Ned Foote during State Council meetings about scheduling the June meeting over Father's Day weekend. In honor of Gordie the June meeting will now be known as the Gordie Lane Memorial Meeting.

In 2019 Gordie walked into the State Council meeting late and stated his car had been stolen from the parking garage of the Tioga Downs Casino Hotel. He chided the security at the hotel and was glad he

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didn't leave any weapons in the car. Several hours later Gordie came into the meeting and said his car was located.

Gordie left his key fob in the car and another patron of the casino drove off in his car since this person thought the car belonged to him.

This person took the car to a dealer in Pennsylvania since he couldn't change settings and the dealer informed him it wasn't his car especially with NY license plates. Hotel security drove Gordie to PA to retrieve his vehicle. He became upset when everyone laughed at this story since he made an error that caused his car to be mistakenly driven away by another person who had the same type of vehicle.

Gordie's commanding personality was at times difficult to deal with, but his heart was always with helping his fellow veterans. He will be missed by his family and all those who knew him in the veteran's community including local politicians in the Syracuse area. Rest in peace brother, your work is now completed.

Stay Positive. Better days are On their way!

Central District Report

Nick Valenti

VVA Chapters #85, #103, #377, #480, #704, #708, #803, #827, #896, #944

The summer of 2021 has proven to be a challenging time for all of us. The mixture of the good and sad news keeps us moving forward knowing that our success bodes well for all veterans.

First the sad news. On Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm I attended the Memorial Service for Gordie Lane (VVA Chapter #103) at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Syracuse, New York.

The attendees showed their honor and respect for Gordie as they reflected on his impact in the veteran community. Those who were present and spoke of his contributions included such dignitaries as John Katko, U.S. Congressman, 24th NYS District; Pamela J. Hunter, Assembly Member NYS District #128; William Magnarelli, Assembly Member NYS District #129; J. Ryan McMahon II, Onondaga County Executive; David Knapp, Chairman, Onondaga County Legislature; John Paddock, Rear Admiral, US Navy – retired; Dan DiFlorio and Richard Madden, members of VVA Chapter #103.

The Services held a secondary and very profound meaning for all those in attendance. The Chapel, located on the grounds of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery was dedicated to "Gordie Lane." His name and memory will stand as testament to his dedication to making the lives of all veterans better than the way he found it. John Elmer, Lead Pastor, Vineyard Church led the dedication and memorial service for our warrior.

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Also in attendance from NYS Council were NYS President, Ned Foote, NYS Treasurer, Nick DeLeo and Eastern District Director Sam Hall.

Rest in Peace Gordie Lane.

As with the rest of the country VVA Chapter #704 has been negatively affected by the Pandemic. The fundraising efforts have come to a halt. In order to continue the "High School Senior Scholarship Program" VVA Chapter #704 needed to partner with other veteran organizations. To that end a coalition has been put together by #704 that now includes the Italian American War Veterans Post #9, the Auburn VFW Post #1975 and Auxiliary, and the Carnicelli-Indelicatio American Legion Post #1776. All groups contribute to a scholarship fund that lets each high school choose one graduating senior who, in the opinion of the faculty, meets the following requirements: Good Citizenship; Good Character; Strong Leadership; Patriotism; Role Model for other students; Respectful of adults and students; active in School and Community; and have a past or present family member in the military.

When more than one student meets the required criteria at any participating high school, the following additional considerations will be used - No other scholarships and the individual is in need of financial assistance. The uniqueness of the scholarship criteria lies in the absence of consideration based on class rank, average and previous academic success.

As of 2021 we have eight (8) participating school districts in Cayuga County.

On Saturday, July 31, 2021 the 6th Annual "Ride for the Memories" Memorial Bike Ride was held in Weedsport, NY. This year the ride saw members from several NYS Central District Chapters lend their support.

Members from VVA Chapter #704 and VVA Chapter #377 participated either in the ride, at the ceremony and or at the barbecue dinner. Support for this Ride grows annually as Page Transportation at 27758 Trombley Road, Weedsport, NY is the jumping off point with the ride ending at Cross Lake Marina & Inn on 81 Fire Lane 18, Cato, NY.

VVA Chapter #704 participated in the annual Founder's Day Parade after a brief hiatus. Sadly, there were no other veteran organizations participating. Members of #704 dressed in their BDU's were driven in cars provided by a dealership and provided with refreshments and food. It was the first time the members of the local Chapter led any parade. They received a warm welcome by the citizenry.

VVA Chapter #704 had a successful event that promoted the Wreaths across America Mobile Education Exhibit (MEE). The goal of the public event was to showcase and bring into focus the partnership between VVA #704 and Wreaths Across America (WAA). It was an opportunity to highlight our participation with WAA and bring in new volunteers and sponsors. Chapter #704 has participated in the annual WAA ceremony some 13 years. The Chapter uses the December event to bring our community together to learn about Wreaths Across America's mission - Remember the fallen; Honor those who served; and Teach our children the value of freedom. We also wanted to bridge the gap between active-duty service members, veterans and civilians.

Dr. Linda Townsend, the Port Byron School District teacher who has worked with #704 for some 15 years has completed a project to have our Cayuga County Vietnam dead entered into the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. She spent approximately 500 hours researching the background information necessary for their entry. When all was said and done 24 of the 29 met the criteria establish by the National Hall of Honor.

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While she was exercising her due diligence she also researched the 4 Cayuga County servicemen killed in Southwest Asia (Afghanistan). She found that only one of the three names had been submitted. She took it upon herself to submit the remaining three. In all, 27 names were submitted with the proof required for induction. A big shout out to Dr. Townsend for her labor of love ensuring their stories are told and recorded.

VVA Chapter #377 is busily working on replacing the Cortland Vietnam Veterans Memorial that was first constructed some 35 plus years ago. Over time the Memorial has fallen to disrepair and they are in the process of raising money and working with Cornell University to reconstruct the Memorial.

Also let's not forget the September 30th POW/MIA Watchfire held in Myers Park in the Town of Lansing, New York. Start time is 7:00 PM. This proud event was started by #377 and through the years #704 would come down to Lansing and support our brothers and sisters in this annual recognition of the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and that of their grieving families.

VVA Chapter #944 continues to keep a high profile in their community. Over the summer months they have partnered with Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Chapter #490 and American Legion Post #229 in Utica, New York and VFW Yorkville Memorial Post #6001 to place flags at cemeteries, lay wreaths and provide Color Guard support for their brother and sister organizations.

Under Tom Buono the Chapter continues to work with fellow veteran groups in such activities as Flag Day ceremonies, Gold Star Mother's Day events, cemetery flag maintenance and working with the 10th Mountain Division from Ft. Drum with the "Adopt A Platoon" initiative.

At the June 19, 2021 New York State Council meeting in Nichols, New York State Council By Law Article XIV titled "Dissolution of Vietnam Veterans of America – New York State Council" came under discussion. The end result was an amended version as compared to the original proposal. The resolution that finally passed reads as follows:

"That Vietnam Veterans of America – New York State Council (VVA-NYSC) will cease to function in New York State, as an entity of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., within months after the National Office of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) (office located at 8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910) has ceased its function as a veteran service organization."

"The dissolving non-profit organization must file an articles of dissolution with the court or the Attorney General of New York."

On August 16th I received an email from New York State Council Treasurer Nick DeLeo. It dealt with an "Legislative Alert." He was passing on information from the VVA Government Relations Committee. In his email he asked us to get the word out and support Senate bill S.657 and H.R. 2269, The Agent Orange in Thailand Act, introduced by Senator Boozman (R-AR) and Senator Jon Testers (D-MT) and companion bill H.R. 2269, introduced by Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR-4), also entitled The Agent Orange in Thailand Act.

These companion bills would modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicidal agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes, regardless of where on the base the veteran was located or what military job specialty the

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veteran had performed. Passage would provide VA benefits to Vietnam veterans who served on bases in Thailand between January 9, 1962 and June 30, 1976, and were exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides, widely used to remove foliage that provided coverage for enemy forces.

Please contact your members asking them to support S.657 and H.R. 2269, the Agent Orange in Thailand Act, which would offer healthcare and compensation to those who served in Thailand in all military locations and provide for those who have fought for years with the Veterans Benefits Administration to prove that their illnesses are related to their service.

Just an FYI to everyone about the State Council meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 25th at Tioga Downs, Nichols, New York. Get your reservations in and don't forget to bring your tax-exempt forms.

The dates for the 2022 calendar year stand at January 22nd, April 23rd, June 18th and September 24th. Any issues with hotel please contact Grant.

Veteran Incarcerated and in the Justice System Committee Report

Nicholas C. Valenti—Chair 315-252-4535

In June 2021 in my Incarcerated veterans report I was hopeful that we would see the “Family Reunion Program” resume in the fall of 2021. It is well known due to the COVID pandemic, visits in a “home-like setting” were suspended. To date it has been approximately 20 months since the suspension took effect. It had an immediate impact at 22 state prisons. Incarcerated individuals and their families were no longer allowed private visits.

The State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) has allowed traditional visitations to resume but stopped short of the private visitations.

With COVID-19 vaccinations being administered in correctional facilities and the positivity rate decreasing DOCCS was prepared to allow the program to resume. According to the department's website restart was scheduled for September. Protocol details were available on the DOCCS' website. Incarcerated individuals and family members in the program must be fully vaccinated (family members must provide proof of vaccination at least two weeks before the visit). Children under age 12 must have a negative COVID-19 test within three days of the visit. They must show proof of the test result when they are screened at the facility.

Masks are required while outside of the Family Reunion Program (FRP) unit. Cleaning products are provided for visits, and DOCCS follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and sanitizes the units after each use.

DOCCS has completed vaccination clinics at its facilities. Because the vaccine was not mandatory under Governor Cuomo it is unknown how many employees are vaccinated. Under the new Governor that may all change. These private visitations mean a lot to these separated families. We can only hope the resumption will stay on schedule.

Eastern District Report**Sam Hall****VVA Chapters #8, #49, #79, #140, #333, #541, #869****VVA Chapter #140**

Daniel P. Daly – President

Hoping all members and their families are in good health and staying strong as we all face the daily changes with this unfortunate pandemic. It's up to the individual and their own family on how they want to deal with it. At our last meeting, with the advice from the Executive Board members, we decided to keep the seating arrangement spread out so not to be on top of one another, additionally, a box of masks was available for anyone who wished to wear a mask during our meeting. This procedure will remain in effect as our meetings until further notice.

Now, on another note, as you may know or have heard, I will be stepping down from my position as President of the Chapter. Our Vice President Jim Sweikata will be stepping up and filling the position starting with our September meeting. I have all the faith in Jim and am sure he will do an exceptional job. I know if you give your support to Jim as you have with me, the transition will go very smoothly.

On a personal note, I have been with the Chapter many years, and I was always proud to brag about being a member of Chapter 140. When the membership voted me in as President, it was one of my proudest moments. This Chapter has taught me so much and has given me so many enjoyable times spent with all of you. I hope I was helpful to each and every one of our members that I came in touch with as President, because without all of you and your input, there is no Chapter. I will be leaving the area, but I will always be a member of 140, just a long distance member. I want to thank all of you for your support, kindness, concerns and all the laughs we have had over the years.

God Bless all of you and once again, Thank You!

VVA Chapter #333 Report

Roy Tschudy—President

Please take a moment from your busy schedules to read the below attached information regarding local Chapter 333. It is my hope that we as a viable working Chapter would have said information forwarded to be printed in an upcoming edition of THE VETERAN.

We as a group have endeavored to assist veterans in need in an assortment of ways, either through fund raise to purchase special Hand cycles for injured veterans with loss of leg(s) via amputation/spinal cord injuries, inclusive of other ADAPTIVE SPORTS EQUIPMENT for same. We have financially come to the assistance of veterans who found themselves in need of support along with aiding widows of veterans in need.

We perform and generate scholarships to be administered and will be doing so again this next month in August for Rockland Community College veterans in attendance, High School graduates and a host of other programs. Over the Memorial Day weekend we held our WATCHFIRES as seen with pictures below and followed that up with our annual Chapter PIG ROAST with one hundred eighty six people in attendance!

As President of an outstanding Chapter of veterans, it is my request that the information provided herein or
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parts thereof, be shared with the editor of THE VVA VETERAN Magazine. I am equally humbled and proud to be a part of an organization such as VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA and especially so to be President and Chapter member of 333.

Submitted with Respect, Roy Tschudy, President Chapter 333

WATCHFIRES

The origins of Watchfires in the Hudson Valley dates back to the Revolutionary War and were used by the Colonists along the Hudson River to alert residents that the British were approaching. The Watchfires were also used as a means of helping solders separated from their units return safely.

In 1987, Rockland County Vietnam Veterans led by V V A Chapter 333 President, Jerry Donnellan decided to commemorate Memorial Day by the observance of a Watchfire.

Currently Rockland County has four permanent sites where Vietnam Veterans observe the annual Watchfires located at Bowline Point Park in Haverstraw, Eugene Levy Park on Route 45 in Ramapo, East End of Piermont Pier in Piermont and Clausland Mountain Park in Orangeburg.

The Watchfires are observed for the 24 hours of May 30, each year to honor troops that were lost in war and have never returned to enjoy their family and friends as a consequence of war.

All Veterans are invited to participate in this solemn annual observance sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 333 Rockland County, NY.

Chapter 333 SCHOLARSHIPS

BOWLINE WATCHFIRES

EUGENE LEVY PARK

2021

PIG ROAST 2021

CHAPTER 333 PRESENTING A SPECIAL THANK YOU PLAQUE TO MARGARITE CARMODY DAUGHTER OF LATE CHAPTER MEMBER DANIEL CARMODY.

Chapter President Roy Tschudy and Chapter member Marcus Arroyo presented a new Hand cycle to injured veteran M. Gallucci and her service pup.

Last Friday soon after the GOLD STAR FAMILY CEREMONY was finished, I was advised by the Rockland County Veterans Director Susan Branam of a dire situation concerning a veteran in need. A (Name withheld) 76 year old Vietnam veteran who also is an Afghanistan/Desert Storm and served in Bosnia had a house fire of which he and his family lost all of their belongings. They are residing until further notice in a small hotel awaiting for insurance claims to be processed (who knows how long this will take?) without much income.

I immediately reached out to the Chapter 333 1st V.P, 2nd V.P., Financial Secretary and our Recording Secretary to fully update and seek approval for a donation. With everyone in full agreement, I requested our financial secretary John Palmero to purchase a "Gift Card" in the amount of \$500.00, today Monday the 27th of September, John Palmero delivered same to the office of Susan Branam.

As has been our custom, as has been our history, Chapter 333 under numerous previous Presidents and Chapter boards have always been present and accounted for when a Veteran is in need, today is no different! I wish to thank the board along with our entire membership for holding high the motto and standards which we hold in our hearts, "NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER."

Lastly, thank you to Susan Branam and Mark Woods along with all those who work in the veterans service agency here in Rockland County for notifying me on this issue and performing many a time thankless job.

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Chapter provided both a fund raiser along with sales of our BELLS & WHISTLES Golf Shirts, T-Shirts and Sweatshirts at the Nyack street fair. Generally our setup begins at 7 AM; however, our intrepid 1st V.P. Ray Furlong was so excited for the day he wanted to begin the process at 6:30 AM! Before the Sun could rise over the beautiful mountain tops in Rockland County, Chapter 333 member volunteers had our brand new tent (Courtesy of Don Pillar) standing upright with our logo proudly displayed. In Fact, as far as I could observe, we were the very first to do so.

Instead of reveille to wake us old guys up that early, we have enlarged prostrates to do that instead! Anyway, the day was gorgeous; the crowds of people were full and cheerful with people stopping by our tent expressing appreciation for our service. The Chapter had quite a few of our members volunteer for this event and beginning to name them all is a job in itself. Half of them were present from the early setup until our breakdown at 4:30 PM and others came throughout the day the help out.

I thank each and every one of you who took of your time to promote our Chapter, shaking hands while extending and exchanging good wishes with the throngs of folks in attendance all day long. For any who either donated to the Chapter or purchased a Chapter shirt and even those who simply stopped to say "Hello", we offered a small each in the form of a small taining the name of a Rockdier, Marine, Navy, Air inscription of "THANK PORT" On the rear side as outset, is a small American "RESPECTFULLY" re-tattered Flag soon to be way, we HONOR BOTH MADE THE ULTIMATE TINUE TO DO SO WITH



token of appreciation to clear plastic envelope conland County Vietnam Sol-Force who a K.I.A. with the YOU FOR YOUR SUP-we have done so from the Star which was moved from an old worn or properly retired. In this THE PERSON WHO SACRIFICE AND CON-OUR FLAG.

In truth, all Chapter members who participated in this will attest to the appreciation shown and the respectful replies upon receiving said item!!! At the end of the day, Chapter 333 sold shirts in the amount of \$140 and received in donations a total of \$478.00.

Again, thank you to all Chapter 333 members who volunteered their time yesterday and shared in the camaraderie of each other! The good news is we get to do this all over again this Sunday the 19th at the Suffern Street Fair!



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In this past year Chapter 333 sadly two valued members due to Agent Orange and Covid, Gene Sullivan and Jim Taylor were loved and highly respected by all of our members, may they rest in God's loving arms forever.

The Memorial weekend although stormy and filled with cold wind gusts was still honored with our Chapters Watch Fires for a 24 hour vigil and has such since 1984 at its inception. Please feel free to visit our website at www.vva333.com for pictures displayed.

Early June was the return of our annual Pig Roast Barbeque, the largest turnout to date of almost two people enjoying the camaraderie and festivities of the day. Weather was perfect, the band of BEAUTY AND THE GREASE performed bringing smiles and dancing feet to many. The hamburgers and hotdogs went fast during the lunch time meal as if there was a tip on an upcoming famine! Later on, the guest of honor, Sir Pig himself made an appearance much to the delight of those in famine mode.

Chapter 333 presented a Hand Cycle at this event (attached picture with her service dog) for an injured female veteran with a severe spinal cord injury. Our Chapter has been humbled to be able in fund raising to purchase and donate numerous HAND CYCLES to veterans with disabilities throughout the Country! In addition, Chapter member Bill Winder was present with his newly released book THE OTHER SIDE OF THE NIGHTSTICK. A true heartfelt account of Bill's journey as a N.Y.C. police officer who was shot while effecting an arrest of three perps during a bar robbery. Bill later was honored with the highest distinction an officer may receive, the Medal of Honor. It should be noted, Bill was also wounded twice in action as a Marine and as a tunnel rat during his tour of duty in Nam.

The representatives of our Chapter look forward to meet and greet other Chapters at the National Convention this November, it is our hope all resolutions named can be discussed and voted on that will ensure the history of the VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA legacy will be second to none.

In closing, the attached letter written by me, Roy Tschudy with respect to the recent loss of our military heroes in Afghanistan is fully meant to have those veterans know and understand that Vietnam veterans feel their anguish and pain. They are not alone, there now is in place a bonding of a generation of veterans who understand one another.

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**Gordie Lane Memorial Chapel**

Ned D. Foote

Myself, Sam Hall, Nick DeLeo and Nick Valenti attended memorial service and dedication for our friend Gordie Lane last month. Many politicians attended and spoke and many of his friends. He has done so much for our Veterans especially in Syracuse.

The dedication part was at the Onondaga Veterans Cemetery. There is a Chapel that Gordie was instrumental in rebuilding the Chapel and then bug the hell out of Syracuse as only Gordie can that they now provide free burial to our Veterans.

Because of his love and dedication to all Veterans the Chapel has been named the:

GORDIE LANE  
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

**Western District Report****Mike Walker****VVA Chapters #20, #77, #193, #268, #459, #865, #978**

**Mike Walker is still mending and has been back and forth from home to hospital. His spirit are still high and looking forward in attending the Convention. Keep him in your prays.**

**VVA Chapter #77 Report**

Tom Thompson

The chapter has been busy this summer. We began July 20th by escorting THE WALL THAT HEALS, (TWTH) the Vietnam KIA memorial mobile wall owned and operated by the VVMF from D.C. A motorcycle escort of about 250 including several cycle groups, police cycles and squad vehicles escorted the wall from NCCC to Veterans Park, Tonawanda, N.Y. The N.Y. State Police, the Niagara County Sheriff's Dept., North Tonawanda City and Tonawanda City Police departments all did a fantastic job with traffic control beginning to end. The whole experience with TWTH was extremely moving and very professionally handled by all the committee members and 150 plus volunteers.

On August 18 a few members participated in the annual food distribution at the KIA walk, Orchard Park, N.Y. Paul reported we received approximately 3000 lbs. of dry food products for the pantry.

On August 23, 2021 New York State Assemblyman William Conrad III presented a Proclamation of Honor from the New York State Assembly for selfless service to the membership of VVA Chp.77 for their involvement and display of TWTH. Committee members Joe Pasek, Norm Murray, Paul Pietrowski, Bill Paton and Tom Thompson were each presented a Proclamation.

The nine hole VVA golf tournament was held on August 28, 8:30 am at the Deerwood Golf course. The event was followed up with a luncheon at the American Legion 264 with a 50/50 drawing, a raffle and golf expertise prizes. I believe fun was had by all on a nice day and fund raiser.

On September 5 the day started as usual with a down pour of rain at the annual car show. The weather let up and started clearing about 9:00 am, the cars started rolling in and 150 plus were in attendance. VVA Chp.77 food pantry was presented with a generous contribution from the Wurlitzer Park Cruise night gang (Pist'N Broke). This was unexpected and extremely appreciated.

Last but not least VALOR by Paul Rudnicki continues to make charitable donations to the food pantry which is very well run by Lauri Paton. The food pantry has been active every Wednesday and Saturday to needy veterans.

In addition: VVA CHP. 77 has done the following.

\$500.00 to the VVA Louisiana State Council hurricane relief

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Purchased 10 wreaths to support Wreaths around America for the newly opened Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, N.Y.

Donation to Tunnel to Towers

\$1000.00 to the 9/11 Memorial Field to honor all those that lost their lives on 9/11/2001. They displayed 3000, 3x5 flags at Gratwick Park, N. Tonawanda, N.Y. on 9/11 weekend 2021

We sponsored a Golf Foursome to raise money for Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight.

The chapter has had several fund raisers to help pay for the above donations this summer, fill the helmet, 2 chicken BBQ's, 2 Gateway Harbor Music events selling (hotdogs, sausage, pop and water.

We are checking into the feasibility of make donations to the Erie County Meals on Wheels for Veterans on Veterans Day.

**Footnote:** VVA Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ, Vets Park, Tonawanda, drive through 12:00 noon til 4:00 or until sold out, come early better than late, presale \$11.00, at at door \$12.00.



VVA 77 Car Show 9/5/2021



Our volunteers setting up the Wall That Heals



Chapter 77 Helicopter Monument and the Wall that Heals at night time

The VVMF said we had 12,000 visitors come out to see the Wall That Heals.

### Southern District Report

**Joe Ingino**

**VVA Chapters #11, #32, #72, #82, #126, #421**

I would like to thank all the Chapters & members for their Get Well cards, phone calls and gifts. I have been in and out of the Stony Brook Nursing Home and, Stony Brook Hospital and a Sloan Kettering Hospital. I had a twelve hour operation to remove a tumor and then got a blood infection. Nursing care is great and I am getting better slowly. Southern District Chapters keep doing a great job. Will see you soon!

### VVA Chapter #82 Report

Rich Guevara – Vice President

### Chapter 82 Accomplishments Fall 2021

**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, VVA activities were curtailed to ensure the safety of our members and the general public. We are now resuming our activities in accordance with CDC guidelines.**

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Town Of Oyster Bay – On July 13, 2021, Steve Bonom, President VVA Chapter 82 received the Veterans Lifetime Achievement Award from the Town’s Supervisor.

Vietnam Veterans 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – On July 22, 2021, we teamed up with the Air Force Association to recognize the services of Vietnam Veterans. We again provided the color guard for the event. Members of the Chapter presented the guests with a gift in appreciation for their service.

Eisenhower Park – On August 28, 2021, we provided the color guard at the Nassau County “Walls of Honor” dedication where over 200 names were added to the Wall recognizing those who had served in our military.

Eisenhower Park – On August 29, 2021, at the Nassau County “Salute to Veterans” ceremony we provided the color guard for the event.

At the Town of Oyster Bay “Armed Forces Appreciation Day” on September 17, 2021 we provided the color guard for the ceremony.

At the Nassau County POW/MIA Vigil held on September 17 at Eisenhower Park two of our members helped to read the names of the POW/MIA from Long Island.

Air Power Museum - Vietnam Veterans 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – On September 18, 2021 we teamed up with the Air Force Association to recognize the services of Vietnam Veterans. We again provided the color guard for the event. Members of the Chapter presented the guests with a gift in appreciation for their service.

At the Town of Oyster Bay evening event, “Salute to Veterans,” held on September 18, 2021 several Chapter 82 members were honored on stage for their Service.

On October 9, 2021 at the Long Island Veterans Hospital several of our members will present a 30 year pin to one of our long time member.

Eisenhower Park – On September 16, 2021, we provided the color guard at the Nassau County, “Walls of Honor” dedication where over 200 names were added to the Wall recognizing those who had served in our military.

On October 13 to 16, 2021 Chapter 82 will provide the color guard and a rifle salute at the moving wall in North Hempstead’s salute to Vietnam Veterans.

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### **Dissolution of Vietnam Veterans of America - New York State Council**

At the June 19, 2021 New York State Council meeting , New York State Council By Law Article XIV titled “Dissolution of Vietnam Veterans of America – New York State Council” came under discussion. The end result was an amended version as compared to the original proposal. The resolution that finally passed reads as follows:

*That Vietnam Veterans of America-New York State Council (VVA-NYSC) will cease to function in New York State, as an entity of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., within months after the National Office of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) (office located at 8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910) has ceased its function as a veteran service organization.*

*The dissolving non-profit organization must file an articles of dissolution with the court or the Attorney General of New York State.*

**PS** Grant will rewrite the VVA-NYSC By-Laws and will include this:

Article XIV and post on VVA-State Council website. **This Amendment was drafted after much discussion at the June State Council meeting and passed by the delegates present.**



**CHAPTER MEMBER PROFILE****Marcus Arroyo Petty Officer 3rd Class United States Navy | A Story of Valor — National Purple Heart Honor Mission – VVA Chapter #333 member**

Marcus V. Arroyo was born on August 5, 1950 in the South Bronx of New York. His father was a sailor in the Merchant Marines, who sailed during World War II in the Atlantic, delivering desperately needed supplies through dangerous, submarine-infested waters to England. One of his father's ships was blown up and he was thrown into the water before being rescued. His father's maritime experiences influenced Marcus to think about joining the Navy.

When Marcus was five years old his family moved to the projects on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. "I was a typical street kid...but I was fortunate to join the Boys' Club of New York. A marvelous institution to keep boys off the street, involved in worthwhile sports projects, and out of trouble. "Because my dad was a merchant mariner I didn't know him very well. He was constantly sailing six, seven, or nine months a year." Only after his retirement did they start to get to know each other.

At the height of the Vietnam War, and faced with the prospect of the draft, Marcus decided enlist in the U.S. Navy. "I wanted to be a scuba diver, like Lloyd Bridges in the television show 'Sea Hunt.'" Marcus enlisted in the Navy in 1968, right out of high school. "Back then the Navy had three boot camps. One was in Florida, one in the Great Lakes, one in San Diego. I went to Great Lakes." He was inducted in Lower Manhattan at Whitehall recruiting station, put on a train at Grand Central Station and rode to Chicago, arriving in 13 feet of snow.

After starting with a regular boot camp company, Marcus elected to re-start boot camp with a specialized company, commanded by a "hard nose" Underwater Demolition Team Frogman Chief. The purpose of this specialized company was to prescreen and find recruits in order to prepare them for Underwater Demolition/SEAL training. During World War II, Combat Underwater Demolition Teams (CUDT), full-fledged naval combat units, were the first to land at great risk on enemy shores, their dangerous mission being to gather topographic beach reconnaissance data and clear beachheads of any landing obstacles with explosives. These dangerous missions enabled the Marines to land on enemy islands in the Pacific, and the Army to land on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day with their landing craft, tanks, ammunitions, supplies and other essential gear. CUDT's were later converted to UDT's after World War II, and later evolved into the Navy SEALs, under President Kennedy. In the 1960's during the Vietnam War, SEALs were the Navy counter-part to the elite Green Berets of the United States Army.

UDT boot camp was hard, designed to get the recruits ready for BUDS (Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL) Training. The Chief would wake the recruits up in the middle of the night, have them dress then run through the showers until they were soaking wet right down to their socks and boots and then march them outside in the freezing cold and snow, having them stand there until they became a block of ice. Some recruits quit on the spot, others became ill, and some hung on for another day. Marcus says he was one of the lucky ones. The Chief just wanted them to toughen up and learn how to survive. After successfully completing UDT boot camp Marcus wanted to go straight to BUDS training in Coronado. His Chief advised Marcus to attend his Class A, Damage Controlman (DC) school. The Chief told Marcus, "you are good, but you are not that good. You might fail or get hurt at BUDS, and then you will be some 'black-shoe bosun's mate on a tin can."

Marcus took the Chief's advice and attended the DC Class A school in Philadelphia. DC training gave Marcus an official naval rating of Damage Controlman, also known in the military as an MOS (Military

Occupational Specialty). "A Damage Controlman had to learn everything about saving a ship, any ship, from a tender, to a submarine, to an aircraft carrier, how to decontaminate from nuclear and biological agents, how to shore up ship bulkheads under pressure, how to pump incoming water out of the ship, how to fight fires on board the ship, etc. In order to save a distressed ship, a DC must know electrical systems, carpentry, plumbing, everything about the ship in order to save it and the crew during an attack. Everyone thinks sailors on ships are safe, but ships are very dangerous with all their ammunition, explosives and fuel and subject to attack at anytime." After this very intensive DC training, Marcus was committed to succeeding, because he "didn't want to be on some dangerous ship in the middle of the ocean."

Next came BUDS, twenty intense weeks of training, with week number five being the infamous "Hell Week." After completing BUDS, he received his SEAL Trident at graduation. Then he was shipped off for three weeks to Army Parachute Jump School, at Fort Benning, Georgia.

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Arroyo was selected for SEAL Team One. He was assigned to Zulu Platoon, a fourteen-man unit consisting of two seven man squads. “Now, you train together for the next six months. As a platoon/squad, you train continuously with these same fourteen guys, learning how they think, how they breathe... you become ‘one’ and that’s what it’s all about: cohesiveness. You develop a close ‘commonality’ with each other. Everybody has a specialty, but everyone knows the other guys’ specialty also.”

Marcus and his platoon were deployed to Vietnam in early 1970. How did they travel to Vietnam? “It was quite different than how the regular troops were going to Vietnam. In the early days they went by ships; later on they traveled by regular commercial airplanes. Imagine going on Pan Am, TWA, or World Airway to a combat zone – that’s crazy. For SEALs, we deployed right out of San Diego, a Navy town, we went down to North Island, there was a plane ready for us, just our fourteen-man platoon. This plane, a VR-21, carried all our gear, weapons, diving tanks, starlight scopes, explosives, everything we needed.”

The VR-21, a four-engine propeller plane, stopped in Hawaii “where we did one more survival training session while they repaired the airplane. I had noticed an engine was leaking oil while we were flying.” They stopped over in Manila, then Taipei before landing at Tan Son Nhut Airport, Saigon (today, Ho Chi Ming City). From there, on to Can Tho and then Ca Mau in the Mekong Delta, arriving at the naval base called Seafloat, which was “nothing more than a bunch of barges lashed together, like an island smack in the middle of the Delta.”

Their mission: to control the Delta and deny passage to the Vietcong and the NVA (North Vietnamese Army). “Seafloat, which later became ‘Solid Anchor,’ was our base of operations. From there we would go out and interdict the enemy. We ran clandestine operations engaging the enemy in ambushes, calling in air and artillery assault strikes, and also setting up to call in large RVN (Republic of Vietnam) Army Regulars and U.S. Army ground troops.”

Navy SEAL squad armament typically consisted of two “Stoners” (belt fed M16s, assigned only to SEALs), one M-60, three AR-15’s and an AR-15 with an XM148 mounted grenade launcher, which was Arroyo’s weapon, Arroyo being the “grenadier.” “Weight was critical, rarely did we carry food, little water, but lots of ammunition, as much as we could carry and not drown.

“We had at least one senior petty officer, usually a chief or a first class who had had multiple tours; possibly an officer who had no experience; and then you had your enlisted men. The other squad was a carbon copy.”

Their routine: “You did your reconnaissance, your interdictions, your intelligence, then reported back to base camp. Unless you got involved in an engagement and had to be resupplied in the field. “We were quite active. We’d go out and do our patrols. We’d set up ambushes and engage the enemy. A couple of times we were ambushed.

“On the first tour everyone’s excited, you’ve been training all this time...on my third mission we had our first combat. I thought to myself, ‘they really shoot back!’ When someone is coming at you and the bullets are flying right near you, it’s an amazing experience.

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“You always have to be careful for ambushes. The enemy was always setting up booby-traps. Fortunately my platoon was never hurt by booby-traps. Our guys who got injured were wounded by gunshots.

“We collected as much intelligence as we could. You don’t always engage the enemy; sometimes you let them go to get a bigger fish. Sometimes you might see a junk out there at night, then you might engage them.

“When we had only eleven days left, we were packing up our gear, getting ready to go home. Our officer, LT, did a VR – Visual Reconnaissance – and saw enemy movement. I didn’t like day operations, because the enemy could see the helicopters, they could hear them...they’re waiting for you. But LT saw this enemy movement, he came back to the base – he was not my squad leader, ours had been wounded and sent back to the US. We were down to nine guys left in the platoon. LT said, ‘We want to run one more quick mission. So we loaded up in the helicopter. It wasn’t well planned. The enemy had set up and was waiting for us to insert.’”

Marcus and the others were burning waste in a 55-gallon drum when the command was given to go back out on that last operation. “One of my buddies, a good friend, he was a ‘short-timer’ and getting married soon. He had a bad feeling... so I said, you stay here, I’ll go out. All our gear had been packed, but we still had our weapons and ammunition.

“The purpose of this mission was to engage this enemy movement. But what LT didn’t realize was the size of the enemy – he thought it was a much smaller troop movement.”

Arroyo’s thoughts at the moment? “We did it so many times. You don’t think, you just do it. You grab your vest, grab your weapon, grab your ammunition.” They were always prepared: “the first thing you always do when you get back from an operation is to clean your weapon and prepare for the next operational patrol.”

Two gunships escorted each transport chopper. “You sit right on the edge of the doorway. Your feet are dangling. One gunship’s flying very low above the trees, the other is flying high, with the troop chopper in the middle. They try to get you in as low as possible and then you jump out.

“As soon as we landed we got hit. We took fire right from the beginning.

“That’s where your M60 is critical, it has the heavier bullets. You let it loose and lay down fire....As grenadier I’m lobbing grenades. It seemed as though as soon as a guy stood up he’d get shot. Fortunately the gunships were at the tree line. Called in support.... We had no idea how big the enemy force was. A lot bigger than our platoon.” They had been placed in an open field. Now they had to try to move to the tree line.

Five of the SEALs including Arroyo were wounded that day on February 11, 1971. “LT was shot in both legs, shot up pretty bad, but he survived and became a district attorney in San Diego. Another officer got shot through his hand. He became an admiral later, had a distinguished career with the SEALs.

“I owe my life to the Army medics. The medics came and got us out, to the Army field hospital where they performed surgery on us. I lost a lot of blood, but they stabilized me. I was then sent to the Army hospital in Japan.”

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It took six weeks before he could return to the States. Arroyo was ordered to go to St. Albans Naval Hospital in Queens, New York. "I realized if they sent me back to St. Albans my career would be over. So I asked to go to Balboa Navy Hospital in San Diego, from Japan, because I wanted to stay in the Navy."

Arroyo didn't realize, though, that the war was almost over, at least for Americans. Operations were about to be turned over to the South Vietnamese. "Nixon made a commitment to end the Vietnam War, and we were winding down."

Marcus could not go back to SEAL Team One. He had to stay six more months in the hospital, undergoing more surgery. He decided he wanted to transition into police work or the FBI, or the CIA to apply the skills he had learned in the SEALs.

In 1974, now out of the Navy, he took advantage of the G.I. Bill and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in accounting, from Stockton State. The FBI was hiring accountants as well as lawyers and other professionals. Marcus passed the FBI exam but was rejected due to his injuries sustained in Vietnam. Arroyo went on to earn an MBA from Fordham University.

Marcus worked as an accountant and auditor before moving into aviation security, as an Aviation Special Agent. This was the age of airplane hijackings and the new federal Air Marshall program. He worked on doing R & D to learn how to protect against bombs in flight, especially after the disaster of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. They ran simulated hijacking exercises using real airplanes with instructors role-playing as hijackers and police.

Arroyo worked his way up the ladder. He was promoted to the FAA Eastern Region as Division Manager of Civil Aviation Security. He went on to serve under the U.S. Embassy in Belgium doing aviation security and working on bi-lateral security treaties, and then returned as manager of the FAA's U.S. Eastern Region.

When September 11, 2001 dawned Arroyo was head of security over sixty-four airports on the East Coast. Two of the planes hijacked that day were flying out of his jurisdictional airports, Newark and Dulles. At first, there was no way to know what was about to happen. Arroyo was at work at the JFK control center when, around 8:30 in the morning, they received reports of a plane crashing into the World Trade Center. Then other reports came pouring in and everyone knew it was a deliberate terrorist attack. "There were thousands of airplanes in flight. We couldn't know where they all were going. We were worried about West Point, Annapolis. So the command came out of Washington to shut down the air system and bring all flights down for a total ground stop.

"After 9/11 the world changed.... Aviation security was placed in the new TSA, the Transportation Security Administration." Arroyo went on to become the first federal Security Director of Newark Liberty Airport. After 34 years of federal service he retired in 2007, although he still performs aviation security consulting.

Arroyo lives in New York with his wife of 38 years, having raised a daughter and a son. Their son followed the Navy tradition, entering the U.S. Naval Academy in 2001, and graduating in 2005. After seven years of active duty he resigned his commission in 2012 to attend Notre Dame University, where he graduated with an MBA. Their daughter earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Tufts University and an MBA from Smith University.

Marcus received his Purple Heart while in the field hospital in Vietnam, while heavily sedated. "An admiral came in, woke me up and pinned the medal on my bandages." In reflecting on his experiences as a Navy SEAL, Arroyo states that he is proud of his service, and "would do it all again, except getting shot."



**Save the Date**

**NYSHealth Invites You to Attend a Virtual Conference:**

"The Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Veteran Suicide: A Collaborative Effort in New York State"

Our nation has been in the midst of a suicide epidemic—one that has been growing in size for more than 20 years—and the veteran community has been one of the hardest hit. In 2019, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) teamed up with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to create The Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Veteran Suicide, an initiative that combines federal efforts with those of local leaders. The Governor’s Challenge is underway in 35 states—including New York—and has sought to apply a public health approach to developing and implementing a strategy for preventing veteran suicide.

Join NYSHealth; SAMHSA’s Service Members, Veterans and their Families Technical Assistance Center; and the New York State Division of Veterans’ Services for a two-day virtual conference on November 2 and November 3 focused on veteran suicide prevention efforts and the impact of The Governor’s Challenge in New York State. Panelists will provide insights on the progress made throughout New York; share best practices for discussing suicide with loved ones; highlight services aimed at identifying and addressing the needs of high-risk populations; and identify other innovative approaches to preventing veteran suicide.

**Conference Dates:**

**Part I: Tuesday, November 3, 2021, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

**Part II: Wednesday, November 4, 2021, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

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**SEEKING HELP**

My name is Janna Hoehn, I am a 28 year resident of Maui, Hawaii... 8 years ago my husband and I made our first trip to Washington DC. Because Vietnam was the war that was going on while I was in High School the first memorial on my list was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Even though I never knew anyone killed in Vietnam, I wanted a rubbing of one of the names. I approached the Wall and choose a name... Gregory John Crossman... an MIA.

When I returned home I decided to research Gregory and try to find his family, in the event they were never able to go to the Wall, I would send them the etching, hoping they would share a photo with me of Gregory. Off and on for 6 months I researched every way possible and never found any family. I was quite disappointed however I had one more possibility... my cousin, our family historian... 6 weeks later she found a college photo of Gregory. 2 years later I saw a story on our local news about the “Faces Never Forgotten” for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The goal, to put a face with every name that is etched on the Wall. Immediately sent in the photo I had of Gregory Crossman. 5 days later I received an email from Jan Scruggs, the Founder and President of the Vietnam Wall. He thanked me for sending the photo; it was the first for this Hero and asked me if I could help him find the photos for the 42 Maui County Fallen that were killed in Vietnam. I replied, it would be an honor.

I have always hoped I could to do something for the Vietnam Veterans as the way they were treated when

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they returned, it was disgraceful. Here was my chance. What I thought would be a very easy project with Maui being so small... was anything but easy. I started by combing the phone books calling every like name of each soldier, I found about 10 of them this way, then off to archived yearbooks for every high school on Maui, I found a few more...then to the library to look for obituaries... found 3 more ... then I went to the Maui News, they printed a beautiful front page article about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the Education Center. I started receiving calls from all over the United States sending me photos. I was unaware how many people read the Maui News online. The Maui News ran an article about every 6 weeks printing the list of names of photos I still needed. Every time they ran a story, I would receive another photo or two. After 6 months of searching I had a photo of every Fallen Hero from Maui County. Once I had all the photos I decided I did not want to keep this to myself. I needed to share it with Maui County. I had a display made with all 42 photos, I take it all over Maui giving presentations to High Schools, Libraries & Civic groups. It has been very well received.

Once I finished finding all the Maui County photos I moved on to my hometown in California and found the 5 Soldiers from my childhood home, Hemet, California.

I have been very involved in trying to locate photos of the Native American Soldiers which brought me to begin searching for ALL Soldiers in California, over 500 newspapers have run the story throughout Hawaii, California, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Colorado, North Carolina, Alaska, Utah, Montana, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Arizona, Kentucky, Arkansas, Ohio, Tennessee, Alabama, Illinois, Michigan, South Carolina, New York, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Virginia and now New York and Puerto Rico.

The response has been amazing, I have collected over 7000 photos since 2011. With your help it will be more. I am taking one state at a time, moving West to East. I have helped complete the states of Montana, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Washington, Utah, Colorado, South Dakota, Alaska, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Hawaii, Kentucky, Alabama, Michigan, Georgia and Arkansas. Very close on several others.

All of these photos will be submitted to the "Wall of Faces" online memorial with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website, as well as accompanying the Healing WALL that travels all over the U.S. Putting a face with a name changes the whole dynamic of the Wall, it keeps our Fallen Heroes memories alive and will honor them, our heroes stories and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

My plea is this: If anyone is related, a friend or a classmate to any of the young men on the list I would very much appreciate hearing from you. Even if you don't have a photo but know which school any of these young men attended, it would be so helpful. We need to obtain a photo of every single Fallen Hero whose names are etched on The Wall, all 58,315 of them. To date we have collected over 53,000 photos. I am also looking for an individual that would like to volunteer to be my "boots on the ground" in your community if we do not find all the photos. It may mean a trip to the library to search for obituaries or to high school to look through yearbooks.

One item that may need to be explained to your readers is the list of names reflects the names we still need photos for. If a name is not included and your reader wishes to look up their loved one or friends name, go to the "Wall of Faces" type the name in the search box, the profile will come up and it's possible they may have a better photo than has been submitted. I do not wish for anyone to feel badly that their loved one/friend is not listed or forgotten. We will never forget any of them.

Please submit any photos or information to Janna Hoehn at [neverforgotten2014@gmail.com](mailto:neverforgotten2014@gmail.com)

For more information about the Wall of Faces please go to:

[www.vvmf.org/thewall](http://www.vvmf.org/thewall) Mahalo Janna Hoehn

Volunteer Wall of Faces Project Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

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New York names still missing pictures at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC (all 5 boroughs of New York City – plus names unassociated with any borough)

As July 20, 2021 missing 10

### New York City without an associated county at the Vietnam Memorial

**Bellinger, Ronald Lee** (Jul 8, 1947 – Jul 3, 1968) (USA- Specialist Four 240<sup>th</sup> AHC, 214<sup>th</sup> Aviation Bn, 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Group, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade) (Black – Protestant - Single) Jamaica (Queens County) **(Rita Cann at NPRC reports no photo at NPRC and that he attended New York School of Printing earning a diploma in 1964) (FOIA shows that he went to basic training in B – 6 – 2 at Fort Gordon, Georgia starting Nov 29, 1966 – AIT at Fort Jackson, SC in E – 12 – 3 starting Feb 12, 1967)**

**Brown, Roger** (Jun 13, 1949 – Apr 9, 1969) (USA- Private First Class 21<sup>st</sup> S&S Company, 54<sup>th</sup> GS Group, Army Support Command Cam Ranh Bay, 1<sup>st</sup> Logistics Command) (Black – Roman Catholic - Single) New York City (born in Brooklyn) – according to the Bronx School System he attended Herman Ridder Junior HS 1960-62 **(FOIA shows that he went to basic training in A – 6 - 2 at Fort Gordon, Georgia starting Sep 13, 1966 – No AIT but serves as a cook in two different training companies at Fort Polk, Louisiana)**

**Bynoe, Miguel Antonio** (Oct 3, 1948 – Sep 17, 1971) (USA- Private First Class Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Americal Division) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Jamaica (Queens County) (“Panama” engraved on his stone) **(Rita Cann at NPRC reports reports no photo at NPRC and that he attended Queensborough Community College in Bayside, NY completed 1971) (FOIA shows that he went to basic training in B - 4 - 1 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina starting Feb 22, 1971 – AIT at Fort Jackson in D – 11 - 3 starting Apr 16, 1971 – then AIT again at Fort Jackson in E – 11 – 3 starting May 7, 1971)**

**Calhoun, Steven Brian** (Feb 12, 1947 – May 18, 1969) (USA- Sergeant HHT, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 4ID) (Black – Protestant - Single) New York City (probably Brooklyn - parents lived in Brooklyn at time of KIA) **(Rita Cann at NPRC reports no photo at NPRC and that he attended East NY High School in Brooklyn and graduated in 1965) (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in D – 2 - 1 starting Jan 20, 1967 – AIT at Fort Belvoir, Virginia in Company T starting Mar 19, 1967)**

**Edwards, Eugene** POP-UP on Jan 14, 2021 (Feb 27, 1950 – Nov 30, 1970) (USAF- Sergeant 366<sup>th</sup> Service Squadron, 366<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Group, 366<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force) (Black – Roman Catholic – Single) **(Rita Cann at NPRC reports no photo at NPRC and that he attended Gompers High School in Bronx thru 10<sup>th</sup> grade, completing that grade in 1968 – he went on to attain a GED in 1969) (a FOIA was submitted April 29, 2021 but no list of assignments with his basic training data was ever provided)**

**Oyola, Hector David** (Apr 13, 1949 – Aug 14, 1970) (USA- Private First Class Company B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Americal Division) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) New York, NY – PR connection is that he was born in and his parents lived in Juncos, PR **(Rita Cann at NPRC reports no photo at NPRC and that he attended Juncos High School (there doesn't seem to be a "Juncos High School" per se, could be Escuela Superior Vocational Isabel Flores, could be Escuela Superior Jose Collazo Colon, could be Colegio Bautista de Juncos) , in Juncos PR earning a diploma in 1969) (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey in C – 3 - 2 starting Dec 8, 1969 – AIT at Fort Lewis, Washington in B – 3 - 3 starting Feb 20, 1970)**

**Quinones, David** (Oct 13, 1946 – Feb 3, 1968) (USA- Private First Class Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) New York City (Bronx) – PR connection being that he was buried in and his father lived in Mayaguez, PR **(for the 4<sup>th</sup> time Rita Cann at NPRC reports there is nothing on this man at the NPRC) (FOIA submitted 3 times – on Feb 11, 2020 Rita Cann confirmed that there is no record of him anywhere in the NPRC)**

**Rivera, Carlos Manuel** (Jun 18, 1939 – Aug 10, 1968) (USA- Staff Sergeant Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 9ID) (White – Roman Catholic - Married) New York City – PR connection **(Continue on pg. 28)**

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being that his father lived in and he was also buried in Mayaguez, PR – mother lived in the East Village of Manhattan (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey in Company F, 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Regt starting Dec 14, 1961 – AIT at Fort Dix in Company F, 5<sup>th</sup> Training Regt starting Mar 8, 1962 – he was some kind of an instructor in in A – 14 – 3 from Jul 1963 until Jan 5, 1964 then the same in B – 13 – 3 at Fort Jackson, SC from Jan 5, 1964 to about Jul 1965)

**Rivera-Cruz, Cristobal** (Feb 14, 1951 – Jun 7, 1970) (USA- Specialist Four HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) New York City – PR connection assumed due to his last name (**Rita Cann at NPRC reports no photo at NPRC and that he attended Junior High School #71 in New York City and completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 1966**) (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in B - 5 - 2 starting Jun 20, 1969 – AIT at Fort Jackson in A – 15 - 4 starting Sep 8, 1969)

**Vega-Diaz, Hector Manuel** (Nov 10, 1948 – Mar 8, 1969) (USA- Specialist Four Company, 86<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn, 45<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group, 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) New York, NY – PR connection is that he was born in Santurce, PR and was buried in the Puerto Rico National Cemetery, Bayamon, PR (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in E - 2 - 1 starting Jan 22, 1968 – AIT at Fort Leonad Wood, MO in Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn starting Mar 16, 1968)

**NOTE: If we could get someone inside New York City who could influence a school district registrar to look in their records, we really need the high school names for Roger Brown, David Quinones, Carlos Rivera, and Hector Vega-Diaz**

#### **PUERTO RICO names still missing pictures at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC**

**As of June 30, 2021** missing 30 + 5 FROM NEW YORK CITY WITH PUERTO RICO CONNECTIONS

#### **PUERTO RICO 30 missing**

**Alcocer-Martinez, Hector M.** (Feb 11, 1941 – Jan 13, 1967) (USA- Sergeant Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 25ID) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Caguas (FOIA shows that he attended basic training in Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment at Fort Jackson, SC starting on July 26, 1959 – no AIT data – what follows is a string of assignments in Puerto Rico, Korea, Fort Ord, Fort Bliss, Alaska, Hawaii – then he ships into Vietnam)

**Barbosa-Villafane, Antonio** (Sep 4, 1946 – Feb 4, 1966) (USA- Private First Class Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 1ID) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Rio Piedras (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, GA in Company A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Training Regt starting Jan 25, 1965, then starts basic training again on Feb 16, 1965 in Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Training Regiment starting Feb 16, 1965 – AIT at Fort Gordan, GA in C – 11 - 3 starting in April 19, 1965)

**Benitez-Rivera, Jose Emilio** (Apr 26, 1947 – Jun 22, 1968) (USA- Private First Class Company D, 5<sup>th</sup> Bn, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (Black – Roman Catholic - Single) Carolina (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in C – 4 - 1 starting Sep 18, 1967 – AIT at Fort Jackson in B – 12 - 3 starting in Jan 19, 1968)

**Bermudez-Pacheco, Enrique** (Sep 9, 1947 – Aug 9, 1967) (USA- Private First Class Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 1ID) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Bayamon (FOIA shows that he appears have taken basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in F – 2 - 2 starting Dec 5, 1966 – appears to have taken AIT at Fort Jackson in E– 12 - 3 starting in Feb 11, 1967)

**Castro-Morales, Ramon** (Sep 10, 1947 – Dec 17, 1968) (USA- Sergeant HHC, 23<sup>rd</sup> S&T Bn, Americal Division) (White – Roman Catholic – Single) Santurce (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in C - 5 - 2 starting Oct 5, 1967 – it does not appear that he attended AIT)

**Diaz-Collazo, Miguel Angel** (Nov 13, 1947 – Feb 13, 1968) (USA- Private First Class Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 9ID) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Corozal (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in E – 3 – 1 starting Jul 6, 1967 then in C - 3 - 1 starting Aug 28, 1967 – AIT at Fort Polk, Louisiana in E – 3 - “Brigade designation illegible” starting Oct 2, 1967)

**Diaz-Domenech, Juan A.** (Oct 30, 1948 – Sep 23, 1969) (USA- Corporal Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 4ID) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Santurce

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**but the assignment and date were never filled in – AIT at Fort Jackson in B – 11 - 3 starting in Dec 29, 1968)**

**Gonzalez-Maldonado, Manuel** (actual name may be Manuel Rafael **Gonzalez-Maldonado**, there is an “o” on the end of his name instead of an “a” on his grave stone) (Jan 1, 1944 – Oct 22, 1965) (USA- Private First Class Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 1ID) (White – Roman Catholic – Single) Carolina **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Training Regt starting Apr 20, 1964 – No record of ever taking AIT – assigned to same company he was KIA in Jul 1965 in Fort Riley, Kansas)**

**Gonzalez-Martinez, Angel L.** (Jan 23, 1947 – Jun 9, 1968) (USA- Corporal Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 198<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Americal Division) (White – Roman Catholic – Single) Hormigueros **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in C – 3 - 2 starting Aug 3, 1967 - AIT at Fort Polk, Louisiana in A – 4 - 5 starting Oct 2, 1967 – ships to Vietnam)**

**Gonzalez-Velez, Joel Humbe** (Mar 27, 1946 – Feb 2, 1968) (USA- Private First Class Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 1ID) (White – Evangelical – Single) San Sebastian **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in E – 6 - 2 (maybe a “3”) starting Mar 22, 1967 - AIT at Fort Jackson in D – 11 - 3 starting Jul 15, 1967 – ships to Vietnam)**

**Guzman-Pagan, Jorge Luis** (Jun 28, 1948 – Jan 26, 1969) (USA- Private First Class Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 9ID) (White – Roman Catholic - Married) Aguas Buenas **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in A – 10 - 2 starting Jul 1, 1968 - AIT at Fort Jackson in A – 11 - 3 starting Aug 28, 1968 – ships to Vietnam)**

**Irizarry-Acevedo, Daniel** (Mar 1, 1948 – Mar 8, 1969) (USA- Specialist Four Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 25ID) (White – Evangelical – Single) Bayamon **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia in C – 6 - 2 starting Feb 5, 1968 – Apr 1, 1968 AIT at Fort Polk, Louisiana in C – 3 - Brigade illegible but “might be a “2” - ships directly to Vietnam)**

**Isales-Benitez, Jorge Luis** (Dec 10, 1942 – Jun 3, 1966) Specialist Four Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 2nd Infantry, 1ID) (White – Roman Catholic – Married) Rio Piedras **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in Company D, 8<sup>th</sup> Bn starting Oct 19, 1961 – then basic training again at Fort Jackson starting Jan 8, 1962 in Company D, 6<sup>th</sup> Bn (but this might actually be “16<sup>th</sup> Bn – attends AIT at Fort Jackson in C – 4 starting Feb 26, 1962 – discharged in 1963, one day later he appears to be in the Regular Army in infantry assignments)**

**Lopez-Colon, Juan Antonio** (May 12, 1942 – Feb 17, 1966) (USA- Private First Class Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (White- Unknown Religion - Single) Loiza **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in B – 6 - 2 starting Jul 28, 1965 – AIT at Fort Dix, New Jersey in Company M, 1<sup>st</sup> AIT Brigade starting Oct 8, 1965 – AIT a second time starting Nov 10, 1965 at Fort Dix Company G, 1<sup>st</sup> AIT Brigade – ships to Vietnam)**

**Maldonado-Aguilar, Benjamin** (Oct 27, 1947 – Feb 5, 1969) (USA- Specialist Four Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Mayaguez **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia starting Jan 22, 1968 in A – 3 – 2 (might be a “1”) - AIT at Fort Polk, LA in C – 4 – 3 starting Mar 18, 1968 – ships to Vietnam)**

**Mendez, Walter Xabier** (Aug 18, 1951 – Feb 1, 1971) (USA- Private First Class 149<sup>th</sup> S&S Company, 26<sup>th</sup> GS Group, Army Support Command Danang, 1<sup>st</sup> Logistics Command) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Carolina **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia starting Sep 24, 1969 in C – 2 – 1 – goes on to train at Fort Lee, Virginia)**

**Miranda-Ortiz, Jose Luis** (Jan 28, 1936 – Nov 30, 1967) (USA- Staff Sergeant 330<sup>th</sup> RR Company, 509<sup>th</sup> ASA Group, Army Security Agency) (White – Roman Catholic – Single) Rio Piedras **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey starting Feb 21, 1959 in Company F, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tng Regt – then basic training again in Company O, 1<sup>st</sup> Tng Regt starting May 8, 1959 – AIT at Fort Dix in Company O STR starting Jun 19, 1959)**

**Ortiz-Colon, Ulises** (Nov 3, 1947 – Oct 29, 1966) (USA- Private First Class Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Rio Piedras **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in E - 2 - 1 starting Apr 6, 1966 – AIT at Fort Polk, Louisiana in F – 1 - 3 starting Jun 20, 1966 – ships to Vietnam)**

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**Ortiz-Negron, Jose Juan** (Oct 4, 1948 – Nov 24, 1968) (USA-Private D Troop, 7<sup>th</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Brigade) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Rio Piedras **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in D – 8 – 2 starting Jun 17, 1968 – AIT at Fort Jackson in A - 12 - 3 starting Aug 9, 1968)**

**Ortiz-Rivera, Juan** (Jun 24, 1942 – Dec 28, 1967) (USA- Private First Class Company D, 52<sup>nd</sup> Signal Bn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Signal Group, 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade) (White – Roman Catholic - Married) Bayamon **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in D - 3 – 1 starting May, looks like “27”, 1967 – AIT at Fort Belvoir, Virginia in Company W, 5<sup>th</sup> Bn Jul 21, 1967– looks like AIT again in Company T, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn at Fort Belvoir starting Jul 21, 1967 (same date so one of the two AITs is probably wrong)**

**Pagan-Rodriguez, Enangelis** (Mar 23, 1945 – Nov 26, 1966) (USA- Private First Class 66<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade) (White – Roman Catholic – Single) Guaynabo **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in B – 9 – 2 starting Jan 24, 1966)**

**Pena-Class, Raul** (Jan 5, 1948 – Mar 13, 1968) (USA- Specialist Four HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Rio Piedras **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in A - 2 - 1 starting Jul 25, 1966 – did not take AIT)**

**Pizarro-Colon, Marcos** (Jul 17, 1950 – Aug 11, 1970) (USA- Corporal Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Rio Piedras **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in B - 3 - 1 starting Nov 10, 1969 – AIT at Fort Jackson in B – 12 - 3 starting in Jan 16, 1970)**

**Quiles-Hernandez, Antonio** (May 10, 1950 – Apr 18, 1971) (USA- Specialist Four Company D, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn, 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Americal Division) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Rio Piedras **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in C – 7 - 2 starting May 4, 1970 – AIT probably at Fort Jackson (even though they did not write the Fort into his record) in E – 12 - 3 starting in Jun 16, 1970)**

**Rodriguez-Cotto, Angel L.** (Jun 15, 1949 – Jul 30, 1969) (USA- Private First Class Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 1ID) (Black – Roman Catholic - Married) Rio Piedras **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in C – 4 - 1 starting Feb 17, 1969 – then AIT at Fort Jackson in B – 11 – 3 starting Apr 11, 1969)**

**Rodriguez-Rivera, Jaime** (Aug 27, 1948 – Apr 27, 1970) (USA- Private First Class 213<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment, 159<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group, 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) Caparra Terrace **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in C - 2 - 2 starting Apr 7, 1969)**

**Sosa-Hirald, Carmelo** (Jan 27, 1947 – Aug 24, 1968) (USA- Private First Class Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 9ID) (White – Roman Catholic – Single) Carolina **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in C – 3 - “Brigade left empty” starting Oct 13, 1967 – AIT at Fort McClellan, Alabama in E – 1 starting Jan 8, 1968)**

**Torres-Lopez, Rigoberto** (Oct 5, 1947 – Jun 16, 1968) (USA- Specialist Four Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 1ID) (White – Roman Catholic – Single) San Sebastian **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, SC in D – 5 - 1 starting Oct 16, 1967 – then AIT starting Dec 9, 1967 in E – 11 – 3 at Fort Jackson)**

**Velazquez-Lopez, Victor R.** (Jul 14, 1947 – Nov 10, 1967) (USA- Private First Class 264<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Transportation Command, Army Support Command Qui Nhon, 1<sup>st</sup> Logistics Command) (White – Roman Catholic – Single) San Juan **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in C – 5 - 2 starting Feb 21, 1967 – then AIT at Fort Story, Virginia in E, 3<sup>rd</sup> Student Bn starting May 26, 1967 – ships to Vietnam)**

**Zayas-Castro, Reinaldo** (Feb 10, 1941 – May 4, 1966) (USA- Specialist Four 647<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company, 240<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Bn, 58<sup>th</sup> Field Depot, Army Support Command Qui Nhon, 1<sup>st</sup> Logistics Command) (White – Roman Catholic – Single) Trujillo Alto **(FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in E – 5 - 2 starting Aug 7, 1964 – then assigned to a QM Bn in Fort Polk, Louisiana 1964 - 1965– ships to Vietnam)**

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**NEW YORK CITY KIAs with PUERTO RICO connections 5 missing**

**Oyola, Hector David** (Apr 13, 1949 – Aug 14, 1970) (USA- Private First Class Company B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Americal Division) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) New York, NY – PR connection is that he was born in and his parents lived in Juncos, PR (**Rita Cann at NPRC reports no photo at NPRC and that he attended Juncos High School (there doesn't seem to be a "Juncos High School" per se, could be Escuela Superior Vocacional Isabel Flores, could be Esculela Superior Jose Collazo Colon, could be Coloegia Bautista de Juncos) , in Juncos PR earning a diploma in 1969**) (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey in C – 3 - 2 starting Dec 8, 1969 – AIT at Fort Lewis, Washington in B – 3 - 3 starting Feb 20, 1970)

**Quinones, David** (Oct 13, 1946 – Feb 3, 1968) (USA- Private First Class Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) New York City (Bronx) – PR connection being that he was buried in and his father lived in Mayaguez, **IN EACH OF 4 DIFFERENT CHECKS WE ARE INFORMED NOTHING IS ON FILE ON THIS MAN AT NPRC**

**Rivera, Carlos Manuel** (Jun 18, 1939 – Aug 10, 1968) (USA- Staff Sergeant Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 9ID) (White – Roman Catholic - Married) New York City – PR connection being that his father lived in and he was also buried in Mayaguez, PR (**FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey in Company F, 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Regt starting Dec 14, 1961 – AIT at Fort Dix in Company F, 5<sup>th</sup> Training Regt starting Mar 8, 1962 – he was some kind of an instructor in in A – 14 – 3 from Jul 1963 until Jan 5, 1964 then the same in B – 13 – 3 at Fort Jackson, SC from Jan 5, 1964 to about Jul 1965**)

**Rivera-Cruz, Cristobal** (Feb 14, 1951 – Jun 7, 1970) (USA- Specialist Four HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1CD) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) New York City – PR connection assumed due to his last name (**Rita Cann at NPRC reports reports no photo at NPRC and that he attended Junior High School #71 in New York City and completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 1966**) (FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia in B – 5 - 2 starting Jun 20, 1969 – AIT at Fort Jackson in A – 15 - 4 starting Sep 8, 1969)

**Vega-Diaz, Hector Manuel** (Nov 10, 1948 – Mar 8, 1969) (USA- Specialist Four Company, 86<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn, 45<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group, 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade) (White – Roman Catholic - Single) New York, NY – PR connection is that he was born in Santurce, PR and was buried in the Puerto Rico National Cemetery, Bayamon, PR (**FOIA shows that he took basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in E - 2 - 1 starting Jan 22, 1968 – AIT at Fort Leonad Wood, MO in Company D, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn starting Mar 16, 1968**)



**Proposed Amendments to VVA Constitution****Proposed Constitutional Amendment – 01**

Amendments 02, 03, 08, 10 are of no effect if this amendment is adopted and will not be considered.

Submitted by: Name: Constitution Committee

Section Affected: Article 4 General Provisions Section New Section 3

Proposed Change: Add a new section and renumber the sections following

Section 3 – Electronic Meetings

A Meetings on all levels of the Corporation may be conducted through use of an Internet platform. The platform must include visible displays that:

- 1 Identify those members participating.
- 2 Identify those seeking recognition to speak.
- 3 Show the text of pending motions.
- 4 Show the result of votes.

B The Internet platform must support anonymous voting. An anonymous vote conducted through the Internet platform shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling the requirement that a vote be conducted by ballot.

Related Articles/Sections/Paragraphs Affected:

Reason for Proposed Change: To authorize the use of an Internet platform for meetings at national, regional, state and chapter levels of the corporation.

Reported Out: Yes

**Recommendation:** The Committee recommends a yes vote.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – 04**

Submitted by:

Name: Constitution Committee

Section Affected:

Article 1 National Provisions

Section 5, Paragraph F

Proposed Change: Strike the words indicated by the ~~strike through~~ and insert the **bold underlined words**

F The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the national board and of the national conventions in one or more books provided for that purpose **or in electronic files that are appropriately backed-up;** ensure that all notices are given in accordance with this Constitution or required by law; be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the Corporation and ensure that the seal of the Corporation is affixed to all documents, the execution of which has been authorized by the national board , or otherwise in accordance with this Constitution; and, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the president or the national board . The secretary shall also ensure **the amended National Constitution is available on vva.org and distributed electronically to state councils and chapters** timely reproduction and distribution of the amended National Constitution to each chapter within sixty days of each national convention.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

Minutes and other corporation documents are already being stored electronically with secure back-up and the amended constitution is no longer mailed to members in The VVA Veteran.

Reported Out: Yes

**Recommendation:**

The Committee recommends a yes vote.

(Continue on pg. 33)



**(Continue from pg. 32)**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – 05**

Submitted by: Name: Constitution Committee

Section Affected:

Article 1 National Provisions

Section 6, Paragraph A

Proposed Change: Strike the number indicated by the ~~strike through~~ and insert the **bold underlined number**.

A The Corporation shall hold a national biennial convention in odd-numbered years at such times, dates, and places as may be designated by the national board. The national convention shall be the highest authority of the Corporation. Except as otherwise provided in Section ~~6~~ **5** of this article; the president shall preside as the chair of the convention.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

Section 6 is incorrect. Section 5, paragraph E, is correct and refers to the provision that authorizes the vice president to preside in the absence of the president.

Reported Out: Yes

**Recommendation:** The Committee **recommends a yes vote.**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – 06**

Submitted by: Name:

Constitution Committee

**Section Affected:**

Article 1 National Provisions

Section 6, paragraph A

Proposed Change: Insert the **bold underlined words**

A The Corporation shall hold a national biennial convention in odd-numbered years, **unless otherwise ordered by the national board**, at such times, dates, and places as may be designated by the national board. The national convention shall be the highest authority of the Corporation. Except as otherwise provided in Section 6 of this article; the president shall preside as the chair of the convention.

**Reason for Proposed Change:** To allow for some flexibility if a situation requires rescheduling a convention. If the words “unless otherwise ordered by the national board” are added to this paragraph, then the date of the convention can be changed in an unusual circumstance but only for that convention in that particular circumstance.

RONR (12th ed.) 56:33

Reported Out: Yes

**Recommendation:**

The Committee **recommends a yes vote.**

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(Continue from pg. 33)

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – 07**

Submitted by:

Name: Scott DeArman for the Election Committee

Section Affected:

Article 1 National Provisions

Section 7, Paragraph A, subparagraph 1 a

Proposed Change: Strike the words indicated by the ~~strike through~~

4—The elections committee shall generally supervise the election process, to include receiving nominations, distributing the names and qualifications of candidates to the delegates, chairing the national convention during the election process, and certifying the results of said elections.

a The elections committee shall set a date, not less than thirty days prior to the commencement of a national convention, by which date all candidates must file with the committee an announcement of their candidacy. ~~Additional candidates may be placed in nomination at the national convention by submission of a written petition naming the candidate and signed by twenty five percent of the delegates, and by his or her showing compliance with the rules, requirements, and procedures of the elections committee, prior to the close of nominations at the national convention.~~

**Reason for Proposed Change:** This section was entered into the constitution at the 1st convention in 1983. At that time, we were not wearing computers on our wrist, your cell phone was not a computer (your cell phone was not yet invented; the first one I ever saw was as large as a shoe box). There were no laptops or pads, and most people did not even have a desk-top computer, “and” you could not fax. Delegates were learning about candidates from their statements in the Veteran, in the material sent out by National, which was the same as what was in the Veteran, and BY word of mouth. If you had a candidate that you knew, that was one person you knew you would or would not vote for. But there are 23 Board Members and 4 Officers. Now it is relatively easy for you to get information on a candidate. VVA has been established for 38+ years; the role that the Board and Officers play in VVA is well known. and, as we say in the VVA Veteran every other month beginning in January of the convention year: “The committee encourages all those considering running for office in 2021 to think about whether they are willing to take on the responsibilities of an Officer or a Board member and represent the membership of VVA”. We are aging, this organization is and will be changing; being an Officer or Board member takes an exceptionally large commitment. The election committee spent a month trying to figure out how to run an election virtually; one that is accountable to the members, delegates, and candidates. We could not. How do we present candidate forums; how do we prevent the election from being from hacked; how do we prevent computers from failing; etc. What we did realize is the benefit of having a slate of candidates prior to convention. This allows delegates to get their Chapter or State Council input about who to vote for; delegates do represent the members. Finally, as we have been confronted with Covid 19, we have learned the need to change some elements of the constitution in order to best serve the business of the organization. The decision to include running from the floor was appropriate for the time. The future of VVA requires a firm commitment to the body of the organization and above all to the members.

Reported Out: Yes

**Recommendation:** Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised (12th ed.) 46:6 allows nominations from the floor unless the bylaws state otherwise.

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment – 09**

Submitted by:

Name: Milton Omoto

Section Affected: Article 3

Chapter Provisions Section 1

(Continue from pg. 35)

(Continue from pg. 34)

Proposed Change: Strike the words indicated by the ~~strike through~~ and insert the **bold underlined words**

~~Twenty five~~ **Fifteen** members in good standing may petition for a charter. Upon receipt of the petition, the Corporation and appropriate state council shall determine if the petitioning members have adopted the standards and policies of the Corporation as set forth in this document and state council bylaws.

**Reason for Proposed Change:**

As Vietnam veterans and Vietnam era veterans become older and scarce, and to promote active membership in the VVA, the qualifications to petition for a new chapter must be reduced. There is no doubt about the increased interest from Vietnam and era veterans wanting to be part of VVA, as is evident by the membership count with National continuing to rise, despite the fact we are losing our fellow veterans at a fast rate. Reducing the number of members required to start a new chapter affords an opportunity for members to become active at a chapter level instead of remaining at-large. There are many VVA members and Vietnam veterans and era veterans that live in sparsely populated areas. It is difficult for them to garner the required 25 members to start a chapter. This amendment will enable them to start a chapter with less members. Membership in a VVA chapter affords not only fellowship with other veterans but also provides an important forum for the exchange and dissemination of information pertinent to the Vietnam veteran.

Reported Out: Yes

**Recommendation:** The Committee reports **no opinion**.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: I HAVE NOT INCLUDE UNREPORTED AMENDMENTS.**

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I have listed the RESOLUTIONS that each committee submitted. I have just listed what the Amended Resolutions with Strike Through or Bold Words to show where it is being amended. Did not include those resolutions not reported by committees.

**AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN COMMITTEE NEW**

**Committee Resolutions offered for retirement**

AO-15 Government's Responsibility for Veterans Right to Know AO-16 Blue Water Navy Exposures during Vietnam War

**Resolutions Adopted by the Committee AO XX**

**Submitted by Salvadore Farina– Proposed Resolution 15**

**Issue:** Whereas the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, update 11, March 10, 2021, to the 117th Congress, Veterans Affairs Committee, made the decision to change the classification from limited or suggestive to sufficient evidence of an association of Hypertension to Agent Orange.

**Background:** A 2016 study by VA researchers, Yasmin Cypel and colleagues, clearly showed that self-reported Hypertension rates were highest among those military personnel with the greatest opportunity for exposure to Agent Orange.

**Proposed Position:** Now and therefore be it resolved, by the Vietnam Veterans of America at the 2021 National Convention, assembled in Greensboro, North Carolina on November 2-6, 2021, hereby address the Congress of the United States of America, Veterans Affairs Committee and the President of the United States of America to include Hypertension to the list of presumptive diseases associated to Agent Orange.

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Committee Resolutions offered for retirement**

G-19 Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

**Committee Resolution Proposed for Transfer**

GA-14 State Veterans Homes  
Transfer to the Public Affairs Committee

**Resolutions Adopted by the Committee GA-XX**

**Submitted by Jeff Harbin– Proposed Resolution 7**

**Issue:** Dates of Eligibility for Vietnam Service Medal

**Background:** The current end date of eligibility for the Vietnam Service Medal is March 28, 1973. Eligibility was later amended to include April 29th and April 30th, 1975. Between March 28th, 1973, and April 29th, 1975, hundreds of Marines and other servicemen served in Vietnam at the Embassy and Consulates throughout Vietnam but remain ineligible for the Vietnam Service Medal.

**Proposed Position:** Amend the eligibility dates for the Vietnam Service Medal to include the period between March 28, 1973, and April 29th, 1975.

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### MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

#### Resolutions Adopted by the Committee M-XX

##### Submitted by James Ulinski– Proposed Resolution 8

**Issue:** 32,517 Korean Veterans served in Vietnam from 1967 until the end of the war at the request of the U.S. Currently approximately 3,000 Korean American Veterans live in the U.S., but not permitted to join our Vietnam Veterans organization and have a separate organization.

Background: 5,099 Korean soldiers were killed and 10,962 injured in Vietnam. They served with the same honor, sense of duty, and valor as we did. These patriots and citizens continue to fight for the same values as our VVA does. Where they were born should not matter.

Proposed position: Vietnam Veterans of America should allow our Korean Vietnam American Veterans brothers to become full fledged members of our great organization. They had our backs many years ago and we should have theirs now. None of our brothers should be left behind. It should be noted that our chapter voted unanimously on this proposed convention resolutions.

### MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Resolutions Adopted by the committee MA-XX

Submitted by Frederick Gasior – Proposed Resolution 4

**Issue:** Health care and adhering to “Never Again will one Generations of Veterans Abandon Another”

Today there are over 2800 Korean American War Veterans who are American citizens. These men and women served alongside and independently in the air, sea and ground of South Vietnam from 1964 to 1973. They were exposed to many perils including Agent Orange related illnesses and disease. Today many of these troops are falling ill due to their Agent Orange exposure. Medical care is not available to them through the VA Healthcare system. The conventional medical community has very little knowledge of the effects or treatment of Agent Orange related illnesses.

Today, the VA and our government has not reached out to the U.S. Korean community with any information or assistance relating to war time illness. No treatment has been made available for Agent Orange diseases, PTSD or other combat affiliations.

The United States government has been supporting the reclamation of toxic exposed land in South Vietnam. The war is long over and we have restored the economy of the new unified Vietnam. We have embraced our former enemy, supplied technical and material aid, and free medical assistance to their population.

Our government has abandoned our South Korean allies and fellow veterans; but has embraced and supported a former enemy, North Vietnam: Our government should no longer abandon our South Korean allies and fellow veterans. It should instead be supporting our fellow Korean combatants in a

way equal to our benefits and of course to the embrace and support it is **(Continue on pg. 38)**



(Continue from pg. 38)

providing to our former enemy, North Korea.

**Background:** In 1964, the Government of the United States asked South Korea to join in a coalition of allied nations for the prevention of Communism in Southeast Asia. This coalition led to the insertion of combat troops into South Vietnam. During the period 1964 – 1973 the nation of South Korea had over 330,000 troops deployed in South making South Korea second largest combat force in South Vietnam. South Korean troops had over 10% casualties with more than 5,000 KIA.

South Korean troops were deployed throughout South Vietnam including the waterways inland and the South China Sea. These troops supported and protected United States forces in II Corp and the Central Highlands and other places. The actions of the South Korean troops have been widely acknowledged in securing areas within South Vietnam that had been uncontrollable and had provided sanctions to enemy troops. Time is not on the side of these brave men and women. The effects of Agent Orange exposures and related diseases have thinned the ranks of this aging veteran population. Medical care in the United States is not available through the VA for diagnosis or treatment. These men and are the forgotten ally who fought and died with our troops in the land, sea and air of Southeast Asia.

Once we, American Vietnam Veterans, were the forgotten warriors of a war no one wanted to remember. It took us many years to have our government recognize, diagnose and treat illnesses afflicted on us by our war time exposure. Today we are still fighting and will continue for yesterday's Veterans, today's Veterans and future Veterans.

Our South Korean American Veterans are now suffering and are in the same position we were in. Are we going to abandon these Veterans? The resources to help these men and women are available now. War has no

winners, but for us to ignore and abandon the South Korean warriors who fought by our side for liberty, democracy and freedom is immoral. They suffer and struggle and their families are asking WHY are they forgotten?

**Proposed Position:** We ask the Vietnam Veterans of America to use their resources to support HR 5590 (KOREAN AMERICAN VALOR ACT) currently in congressional committee. This bill is related to gaining VA healthcare benefits for South Korean Vietnam Veterans who served in Vietnam from 1964 - 1973 and are now American Citizens. These veterans need access for healthcare diagnosis and treatment for all related illness pertaining to their service in Southeast Asia. All Congressional representatives must be made aware of the importance of supporting this bill.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Committee Resolution Transferred**

GA-14 State Veterans Homes proposed for transfer from the Government Affairs Committee. If adopted, (P-XX) State Veterans Homes

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Continue from pg. 39)

**VETERANS BENEFITS COMMITTEE**  
**Committee Resolutions Offered for Retirement**

|       |                                                                            |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| VB-6  | Just Compensation for Injuries Sustained by Active-Duty Military Personnel |
| VB-9  | DVA Implementation of U.S. Court of Appeal for Veterans Claims             |
| VB-10 | Veterans Benefits & Services VB-11                                         |
|       | Veterans Benefits System                                                   |
| VB-16 | Copy of Military Records upon Discharge                                    |

**Resolutions Adopted by the Committee VB-XX**

**Submitted by Alec Ghezzi– Proposed Resolution 13**

**Issue:** Ensure that taxpayer-funded medical examinations provided to veterans by VA are adequate.

**Background:** Although VA has been required by law, for decades, to provide veterans with free competent medical examinations to support their claims for disability benefits, it has never succeeded in implementing a system to ensure compliance with CAVC standards.

Initially performed by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), these exams have been outsourced to contractors such as QTC and LHI at progressively greater rates over time. VA's stated goal is to fully privatize the C&P examination process within the next few years.

While these contractors have been adept at managing the scheduling aspect of the process, VVA has observed no meaningful efforts to ensure that medical professionals hired by them provide an "adequate" examination.

This term has been clearly defined by the CAVC in a long series of precedential decisions, yet VVA advocates continue to see hundreds of inadequate exam reports produced each year.

Invariably, these inadequate examinations are relied upon by VA adjudicators (who are prohibited from making medical determinations), resulting in the improper denial of benefits and waste of taxpayer funds.

Proposed Position: Vietnam Veterans of America support the following initiatives:

- 1) Work with BVA, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Congress to ensure that proper training, resources, and time is provided to examiners employed or contracted by VA.
- 2) Work with BVA, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Congress to promote policies that hold individual examiners and contractor scheduling companies accountable when they produce inadequate examinations.

**VB – XX**

**IMPROVED QUALITY AND LEGAL ACCURACY IN VA DECISIONS**

**Submitted by the Veterans Benefits Committee**

(Continue on pg. 40)

(Continue from pg. 40)

**Issue:** Vietnam Veterans of America's Service Representatives report that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) often has failed to implement decisions by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC), renders poor quality decisions, and continues to create unnecessary delays to claims adjudication.

**Background:** In 1988, Congress passed the Veterans Judicial Review Act (VJRA), creating the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).

This law stated that the Court's opinions would have binding authority on the DVA in all similar cases 38 U.S.C. §§ 7251, 7261.

In the nine years since the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) has been in existence, it has issued numerous decisions expanding the rights of veterans who are seeking benefits from the DVA. However, VVA Service Representatives and other veterans 'advocates report that DVA often is reluctant to follow the court's instructions in a particular veteran's case, which has been remanded, by the court? The DVA also has been reluctant to follow the rules of law contained in the court's decisions by applying these rules to all cases, which DVA adjudicates.

The quality of VA decisions continues to be less than adequate. Even though VA reports a +95% accuracy rating of original adjudication of claims, approximately 75% that are appealed are either granted or remanded at the Board of Veterans Appeals.

The Veterans Benefits Administration has the responsibility of providing a variety of services to veterans, including eligibility verification, adjudication and processing of disability claims, vocational rehabilitation programs, home loans, and burial benefits. Any delay or disruption of the administration of these services causes undue hardship for veterans and their beneficiaries. It is imperative that VBA assure due process and expedite the process for awarding benefits and services. VVA believes the primary responsibility for development of claims before the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) lies with VBA, and not exclusively with the veteran petitioning for benefits.

**Resolved, That:** Vietnam Veterans of America, will continue to urge DVA and Congress to ensure that VBA is timely implementing and following all CAVC decisions that create binding law on DVA and urgently requests Congress to support its national moral and legal obligation to the men and women who served in the defense of our country in the following ways:

1. To initiate an honest assessment of what is needed, in terms of personnel and equipment, to provide timely and quality benefit decisions to veterans, and to ensure that veterans service organizations, including VVA, is included in the assessment process.
2. To legislate mandatory spending to ensure adequate support, both in personnel and equipment, to meet those demands for timely and quality delivery of benefits.
3. That Congress set, and VBA meet timely standards for benefits delivery.
4. And that Congress expands entitlement accounts to fund VBA functions to provide timely and quality delivery of authorized benefits.
5. Support a significant increase in the staffing (full-time employee equivalent) of the vocational rehabilitation and counseling divisions with such increased staffing assigned to community offices in order to

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provide easy access for disabled veterans, better supervision of vocational rehabilitation clients, and greater labor-market penetration to assure such clients are placed in permanent, stable employment at the completion of training.

6. Call upon DVA to regularly publish and widely disseminate in the veteran community and to the general public materials on the DVA vocational rehabilitation program.

7. To assure due process, expeditious processing of claims and quality of services delivered, VVA supports the retention of adjudication and rating board employees and seeks exemptions of these personnel from hiring freezes and/or budgetary cuts.

### Veterans Benefits Committee Resolutions Offered for Amendment

#### VB-12

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (DVA) SERVICE- CONNECTED DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENTS & MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY OFFSET

Amend by inserting the **bold underlined** words.

#### History:

First adopted in 1989 as V-3-89

Amended in 2017

#### **Amended in 2021**

**Issue:** Military retirement pay is offset by the amount of Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) compensation payable.

**Resolved, That:** Vietnam Veterans of America, supports federal legislation...

All retirees shall be entitled to concurrent Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) compensation for any new or secondary disability established by DVA as service- connected subsequent to retirement and medically discharged veterans with less than 20 years of service, **regardless of their combined DVA rating.**

### **WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE**

#### Committee Resolutions Offered for Retirement

WV-10 Travel for Veterans HealthCare (VHA) Treatment

#### Committee Resolutions Offered for Amendment WV-2

### MEDICAL TREATMENT OF WOMEN VETERANS BY DVA

Amend by striking the words with the strike through and inserting the **bold underlined** words.

**Issue:** Since 1982, Vietnam Veterans of America has been a leader in advocacy

and championing appropriate and quality health care for all women veterans...

(Continue on pg. 42)

(Continue from pg. 41)

**Background:** DVA eligible women veterans are entitled to complete health care including care for gender specific illnesses, injuries and diseases...

risen 80% in the last decade. Women make up nearly **11.6% -12.3%** of OEF/OIF/OND veterans, 57% of these women veterans have received VA healthcare. The average age of women veterans using the VA **is 48. 51%. About one in three women seen at the VHA respond “yes” when screened for Military**

### **Sexual Trauma. (MST)**

**Resolved, That:** Vietnam Veterans of America will continue its advocacy to secure appropriate facilities and resources for the diagnosis, care and treatment of women veterans at all DVA hospitals,.

#### **□ Organize the billing scales clearly for first time users. Shorten current 72 month billing liability.**

- The competency and courtesy of staff who work with women in providing gender-specific health care.
- Those women veterans are provided women's health care in a timely and geographically accessible way.
- Every VA Medical Facility have at least one full-time FTE designated staff  
41 for women health. Sec. 5201 H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315
- That reproductive health care expands to ensure complete infertility workups and fertility solutions regardless of marital status
- That appropriate **staff** training regarding issues pertinent to women veterans is provided.
- That there is the creation of an environment in which staff are sensitive to the needs of women veterans; that this environment meets the women's needs for privacy, safety, and emotional and physical comfort in all venues.  
49 Sec. 5102, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315
- Those privacy policy standards are met for all patients at all VHA locations, and the security of all veterans is ensured.
- That the anticipated growth of the number of women veterans should be considered in all strategic plans, facility construction/utilization and human capital needs. **The number is expected to rise to 15% by 2035.**
- Require data collection reporting on all VA Programs serving veterans by gender age and minority status. Sec. 5401, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315
- Ensure that sexual trauma care is easily and readily available to all veterans,

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veterans. Sec. 5105, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315

Require VA to report to Congress on the provision of size appropriate women veteran prosthetics at each VA Medical Center. Sec. 5108, H.R. 65 7105, P.L. 116-315

That an evaluation of all gender specific sexual trauma intensive treatment residential programs be made to determine if this level is adequate as related to level of need for each gender.

**That Women specific Drug and Alcohol Dependency treatment and rehabilitative programs for women veterans' analysis be conducted nationwide by the Secretary of the VA. Pilot program findings and conclusions shall be submitted to committees on Veterans Affairs.**

Those women veterans who seek care at Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) which do not provide for gender-specific medical and or mental healthcare shall be authorized to have treatment within the community care provider network.

That evidenced based holistic programs for women's health, mental health and rehabilitation are available in all VA Hospitals and CBOCs to ensure the full continuum of care.

**That Community Care criteria and referrals be appropriately funded in a timely fashion for veteran's access to care when needed.**

**Limitations on copayments for contraception's furnished by the VA.**

That the Women's Health Service aggressively seeks to determine root causes for any differences in quality measures and report these to the Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Deputy Under Secretary for Health Operations and Management, the VISN directors, facility directors and COS, and 87 providers. Section 5402, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315

And furthermore: Vietnam Veterans of America will seek legislation:

For a permanent VA Readjustment Counseling Service's Women Veterans 90 Retreat Program. Sec. 5104, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315

To ensure that neonatal care is provided for up to 15 days as needed for the newborn children of women veterans receiving maternity/delivery care 93 through the VA. See Sec. 3006, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-31

#### WV-5 WOMEN VETERANS RESEARCH

Amend by striking the words with the strike through and inserting the **bold underlined** words.

#### **History:**

First adopted in 2009 as WV-5-09

Amended in 2017

**Amended in 2021**

(Continue on pg. 44)

(Continue from pg. 45)

**Issue:** Specific issues pertinent to women veterans must be adequately researched.

**Resolved, That:** Vietnam Veterans of America asks the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct several studies specific to women veterans and that Congress pass legislation to mandate such studies if the Secretary does not act:

- A comprehensive assessment of the barriers to and root causes of disparities in provision of comprehensive medical, mental health, and residential treatment care by DVA for women veterans. Sec. 5101/5102, H.R. 7105, 14 P.L. 116-315
- A **continued** comprehensive study on the relationship of toxic exposures during military training and service on infertility rates of veterans.
- A continued comprehensive evaluation of suicide among women veterans, including rates of both attempted and completed suicides, and risk factors, including comorbid diagnoses, **substance abuse**, history of sexual trauma or sexual harassment, harassment, bullying, intimate partner violence, unemployment, deployments, or homelessness.

#### WV-6 WOMEN VETERANS AND VETERANS BENEFITS

Amend by striking the words with the strike through.

**History:**

First adopted in 2009 as WV-6-09 Amended

Amended in 2013 as WV-6

Amended in 2015 and 2017

**Amended 2021**

**Issue:** Women Veterans underutilize veterans ' benefits in comparison with male veterans.

**Resolved, That:** The Vietnam Veterans of America will continue its advocacy to secure benefits for all eligible veterans. VVA asks the Secretary to ensure:

- That a national structure be developed within VBA for the Women Veteran Coordinator (WVC) positions, located at each VARO. Sec. 5204, H.R. 7105, 15 P.L. 116-315
- That VBA develop a clear definition to the job description of the WVC and implement it as a full-time position with defined performance measures. Sec. 5205, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315
- That VBA identify a subject matter expert on gender specific claims as a resource person in each regional office location.
- That the WVC is utilized to identify training needs and coordinate workshops.

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(Continue from pg. 44)

- That the WVC have a presence in the local VHA system.
- That VBA ensure that all Regional Offices display information on the services and assistance provided by the Women Veteran Coordinator with clear designation of her contract intonation and office location.
- That VBA establish a method to identify and track outcomes for all claims involving personal assault trauma, regardless of the resulting disability, such as PTSD, depression or anxiety disorder. These outcomes are reported to the VA Secretary. Sec. 5501, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315
- That VBA perform an analysis and publish the data on Military Sexual Trauma (MST) claims volume, the disparity in the claim's ratings by gender, assess the consistency of how these claims are adjudicated, and determine if increased training and testing is needed in this regard. Sec. 5502, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315
- That all claimadjudicators who process claims for gender-specific conditions and claims involving personal assault trauma receive mandatory initial and regular on-going training necessary to be competent to evaluate such claims.
- That the VARO create an environment in which staff are sensitive to the needs of women veterans, and the environment meets the women's needs for privacy, safety, and emotional and physical comfort. Sec. 5103, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315
- That the National Cemetery Administration enhances its targeted outreach efforts in those areas where burial benefits usage by women veterans does not reflect the women veterans' population. This may include collaboration with VBA and VHA in seeking means to proactively provide burial benefits information to women veterans, their spouses and children, and to funeral directors.
- And further: VVA supports.
- DVA evaluation of the efficacy of coordination of federal, state, and local women veterans' programs.
- That DVA supports legislation to establish childcare services as a permanent program. Sec. 5107, H.R. 7105, P.L. 116-315
- That DVA establish a functional transition program with DOD for newly released military. Current program does not address information referrals for women resources adequately.

**WV-8  
MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)**

Amend by inserting the **bold underlined** words.

**History:** First adopted in 2013 as WV-8 Amended in 2017

**Amended 2021**

**Issue:** Currently, instances of sexual assault in the military must be reported through the chain of command...

**Continue on pg. 46)**

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**Background:** Sexual Assault and Prevention Response Office (SAPRO) has developed a Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy, according to DoD, the majority of Military Sexual Trauma (71%) are under 24 years old and of lower ranks; whereas the majority of assailants (59%) are between 20 and 34 years old and of a higher rank than the survivor. There was an increase of 13% women reporting in 2017, while there was no change for men. The FY 2019 Report on Sexual Assault in the Military showed 20,500 Sexual assaults in FY2019, up from 14,900 in 2016. The official reports of sexual assault have increased over 3% over the previous year, while less cases are being sent forward by Commanders to trial. Women veterans are twice as likely as men veterans to develop posttraumatic stress disorder and approximately one out of four women veterans reports military sexual trauma. Survivors may fear that their own actions may be cause for punishment. The threat of retaliation or fear of being reprimanded or disruption of their career is enough to silence many survivors or have them recant their stories. SAPRO reports of 2017-2018 showed that the majority of reporters of Sexual Assault in military academies and armed forces were still subjected to harassment and abusive behaviors. Failure of the SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program) at the Ft. Hood, TX Independent review(2020) o 136 pages (70 recommendations) found it ineffective and failed as a result of command enforcement below brigade level. Failure of leadership, transparency, and care for all soldiers reflects it likely not limited to a single installation. This showed a startling tolerance for sexual

harassment and sexual assault at the unit level. Again, this creates a total lack of trust for reporting assaults among the units.

**Resolved, That:** VVA will pursue legislation that reassigns complaints of military sexual trauma by service members and all alleged perpetrators outside of their immediate chain of command.

1. VVA requests review results of the **DOD Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy FY 2016-2017-2019** be reported to the Congressional Veterans Committees as well as the President.
2. There should be an increase of Victim Advocates, comprised of a Hybrid of civilian and uniformed personnel at all military installations.
3. Those perpetrators found guilty of Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment be removed from service-not transferred to another base assignment.

#### VETERANS HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

HC-9

Committee Resolutions being Offered for Retirement  
Hours of Operations at VA Medical Facilities HC-11 Testing for  
Hepatitis C

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### Committee Resolutions being Offered for Amendment HC-2

#### VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Amend by inserting the **bold underlined** words.

#### **History:**

First adopted in 1983 as V-9-83

Amended and renumbered in 2007 as V-1-05 Amended and  
renumbered in 2011 as HC-2

#### **Amended in 2021**

**Issue:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA), is responsible for providing health care to veterans with service-connected disabilities another as determined by eligibility rules established by Congress. Concerns continue regarding quality of health care,..

**Background:** Many veterans have been adversely affected by what has been described as a health-care system in crisis. This, in part, is due to budget and resource limitations. Other significant factors are directly related to the massive size of the centralized DVA healthcare system, its bureaucratic inertia, and its inability to organize itself into an effective instrument to meet the changing healthcare needs of all veterans under its care. Both service-connected and non-service-connected veterans have experienced a consistent unavailability of access to DVA health care, including mental health, outpatient contract, and inpatient care.

Issues of access involve the need for many veterans to travel long distances to obtain care, as occurs with veterans living in rural communities or on island communities in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Hawaii...

**Resolved, That:** Vietnam Veterans of America maintains that veterans who have sustained injuries or illnesses during and/or as a result of their military service have the right to the highest quality medical and mental health services for treatment of those injuries and illnesses.

Additionally, to maintain medical competency and expertise in the provision of healthcare services, the DVA healthcare system needs to maintain a critical mass of patients if it is to continue as a highly cost-effective integrated managed care system. VVA vigorously resists any attempt to degrade this system by eliminating eligibility for "Priority 7" and "Priority 8" veterans – veterans who do not have service-connected health conditions and who agree to modest co-payments for

their care, **also that Community care criteria and referrals be appropriately funded in a timely fashion for Veterans access to Care when needed under the Mission Act of 2018.**

#### **HOMELESS VETERANS COMMITTEE**

#### **Committee Resolutions Being Offered for Retirement**

HVC-6

VA Homeless Grant and Per Diem Funding

HVC-7

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program to remain at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

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- HVC-8 Support for continued funding and oversight of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development/ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs supportive services (HUD-VASH) program and HVC-10 Continued funding for “special needs” grants under the Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Grants & Per Diem Program
- HVC-11 The Department of Veterans Affairs to Identify Best Practices Model Addressing Homeless Women Veteran Transitional Residential Treatment Programs Through VA Homeless Grants and Per Diem
- HVC-14 Support, Oversight and Accountability of VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families

**Resolutions Adopted by the Committee HVC-XX**

**VA HOMELESS GRANT AND PER DIEM FUNDING**

**Submitted by the Homeless Veterans Committee**

**Issue:** Funding and support of the VA HGPD Program has proven to be a most effective tool in addressing veteran homelessness.

**Background:** VA Homeless Grant and Per Diem funding must be considered a payment rather than a reimbursement for expenses, an important change that will enable the community-based organizations that deliver the majority of these services to operate effectively. Non- profits have long struggled with the process used to justify the receipt of the per diem payments from VA Homeless Grant and Per Diem (HGPD) program. Although the amount of the per diem money received Per veteran per day provided has increased over time, the requirement documentation to meet a 100% cost expense has created a significant burden on non-profits.

Currently, the per diem amount that non-profits receive is based on the previous year expenses as defined in its annual audit. It is not based on anticipated expenses for the operating year in which the per diem will be paid. This causes the program to fall short in meeting its expenses for the agency’s operating year. For this reason, we believe it is a reasonable suggestion that VA consider the distribution of per diem payments in much the same way that other federal agencies operate. One solution to consider would be to set up HG PD disbursements in a “draw down” account similar to the system utilized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, whereby agencies submit their projected budgets, are allocated the funds, and draw down on the allocated funds throughout the year. At the end of year reconciliations and adjustments as made.

Payments need to be based on actual anticipated budgetary expenses, not based on past year expenses. Non-profits cannot enhance services or hire additional necessary staff before they are able to access the dollars of increased per diem to pay for them. It sets in place a vicious cycle of need. (The agencies have a set per diem; they need more staff; they haven’t shown it as an expense on the approved per diem they are receiving, so they can’t afford to hire new staff because they don’t have the money to do so.) This process leaves the program and the agency at a clear disadvantage because they do not have the money to do any advanced or “real time” enhancements to the program. To do so would place them at high risk and this action could be suicidal for a small non-profit. It places them at risk with creditors or, the agency has to reach into its line of credit at the bank. This action could result in paying in pay interest on the use of its line of credit until they can be approved for higher per diem. This interest is then an added expense to the program...a cost they cannot recoup.

Per Diem dollars received by services centers are not capable of obtaining or retaining appropriate staffing to provide services supporting the “special needs” of the veterans seeking assistance. Per Diem for Service Centers is provided on an

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hourly rate, currently only \$6.24 per hour.

Service centers are unique and indispensable in the VA process. In many cases they are the front and first exposure to the VA and VA Homeless Grant and Per Diem programs. Veteran specific service centers are vital in that most city and municipality social services do not have the knowledge or capacity to provide appropriate supportive services that directly involve the treatment, care and entitlements of veterans. Without consideration of staffing grants, the result could be the demise of these critical services. The VA acknowledges this problem exists. It is yet to be specifically identified how many awarded services center grantees have been affected by either the inability to establish these centers or retain operation because of this very funding issue.

**Resolved, That:** Vietnam Veterans of America:

- Urges the Department of Veterans Affairs, Homeless Grant and Per Diem Program to provide payment for services rather than the reimbursement for services it presently provides for transitional housing.
- Supports and seeks legislation to establish Supportive Services Staffing Grants for VA Homeless Grant and Per Diem Service Center Grant Awardees
- Identify and Best Practice Models of care addressing unique needs and issues facing homeless women Veterans
- Continue monitoring and holding accountable entities receiving and Distributing funds to assist vulnerable Veteran families.

### Committee Resolutions Being Offered for Amendment

#### HVC-1

#### HOMELESS VETERANS AS A “SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION”

Amend by inserting the **bold underlined** words.

**History:**

First adopted in 1985 as V-12-85

Renumbered in 2011 as HVC-1

**Amended in 2021**

**Issue: The number of homeless veterans is very fluid. However, nationally it is accepted that 23-30% of the total homeless population or approximately 37,252 are homeless veterans according to 2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) count conducted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development...**

**Background:** Our country’s homeless problem is a national disgrace that refuses to fade. Homelessness has varied definitions and many contributing factors.

Among these are PTSD, a lack of job skills and education, substance abuse and mental-health problems. The homeless require far more than just a home.

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A comprehensive, individualized assessment and a rehabilitation/treatment program are necessary, utilizing the continuum of care concept. Assistance in obtaining economic stability for a successful self-sufficient transition back into the community is vital. Although many need help with permanent housing, some require long-term residential care...

**Resolved,** That: Vietnam Veterans of America, urges the Presidential Interagency Council on Homeless to recognize homeless veterans as a Special Needs Population... Vietnam Veterans of America strongly urges its membership, at the chapter and state council level, to work with their state and federal legislators to enhance services to homeless veterans and encourage them to recognize these veterans as a Special Needs Population. Additionally, Vietnam Veterans of America supports legislation that would incorporate a Fair Share dollar approach for the federal funding of all homeless programs and services so to specifically target homeless veterans. **The committee will continue to advocate for recognizing Homeless Veterans as a Special Needs Population.**

**If you read this whole newspaper, you deserve a break! Enjoy!**

**Subject: You think English is easy??**  
Roy

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture..
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.

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|                                                     |                               |                                               |
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