

Vietnam Veterans of America



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL, LASDON PARK, SOMERS, NEW YORK



*Westchester
County
Chapter #49*

If box is checked
your dues are due now.

☐

All the POW's are not home yet!
Do you know?
Do you care?



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Westchester County Chapter 49
Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 224
Pleasantville, New York 10570
Notice: Address Service Requested

VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Chapter Officers:

President: Barney Puleo 682-4949
Vice President: Al Zawiski 428-9352
Secretary: Jim LaManna 793-6077
Treasurer: Al Singerman 930-7433

Board of Directors: (5)

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Terry Keogh 428-9845
Bob Miller 391-8723
Carl DiLiberto 462-0782
Matt Coffey 682-4949

State Council Delegates: (6)

Dan Griffin	Al Singerman
Jim LaManna	Al Zawiski
Barney Puleo	Terry Keogh

Nominating Chairman:

Dan Griffin

Veterans Offices:

Yonkers: Louis Navarro 377-6700
Carmel: Brennen Mahoney 845-808-1620

Vet Center: 300 Hamilton Ave, White Plains, NY 10601

Roger Paulmeno 682-6250
Vinnie Matthews 682-6250

White Plains Clinic 421-1951
23 S. Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

FDR Montrose Hospital 737-4400

Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Director: Ron Tocci 995-2146 / 2145

Committees:

Membership Phil Wanderman 963-3034
Chaplain Al Zawiski 428-9352
Comm. Affairs Dan Griffin 682-4949
POW / MIA Dan Griffin 682-4949
Member Products Jim LaManna 793-6077
Color Guard Rich Palazzo 845-297-1513
Scholarship Bob Miller 391-8723

WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

HOURS:
11:00 - 3:30
914-864-7068
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
AND HOLIDAYS

Chapter 49
Telephone / Fax Number
(914) 682-4949

Website:
www.vietnamvets49.org
E-Mail:
mailto:Chapter49@aol.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month
at
Armonk Post 1097
35 Bedford Rd.
Armonk, NY 10504

This newsletter is a publication of Chapter 49, however the opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, and as such, they do not necessarily represent those of Chapter 49. All views are welcome for publication. Submit items of interest, including poems, short stories, photographs, etc., to the Editors at the Chapter address or call for other arrangements. Materials submitted will not be returned unless otherwise requested.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May is a very busy month for Chapter 49; starting on May 21st at Lasdon Park we will help them with the annual plant sale, starting at 9:00. We help by carrying plants to the buyer's cars; in return they donate \$1,000.00 to Base camp Westchester.

On May 26th Montrose VA Hospital will hold their Memorial Day ceremonies at the Memorial garden at 10:00.

On May 27th the Kensico Cemetery will hold their ceremonies at 2:30 with a special remembrance for the 11 Medal of Honor recipients buried in Westchester County.

On May 29th my office puts on the Veterans Appreciation Day at Playland. Our Chapter will have tables set up to sell our hats, pins, etc. Please stop by and help out for a little while before you go on the rides, eat or watch the helicopters land. The appreciation day starts at 10:00; I would arrive at 9:00.

At 4:00 we hold a barbeque for the guys in the PTSD unit behind building 15 at Montrose VA Hospital.

After that at Dusk we hold the annual "Watchfire" at the picnic area.

The next day we will march in the Chappaqua Memorial day parade; we will meet at the Shopping Center parking lot at 10:00. Ceremony is at 10:30 and step off is 11:00.

Then at 2:00 we will hold our ceremonies at Lasdon Park.

Take care of yourself and each other

Dan Griffin

Welcome to our newest members

Bernard Ferri life member from White Plains

John Halen life member from Scarsdale

Robert Perrotta life member from East Chester

VVA supports Agent Orange and Toxic Exposure Legislation - VA DOES NOT

Toxic Exposure Research Legislation Is Needed for Veterans of every Generation

(Wash., D.C.)— On February 10, Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald told Members of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs that no legislation on Agent Orange or Toxic exposures is needed. This statement by the DVA Secretary is in line with testimony, delivered before Congress on three occasions in the last eight months, in which the VA claims no research legislation is needed as other Agencies of the Federal Government are doing all of the research studies needed.

John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) responded, "With all due respect to the Secretary, he could not be more wrong. Furthermore, we have yet to receive a list of these research studies referenced in VA testimony which purportedly pertain to veterans and their progeny."

"The events in the past week highlight the shameless wall of ignorance erected by the VA bureaucrats. Case in point is the Secretary's recent policy regarding the Blue Water Navy veterans of Vietnam. The policy states that a 'bright line' can be drawn across the mouth of a flowing river, with those on the inland side of that imaginary line being 'exposed,' and those two feet away, on the harbor side of the line, 'not exposed,' " said Rowan. "Those 'exposed' are eligible for presumptive service connection for certain conditions, and therefore medical care and compensation, while those who served two feet away are not. We are leaving our Navy veterans out in the cold, and sadly, many of them have died and their widows have been abandoned."

"Also on Wednesday, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report on Gulf War illness, which I find troubling," noted Rowan. "Psychiatrists/psychologists comprised half of a panel charged with evaluating medical conditions, most probably caused by exposure to toxic chemicals. It comes as no surprise that this recent report ignores the many toxins to which Gulf War veterans were exposed and reverts to the canard that unless 'causality' can be proved by a specific toxin, there can be no forward movement. One would hope the VA and DOD would be looking for an 'association' of exposure to one or more toxic substances and the presence of adverse medical conditions, rather than placing an emphasis on the 'mind-body continuums.' "

"Yes, technically the VA is able to do what is needed without legislation," said Rowan. "However, the VA has made its case repeatedly that, in the absence of legislation, there will be no justice accorded veterans with Toxic Wounds, nor for their innocent children and grandchildren. America's veterans of every generation DO need early passage of S. 901 and H.R. 1769, the Toxic Exposures Research Act, and vigorous oversight after enactment to ensure that VA actually does what is mandated in law; we need immediate passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015, H.R. 969 and S.681; and we need to push for the extension and expansion of the Agent Orange Act of 1991, to include veterans of recent and future wars, so that a system is in place to systematically review battlefield exposures, and they won't need to refight the battles we have."

Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families.



PROGRAM

10:30 a.m. Parking Lot Open

11:30 a.m. Park opens
Emerald Society Pipe & Drum Band and
Civil Air Patrol Color Guard

11:45 – 12:15 p.m.
Memorial Day Tribute Ceremony
(All are requested to attend)

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Angelina Mendes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Boy/Girl/Cub Scouts

INVOCATION: Vito Pinto, *Chaplain VFW Post 2285*

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:
Ronald Tocci, *Veterans Service Agency Director*

SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE:
Robert P. Astorino, *County Executive*

BENEDICTION: Vito Pinto, *Chaplain VFW Post 2285*

RIFLE SALUTE: LTC Sam DiRienzo, *VFW Post 2285*

TAPS: Anthony Montimurro

GOD BLESS AMERICA: Angelina Mendes

12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Barbeque (boathouse area)

1:00 p.m.
Music on Stage and/or BBQ area

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
US Marine Corps Helicopter Demo & Display
(weather & aircraft permitting)

Robert P. Astorino, Westchester County Executive
and
Ronald C. Tocci, Director
Westchester County Veterans Service Agency
invite you to

Veterans Appreciation Day and Memorial Tribute Ceremony

Sunday, May 29 • 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
RYE PLAYLAND

FREE PARKING/FREE BBQ/FREE RIDES
(For Westchester County Veterans & their families)
FREE Blood Pressure Screening



IN PERSON REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

May 16th – 27th • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. only at the below locations:

Westchester County
Veterans Service Agency
112 E. Post Road
White Plains
914-995-2145

Mount Vernon Veterans
Service Agency
1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon
914-665-2391

Yonkers Veterans
Service Agency
120 New Main St.
Yonkers
914-377-6700

Veterans & Active Duty Military will receive:

Free Parking Coupon (1)

Free BBQ Tickets (up to 5)

Free Unlimited Rides Wristbands (up to 5)

*Must bring proof of service such as DD-214, VA Healthcare ID or current military ID, and proof of Westchester County residency to any of the above in person registration locations May 16th-27th to pick up your free items.

*No free parking coupons or free unlimited rides wristbands will be given at event.

Westchester
gov.com

Robert P. Astorino, County Executive
Ronald C. Tocci, Director
Veterans Service Agency



Westchester County Veterans Service Agency offers free accredited representation & assistance with filing pension, compensation, education, disability claims and much more.

www.westchestergov.com/veterans



"Keeping the Vigil for the last patrol."

In memory of those who never returned...

Watch Fire

Dating back to the Revolutionary war, when they used to signal the cease fire ending the war, have had great significance. Watchfires are now used symbolically to guide home "The Lost Patrol" that has not yet returned from their last mission. Join us along the Hudson River, to guide home our warriors from all wars!

★ **Memorial Day Weekend** ★

Sunday, May 29, 2016

The Lighting of the Flame Will Be at Dusk!

Montrose Campus River Front



VVA, NVCLR Settle FOIA Suit Over Bad Paper Discharges

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2016

No. 16-1

Contact:

Mokie Porter

301-585-4000, Ext. 146

Defense Dept. Agrees to Quarterly Disclosure of PTSD Records

VVA, NVCLR Settle FOIA Suit Over “Bad Paper” Discharges

(Wash., D.C.) Last week, the U.S. District Court in Connecticut approved a settlement in Vietnam Veterans of America et al v. Dept. of Defense et al., a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress and Vietnam Veterans America against the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). The veterans groups sought records regarding implementation of a September 2014 directive by then-Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel requiring that military record correction boards give “liberal consideration” to applications by veterans with PTSD who had received an other-than-honorable or other bad discharge and later seek to have their discharge status upgraded. Under the settlement, DOD agreed to release statistics on a quarterly basis for the next two years concerning PTSD applications and adjudications by each board and each service branch.

“Vietnam Veterans of America has long held that thousands of Vietnam veterans suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder were wrongfully discharged with bad paper,” said John Rowan, VVA National President. “The overwhelming majority of them were not malingerers. They were not cowards. They served honorably and well and did what was asked of them. But they were suffering from

what is now known as PTSD at a time when PTSD was not an accepted mental health diagnosis. This settlement will help veterans and the public ensure that the record correction boards faithfully implement Secretary Hagel's instruction and enable many of these veterans to get a modicum of the justice denied them for so long."

"Nearly two years ago, NVCLR and my brother Conley Monk helped bring a class-action lawsuit against the Department of Defense to hold its record correction boards accountable," said Garry Monk, Executive Director for the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress. "For decades, these boards denied upgrades to veterans with less than honorable discharges when these men and women had service-related PTSD. We welcomed the Hagel Memo and believe this settlement will allow the public to monitor the military's compliance with its command. We now need the Department of Defense to make a serious and coordinated effort to reach out to veterans to make sure our troops know where they can find help to apply for an upgrade and remove the lifelong stigma of a bad paper discharge."

"The court order approving this settlement requires DOD to disclose, on a quarterly basis and for the next two years, the number of PTSD applications received by each Army, Navy, and Air Force record correction or discharge review board, as well as the number of applications approved and denied and their docket numbers," said Prof. Michael J. Wishnie, Director of the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School, which represented the plaintiffs in the suit. "For the first time, this will allow veterans, their advocates, and the public to know whether DOD is fulfilling its twin obligations under the Hagel Memo to conduct a vigorous campaign of outreach to eligible veterans and to give 'liberal consideration' to the discharge upgrade applications the boards actually receive."

The Hagel Memo is available here. "Unfinished Business: Correcting 'Bad Paper' for Veterans with PTSD," a November 2015 report that analyzes information previously released as a result of this lawsuit and which was prepared for VVA and NVCLR by Sundiata Sidibe and Francisco Unger of the Veterans Legal Services Clinic, is available here.

Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	22	23
24	25	26 pizza Party FDR Stress unit 5:30 PM	27	28	29	30

MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Honor Flight W.C. airport
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Plant Sale Lasdon Park 9:00
22	23	24	25	26 Montrose VA ceremony 10:00	27 Kensico Cemetery Ceremony 2:30	28
29 Playland FDR barbeque Watchfire	30 Parade 10:00 Lasdon 2:00	31				

JUNE 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	3	4 operation Cookie drop
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 _____	27	28 pizza Party FDR Stress unit 5:30 PM	29	30		

JULY 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 pizza Party FDR Stress unit 5:30 PM	20	21	22	23
24 _____	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



★ MEMBERSHIP ★



WE NEED YOU IN THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND FEES

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL WHO SHARE OUR CONCERNS, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS, AND FAMILIES, VETERAN OR NOT. WE ENCOURAGE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY VIETNAM ERA VETERAN WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES DURING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 1959 TO MAY 7, 1975.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (IND) - A VIETNAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.
- ★ ASSOCIATE MEMBER (ASO) - A NON VIETNAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- ★ LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - A VIETNAM ERA VETERAN WHOSE LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER (PAID) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WHOSE LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL. LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT (LMPP) - A VIETNAM ERA VETERAN WITH THE AGREEMENT OF
- ★ THE PLANNED PAYMENT (LMPP) FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT (ALPP) - AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE PLANNED PAYMENT (ALPP) FOR ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ THE PLANNED PAYMENT REQUIRES COMPLETION WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS.
- ★ FEES: ANNUAL FEES OF \$ 20.00 FOR INDIVIDUAL OR ASSOCIATED MEMBERSHIP OR MAKE A PAYMENT OF 50.00 FOR A THREE YEAR MEMBERSHIP AND SAVE \$10.00.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CURRENT AGE:

49 AND UNDER.....	\$ 250.00
50 TO 55.....	\$ 225.00
56 TO 60.....	\$ 200.00
61 TO 65.....	\$ 175.00
66 AND OVER.....	\$ 150.00

PLEASE NOTE:

- ★ PROOF OF AGE MUST BE SUBMITTED ON ALL APPLICATIONS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP.
- ★ COPY OF FORM DD 214 MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR VIETNAM ERA VETERANS.

* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION *

- ☐ I AM A VIETNAM VETERAN / FEE: \$20.00 of 50.00 / Copy of DD 214 is Required
- ☐ I AM A NON-VIETNAM VETERAN AND PLEASE ENROLL ME AS
AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER FEE: \$20.00 or 50.00
- ☐ RENEWAL of MEMBERSHIP / FEE: \$20.00 or \$50.00
- ☐ Wish to Contribute and be kept informed
(Enclosed is my Annual Contribution) \$ _____
- ☐ ADDRESS CHANGE (Indicate Changes Below)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- ☐ VIETNAM ERA VETERAN
- ☐ ASSOCIATE MEMBER

* see note above

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ DATE of BIRTH _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Please make check payable to: V.V.A. Chapter #49
To: Membership Chair, V.V.A. Chapter #49 PO Box 224, Pleasantville, NY 10570
Questions? Call the Chapter. Phone/Fax (914) 682-4949
Meetings of the Viet-Nam Veterans of America, Chapter #49
are held the first Thursday of each month @ 7:30pm.

Please check current newsletter for location.



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**SAILORS - JOIN NOW
CONTACT**

MATTHEW J. COFFEY
Capt. USNR- Ret.

AUSN Regional President - Mid-Atlantic Region

16 N. Broadway White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 997-7663 ★ (914) 584-5741 Mobile
captmjcoffey@aol.com ★ www.ausn.org