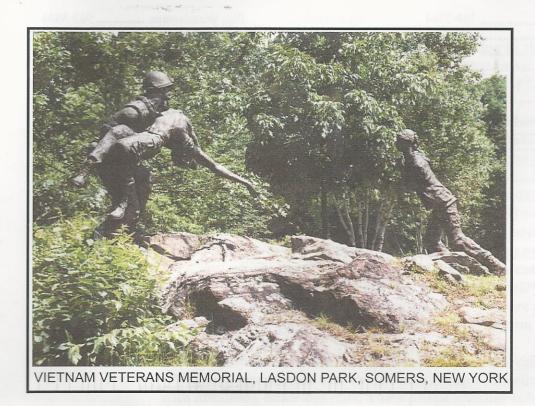
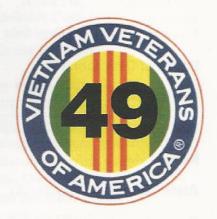
Vietnam Veterans of America





Westchester County Chapter #49

If box is checked your dues are due now.

TOBOSTBST BOTT

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



NON-PROFIT BERMIT #163
WHITE PLAINS, NY

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

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Open Memorial Day through Veterans Day HOURS:

Sundays Noon to 4:00PM Phone: (914) 682-4949 No answer

Please leave message

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

Website:

www.vietnamvets49.org

E-Mail:

mailto: Chapter49@aol.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month

Armonk Post 1097 35 Bedford Rd. Armonk, NY 10504

Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Director:

Vito Pinto 995-2146

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

Our thanks go out to Rich Palazzo and our Color Guard; they did a great job during the Memorial Day parade. Also they represented us very well in the opening ceremonies for the "Moving Wall" in Hastings on July 4th. Great job guys!

I just want to let everyone know about my office-The Westchester County Veterans Service Agency; the director is Chapter 49 member Vito Pinto, what we do is enter claims for compensation and pension to the VA. Also we can help with education benefits and home loan guarantees, etc. There are three of us Service Officers who are certified to represent veterans. If you have anything medically wrong with you that may have been caused by your service give us a call; 914-995-2145/2146. Also every veteran should register with the VA to obtain your medical benefits. If you served in Country, you are automatically eligible; if not then you will be required to take a means test, which means that they will look at your income and assets. If your and your spouse's combined income is below \$49,000.00 then you are eligible. The other way you can obtain your VA medical card is if you are a service connected veteran-in other words you are receiving compensation from the VA.

Also in White Plains there is a Vet Center; what they provide is counseling for combat veterans. They provide one-on-one and group counseling. Plus they can help with obtaining other benefits. Their phone number is 914-682-6250.

Dan Griffin

Welcome to our new members

Michael J. Dorio from Millwood

Thirteen who lost their lives in final operation of the Vietnam War finally laid to rest at

Arlington National Cemetery.

Thirty-eight years after they made the ultimate sacrifice in what is known as the last battle of the Vietnam War, 13 U.S. service members have come home. Fragments of their remains were laid to rest together, in one casket, May 15 with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in northern Virginia. "They may be gone, but they're back on American soil," said Marian Boyd of Norfolk, Va., whose son, U.S. Marine Pfc. Walter Boyd, was among those remembered at the service. "He'd always told me in his letters to keep the faith. I put it in God's hands. "Families of the 10 fallen Marines, two Navy corpsmen and one U.S. Air Force chopper pilot gathered with surviving veterans of the operation and others to pay homage to their fallen loved ones and comrades.

Veterans of the May 15, 1975, military mission to rescue the crew of the merchant ship S.S. Mayaguez came from across the country. Their association – the Koh Tang Mayaguez Veterans Organization – is named for the 5-mile-by-1-mile island off the coast of Cambodia where a 14-hour battle occurred less than three weeks after the fall of Saigon. Members of the club have been dedicated to the identification and repatriation of all who lost their lives in the joint operation, which involved U.S. troops of every service branch.

Nearly 200 Americans directly participated in the rescue attempt after Cambodian Khmer Rouge guerrillas captured the U.S.-flagged Mayaguez in the Gulf of Thailand on May 12, 1975. U.S. officials believed the ship and crew were held captive on Koh Tang Island, and three days later, President Gerald Ford authorized military action to free them.

Nine helicopters loaded with Marines and Navy corpsmen were deployed to the island. Two destroyers and

an aircraft carrier moved into the waters surrounding it.

The first CH-53 chopper to go down - code-named Knife 13 - claimed all 23 onboard near the border of Laos and Cambodia. They were the first casualties of the mission. Eighteen more were killed in the assault, including the 13 who were shot down in the CH-53 Sea Stallion called Knife 31, off the shore of the well-fortified island.

Those who fought that day estimate that between 300 and 700 Khmer Rouge combatants were waiting in

ambush as the U.S. forces, mostly young Marines, were inserted.

"We did not know the full scope of what was going on," said Dick Keith, a Marine first lieutenant at the time who had command of the U.S. troops from 7 a.m. until noon the day of the incident. "We were just flown in, given a quick brief, and were told that it was an area lightly defended." That information proved wrong, as was intelligence that suggested the crew was held on Koh Tang. The Mayaguez and her crew were never on the island. The ship had been seized in the Gulf of Thailand, and the crew was held hostage on a fishing boat until released to the USS Henry B. Wilson after the destroyer took out Khmer Rouge gunboats that were guarding the captives.

The Americans who landed on the island were immediately pinned down by the larger force of well-armed guerrillas. With no way to fly back to extract them in broad daylight, the U.S. troops fought until nightfall when they were finally retrieved in a daring operation performed by Air Force pilots of HH-53 "Jolly Green"

helicopters.

All U.S. personnel except three - Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph N. Hargrove, Pfc. Gary C. Hall and Pvt. Danny G. Marshall - were delivered to U.S. ships or accounted for that night. The fates of the three Marines remain unknown. They are believed to have either died fighting or were taken captive and later executed by the Khmer Rouge. "Until their bodies are recovered, it's all speculation," said Al Bailey, president of the Koh Tang Mayaguez Veterans Organization. Those three, along with one other Marine and one Air Force pilot, who lost their lives that day are now the only members of the insertion force who remain unaccounted for. The operation put the last 41 names on the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Washington.

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command conducted no fewer than 10 recovery efforts between 1991 and 2008 to find and retrieve the remains of the 13 who went down with Knife 31. Another 13 who were shot down in the chopper survived were rescued at sea. The JPAC efforts involved underwater retrieval of remains from the crash site off Koh Tang Island and DNA testing to confirm the last of the fallen men,

U.S. Marine Pfc. Daniel A. Benedett of Seattle, in January 2013.

"It's final closure ... they finally are at peace in American soil," said Dan Hoffman of Columbia, S.C., who addressed the 94th American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis last year. The story of the battle and the organization's persistent search for answers and reconciliation appeared in the August 2012 American Legion Magazine. (Click here to see video)

"There really is no such thing as closure with a missing person," said Judy Vandegeer of Massachusetts, whose husband, Richard, was the pilot on Knife 31. At the service, she was seated next to Max Cleland, former U.S. senator and VA secretary, who lost three limbs in the Vietnam War. "In my private life, PTSD

happens in strange ways," she explained after the service, noting that loud noises late at night can still disturb her in the way they do combat veterans who suffer from the condition. "It's almost like having a double personality."

She, like all 13 families represented at the service, was greatly appreciative of the ceremony at Arlington, attended by approximately 200. The funeral included flag presentations to all the families, a flyover by an EC-130J, rifle volleys, the playing of Taps, and the "President's Own" U.S. Marine Band. Marines conducting military honors were from the Marine Barracks Washington, known as the "8th and I," which was founded by President Thomas Jefferson and is the oldest post active post in the Marine Corps. "I think everyone here felt greatly honored," Vandegeer said. "It was beautifully done."

Among the families was 24-year-old Erik Neff, an Air Force veteran inspired by the sacrifice of his uncle, Andres Garcia, who was among the 13. "To be that young and give your life for something greater than

yourself is something to look up to," he said after the service.

His mother, Sara Johnson, was so moved by her brother Andres' sacrifice that she joined the Navy and served nearly eight years. She was 14 when word came of her brother's death. She received the U.S. flag on behalf of the family at the Arlington ceremony. "We always thought of him as a hero," she said.

Veterans of the Mayaguez operation continue to search for answers about the three who were unaccounted for and the other two whose remains have not been located. "It's kind of like being in a bad plane crash and surviving," said Bailey, who was 19 when he was one of the first Marines on Koh Tang Island. "We all have

a form of survivor's guilt."

The camaraderie of the club and its efforts to reconcile the battle and its effects have helped Bailey cope with his own PTSD, he said. "When you almost die together, you never forget one another," he added. "It's a bond that cannot be replaced. It's a brotherhood. What I want most is to find the rest of my brothers." The remains of the 13 were buried in one casket, together, as they had died. "They're going to have 13 names on one headstone," Hoffman said. "There's nothing else like it in Arlington."

The 13 buried at Arlington on the 38th anniversary of their sacrifice were:

U.S. Marine Pfc. Daniel A. Benedett

U.S. Marine Pfc. Lynn Blessing

U.S. Marine Pfc. Walter Boyd

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Gregory Copenhaver

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Andres Garcia

U.S. Marine Pfc. James J. Jacques

U.S. Marine Pfc. James R. Maxwell

U.S. Marine Pfc. Richard Rivenburgh

U.S. Marine Pfc. Antonio R. Sandoval

U.S. Marine Pfc. Kelton R. Turner U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Bernard Gause Jr.

U.S. Navy Hospitalman Ronald J. Manning

U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Richard Vandegeer

"To really live, you must almost die. To those who fight for it, life and freedom have a meaning that the protected will never know."



America's Wars

Office of Public Affairs Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600

May 2013

American Revolution (1775-1783)	
Total U.S. Servicemembers ¹	217,000
Battle Deaths	4,435
Non-mortal Woundings	6,188
War of 1812 (1812-1815)	
Total U.S. Servicemembers	286,730
Battle Deaths	2,260
Non-mortal Woundings	4,505
Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)
Total U.S. Servicemembers (VA estimate)	106,000
Battle Deaths (VA estimate)	1,000
Mexican War (1846-1848)	
Total U.S. Servicemembers	78,718
Battle Deaths	1,733
Other Deaths (In Theater)	11,550
Non-mortal Woundings	4,152
Civil War (1861-1865)	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Union)	2,213,363
Battle Deaths (Union)	140,414
Other Deaths (In Theater) (Union)	224,097
Non-mortal Woundings (Union) Total Servicemembers (Conf.) ²	281,881 1,050,000
Battle Deaths (Confederate) ³	74,524
Other Deaths (In Theater) (Confederate) 3,4	59,297
Non-mortal Woundings (Confederate)	Unknown
Spanish-American War (1898-190	02)
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	306,760
Battle Deaths	385
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	2,061
Non-mortal Woundings	1,662
World War I (1917-1918)	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	4,734,991
Battle Deaths	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings	204,002
Living Veterans	0
World War II (1941 –1945)	
Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	113,842
Non-mortal Woundings Living Veterans ⁵	670,846 1,711,000
Living veterans	1,711,000

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- 1. Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is the median of estimated range from 184,000 250,000.
- 2. Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is median of estimated range from 600,000 1,500,000.
- 3. Death figures are based on incomplete returns.
- 4. Does not include 26,000 to 31,000 who died in Union prisons.
- 5. Estimate based upon new population projection methodology.

Korean War (1950-1953)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	5,720,000
Total Serving (In Theater)	1,789,000
Battle Deaths	33,739
Other Deaths (In Theater)	2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings	103,284
Living Veterans	2,275,000

Vietnam War (1964-1975)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) ⁶	8,744,000
Deployed to Southeast Asia ⁷ Battle Deaths ⁸	3,403,000
Battle Deaths ⁸	47,434
Other Deaths (In Theater) ⁸	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) ⁸	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings 9	153,303
Living Veterans 5, 10	7,391,000

Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	2,322,000
Deployed to Gulf	694,550
Battle Deaths	148
Other Deaths (In Theater)	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	1,565
Non-mortal Woundings	467
Living Veterans 5, 10	2,244,583

America's Wars Total (1775 -1991)

U.S. Military Service during Wartime	41,892,128
Battle Deaths	651,031
Other Deaths (In Theater)	308,800
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	230,279
Non-mortal Woundings	1,431,290
Living War Veterans ¹¹	16,962,000
Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace)	23,234,000

Global War on Terror (Oct 2001 -)

The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), are ongoing conflicts. For the most current GWOT statistics visit the following Department of Defense Website:

 $\frac{\text{http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/gwot component.}}{\text{pdf}}$

- 6. Covers the period 8/5/64 1/27/73 (date of cease fire)
- 7. Department of Defense estimate
- 8. Covers period 11/1/55 5/15/75
- 9. Excludes 150,341 not requiring hospital care
- 10. Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) estimate, as of 4/09, does not include those still on active duty and may include veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 11. Total will be more than sum of conflicts due to no "end date" established for Persian Gulf War.

Source: Department of Defense (DOD), except living veterans, which are VA estimates as of Sep 2010.

American Revolution Last Veteran, Daniel F. Bakeman, died 4/5/1869, age 109 Last Widow, Catherine S. Damon, died 11/11/06, age 92 Last Dependent, Phoebe M. Palmeter, died 4/25/11, age 90	Mexican War Last Veteran, Owen Thomas Edgar, died 9/3/29, age 98 Last Widow, Lena James Theobald, died 6/20/63, age 89 Last Dependent, Jesse G. Bivens, died 11/1/62, age 94
War of 1812 Last Veteran, Hiram Cronk, died 5/13/05, age 105 Last Widow, Carolina King, died 6/28/36, age unknown Last Dependent, Esther A.H. Morgan, died 3/12/46, age 89	Civil War Last Union Veteran, Albert Woolson, died 8/2/56, age 109 Last Confederate Veteran, John Salling, died 3/16/58, age 112 Last Union Widow, Gertrude Janeway, died 1/17/2003, age 93
Indian Wars Last Veteran, Fredrak Fraske, died 6/18/73, age 101 World War I Last Veteran, Frank Buckles, died 2/27/11, age 110	Spanish-American War Last veteran, Nathan E. Cook, died 9/10/92, age 106

VA's projection for living (J.S. World War II veterans thro	ough the year 2029.*	
9/30/141,002,000	9/30/15	9/30/16727,000 9/30/20257,000 9/30/2487,000 9/30/2824,000	9/30/17
		7 TO TO TO THE RESERVE OF THE RESERV	3/30/23

^{*} Estimates have changed based on new population projections.

U.S. Veterans and Dependents on Benefits Rolls as of January 2013

	VETERANS	CHILDREN	PARENTS	SURVIVING SPOUSES
Civil War		Sandara 1 Talanda	77 may - 77 min	
Indian Wars		- 17	Ottopicon liev es	the same and
Spanish-American War		58		46
Mexican Border		7		12
World War I	-	2,192	notes	2,248
World War II	236,358	10,733	20	207,742
Philippines	2,018	160	9	3,526
Korean Conflict	202,360	2,324	71	68,396
Vietnam Era	1,390,078	4,157	2,025	208,789
Gulf War ¹	1,389,204	3,390	1,440	21,427
Peacetime	667,630	1,357	871	34,000
Non service-connected ²	313,310	12,021	0	195,091
Service-connected ²	3,510,015	13,083	4,451	348,241

¹ For compensation and pension purposes, the Persian Gulf War period has not yet been terminated and includes veterans of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. 2 This total includes peacetime veterans receiving benefits

Health Screening Update 01:

Even if you feel fine, it is still important to see your health care provider regularly to check for potential problems. Most people who have high blood pressure don't even know it. The only way to find out is to have your blood pressure checked regularly. Likewise, high blood sugar and high cholesterol levels often do not produce any symptoms until the disease becomes advanced. There are specific times when you should see your health care provider. Age-specific guidelines for men age 18-to 39 are as follows:

· Blood pressure screening:

- o Have your blood pressure checked every 2 years unless it is 120-139/80-89 Hg or higher. Then have it checked every year.
- o Watch for blood pressure screenings in your area. Ask your health care provider if you can stop in to have your blood pressure checked. Check your blood pressure using the automated machines at local grocery stores and pharmacies.
- o If the top number (systolic number) is greater than 130 or the bottom number (diastolic number) is greater than 85, call your doctor.
- o If you have diabetes, heart disease, kidney problems, or certain other conditions, you may need to be monitored more closely.
- · Cholesterol screening and heart disease prevention:
- o Men over age 34 should be checked every 5 years.
- o If you have risk factors for heart disease, such as diabetes, start getting screened earlier, at age 20.
- o If you have diabetes, heart disease, kidney problems, or certain other conditions, you may need to be monitored more closely.
- · Dental exam:
- o Go to the dentist every year for an exam and cleaning.
- · Eve exam:
- o If you have vision problems, have an eye exam every 2 years.
- · Immunizations:
- o After age 19, you should have a tetanus-diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine once as part of your tetanus-diphtheria vaccines. You should have a tetanus-diphtheria booster every 10 years.
- O You should get a flu shot each year.
- o You should get the HPV vaccine if you have not already.
- o Your doctor may recommend other immunizations if you have certain medical conditions, such as diabetes.
- · Infectious disease screening:
- Depending on your lifestyle and medical history, you may need to be screened for infections such as syphilis, chlamydia, and HIV, as well as other infections.
- · Preventive health visits should be every 2 years, and may include:
- Checking height and weight
- o Screening for alcohol and tobacco use
- o Screening for depression

House Passes New Stolen Valor Act

May 21, 2013

Military.com| by Bryant Jordan

The House on Monday overwhelmingly voted for the latest version of the Stolen Valor Act, a law that will make it a crime to don the medals and ribbons that soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen are awarded for combat actions.

The legislation passed 309 to three.

A 2005 version of the law was struck down by the Supreme Court last June, when it ruled that lying about military heroics was constitutionally protected speech unless there was intent to gain some benefit or something of value by fraud.

The House version, like one passed in the Senate in December, includes an "intent to defraud" provision that advocates believe will permit the law to stand up against any court challenge.

"This law is long overdue," Rep. Paul Cook, R-Calif., said in a statement released immediately after the vote. Cook is a retired Marine Corps colonel who served in Vietnam, where he received two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star Medal for valor. "When people make false claims of military rank and heroism, it does a tremendous disservice not only to our vets, but to the public."

The 2005 version of the law was broad, making it a crime to make any false statements claiming military awards and decorations.

A California man, Xavier Alvarez, was convicted under that law for claiming to be a Medal of Honor recipient. He was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine but appealed the case up to the Supreme Court, which struck it down.

The latest Stolen Valor Act was introduced into the House by Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., who called it "fitting" for the House to pass the bill only days ahead of Memorial Day.

"The awards, and the men and women who have earned them, in some cases posthumously, are worthy of the utmost respect and sanctity," he said in a statement. "Benefitting from lying about receiving one of these awards is an affront to all who have worn the uniform and especially to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6) 100-100-1	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Pizza party FDR stress Unit 5PM	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		A benjarjari	

AUGUST 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
- 122			n ha distraktion	1 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Pizza party FDR Stress Unit 5PM	28	29	30	31



★ MEMBERSHIP





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- TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER (IND) A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER (ASO) A NON VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHO PAYS MEMBERSHIP FEES ANNUALLY.
 LIFE MEMBERSHIP:
- ☆ LIFE MEMBER (PAID) A VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- ASSOCIATED LIFE MEMBER (PAID) AN ASSOCIATED MEMBER WHOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL.
- LIFE MEMBER PLANNED PAYMENT (LMPP) A VIET-NAM 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 VIET-NAM ERA VETERANS.

TELEPHONE:

* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

O I AM A VIET-NAM VETERAN / FEE: \$20.00 of 50.00 / Copy of DD 214 is Required

O I AM A NON-VIET-NAM VETERAN AND PLEASE ENROL ME AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF VVA / FEE: \$20,00 or 50,00

O RENEWAL of MEMBERSHIP / FEE: \$20.00 or \$50.00

O I Wish to Contribute and be kept informed (Enclosed is my Annual Contribution) \$

ADDRESS CHANGE (Indicate Chages Below)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

O VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN

O ASSOCIATE MEMBER

* see note above

ADDRESS: ______ DATE of BIRTH ______

CITY: _____ STATE: ____ ZIP CODE:

Please make Cheque or Money Order 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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