

# *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?



NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #163  
WHITE PLAINS, NY

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: Rick Burns ..... 769-7744  
Vice President: Al Zawiski ..... 428-9352  
Secretary: Jim LaManna ..... 793-6077  
Treasurer: Al Singerman ..... 930-7433

### Board of Directors: (5)

Bob Kennedy ..... 669-5411  
Terry Keogh ..... 428-9845  
Bob Miller ..... 391-8723  
Carl DiLiberto ..... 462-0782  
Barney Puleo ..... 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](http://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.

Published by: Westchester County Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 49  
PO BOX 224, Pleasantville, New York 10570

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**This year our Chapter picnic will be held on August 30, at the Armonk American Legion pavilion. All are invited; friends and family. Elsewhere in this newsletter is the flyer, please call or email us with the number of people that you are bringing so that we can purchase the right amount of food.**

**As most of you know, we run the Gift shop at the New York State veterans Nursing Home. We need a few more volunteers to be cashiers; the hours are from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. I know that a lot of our members are now retired, so all that is needed is one day a week for four hours. And if you do not want to commit to a day a week; we need someone to fill in when one of us needs to take a day off. Please consider helping out.**

**Take care of yourself and each other**

**Dan Griffin**

---

**Welcome to our newest members**

**Blaise Bruno life member from Greenwich, CT  
Edward Lange from Bronxville  
Al Stubenvoll from Harrison  
Dan Kaufman from White Plains**

## PRESS RELEASE

### VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

#### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Mokie Porter  
301-996-0901

#### VVA, Veterans Victorious in Lawsuit Over Military's Chemical Testing Program

(Washington, D.C.)---- "Six and a half years ago, in an unprecedented legal action, Vietnam Veterans of America, along with San Francisco-based veterans organization Swords to Plowshares, joined with half a dozen veterans who 'volunteered' to participate in experiments that tested chemical and biological agents," said John Rowan, VVA National President.

"Our law firm, Morrison & Foerster, was informed yesterday that a three-judge appellate panel in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals had affirmed an injunction ordering the U.S. Army to provide all former test subjects with any newly acquired information about the substances to which they were exposed and which might impact their health. The panel also concluded that the military still has an obligation to provide the test subjects with medical care.

"We are heartened by the court's affirmation of our position," Rowan said. "Agencies of government can no longer ignore the complaints and questions of veterans who may have been harmed after having participated in the testing of more than 400 chemical and biological substances, including hazardous agents such as sarin and mustard gas and mind-altering drugs, including LSD."

The testing program, which was centered in Maryland at Edgewood Arsenal and at Fort Detrick, was conducted at military installations throughout the nation, from Natick Laboratories in Massachusetts to Fort Ord in California. The highly secretive program, which involved the CIA and the Department of Defense, along with other branches of the military, spanned more than five decades.

The late Gordon Erspamer, then a litigation partner in the San Francisco office of Morrison & Foerster, explained why his firm had taken on a pro bono basis, the lawsuit: "Until this case is concluded, and all the victims are found and made whole, we cannot close this sad chapter in our history, when our government exploited the very citizens . . . it was supposed to protect."

---

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 14, 2015  
No. 15-4  
Contact: Mokie Porter  
(301) 996-0901

Senators Moran and Blumenthal, Representatives Benishek and Honda Introduce  
New Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015

(Washington, DC) -- "It's bad enough that veterans have had to bear the cross of exposure to toxic agents during our military service," said Vietnam Veterans of America National President John Rowan. "It is worse to see our children and grandchildren afflicted with health conditions we suspect have derived from our exposure, and to think we are the cause of their hurt and pain. Today, however, we see real light at the end of a long, grim tunnel with the introduction of the 'Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015.' This legislation, when enacted, will establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service," Rowan said

"VVA is gratified that this is a bipartisan effort in both houses of Congress," Rowan emphasized. "We applaud Senators Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Dick Blumenthal (D-CT), and Representatives Dan Benishek (R-MI) and Mike Honda (D-CA) -- and their energetic and committed staffs -- for introducing S. 901 and H.R. 1769. We will pull out all the stops to work with them in seeking additional co-sponsors for this very necessary legislation. And we will work with our fellow veterans service organizations, military organizations and associations, and others to move these bills through the legislative process and into black-letter law."

"This bill isn't only about the herbicide Agent Orange and other chemicals used in South Vietnam," Rowan pointed out, "It's about exposures to chemical agents for all who have served in our Armed Forces, including those exposed to the toxic fumes released by the U.S. Demolition Operations at the Khamisiyah Pit and those exposed to the toxic fires from burn pits across Afghanistan and Iraq during Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn."

Rowan noted that a key part of this legislation is the establishment of an advisory board that will oversee and assess the work of the center, to determine health conditions in a veteran's offspring that likely result from the veteran's exposure, and to study and evaluate cases of exposure.

Congress on Tuesday approved plans to offer new veteran ID cards to honorably discharged service members, in an effort to more easily prove their military service.

The measure passed through the Senate and House without objection, but took several years to get through Congress. The Obama administration has expressed reservations about the need for the new IDs, but has not threatened to veto the legislation.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., would create official VA cards for all veterans, instead of only those who qualify for certain health care and financial benefits.

Supporters called it a simple move to honor the sacrifice and service of veterans.

"This legislation will assist veterans in proving that they are indeed veterans," said Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif. "The majority of service members leave before retirement ... and are sometimes challenged to provide proof of their honorable service. This is a simple way to resolve this issue."

The cards would not replace medical IDs or official defense retiree IDs for veterans, and could not be used as proof of eligibility for obtaining federal benefits.

But they would serve as easy proof of military service for many veterans who complain they have to carry around copies of their discharge paperwork to get discounts or services at a host of private businesses.

Buchanan argued that practice is at best cumbersome and at worst unsafe, given the personal information included on those official documents.

Veterans requesting the IDs would have to pay a small fee, to be determined by Veterans Affairs officials. That fee would cover the cost of the program.

The measure heads to the White House to be signed into law. No time frame has been established for when the first ID cards might be issued.





## **CHAPTER PICNIC**

**AUGUST 30th 12:00 UNTILL?**

**ARMONK AMERICAN LEGION PAVILION**

**CHAPTER WILL FURNISH HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS,  
CORN, CLAMS AND SODA**

**PLEASE BRING SALADS AND CONDIMENTS**

**THIS PICNIC IS FOR US AND OUR FAMILIES**

**WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY ARE ATTENDING**

**SO CALL OR EMAIL TO LET US KNOW**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DONATE**

**TO OFFSET THE COSTS**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE**

## Mission

To help heal the emotional wounds of military veterans by using the power of the human-animal bond to provide a second chance for shelter animals by rescuing, training and pairing them with America's servicemen and women who could benefit from having a companion animal.



Marshall and Rambo

## How You Can Help

With each veteran-pet match, we provide a Welcome Package of equipment to assist with starting their new life together. We provide the program, including the Welcome Package, at no cost to the veteran.

Please visit our website [www.pets-for-vets.com](http://www.pets-for-vets.com) for ways to help. Pets for Vets, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

*Both the animals and the veterans have been through traumatic events in their lives and together they can help each other heal.*



Alex, Julie and Roxy

## Pets for Vets

Phone: 301.956.3837  
[petsforvetsinc@msn.com](mailto:petsforvetsinc@msn.com)  
[www.pets-for-vets.com](http://www.pets-for-vets.com)



Copyright©2009 Pets for Vets, Inc.

## Pets for Vets

[www.Pets-for-Vets.com](http://www.Pets-for-Vets.com)



Bringing together man's best friend and our returning soldiers; showing them both that we have not forgotten.

Phone: 301.956.3837



## JULY 2015

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

## AUGUST 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <hr/> 30 Chapter Picnic 12:00	24 <hr/> 31	25 pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 5:30 PM	26	27	28	29

SEPTEMBER 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 pizza Party FDR Stress unit 5:30 PM	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				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
_____	26	27 pizza Party FDR Stress unit 5:30 PM	28	29	30	31 Halloween



# ★ MEMBERSHIP ★



WE NEED YOU IN THE VIET-NAM 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.
- ★ 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 VIET-NAM VETERAN / FEE: \$20.00 of 50.00 / Copy of DD 214 is Required
- ☐ I AM A NON-VIETNAM VETERAN AND PLEASE ENROL ME AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF WA / 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.



**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR  
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER  
ADVERTISEMENT**

**PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949**

**EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM**

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR  
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER  
ADVERTISEMENT**

**PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949**

**EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM**

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR  
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER  
ADVERTISEMENT**

**PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949**

**EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM**

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR  
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER  
ADVERTISEMENT**

**PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949**

**EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM**

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR  
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER  
ADVERTISEMENT**

**PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949**

**EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM**

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR  
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER  
ADVERTISEMENT**

**PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949**

**EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM**

**PETE VALANE**

**Bagpiper**  
**For All Occasions**

**914-632-2952**

**Cell 347-596-8042**



**RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE**

**MICHAEL O'CONNOR, GRI**  
Associate Broker

(914) 245-3400 BUSINESS  
(914) 245-8602 FAX  
(914) 528-7279 RESIDENCE

366 UNDERHILL AVENUE  
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598



Independently Owned And Operated By NRT Incorporated.



**The First in Synthetics®**

**John H. Pagliuca**  
Certified Dealer 1423557  
lubedealer.com/johnpag

PH: (914) 402-4239  
C: (914) 714-5037  
johnamsman@aol.com

**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR  
BUSINESS CARD OR OTHER  
ADVERTISEMENT**

**PLEASE CALL: 914-682-4949**

**EMAIL: CHAPTER49@AOL.COM**