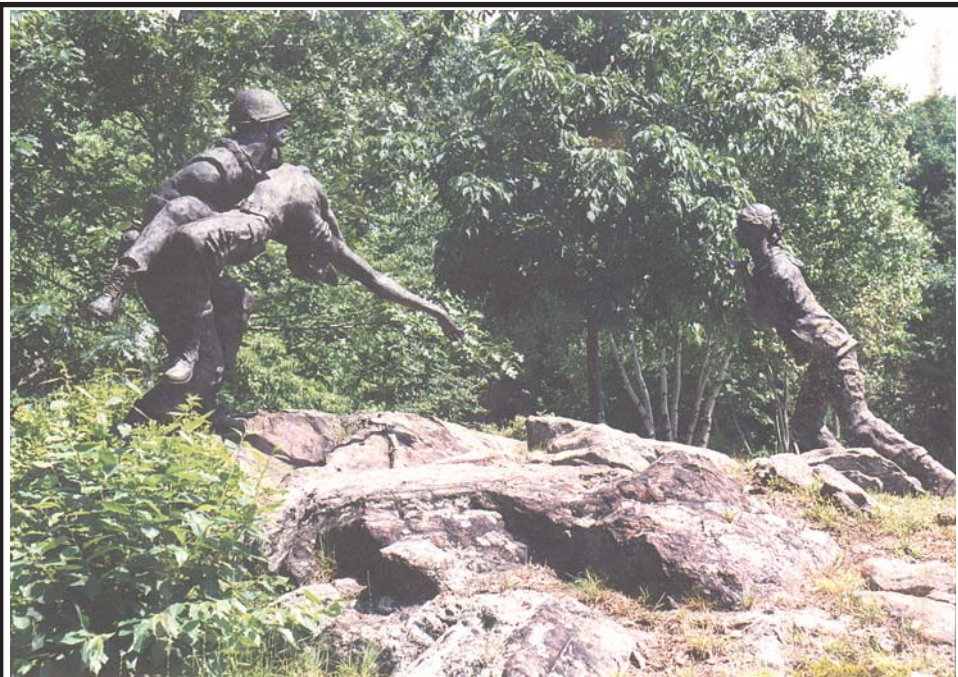


Vietnam Veterans of America



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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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

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.

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PO BOX 224, Pleasantville, New York 10570

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our Brother Chapter member Vito Pinto is retiring from his position of Director of the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency. The new Director is another brother chapter member; Ron Tocci. Vito did a great job and I know that Ron will also. Vito we know that you will continue to be very active in helping veterans.

The April Pizza Party at the PTSD Unit will be sponsored by the Association of the United States Navy. Thanks to Chapter member Matt Coffey who is the Regional President of AUSN...

This coming May as always is a very busy month for us. On May 24th the Westchester County veterans Service Agency will hold our annual Veterans appreciation day. Veterans and active duty military will receive free parking, free admittance, free rides and free food. Our chapter will be selling our hats, shirts, pins etc. We arrive at about 9:00AM to set up. At about 11:45 there will be the ceremonies and the Marines will provide four helicopters that will land at the park, and the Marines will set up a perimeter. Everyone likes this show; kids and adults alike!

At 4:00 we will host a barbeque for the PTSD Stress Unit behind Building 15 at Montrose VA Hospital. After that we will light the "Watch Fire" down at the picnic area.

On the 25th we will march in the Memorial Day parade in Chappaqua; step off is 11:00AM. After the parade we will host our ceremonies in Lasdon Park at 2:00.

Take care of yourself and each other

Dan Griffin

Welcome to our newest members

**Joseph Minisci from White Plains
Paul Kearns from Tuckahoe**



PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2015

No. 15-1

Contact:
Mokie Porter
301-585-4000, Ext. 146
301-996-0901

VA Continues to Deny Justice To C-123 Crews Exposed to Dioxin

(Washington, D.C.)– “It is an outrage that the VA, in effect, is continuing to deny these veterans justice,” said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America. “These VA bureaucrats attempting to delay justice ought to be relieved of their duties so that they can no longer abuse veterans with their tactic of ‘delay, deny, until they die.’ There is no excuse for why these worthy veterans are still not being treated with the appreciation and the respect their service warrants.” Rowan praised Wes Carter, the leader of the C-123 Veterans Association, for his spunk and spirit: “You’ve got to keep on keeping on,” Rowan urged, “and VVA will be at your side to convince the VA hierarchy that to continue to delay justice is to deny justice.”

For over five years, retired Air Force Reserve Major Wes Carter has led the fight of his life: to get the Department of Veterans Affairs to acknowledge that the C-123 Provider military cargo planes which transported Agent Orange to and from Vietnam had, in fact, been contaminated with dioxin. A number of reputable scientists and epidemiologists at federal agencies have gone on record, endorsing Carter’s stance that these craft remained hazardous to the health of the 2,100 crew members, flight nurses, and maintenance workers who serviced them between 1972 and 1982. “Yet the VA, in all its wisdom, maintained that these men and women who had been exposed to Agent Orange ought not be eligible to receive the same healthcare and disability compensation benefits that boots-on-the-ground veterans of Vietnam receive,” Rowan noted.

“VVA has long supported Major Carter in his quest for justice,” Rowan said. “When the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concluded, in a study funded by the VA, that the planes were actively contaminated when Air Force Reservists flew them, we were as pleased as Wes Carter, who exulted, ‘We won!’ The IOM report was released in January 2015, yet Major Carter and those who have been sickened with maladies the VA concedes are associated with exposure to Agent Orange have still not received the justice they deserve. Why? Because a few bad actors in the office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards at the VA continue their attempts to delay justice despite the conclusive report by the IOM.

#

Vietnam Veterans of America Joins in Lawsuit Against VA Secretary for New Claims Policy That Violates Rights of Disabled Vets

(Washington, D.C.)-- "Vietnam Veterans of America has joined four other veterans service organizations as a co-plaintiff to The American Legion et. al. v. McDonald in an effort to stop the implementation of a new rule eliminating most informal VA claims and limiting the types of claims the VA will adjudicate," announced John Rowan, VVA National President. "Informal claims account for approximately half of all claims the VA receives," said Rowan. "The new rule, which went into effect March 25, eradicates the decades-old right of a veteran to write a letter to the VA, seeking a specific VA benefit and having the VA consider that letter as an informal claim. The new rule also prevents the VA from considering claims that are supported by the evidence in the VA record but have not been specifically claimed by the veteran."

The new rule changes, which require claims to be submitted on the VA's standardized forms, will impose barriers for all those without access to those forms, as well as those without the medical and legal knowledge needed to fill them out correctly. "While the VA has promoted this rule change as being more efficient and therefore favorable to the veteran, in fact, this rule change over-formalizes the veterans claims process, making it more adversarial than ever before. We will not stand by silently as our government places further obstacles in front of our injured and disabled veterans and their families, undermining our nation's pledge to care for those who have borne the battle and their families," said Rowan.

Prior to March 25, under the informal VA claims system, any benefits awarded would be paid back to the date that the VA had received a notice from the veteran, signaling his or her intent to file. Under the new rule changes, however, the clock for an effective date for benefits starts only when a veteran files the standardized VA paperwork. The suit, which seeks to have the Department of Veterans Affairs' new rule declared unlawful by the courts, was filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals on March 20 and was entered into the court's docket on March 26. The other co-plaintiffs in the lawsuit are the American Legion, AMVETS, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the National Veterans Legal Services Program.

Vietnam Veterans of America (www.vva.org) 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."

*Westchester County Executive
Robert P. Astorino
invites*

Westchester Veterans to

**Veterans Appreciation Day
and
Memorial Tribute Ceremony
At Playland Park**

Sunday, May 24 11:45 a.m. - 4p.m.

Program Includes:

**Park opens with entrance of Emerald Society Pipe and Drum
Band**

**Memorial Day Tribute Ceremony
Barbeque**

**U.S. Marine Corps Helicopter Demo & Display (weather &
Aircraft Permitting)**

**Pre-registration required to receive free parking
coupon and wrist bands at this event.**

**For more information call Westchester County Veterans
Service Agency
914- 995-2145**



TO THE VIETNAM VETERAN

TO THOSE WHO RETURNED HOME WITH NO ONE TO GREET THEM.

TO THOSE WHO WERE TOLD THAT PTSD WOULD GO AWAY IN TIME.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN TOLD THANK YOU OR OFFICIALLY WELCOMED HOME.

***TO THOSE WHO RETURNED PHYSICALLY BUT STILL ARE HAUNTED BY THE NIGHTMARES OF
WAR.***

TO THOSE WHO REACT TO A BACKFIRE AND BREAK A SWEAT AT THE SOUND OF A CHOPPER.

***TO THOSE WHO HAVE TRAVELED ENDLESSLY AND NEVER LETTING ROOTS TAKE HOLD OR
SETTLE DOWN.***

***TO THOSE WHO HEAR A FAMILIAR SONG THAT TAKES YOU BACK TO A PLACE YOU'D RATHER
FORGET.***

***TO THOSE WHO CAN COUNT THE FRIENDS THEY HAVE ON ONE HAND FOR FEAR OF LOSING
ANOTHER.***

***TO THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE AND ARE STILL FIGHTING THE LAST
BATTLE.***

TO THOSE WHO FOUGHT IN THE STEAMING JUNGLES OF VIETNAM AND ALSO HERE AT HOME.

***TO THOSE WHO HAVE MORE FRIENDS ON THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL THAN THEY DO IN
THIS LIFE.***

***THANK YOU
FROM THE VETERANS OF MODERN WARFARE
CHAPTER 20
WELCOME HOME***

Chapter 49 Scholarship winners 2015

*The Anthony Shine Memorial Scholarship \$700—Kaitlin L. Cardon attended White Plains High School

*The Peter T. McCauley Memorial Scholarship \$700—Carolyn T. Solimine attended Mamaroneck High School

*The Hamilton Fish Memorial Scholarship \$700—Patrick T. Loftus attended North Salem High School

*The William Sudderth Memorial Scholarship \$700—Alexander M. May attended Walter Panas High School

*The Pete Lambert Memorial Scholarship \$700—David B. Gordon attended John Jay High School

*The Jonathan Shine Memorial Scholarship \$700—Maura A. Fallon attended John F. Kennedy Catholic High School

On behalf of the Officers, Board of Directors and Members of Chapter 49 we would like to congratulate these young individuals and wish them all the luck in their educational endeavors.

We would like to offer a special thanks to the Scholarship Committee for all the work they have done.

APRIL 2015

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

MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 meeting Armonk 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Playland Watch Fire 31	25 Parade Chappaqua Lasdon	26	27	28	29	30 Memorial Day

JUNE 2015

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

JULY 2015

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



★ 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 VIET-NAM 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 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.

* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION *

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

- ☐ VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN
- ☐ ASSOCIATE MEMBER

* see note above

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

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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