Vietnam Veterans of America





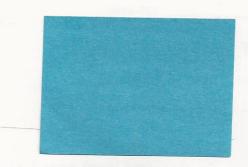
Westchester County Chapter #49

If box is checked your dues are due now.

108028182# BDF#

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





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WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

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

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

Inside this newsletter is a flyer about our Chapter barbeque/picnic that will be held on September 16, please call or e-mail us to let us know how many are attending.

Also inside this newsletter is our Museum schedule, some of the days does not have someone to cover; if you would like to cover one of the days please call or email.

September 21st is National POW/MIA Day.

On September 30th there will be a Gold Star Mothers ceremony at the Dam in Valhalla. It will start at 3:00PM.

We are seeing more members attending meetings and that is great; but I think that now that a lot of our members are retiring, they can now attend our meetings and attend some of our functions. Before each meeting at 6:30 we sit down to a great dinner; meat, potatoes, vegetables, salad and desert, all for \$7.50! So if you plan on attending please call or E-mail me so I can tell Tony how many to cook for. Our meetings are held at the American Legion Hall in Armonk, dinner at 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:30. I hope to see you there!

If you haven't already, check out our web site: vietnamvets49.org Michael Bennett is doing a great job, thank you Michael.

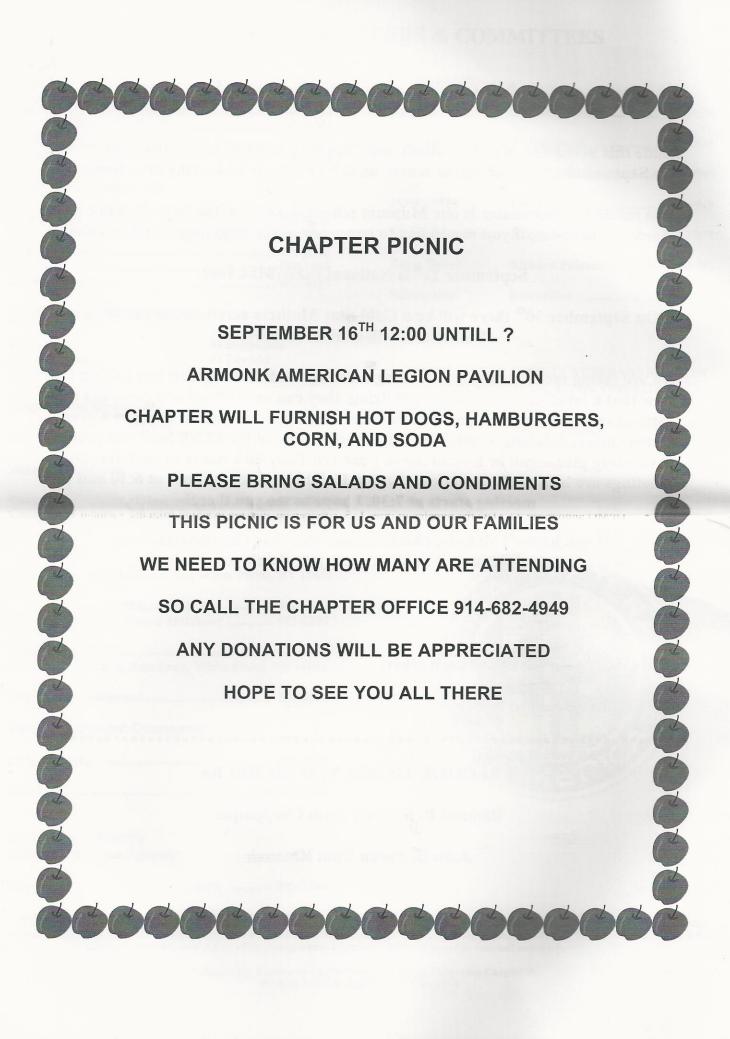
Take	care	of	yourselves	and	each	other
			Journey	SETT OF	Cucii	ounci.

Dan Griffin

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Richard B. Romney from Chappaqua

John D. Foran from Katonah



POW/MIA Update 26: "Keeping the Promise", "Fulfill their Trust" and "No one left behind" are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation. More than 83,000 Americans are missing from World War II (73,000+), the Korean War (7,900+), the Cold War (126), the Vietnam War (1,666), 1991 Gulf War (0), and OEF/OIF (6). Hundreds of Defense Department men and women -- both military and civilian -- work in organizations around the world as part of DoD's personnel recovery and personnel accounting communities. They are all dedicated to the single mission of finding and bringing our missing personnel home. For a listing of all personnel accounted for since 2007 refer to http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/accounted_for. For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) web site at http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo or call (703) 699-1420. The remains of the following MIA/POW's have been recovered, identified, and scheduled for burial since the publication of the last RAO Bulletin:

Vietnam

- The National League of POW/MIA families reported 16 AUG the identification of SGT John R. Jones, USA, TX, listed as MIA in South Vietnam on June 4, 1971. SGT Jones remains were recovered on September 8, 2011 and identified July 23, 2012. Recently announced is Lt Col Clarence Finley "Bill" Blanton, USAF, listed as KIA/BNR in Laos on March 11, 1968 when the TACAN radar installation (Lima Site 85) on top a mountain in Houaphan Province was overrun by Vietnamese forces. His remains were recovered January 18, 2008 and identified July 12, 2012. The identification of PFC James Rickey Maxwell, USMC and PFC Richard William Rivenburgh, USMC, was posted on DPMO's website on July 20th. PFC Maxwell and PFC Rivenburgh were killed on May 15, 1975 during an attempted rescue of the SS Mayaguez crew when their HH53 helicopter crashed near Koh Tang, Cambodia. Their remains were recovered December 6, 1995 and identified January 23, 2012.
 - DPMO announced 27 AUG the remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing in action-from the Vietnam War, were recently identified and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors. Army Sgt. 1st Class William T. Brown, 24, of La Habra, Calif., Sgt. 1st Class Donald M. Shue, 20, of Kannapolis, N.C., and Sgt. 1st Class Gunther H. Wald, 25, of Palisades Park, N.J., will be buried as a group on Aug. 30, in a single casket representing the three soldiers, in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. Brown and Shue were each individually buried on Sept. 26, 2011, at Arlington and May 1 in Kannapolis, N.C. On Nov. 3, 1969, the men and six Vietnamese soldiers were part of a Special Forces reconnaissance patrol operating in Quang Tri Province, near the Vietnam-Laos border. The patrol was ambushed by enemy forces and all three Americans were wounded. Brown was reported to have suffered a gunshot wound to his side. Due to heavy enemy presence and poor weather conditions the search-andrescue team was not able to reach the site until eight days later. At that time, they found military equipment belonging to Shue, but no other signs of the men. Between 1993 and 2010, joint U.S./Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), conducted multiple interviews on nine different occasions in Quang Tri Province. Additionally, the S.R.V. unilaterally investigated this case, but was unable to develop new leads. Among those interviewed by the joint teams were former Vietnamese militiamen who claimed in 1969 they ambushed three Americans in the area near the Laos-Vietnam border. In 2007, a Vietnamese citizen led investigators to human remains that he had discovered and buried near the site of the ambush. In 2008, a military identification tag for Brown was turned over to the U.S. Government from a U.S. citizen with ties to Vietnam. Finally, in April 2010, joint teams excavated a hilltop area near Huong Lap Village, recovering additional human remains, and military equipment, another military identification tag for Brown, and a "Zippo" lighter bearing the name "Donald M. Shue" and the date "1969." Scientists from the JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial and material evidence, along with mitochondrial DNA—which matched that of some of the soldiers' family members—in the identification of the remains.



WESTCHESTER MILITARY MUSEUM



At Westchester County's Lasdon Park

DOCENT COVERAGE CHART

Date	Docent	Remarks
June 3	Mike B.	
June 10	Dan G.	
June 17	Dan G.	
June 24	Bob M.	Alway to segmed become
July 1	Mike B.	
July 8	Dan G.	Public Program Mike B.
July 15	Dan G.	
July 22	Barney P.	
July 29	Dan G.	
August 5	Barney P.	
August 12	Mike B.	Public Program Al Z.
August 19	Dan G.	
August 26	Dan G.	
September 2	Dan G.	a kalendari da garasani
September 9	?	Public Program Dan G.
September 16	Mike B.	Chapter Picnic
September 23	Mike B.	
September 30	Dan G.	and the walkership
October 7	Barney P.	
October 14	?	Public Program Guest
October 21	?	
October 28	?	
November 4	?	Public Program Guest
November 11	?	

LASDON PARK ♦ ROUTE 35 ♦ KATONAH, NY

info@westchestermilitarymuseum.org www.westchestermilitarymuseum.org VA Burial Benefit Update 15: Many veterans are under the impression that their status as a veteran means that the government will pay for their burial. This is not true and it can cause great financial hardship for families who don't understand it at a time when they are least prepared to deal with it. It is very important that veterans have their discharge papers located in a secure place known to their next of kin. Eligibility for potential burial benefits depends on these documents, and they cannot always be obtained quickly from government sources. To be eligible for burial benefits, a veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Certain other factors including time period and length of service may apply, so the family should contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000 for final determination of eligibility. Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of VA's 131 national cemeteries, as well as in state- owned- and- operated veterans' cemeteries.

For veterans interred at a national or state veterans' cemetery, the opening and closing of the grave and perpetual care are provided at no cost. If buried at a private cemetery, the family must pay these costs, as well as the cost of the plot and any related expenses. The VA will provide a burial flag, a government marker, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, regardless of where the veteran is buried. If burial is to take place in a national or state veterans' cemetery, the cemetery will make the arrangements for the interment only. Neither the cemetery nor the VA makes funeral arrangements or performs cremations. It is the responsibility of the veteran's family to make arrangements for funeral services with a funeral home, including memorial services, viewings, preparing and transporting the remains, the casket, etc. Any items or services obtained from a funeral home will be at the families' expense, including the plot and grave provisions if the veteran is not buried in a national or state cemetery. The VA does not pay for any expenses related to a veteran's burial or funeral.

Certain survivors may apply for a monetary burial allowance paid after-the-fact by the VA, but generally only if the veteran was in receipt of VA disability compensation or pension at the time of death, or if the veteran died while hospitalized by VA or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility. The amount payable depends on whether the veteran's death was related to a military service-connected disability, with the payments ranging from \$300 to \$2,000. There are other factors that can affect potential eligibility for this benefit, so veterans or their families should contact the VA at the 800 number above or your county veterans service officer for more information prior to actually needing the information. [Source: TREA News for the Enlisted article 17 Aug 2012

VA Tinnitus Care Update 04: Ex-soldiers suffering from tinnitus related to their military service will have access to a nonsurgical, nonpharmacological treatment that uses low-level tones to relieve the often debilitating condition. The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded a contract to SoundCure of San Jose, Calif., to provide its Serenade device to VA centers and clinics, the firm said. The FDA-cleared product is a handheld device that emits so-called S tones along narrow- and broad-band auditory stimuli that react with the auditory cortex to suppress tinnitus generation, according to the company. Patients perceive sounds from the device as softer than the tinnitus, yet they may completely eliminate perception of the tinnitus. The device's sound patterns are customized for each patients based on a clinical evaluation of their normal hearing as well as their tinnitus. [Source: MedPage Today John Gever Clinical Notes 26 Aug 2012 ++]

Vet Charity Watch 27: If a charity is unfamiliar to you, it's wise to do some checking first. If you, as a service member, veteran, or family member or veteran, suspect wrongdoing by a charity, you should contact your state attorney general's office. If you believe you haven't been treated fairly by a charity, you can file a online complaint with the BBB Wise Giving Alliance at www.bbb.org/us/charity or write BBB Wise Giving Alliance, 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22203. Be as specific as possible. If you want to donate money to help your fellow veterans or current servicemembers, a good rule of thumb to go by is to donate to organizations that you know are legitimate and well-established. The VA has published a Directory of Veterans Service Organizations, which you can access by logging onto wwwl.va.gov/vso. To check on how efficiently a charity is using the money you donate the charity Navigator site at http://www.charitynavigator.org provides information on large charitable organizations that take in at least \$500,000 per year and have existed for a minimum of five years.

To date the below charities alleging veteran support have been reported in the RAO Bulletin as being questionable for one or more of the following reasons: Holding massive asset reserves (*); Engaging in fraudulent fundraising (**); Using misleading sales practices (#); Spending an inordinate amount of donations on fund raising and administrative costs vice veteran support (+); Spending donations for non-veteran support purposes (++); Using nonveterans portraying themselves to be veterans in soliciting funds (##); or not providing proper documentation to verify they provide veteran support or how they spend their income.(!).

Action Point, LLC (#)

Aid to Southeast Asia (#)

Air Force Aid Society (*)

American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation (+)

American Veterans Coalition

American Veterans Relief Foundation (+)

AMVETS National Service Foundation and the Freedom Alliance (+)

Army Emergency Relief (*)

Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (+)

Disabled Veterans National Foundation (+)

Foundation for American Veterans (+)

Freedom Alliance (+)

Help Hospitalized Veterans (**)

Military Family Support Foundation (++)

Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation (+)

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (*)

Oregon War Veterans Association (++)

U.S. Fallen Heroes Foundation (!)

U.S. Navy Veterans Association (+)

Veterans Charitable Foundation (+)

Veterans in Need Foundation (##)

Veteran's Miracle Network (++)

Veterans of Oregon (+)

Veterans Support Organization (##) this one has solicited in our area!

Vietnow (+)

[Source: Various Aug 2012 ++]

West Nile Disease: This summer's West Nile virus (WNV) outbreak is on track to be the biggest since the disease first reached the United States in 1999. So far this year, 1,118 people have been infected – and 41 of them have died, according to the latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The agency has never before seen that many infections in people as of this time of year. WNV is a relatively new infectious disease. It's not considered to be contagious: the virus isn't transmitted from person to person like the common cold – only by the bite of an infected mosquito. Most of this year's cases are in Texas, with Mississippi, Louisiana, South Dakota, and Oklahoma coming in second place. To find out if any of this year's cases or deaths occurred in your state or check its progress as time passes check out the CDC's infection map and table at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/Mapsactivity/surv&control12MapsAnybyState.htm

The microbe, or micro-organism, that causes this particular infection belongs to a group of disease-causing viruses called flaviviruses, which usually spread by tics or mosquitoes, say the National Institutes of Health. West Nile virus in particular is usually spread by mosquitoes that feed on the blood of infected people or birds. Other diseases caused by flaviviruses include yellow fever and dengue fever. The good news is that most people who get West Nile virus have no symptoms, although the disease can be serious if it reaches your brain. Certain populations, like people over 50 and those with weakened immune systems, are at a greater risk. According to the Mayo Clinic, most people with West Nile virus have no symptoms, and about 20 percent experience only mild symptoms (like a fever, headache, body ache, and fatigue) that go away on their own. But for about 1 percent of people, the virus crosses the blood-brain barrier, causing a serious neurological infection that affects the brain and spinal cord. Serious symptoms (like severe headaches, a stiff neck, and an altered mental state) merit urgent medical attention. There is no vaccine to prevent WNV, but it's easy to protect yourself...

- Flush out mosquitoes. They usually lay their eggs on standing water, so walk around the outside of your entire home looking for any places where water has collected or could collect: planters, saucers, buckets, garbage cans, gutters, tire swings, kiddie pools. Empty them out and, if possible, drill a hole in the bottom of them so they automatically drain before water can accumulate. (For kiddie pools, store them standing up on their side when they're not in use.) Then repeat this process weekly.
- Screen your home. Make sure all your windows have a screen and that the screen doesn't have any gaps or
 holes that a mosquito could fit through.
- Suit up. Wear pants and long-sleeve shirts outside when possible.
- **Protect your skin.** Spray exposed skin and clothing (to stop mosquitoes from biting through clothing) with a bug repellant that contains an active ingredient that's registered with the EPA, which basically means it's safe and effective when applied according to the directions. Check out the EPA's bug repellant search tool for more help.
- Avoid twilight. Mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn, so consider staying indoors during those times or be extra careful if you go outside.
- Report dead birds to authorities. Informing your local health department helps the experts who monitor the spread of West Nile virus, which has been seen in more than 130 bird species. Just don't handle the dead birds.

[Source: MoneyTalksNews Karla Bowsher article 28 Aug 2012 ++]

SEPTEMBER 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						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 POW/MIA Day	22
30 GoldStar Mothers 3:00 Dam	24	25 pizza party FDR stress Unit 5 PM	26	27	28	29

OCTOBER 2012						
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	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Pizza party FDR Stress Unit 5 PM	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween	- 1 12 A		



☆ MEMBERSHIP





WE NEED YOU IN THE VIET-NAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND FFFS

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.

ANNUA	L MEMB	ERSHIP:
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- 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:

CI	ID	D	LIT	A	-	г.
CC	JΠ	n	NT	A	U	C:

49 AND UNDER	\$ 25	50.00	-
50 TO 55	\$	225.00	
56 TO 60	.\$	200.00	J
61 TO 65	\$	175.00	- [
66 AND OVER	5	150.00	J

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

*

\cup	I AM A VIET-NAM VETERAN / FEE: \$20.00 of 50.00 / C	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) \$______
- O ADDRESS CHANGE (Indicate Chages Below)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

O VIET-NAM ERA VETERAN

O ASSOCIATE MEMBER

* see note above

ADDRESS: _____ DATE of BIRTH

DATE OF BIRTH

TY: _____ 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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