

VIETNAM VET "GAZETTE"

Issue 148

Together Then Together Now

January 2015



In Service to America

Up-Coming Meetings

BOD Meeting

2nd Wed of the Month

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

3rd Wed of Month

No AVVA Meeting this month

VVA meet @ 7:00 PM

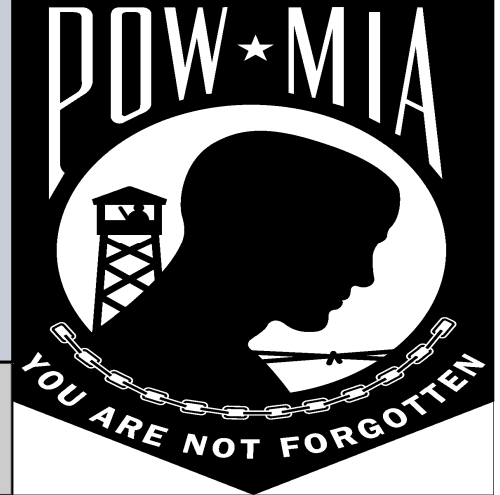
at the

ROCHESTER VFW

Be Sure To See

Important Dates to Remember

Upcoming Events— Page 17



A Memo from Board Member and PASC Officer Jake Barsottini, Msgt, USAF Retired

VVA 862 is one of the most successful and active chapters in the nation. I would say we are also the most active VSO in Southwestern Pennsylvania. That said, we can always improve and do more. We need more participation from our members. Too few do most of the work. We are also getting older which makes our tasks much more difficult. We need to actively recruit young veterans into our AVVA so they can carry on our mission well into the future. With that said, I would like to impart some words of wisdom I have heard or read over the years that apply to our personal lives, business and non-profit organizations as well.

If you want to become more successful as a member of this organization, in your personal life or in your career, you can start by making a habit of talking and thinking more like the people you know or read about who are already successful. We all have various talents that we can use to support the mission of our chapter and the Vietnam Veteran of America.

I must give some of the credit for this article to Entrepreneur Magazine where I took some of these thoughts from as well as my Senior NCO Leadership School.

Here are some phrases you'll never hear a successful person say:

1. "We can't do that."

One thing that makes people and organizations successful is the ability to make solving their problems and demands their main priority. If a need arises repeatedly, the most successful people learn how to solve it as quickly as they can.

2. "I don't know how."

Instead of automatically shutting down solution-finding, successful people learn what they can in order to succeed in a project or in their organization. For example, you would never see a truly successful international business consultant who travels to Italy multiple times per year refusing to learn Italian.

3. "I don't know what that is."

Pleading ignorance doesn't make the problem go away. It just makes the asker find someone who is able to work with them to solve the problem. While it's always good to be honest with those you interact with, finishing this phrase with "but I'll find out" is a surefire way to become more successful.

Memo (cont on Page 5)

Chapter 862 Officers & Committees
(All 724 Area Codes unless noted)

Executive Board

L. Skip Haswell...President.....495-9612
 Bill Laughner... Exec VP.....601-3597
 Rich Kamzelski ...1st VP.....494-5752
 Cliff Hawes.....2nd VP728-5065
 Lee Corfield.....Secretary775-3027
 Larry Googins.....Treasurer869-7090

Board of Directors

Gary Shaffer1.....643-8941
 Rich Tindell1.....622-0724
 Pete Herman.....1.....712-4324
 Jake Barsottini.....2.....601-7293
 Chuck Inman.....2.....709-7747
 Rich Raich.....2.....412-974-6282
 Michelle Wilcox3.....847-3463
 Don Villella3.....843-7401
 Philip Morris.....3.....643-5725

Delegates

Skip Haswell.....495-9612
 Bill Laughner.....601-3597
 Lee Corfield.....775-3027
 Larry Googins.....869-7090
 Rich Kamzelski.....494-5752
 Philip Morris.....643-5725
 Rich Tindell622-0724
 Chuck Inman.....709-7747
 Terri Carr330-692-1849
 Pete Herman.....712-4324
 Jake Barsottini.....601-7293
 Ray Rapp.....316-6786
 Michelle Wilcox847-3463
 Nick Pavkovich....1st Alt.....847-0592

COMMITTEES

*** Chairman**

Agent Orange

Mike Coligure *.....412-613-1810

Color/Honor Guards

Ray Litzinger*.....378-5855

Community Affairs

Dan Sinclair*.....846-7475

Constitution & By-Laws

William Weiss*.....827-2460

Finance

Larry Googins*869-7090

Homeless Veterans

Bill Porupsky*.....495-7051

Legislative

Bart Farzati*.....777-2193

Membership

Gary Shaffer*.....643-8941

Merchandise

Bill Laughner*601-3597

Minority Affairs

Reuben Fuller*.....378-4990

POW / MIA - Information taken from the

National League of POW/MIA Families

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR:

There are now **1,638** personnel listed by the Department of Defense as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. Unilaterally repatriated by Vietnam in 1989, augmented by joint recovery January 16, 1998, the remains of COL William Earl Cooper, USAF, missing in North Vietnam since April 24, 1966, were identified on December 4, 2014. This again demonstrates that remains repatriated many years ago can be identified using contemporary science that wasn't available in the early years. The number of Americans announced by DoD as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 945. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and ID'd before the end of the war, bring the official total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to 1,008. Of the 1,638 still missing, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,273 (VN-468, VS-805); Laos-306; Cambodia-52; PRC territorial waters-7. Over-water losses on DoD's list of No Further Pursuit cases number well over 600.

ONGOING POW/MIA REORGANIZATION:

In response to growing concerns over direction, a meeting was called on October 31st, during which Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel acknowledged momentum had slowed and confidence in the reorganization had diminished. He responded to our concerns with very specific pledges of support, in the presence of Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth, the senior DoD official directly responsible, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs/Community Relations René Bardorf, PACT staff, five major national veteran organization representatives and the League Chairman, as well as other family and veteran group participants by conference call. The Secretary made the following specific commitments: 1) Failure is not an option; 2) Secrecy will end now, and there will be full transparency; 3) Agreed to name, in consultation with Joint Chiefs Chairman General Martin Dempsey, a senior uniformed military advisor to the USDP; and 4) Expressed full confidence in Under Secretary Wormuth's ability to get the reorganization right.

Due to Secretary Hagel's personal involvement and commitment, there was reason for cautious optimism that the reorganization he directed would prove to be beneficial. Now that he has resigned or been removed, the outcome is uncertain.

POW NEWS (cont on Page 3)

**VVA 862
COMMITTEES (Cont)**

Scholarship

Lon Hogue*846-8857

Sgt of Arms

Roy Barlett*378-0272

Veterans Affairs - Advisor

Kathy Nairn.....770-4450

Veterans Assistance Committee

Bill Laughner*601-3597

Hospital Committee

Lon Hogue*846-8857

Woman Veterans

Michelle Wilcox...*847-3463

Auditing Committee

Bill Winkle*774-2626

Wayne Cumer947-3859

Joe Maverro.....494-1505

Webmaster

Lee Corfield*775-3027

n3ial@comcast.net

Nominating Committee

Lon Hogue*846-8857

Bart Farzati777-2193

Ken Pingatore876-0335

PTSD

Rich McCracken *266-4914

POW / MIA

Phil Morris* 643-5725

^

AVVA 862 - Officers

President..Bobbie Morris...643-5725

V.P. Marji Slawianowski...378-7315

Secretary .Veronica Grant...462-3717

Treasurer .Sue Bridgewater. 643-0731

AVVA BOD

Keith Black.....513-3177

Carl Curtis.....869-0294

Sandy Giordano.....203-4569

**AVVA Membership Chair
&**

Parliamentarian

Veronica Grant.....462-3717

Chaplain

Barb Googins869-7090

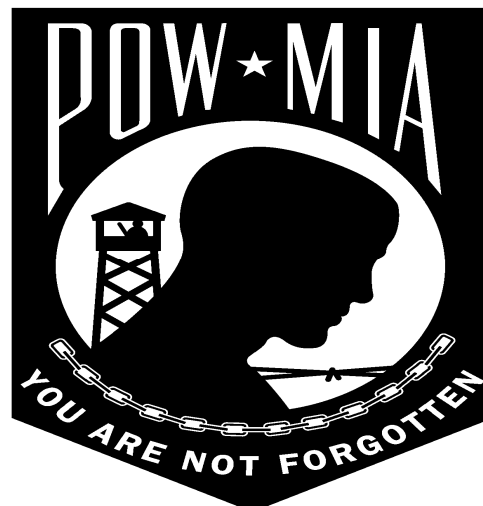
POW News (cont from Page 2)

Success of the ongoing transition effort is now the responsibility of Under Secretary Wormuth, with the PACT transition team coming directly under her purview. Senior Executive Service (SES) civilian Alisa Stack leads the Personnel Accounting Consolidation Taskforce (PACT), aided by Mr. Ross Brown, COL, USA (Ret), and Mr. Scott Schless, both also SES civilians. Their qualifications for this critical task reportedly include expertise in structuring a new agency, determining budget and personnel requirements, interface with other departments and agencies, strategy and integration, and communication.

The “pause” sought by Under Secretary Wormuth to assess how things were progressing has long-since expired, and results were anticipated by December 12th but, to date, no further announcements have been made. All – JPAC, DPMO, LSEL, the families and veterans – are in the dark concerning the mission’s future, post reorganization. The League will publish results as soon as they are made available, hoping at least to soon learn the name of the new agency, the name of the assigned Interim Director and Deputy Director, plus some structural aspects.

There is no question that Secretary Hagel was determined to “get this right” and was not tolerating excuses; however, initial implementation by inexperienced staff showed reluctance to build on existing strengths and look for ways to improve the process. While this seems simple, educated insights from experienced, dedicated professionals are neither being sought nor welcomed by the transition team. We urge Under Secretary Wormuth to proceed thoughtfully.

**Respectfully;
Philip Morris
Chairman POW/MIA**



Minutes from December 17th, 2014 Meeting

Meeting called to order by Exec. V P Bill Laughner @ 7:00 PM with Pledge of Allegiance and an Opening Prayer by Chaplain Don Villella. Attendance was “ 171 ”

Veterans “Sick or In Distress” - None

Guests and/or Prospective New Members - Sherriff George David, Ross Prinkey, Walt Caibano

Roll Call of Officers - 12 - Present 0 - Absent 3 - Excused

Secretary’s Report: Minutes: (a) were accepted as printed in the recent Newsletter. (b) Lee spoke about the Center at the Mall being a consideration for printing out your newsletters. 15 cents for 2 sides. Example: 16 pages would only be 8 pages which would cost \$1.20. © Lee spoke about the Website and how some have said it crashes on them. Lee had a print out for the fix for anyone who wants to take it home with them, or you can email Lee and he will send it to you.

Treasurer’s Report: was read by Treasurer Larry Googins to be accepted as read, pending audit.

Few Note: At this time Kaleb Martin (Prior Cadet from Ambridge Jr ROTC) was resented a check for \$1,000 towards his trips he will be making overseas while attending The Citadel. Kaleb gave a complete explanation as to where he will be attending.

Bill spoke about a check we received from a Dan Evans (who has residences in Beaver Falls and North Carolina) to help needy Veterans. Bill then explain how we are going to need more sweaters to add to the on-going Sweater Program that we are involved in from VVA National. .

Motions made by the BOD that need voted on by Membership:

(1) Motion was made by Dave Kane 2nd by Al Whitehill to donate \$1,500.00 to the ongoing LIFE TIME Membership Drive now in Progress. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports:

Agent Orange - Mike Coligure gave an update on what all his committee has been up to.

Legislative - Bart Farzati gave his report. He also has the updated list of the 2015 rates. He also said that we need more Mentors for the Veterans Court. We also need more Van drivers for the DAV vans

Support the Troops Rally. - Dave Kane said it will be held next June. We will need help.

Membership - Gary Shaffer reported that we have over 700 VVA members with LIFE 476. Drawing was held for the Free Life Membership. Lon Hogue won it. He is already a Life Member. He gave it to Gary to give it some someone else.

Festival of Trees - Chuck Inman mentioned that we came in 2nd Place in the contest.

Honor Guard - Rich Raich gave an updated report on what all our Honor Guard has been working on.

Tet Tickets—Bill spoke about the Tickets for the Tale. Cost will be \$25.00 each or \$250.00 per table

Christmas Tree at our Memorial - Frank Petz gave all the details on the times and invited our members to come down.

AVVA - Bobbie Morris gave the report on what the AVVA is up to 144 with 51 Life Members. They will be visiting the Veterans at the Beaver Valley Nursing Home on December 19th. She welcomed back Keith Black who just returned from Afghanistan. Tet Raffle tickets are ready. Come up and pick them up. 50/50 was won by Gary Scheib who donated it back to the AVVA.

Good of the Order - Presentation of Plaque to Sherriff David - Bill Laughner read what was inscribed on the Plaque. Phil Morris chair of the POW Ride Committee, presented him with the plaque. Under much controversy, he has supported us for the past several years with the escort of our POW Ride every year. Bill also spoke about the distribution of sweaters. Phil Morris thanked Frank Petz for taking over the Christmas tree vigil and invited everyone to stop down if you have never done it before.

Closing Prayer by Don Villella and Adjournment @ 7:55 PM

Lee Corfield - VVA 862 Sec

Memo (cont from Page 1)

4. "I did everything on my own."

The best people know to surround themselves with others who are smart, savvy and as dedicated as they are. What makes this work is always giving credit where it's due, as due credit to you will always come back in hand. Recognize those that have helped you or made an impact and you'll continue to earn success and recognition yourself.

Related: [The SEAL Teams Don't Accept These 10 Phrases, and Neither Should You](#)

5. "That's too early."

You would never hear Benjamin Franklin or someone such as Steve Jobs say, "that is too early for me to be there." If there is a networking meeting, project launch or interview opportunity at the very beginning of the day, the most successful people do what it takes to be there. Part of being successful is being at the right place at the right time, no matter if you're a morning bird or night owl.

6. "That's too late."

Along the same lines, if you're asked to a 9 p.m. event by the organization, and you can make it, definitely go. You may be tired the next day, but the connections you will make during a event or after-hours meeting can make all the difference when it comes to the success of our organization or next project.

7. "It's too bad we couldn't work together."

Truly hitting it off with someone can be a rare occurrence, but if you truly connect with someone and want to work with them, find a way to make it work. Finding people that you really enjoy communicating with doesn't come along too often, so whether it's a case study or a new project successful people know that working with those who truly align with your personality and interests are the path to true success.

8. "Let's catch up sometime."

Many times, this phrase is said as filler, without any true follow up. Successful people know that if they really want to catch up with someone, they follow up to make it happen. This also builds on the idea that the most successful people have worked hard to build genuine connections and relationships within their network, without any hidden agenda. Nurturing your network means being thoughtful of others, while keeping your relationships with them on top of your mind.

9. "I'm sorry, I'm too busy."

If an opportunity comes their way, successful people do what it takes to make it happen. Sure, this might mean longer hours occasionally, but if you want something to work, that is what it takes. After all, according to Lao-Tzu: "Time is a created thing. To say 'I don't have time,' is like saying, 'I don't want to.'"

10. "That was all my idea."

Again, as mentioned in number four, the most successful people spread the wealth when it comes to doling out praise from a successful project. No idea is truly one's own -- it's a sum of their experiences from interacting and building off of collaborative ideas with a team. Doling out praise and encouragement is a crucial part of building a successful organization or company and culture.

11. "I'm not good enough."

Part of being successful is having a high sense of self-worth. Being yourself is one trait that promises success in this organization and your personal life. Follow your true interests. What you would do in your life if you didn't need money?

Memo (cont on Page 6)

Memo (cont from Page 5)

12. "It's OK." (over and over)

Successful people know when to walk away and stop taking excuses from others. If there is a bottleneck and something (or someone) is preventing you from completing a project on time, build up our organization or move you forward in your goals, then it's time to set boundaries and decide to limit your involvement.

13. "If our competitors don't have it, then we don't need it."

Copying competitors is one of the many possible deaths for most organizations. True innovation comes from the flip side: figuring out what competitors *aren't* doing and fill that niche to answer a need in the industry.

14. "Time off is for suckers."

True success should be seen as a well-rounded approach, one with vacations, weekends with friends and family and hours of downtime on the weekdays. While workload varies for everyone at times, taking time off and spending it with family and friends will make you better as a member and a better person overall

Sweater Distribution at Beaver Valley Rehab



Children's Museum of Pittsburgh Project

As many of you know our Chapter 862 was contacted by Quentin Butcher who is the Business Director for the National Vietnam Veterans of America office in Silver Spring , Maryland to participate in The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh annual sweater drive which was started in 2000 . He asked us to distribute sweaters to homeless and needy veterans .

I'm happy to report our Chapter distributed over 290 sweaters to Veterans and bought gifts for another 30 Veterans . I want to "THANK" all of our members who responded to our call for help . There were over 125 man hours donated by both AVVA and VVA members to this great project .

We distributed sweaters to Veterans at the following Veterans Homes and Nursing Homes:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Blair Nursing Home | Providence Health Care |
| Elmcroft Nursing Home | Beaver Meadows |
| Rochester Manor | Veterans Place- Pittsburgh |
| Franciscan Manor | Friendship Ridge |
| Beaver Valley Nursing Center | Women's Center |

Gifts were bought for Veterans at Butler Domiciliary , Mechling_Shakley and Villa St Joseph .

As you can see from the above list we covered an extensive area . And again to all of you who helped make this a success put your right hand on your back and give yourself a couple pats as you deserve this for what you have done for others.

Pictures from the Butler Domiciliary delivering gifts & sweaters



AVVA MISSION STATEMENT

To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education.

AVVA VISION STATEMENT

To create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families.

AVVA'S CORE VALUES

As Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, we are passionate about our work and the real life issues facing Veterans and their families. We strive to create a positive impact on our Veterans and their families by making life better. Our achievements are built on a solid foundation of core values that inspire action, integrity, teamwork and outstanding results. Our values form the basis for decision-making and all actions of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – both as individuals and as a Veterans Service Organization.

Commitment

In everything we do as Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, our perspective is based on the view of our members, Veterans and their families, ensuring that we understand their needs and expectations, and can prioritize and problem-solve for their unique

Ethics & Integrity

As a National Veterans Service Organization, we expect all conduct to be rooted in integrity, mutual respect, and civility. We value ethical behavior in our members and leaders at all levels of AVVA. We believe in the dignity and worth of all people, strive to foster an appreciation of and respect for diversity and differences among our leaders, members and peers. **AVVA Core Values (cont on Page 16)**



Sweater & Gift Distribution at Mechling-Shakley Veterans Home



**Associates of Vietnam Veterans Chapter 862
Southwestern, Pa.**

The Best in the Nation

AVVA 862

We just finished up with our 3rd annual Christmas, visiting the Veterans and sweater project with VVA at Beaver Valley Nursing Home Beaver Falls.

The Veterans were happy to see us and the gifts that we brought to them. I have to say that we were Blessed by visiting with them.

A special thanks to Chairperson Marji Slawianowski for organizing our visit and AVVA and VVA for investing your time. I also wanted to say thanks to Sandy Wilder for her donation of quilts and socks for the Veterans for our gift giving.

2014 was a very busy but very rewarding year with many new members and how we were able to reach out into our communities in many areas.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans 862, we are looking forward to 2015 to continue to reach out and giving our support to our Veterans and their families.

Let us all work together and be involved with the events and projects in this upcoming year for the good of our Chapter 862.

Together Always, and Thank you.

**Bobbie Morris
President, AVVA 862**

**Next AVVA 862 - Meeting
January 21st 2015 - 6:00 PM**



Sherriff George David receives his plaque from POW Ride Committee Chair Phil Morris

Please Note:

The views and opinions are solely that of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions or policies of the Vietnam Veterans of America, (National, State or Local).

All articles written by the editor unless otherwise stated.

Submissions will be gladly accepted by the editor

Lee Corfield - Editor VVA 862 Beaver Co., Pa
140 Knob Vue Drive
Freedom, Pa. 15042

We reserve the right to edit submissions as space allows.

Lifetime Membership

Now available for half the cost.

The board has voted to pay half of the lifetime membership. The board has allocated a certain dollar amount to go toward this drive. Once that amount has been reached, the drive will end.

Contact person: Gary Shaffer
724.643.8941 or

bfairforce1963@gmail.com

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**

January

Mary Alice Bernstein.....	Jan 2
James Shumaker	Jan 2
Charles Tarr	Jan 4
Lynwood Alford	Jan 5
Bill Harlow	Jan 5
Michelle Wilcox	Jan 5
Dennis Graham	Jan 6
Rich Tindell	Jan 6
Jerome Szatkowski	Jan 7
John Voycik.....	Jan 8
Dan Nightingale.....	Jan 9
Geraldine Pierce.....	Jan 9
Larry Pearsol.....	Jan 9
Dan Pratt.....	Jan 9
Bob Schmetzer.....	Jan 9
Herb Gruntz	Jan 11
Dave Landsbaugh	Jan 11
Rich Evans.....	Jan 12
Wes Hill.....	Jan 12
Nick Williams.....	Jan 12
Dan Erzen	Jan 13
Mike Hornick.....	Jan 14
Allan Jones.....	Jan 14
Bill Fisch.....	Jan 15
Bill Herstine.....	Jan 15
Jerome Gogolin.....	Jan 15

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO OUR
MEMBERS**

January

James McGeehan.....	Jan 16
Tony Spataro	Jan 16
Mark Buczko	Jan 17
Bob Dunlap	Jan 17
Don McCuean.....	Jan 17
Mike Mikulich.....	Jan 17
Dennis Johnson.....	Jan 17
William Sobona.....	Jan 17
Don Griener.....	Jan 18
Al Cooper	Jan 19
Dave Hendrickson.....	Jan 19
James Huntsman.....	Jan 19
Terry Speerhas.....	Jan 20
Joe Todorowski	Jan 20
Milen Cokrljic	Jan 21
Don Miller	Jan 23
Dennis Curtin	Jan 25
Alex Sebastian.....	Jan 25
Mike Galbraith	Jan 27
Rich Wertz.....	Jan 27
John Krul	Jan 27
Steve Kisio	Jan 30
Bob Eiler	Jan 31
Tracey Escamilla	Jan 31
Rich Kulpa.....	Jan 31

Lee's Tid Bits

Well, a new year has started. 2015 is underway. I hope everyone understands the reason for me posting the letter from Jake Barsottini. I thought it was very well written and to the point. We need more members to step up and get involved. There is nothing that we do that we can't use a little more help. If you are interested in helping out, Please get in touch with one of the Officers. Their phone numbers are listed on page 2 & 3.

An Important Note:

What ever you do, DO NOT answer any strange phone calls that you do not know.

I can now say, I've been hacked

They will call you and say they are from the Microsoft Support Team.

"WRONG"

MICROSOFT "DOES NOT" MAKE "HOUSE CALLS"

Oh Yes!!! They will call and say they are from the Microsoft Support Team and they have noticed that you have several viruses in your computer that need removed immediately. Then if you let them in your computer, they will show you all your viruses, for free, then show you different plans you can buy to fix it for so many years even Lifetime. They have the gift of gab and will convince you to let them into your computer. Then it can take you days and hours to change all your Passwords and everything else you need to do.

Lee

Alex De La Cruz

- I owe Alex a huge apology. He came up to me and said, "You did it again" I said I don't know what you mean. For 3 years in a row I forgot to put Alex's birthday in the Newsletter. **December 19th.** I'm sure it will be in there from now on. Sorry Alex.

*Next VVA 862 Meeting
January 21st - 7:00 PM*

Vietnam Veterans of America



Chapter 862 - Beaver County

16TH ANNUAL
TET PARTY
Saturday, February 21, 2015

The Fez

2312 Brodhead Road - Hopewell Township, PA

Doors open at 5:00 PM—Program starts at 6:00 PM—Dinner follows



Program Features



Memorial Ceremony for Beaver County Veterans Lost in Action
VVA Chapter 862 Color Guard, 21 Gun Salute and Taps



Tickets only \$25 - Tables of 10 may be reserved for \$250

*Price includes Buffet Dinner, Draft Beer, Soft Drinks, Coffee & Dessert * Cash Bar available*


Music & Dancing by **Rudy Zetz**

Call for Tickets NOW: **724-843-6828** (tickets sell out early)

To order tickets by mail, send check with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:
VVA Chapter 862, 119 Jonathan Drive, Darlington PA 16115



Poem Found at our Christmas Tree



*It's Christmas Eve
I feel like Hell
I hope my friends
Are doing well*

*Many Years ago
While overseas
I had to spend
Two Christmas Eves*

*It bothered me
To be over there
It bothered me
That no one cared*

*We were kids
Who knew no strife
Some of those kids
They lost their life*

*They gave their life
Like many would
Their life I'd save
If I could*

*It's Christmas Eve
I feel like Hell
I hope those friends
Are doing well*

Dennis "Crow" Grant

VVA CHAPTER 862 IS ACCEPTING ORDERS for memorial walkway bricks to be placed at the Vietnam Memorial in Beaver. You may honor Veterans of the armed services, loved ones and friends (*both living and deceased*) with an "In Memory of" brick. You may also want to honor your American Legion post, your Veterans of Foreign Wars post and/or all Veterans Service Organizations. Orders are accepted year round, with placement every spring and fall. Engraving is donated by Rome Monument in honor of county veterans.

Brick Walkway Order Form

Please PRINT all information clearly in BLUE or BLACK ink only.

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

contact telephone number: _____

2 Sizes Available (*check one*) Checks payable to: **VVA CHAPTER 862**

8" x 4" **\$75**
 3 lines,
 13 characters*

8" x 8" **\$200**
 6 lines,
 13 characters*

* includes punctuation and spaces

Mail completed forms to:
William Laughner
119 Jonathan Drive
Darlington, PA 16115

Sweater Distribution @ "Rochester Manor"



Letter written to Chuck Hagel



American Veterans



Disabled American Veterans

Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

Marine Corps League

National League
of POW/MIA FamiliesVeterans of Foreign Wars
of the United StatesVietnam Veterans
of America

December 11, 2014

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

When we last met on October 31, 2014, we voiced three primary concerns regarding the ongoing reorganization of the POW/MIA accounting community: the lack of transparency, the absence of senior military involvement in the process, and our belief that a military veteran should be named the Interim and Permanent Director of the new agency.

After you departed the meeting, the new Under Secretary for Policy said she would need two weeks to review the situation, and then would get back to us about our concerns. Now six weeks later, we are still waiting. Meanwhile, the DOD-only working groups and those on the groups continue to remain cloaked in secrecy. The only non-secret is how employee morale continues to plummet throughout the experienced workforce of DPMO, JPAC and elsewhere due to the total disregard of their opinions by the current PACT leadership.

Mr. Secretary, we write this letter out of total frustration, and are now considering withdrawing our support for reorganizing the POW/MIA accounting community. We have the highest respect for you and your commitment to the mission, but we truly believe those below you do not share that same level of commitment — not for the missing, the fallen or for their families.

We ask you to instruct the Under Secretary for Policy to make this process open and transparent, and for her to meet on a regular basis with us and others involved in this mission. We also urge you to appoint a senior military leader to be involved in the daily process, and to appoint a veteran as the Interim and Permanent Director of the new agency.

We are available to meet with you and discuss in detail the concerns we have mentioned above, as well as other concerns about the workings of the PACT. We all want this reorganization to be successful and the mission strengthened, but excluding dedicated rank-and-file employees from the conversation, as well as MIA family and veterans' organizations, is a recipe for failure.

Respectfully,

STEWART M. HICKEY
National Executive Director
American Veterans

HERB ROSENBLEETH
Executive Director
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

ANN MILLS-GRIFFITHS
Chairman of the Board
National League of POW/MIA Families

RICHARD F. WEIDMAN
Executive Director
Vietnam Veterans of America

GARRY J. AUGUSTINE
Executive Director
Disabled American Veterans

MICHAEL A. BLUM
National Executive Director
Marine Corps League

ROBERT E. WALLACE
Executive Director
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

What went on 50 years ago, in Vietnam this month.

January 1 – The South Vietnamese security forces, including regulars, part-time militia, Montagnard irregulars, and National Police totaled 567,246 personnel. U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam numbered 23,310

January 2 – Vietcong forces mount a series of attacks across South Vietnam. They briefly seize control of Binh Gia, a village only 40 miles from Saigon. Two hundred South Vietnamese troops are killed near Binh Gia, along with five American advisors.

January 6 – The U.S. Ambassador in South Vietnam General Maxwell Taylor opposed the introduction of ground troops to help fight the Vietcong, endorsing instead a policy of graduated air attacks against the Ho Chi Minh trail, the supply line for the Vietcong and North Vietnam.

January 8 – The South Korean Government sends 2,000 military advisors to South Vietnam in order to assist U.S. military personnel in training the South Vietnamese Armed Forces.

January 13 – The U.S. Defense Department acknowledges that two U.S. Air Force jets have been shot down over Laos by Pathet Lao forces.

January 27 – Premier Huong is ousted by the S. Vietnamese military. The Armed Military Council establishes General Khanh as de facto head of state. In response to the coup, President Johnson sent a telegram to Ambassador Taylor saying “the U.S. will spare no effort and no sacrifice in doing its full part to turn back the Communists in Vietnam.”

January 28 – General Khanh places a civilian, Nguyen Xuen Oanh, as premier, but General Khanh will remain the “power behind the throne”.

The U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group was the precursor to MACV in Vietnam.

The U.S. Military Assistance Command,

Vietnam (MACV) was the U.S. unified command structure for all of its military forces in Vietnam.

AVVA News (cont from Page 8)

- We are committed to a teamwork environment where every Associate is a valued member, treated with respect, encouraged to contribute, and recognized and rewarded for his/her efforts.

Everyone at AVVA is responsible for considering the ethical implications of each decision or action, and is urged to challenge assumptions, raise alternatives and seek out diversity.

Relevance

Our expertise and progressive, proactive atmosphere yield a powerful combination that continuously sets us apart. It is an approach that translates into timely decisions and executions, a constant quest for solutions, rapid responses to the media on issues facing Veterans and their families, legislative advocacy on all bills pertinent to the wellbeing of Veterans and their families and any issue that may make a tangible difference in the world around us for the better.

We anticipate opportunities and challenges, and are quick to confront complex or ambiguous situations. While we work with a sense of urgency, we always consider the impact of our actions before we proceed.

Teamwork

We, believe knowledge is power and we support our Members' right to access information that impacts their roles as Veteran advocates. We also recognize everyone's right to be listened to and heard regardless of their point of view.

- AVVA members are a team, loyal to one another, caring for each other both personally and professionally while being supportive of each other's efforts.

- Our system of teamwork inspires people to make their best contributions, provides them with the support they need to be successful, promotes communication and celebrates their shared accomplishments.

We present a unified image, both visually and in behavior, so that we may insure the integrity of the organization while building a recognizable reputation as a service organization.

"TOGETHER THEN"

Calendar of Events for 2015

"TOGETHER NOW"

Jan

Jan 9 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 Midland VFW
 Jan 14 VVA 862 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 Jan 21 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM

February

Feb 11 VVA 862 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 Feb 13 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Feb 18 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Feb 21 "TET Party" - Fez Hopewell - Doors Open @ 5:00 PM

March

Mar 8 Daylight Savings - "Begins"
 Mar 11 VVA 862 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 Mar 13 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Mar 14-15 PASC Meeting - State College - Ramada
 Mar 18 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Mar 28 Maple Syrup Festival Brady's Run Lodge (One Day Only)

April

Apr 9 VVA 862 BOD Meeting -7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 Apr 10 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Apr 13 Golf League Begins @ Stonecrest @ 3:30 PM
 Apr 15 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Apr 16 Golf League Begins @ Fox Run @ 5:30 PM
 Apr 25 Highway Clean up - Rt 18 Meet @ 9:00 AM (Rink)

May

May 2 VVA 862 Banquet - Rochester VFW
 May 2 Rain date for Highway Clean Up
 May 7 Vietnam Veterans Day in Pa
 May 8 VVA 862 Honor Guard Pract 6:00 PM Midland VFW Park
 May 13 VVA 862 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 May WWII Bus Trip Contact Jerry Fisher 724-709-3614
 May 20 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM
 May 21 Flags on Graves - Sylvania Hills
 May 26 Memorial Day - Parade - Beaver

June

June 11 VVA 862 BOD Meeting -7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 June 12 VVA 862 Honor Guard Pract 6:00 PM Midland VFW Park
 June 14 US Army Birthday 1775
 June 15 "Father's Day"
 June 14 "Support the Troops Rally @ 5:00 PM Beaver
 June 17 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM
 June 27 - 28 PASC Meeting - State College @ Ramada

July

July 4 4th of July Parade - Midland, Pa.
 July 8 VVA 862 BOD Meeting -7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 July 10 VVA 862 Honor Guard Pract 6:00 PM Midland VFW Park
 July 15 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM
 July 21 - 25 VVA Nat Convention - Springfield Il.

August

Aug 4 U S Coast Guard Birthday
 Aug 12 VVA BOD Meeting 5:00 PM VVA 862 Meeting 7:00 PM
 Aug 14 VVA 862 Honor Guard Pract 6:00 PM Midland VFW Park
 Aug 14 - 16 Beaver River Regatta (Opening Ceremony 6:00 PM)
 Aug 19 VVA 862 Picnic - Industry Park
 Aug 25 - 29 "Hookstown Fair" VVA Booth
 Aug 29 VVA 862 "Duck Race" @ Fair 6:00 PM

Sept

Sept 5 5th Annual Blaine Allinder "Golf Outing"
 Sept 9 VVA 862 BOD Meeting - 5:00 PM - VVA Meet 7:00 PM
 Sept 11 VVA 862 Honor Guard Pract 6:00 PM Midland VFW Park
 Sept 12 POW / MIA Ride Registration Starts @ 1:00 PM
 Leaves Rochester VFW 4:00 PM
 Sept 16 - 19 33rd Vietnam Vets Reunion - Kokomo In.
 Sept 18 US Air Force Birthday - 1947
 Sept 27 "Gold Star Mothers" Day

Oct

Oct 3 Highway Clean-Up - Rt 18 9:00 AM (Rink)
 Oct 9 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Oct 10 Rain date for Highway Clean Up
 Oct 13 U S Navy Birthday
 Oct 14 VVA 862 BOD Meeting - 7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 Oct 21 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM Rochester VFW
 VVA 862 Meeting -7:00 PM
 Oct 24 - 25 PASC Meeting State College - Ramada

November

Nov 1 Daylight Savings - Ends"
 Nov 3 Election Day "Be Sure to Vote"
 Nov 10 US Marines Birthday
 Nov 11 Veterans Day—Parade - Beaver
 Nov 12 VVA 862 BOD Meeting -7:00 PM Rochester VFW
 Nov 13 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Nov 18 AVVA 862 Meeting - 6:00 PM
 VVA 862 Meeting -7:00 PM
 Nov 25 "Happy Thanksgiving

December

Dec 7 "Pearl Harbor Day" 74 years
 Dec 10 VVA 862 BOD Meeting Rochester VFW 7 PM
 Dec 11 VVA 862 Honor Guard Practice 7:00 PM Midland VFW
 Dec 12 "Wreaths Across America - Gazebo Beaver
 Dec 16 VVA 862 Meeting - 7:00 PM / Party afterwards
 Dec 25 "Merry Christmas"
 Dec 31 "New Year's Eve"

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANY VETERAN WHO SERVED ANYWHERE DURING THE VIETNAM WAR ERA

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Birthday ___/___/___

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

___ I served in the US military (for other than training purposes) between 8/5/64 & 5/7/75

Or

___ I served in the US military in Vietnam between 2/28/61 and 5/7/75

___ DD-214 enclosed (Applications without DD-214 will be processed as Associate Memberships)

___ Renewal Membership Card # _____ New Member: _____

___ I wish to join the (AVVA) - Associates of the Vietnam Veterans of America \$20.00 P/Year

Type:

- ___ **1 Year Individual Member-** \$20.00 ___ **3 Year-** \$50.00
- ___ **Life Member Optional Time Payment \$50 down/ \$25/mth**
- ___ **\$250.00 (Ages 49 and under)**
- ___ **\$225.00 (Ages 50-55)**
- ___ **\$200.00 (Ages 56-60)**
- ___ **\$175.00 (Ages 61-65)**
- ___ **\$150.00 (Ages 66 +)**



Return this form to:

**GARY SHAFFER
VVA CHAPTER 862
709 OHIO AVE
MIDLAND, PA 15059**

