



The Sentinel

Vol. 3 No. 79

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1002 – Wallkill Valley
P.O. box 463, Vernon, NJ 07462 - 973-271-2413

June 2016

Website: www.VVA1002.org

President: John Harrigan

1st Vice President: John Brady

Secretary: Carl Ohlson

2nd Vice President: Walt Hazelman

Chaplin: George Burns

Treasurer: Owen Martin

Sergeant at Arms: Ted Andrews

FROM THE MINEFIELD:

Submitted by John Harrigan

Jennifer Myers from the VA regional Office in Newark and 4 of her claims experts were here at the American Legion in Franklin on June 3rd and held a Claims Clinic and Town Hall Meeting for about 75 Veterans and Veteran Widows and helped them find out more information about their claims and explain a little about how the VA system works. At the end of the Day they had seen about 40 Vets or family members and helped them with their claims and gave them information on what was happening with it. In speaking to some of the people there, they said they were very happy with the way things were done and were glad they came. Jennifer was so impressed with the turnout that she has decided to come back again in October and hold another clinic. So anyone who could not or did not attend this one has another chance to speak to a VA rep face to face and get the information on their claim.

We had about 20 Chapter members marched in the Vernon Memorial Day Parade and received a nice ovation from the crowd. Our next parade is in Sparta on July 4th. The Parade will start at 10am with line up between 9 and 930. We again will have the tractor and wagon for those who cannot march so if you around please come out and support you Chapter by marching or riding in this Parade. This is the last function till the Veterans Parade at the Fairgrounds in November.

Our Chapter and the Cemetery will have a table set up at the Veterans tent at this years' Sussex County Fair and will need people to man it. The Fair is August 5th to the 14th. So please sign up to man the table for a few hours. They are doing something different this year and putting all of the Veterans Groups in a tent next to the

County Building so this way people do not have to look all over for a certain group.

Keep in mind our August meeting will be the Chapter Picnic and it is open to all Members and their families but as always we need a count of people who are coming so we can get enough hamburgers and hot dogs.

That's it for now see you at the Meeting.

John

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Submitted by John Brady

I just wanted to wish all the fathers in our chapter a HAPPY FATHERS DAY. Also to remember many of our fathers who served before us in WWII, Korea and elsewhere preserving the peace and our freedom.

SERVICE OFFICER:

Submitted by Skip Kays

If you want any further information, or have any suggestions you can contact me at 973 459-9392 or at skays1@embarqmail.com.

Donations of used prosthetics / artificial limbs

A man I know builds artificial limbs and prosthetics and he is willing to take any used items as donations. He will provide a receipt for a tax deduction and will re-use the parts that are able to be used. Contact me with any inquiries and I will provide his contact information.

Call Bill Schwing 631 786-7233

Veterans PTSD support group in Newton

The group is peer led-by trained veterans who have experienced post-traumatic stress themselves as a result of their service. Meetings will be held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another!

Participation in the group is free and pre-registration is not required. Any veteran seeking further information about the group can call 973 865-0605.

Vietnamvetradio.com

This is an Internet radio station that I learned about on Facebook. It is put together by vets and plays music from the Vietnam era, roughly from 1962 with our earliest formal involvement till 1975 when Saigon fell.

Connecting with your old friends from the service

I have found that Facebook and certain other social media web sites can be a big help in connecting with your old service mates. Anyone who is online and on FB and those sort of sites do a search to see if there are others from your old units, commands, or just your MOS.

Just go on Facebook or Google, etc. and start doing searches on the name of your command, what you did or where you did it and see what turns up.

You can also set one up on your own and see who gets involved. I am no expert but contact me if you want some help or information.

Supreme Court rules against VA in disabled vets contract dispute

The Department of Veterans Affairs failed to comply with a law aimed at increasing the number of federal contracts awarded to small businesses owned by disabled veterans, a unanimous Supreme Court ruled. The justices sided with Kingdomware Technologies, Inc., a veteran-owned contractor based in Maryland that said it should have been considered to provide services for a VA medical center.

The case is important to veterans groups that claimed the VA was wrongly interpreting bidding requirements in a way that deprived thousands of small companies owned by veterans. Those companies want a slice of the billions of dollars in contracts the VA awards every year. Federal law requires the agency to use a bidding process if two or more disabled veteran-owned companies can offer service at a fair and reasonable price. But the VA argued the "rule of two" does not apply when it buys goods and services from vendors that already have contracts with the agency under a system called the Federal Supply Schedule. Justice Clarence Thomas said the rule applies to all contract determinations.

WOMEN VETERANS:

Submitted by Walt Hazelman

A female spy finally gets the recognition she deserved 70 years ago

By Petula Dvorak June 2



Stephanie Czech Rader finally got what was rightly hers at the Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer on Wednesday, though the recognition came 70 years late.

A 19-piece band gave fanfare, Rader's flag-draped coffin was wheeled past the chapel's stained-glass windows, and the woman who lived to 100 was finally, officially recognized for her dangerous and essential work as a spy at the end of World War II.

Twice she was nominated for the Legion of Merit for her singular intelligence-gathering on Soviet troop movements in Poland. But twice the honor was denied. No one knew why.

"It was because she was a woman, that was part of it," said Michael Golden, Rader's longtime Alexandria neighbor, who didn't know for years that the dog-loving, ukulele-playing senior citizen on his street had been one of only two American spies working in Poland after the war.



In this 1940s photo provided by the OSS Society, U.S. Army Capt. Stephanie Rader poses for a photograph. (Associated press)



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"After I found out, I outed her at her 95th birthday party," Golden said.

[Stephanie Rader, undercover spy in postwar Europe, dies at 100]

Rader, who served as Capt. Stephanie Czech, was born to Polish immigrants and got a full scholarship to Cornell University, where she earned a degree in chemistry. She worked in the cafeteria, and her parents sold their wedding rings to cover her living expenses.

"She was one of the few trailblazing women in the 1930s" in the sciences, said Cornell chemistry professor Barbara Baird.

Though she had excellent grades, there were no jobs for women in this field, Baird said.

After working as a translator, Rader joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps at the start of World War II.

The Office of Strategic Services, an early version of the CIA, recruited her to take advantage of her fluency in Polish. She had the accent, the look and all the mannerisms down solid.

She moved around Poland, tracking troop movements and ferrying sensitive documents. She pretended to be looking for long-lost Polish relatives. She was one of only two operatives in the country, and the only one who was fluent in Polish.

"They gave me a gun, but I never carried a gun," she said in an interview about her service. "What the heck was I gonna do with a dumb gun?"

Charles Pinck, president of the OSS Society, attributed the decades-long refusal to honor Rader to the secrecy surrounding the espionage agency.

"Like many of those who served so heroically in the OSS, she was never properly recognized for her heroism," Pinck said.

When OSS personnel records were declassified in 2008, the OSS Society, which honors members' accomplishments during the war, learned that Rader had been nominated for the Legion of Merit but never received it. So Pinck began his campaign.

He visited her at her Alexandria home and told the society about her. He got her neighbors involved in encouraging her to work with the Army to get the award.

Ken Elder, 80, was friends with Rader and her husband for years, and it blew him away when he learned of her service. She'd retired as a major.

"People in that generation didn't ask for awards or recognition," Elder said. "And I know that as a woman, it wasn't part of the culture for her to ask. It's just the way it was back then."

A few years back, he took her to an OSS event at the Smithsonian Institution. She was quiet, hung back, and didn't brag and tell stories like the others.

"And at the end, they asked everyone who served in the OSS to stand up," Elder said. Rader reluctantly stood up. "All these other guys — most of them were trying to sell books they had written."

The speaker asked everyone standing to describe what they did for the OSS. A string of rather mundane tasks performed by some of the 4,500 men and women of the OSS were ticked off.

When it came to Rader, she said, "I was X-2."

"X-2? I didn't know what that was," Elder said.

As she said that, the whole room gasped. And a grizzled man in a wheelchair slowly lifted himself up to his feet and saluted Rader.

"The crowd went wild," Elder said. "Everyone was asking her to autograph their programs."

Someone asked her whether she knew Julia Child.

"Julia Child was just a clerk," Rader snapped back.

And amid the chaos, Rader grabbed Elder's arm and whispered in his ear, "I've got to get the hell out of here."

Nope, she didn't seek attention or glory.

But Pinck and Elder and others thought it was an important message to have the service of Rader and other women who served their country recognized.

So they got Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.) to help out.

They worked with the Army, and Rader did a historical interview about her time with the OSS. She received a meritorious service award from the society. But that medal? Nothing.

She was 100, and she was growing frail. She died Jan. 21.

It took the Army five more months to decide, but they announced last week that she would get the medal posthumously.

[Deny her 95-year-old grandma burial at Arlington National Cemetery? No way]

This is not a new pattern. The family of Elaine Danforth Harmon lobbied to get her a spot in Arlington Cemetery after an exception allowing female World War II pilots to be buried there was reversed.

Harmon and her fellow Women Airforce Service Pilots risked their lives just like their male counterparts did. They ferried planes, tested repaired aircraft, instructed male pilots and towed targets for air-combat training.

In fact, 38 of them died while serving their country.

It took months of lobbying, interviews and campaigns to get Harmon her place in Arlington.

On Wednesday morning, Rader got the full military honors. The horses, the caisson, the guns, the band.

And amid rows of headstones that said "His Wife" with a woman's name on the back, Stephanie Czech Rader was buried with all the honors and medals she had earned, the exact same number as her husband, a B-17 pilot who died 12 years ago.

At long last, everyone would know she was much, much more than "his wife."

POW/MIA:

Submitted by Bob Gilbert

New Pow-Mia Accounted for Since Last Report.
Just Released as of May 20 to June 16 2016.

Marine From World War II Accounted For (Johnson) May 24, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors..Marine Pfc. James B. Johnson, 19, of Poughkeepsie, New York.



Airman Missing From Vietnam War Accounted For (Bruch)

May 23, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Donald W. Bruch, Jr., 24, of Montclair, New Jersey.



Soldier From World War II Accounted For (Sersha)

May 20, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.Army Pvt. John P. Sersha, 20, of Leoneth, Minnesota.



Soldiers Missing From World War II Accounted For (Keating) May 20, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of two U.S. servicemen, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.Army Pvt. Earl J. Keating, 28, of New Orleans.



The Sentinel

Vol. 3 No. 79

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1002 – Wallkill Valley

Website: www.VVA1002.org

June 2016

Marine From World War II Accounted For (Mathies)

May 20, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Pfc. Elmer L. Mathies, Jr., 21, of Hereford, Texas.



Soldier Missing From Vietnam War Accounted For (Boyer)

June 16, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Sgt. 1st Class Alan L. Boyer, 22, of Chicago.



Marine From World War II Accounted For (Haraldson)

June 15, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Pvt. Palmer S. Haraldson, 31, of Lincoln, Nebraska.



Marine Missing From World War II Accounted For (Prince)

June 10, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Pfc. John F. Prince, 19, of New York.



Soldier From WWII Accounted For (Simmons)

June 10, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, unaccounted for from World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Cpl. George G. Simmons, 25, of Hamilton, Montana.

USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II Accounted For (Hittorff) June 10, 2016 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman from World War II have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Navy Ensign Joseph P. Hittorff, Jr., 25, of Collingswood, New Jersey.

AGENT ORANGE:

Submitted by Owen Martin

House of Lies: Agent Orange and the Government's Policy of Cover-up

- Posted on May 26, 2014
- by [Donnie La Curan](#)
- in [Veteran News](#)

The Department of Veterans Affairs has an image problem. Recently the VA has been vilified because its backlog of cases has grown to mindboggling levels. By July 2013, more than 600,000 veterans had been waiting more than 125 days, some of them for more than two years, to get the help they needed. And while it's no news flash that bureaucratic gears grind slowly (a problem, in this case, exacerbated by long-outdated computer processing systems), Peter Sills says there's a lesser-known reason for the backlog: decades' worth of government refusal to do the right thing.

What's worse, he adds, this line of long-suffering veterans is a shameful testament to the government's unofficial policy on veteran woes: lie, deny, and cover up.

"The long waiting list is actually a good news/bad news kind of thing," says Sills, author of [Toxic War: The Story of Agent Orange \(Vanderbilt University Press, 2014, ISBN: 978-0-8265-1962-7, \\$39.95\)](#). "The good news is that after decades of stalling, the VA is finally granting benefits to Vietnam veterans suffering from ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's disease, and certain types of leukemia, on the grounds that their conditions may have been caused by exposure to military herbicides, such as Agent Orange. This means that hundreds of thousands of Vietnam vets have been added to the rolls and are finally getting the help they deserve.

"The bad news is what came before—and what that says about our government and military," he adds. "For decades, the VA refused to acknowledge that anyone could have been harmed by military herbicides used during the Vietnam War. It willfully ignored any and all evidence of that harm and then conducted its own research to prove these chemicals were safe—research

that was intentionally flawed and that is largely disregarded today."

In *Toxic War*, Sills describes the production and use of Agent Orange and other American poisons used in Vietnam and how the VA and the military, with the help of other federal agencies (including the White House), denied that these chemicals were capable of causing harm.

"It is extremely unfortunate that political expedience has consistently trumped the proper care of our veterans," says Sills. "It isn't just that their health problems have been ignored. The government has actively covered up the truth about what really happened to our troops."

Six Damning Facts About the Agent Orange Cover-up

During the Vietnam War, the government hid the truth about Agent Orange from the world. The U.S. government began planning to use herbicides in Vietnam even before sending any troops to Southeast Asia. The belief that American technology could overwhelm the backward Communist peasants remained strong throughout the war, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

"No one knew whether spraying herbicides violated the Geneva Convention against chemical weapons," says Sills. "But even if these compounds really were legal, the U.S. still assumed that most of the world, even its allies, would be horrified by their use. So it did its best to conceal the program's existence. When shipping herbicides to Vietnam, the U.S. never notified the international agency that was supposed to approve all weapons arriving there. It hid its spray planes from view. For a while, it even tried to pretend that this was a Vietnamese, not an American, operation.

"Later on, when the existence of the herbicide program became too obvious to deny, and when many Vietnamese began claiming that American chemicals were making them sick, the military refused to release any information about these compounds," he adds. "And it wouldn't admit, even though diluted, commercial versions of these same herbicides sometimes caused harm, that they posed any danger in Vietnam."

The dangerous chemicals were sent overseas without any warning labels. The herbicides in Vietnam received their names from the colored stripes placed on their 50-gallon containers (Agents Orange, White, Blue, Purple, and Pink). Sills explains that "these stripes were the only identification the troops in Vietnam ever saw." Originally, the chemicals were to be shipped with the same warning labels as their milder commercial cousins—advising people not to touch or swallow the stuff and to wash it off after any exposure. But without explaining why, the government decided not to use those labels, just the colored stripes.



The Sentinel

Vol. 3 No. 79

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1002 – Wallkill Valley

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“American servicemen were told that these herbicides were completely harmless, so no one took any precautions when handling them,” says Sills. “Some Air Force personnel even ‘spray fought’ with them. The barrels were used as tables, showers, barbecue pits, etc. The Vietnamese stored fuel for their vehicles in them, inadvertently spraying these chemicals all over Vietnam. Essentially, Americans and Vietnamese were unnecessarily exposed to poison so the U.S. could be protected from bad publicity.”

When veterans became sick, the VA ignored their problems. Some soldiers began suffering from odd symptoms while still in Vietnam, but military doctors never considered the possibility that chemical exposure could be responsible. The doctors probably didn’t know any better as they had been told that the herbicides were completely non-toxic.

But after these men and women came home, the VA systematically covered up the truth about military herbicides. When Maude DeVictor, a VA claims administrator, first recognized a bizarre pattern of illness in veterans who remembered being exposed to herbicides, she contacted an Air Force scientist and was given at least some honest information about these chemicals. As soon as she acted on that information, she was transferred.

Toxic War shows how the VA dodged the evidence and manipulated facts to make it appear that these herbicides were harmless. Sills says, “It’s obvious that the agency’s mission was to deny that these chemicals could ever have hurt anyone in Vietnam.”

The government sponsored deliberately bad science to cover up the truth. The federal government, including the VA, the Air Force, and the Centers for Disease Control, conducted many studies on veterans who’d potentially been exposed to herbicides in Vietnam. Almost all of them were terribly done and are now largely discredited. Sills believes this was fraud, not negligence.

“If government scientists had merely done a bad job, then their results would have been all over the place,” notes Sills. “But all those wrong findings pointed in just one direction—that Vietnam vets weren’t harmed by these chemicals. This couldn’t have been a coincidence. And if the research provided any evidence that veterans

might be at risk, they were still publicly described as proving that there was no danger. Also, one study showing increased birth defects in the children of potentially exposed veterans was simply kept secret.”

The Reagan Administration tried to stop legislation designed to help the veterans. During the 1980s, Vietnam veterans began shedding the image of losers and baby killers and gained real political power. Some were even elected to Congress. Those Congressmen began championing and passing laws designed to help people who’d been exposed to military herbicides—or to at least conduct appropriate research to determine who, if anyone, was at risk. The Reagan Administration bitterly fought that legislation. Government officials privately complained that these bills would cost the government too much money; and even worse, the herbicide industry would face claims from civilians who’d been exposed to pretty much the same compounds.

In a hearing in 1988, Senator John Kerry railed against the government’s efforts to dodge responsibility for the damages caused by Agent Orange and other herbicides. He stated, “To those who say, ‘We don’t have enough evidence,’ I would ask—how high does the body count have to go? How many Vietnam veterans have to die before we have ‘enough evidence’ to start admitting the truth and compensating veterans? This Administration’s rhetoric is out of touch with reality. They tell us that Vietnam veterans are ‘national heroes.’ But they continue to turn a deaf ear to Vietnam veterans who need help.”

Toxic War cites internal government memos that prove all this, along with others showing that no research findings were allowed to reach the public unless they were first vetted by the White House.

The government consistently tried to prevent “Agent Orange” veterans from getting the help they’ve needed. Edward Derwinski, who was appointed by George H.W. Bush as the first secretary of the new cabinet-level VA, was also the first agency head to ignore the government’s bad science and acknowledge that Vietnam veterans might have been harmed by military herbicides. But the VA still resisted paying Agent Orange

claims, even after being continually ordered to do so by federal courts.

“This was more than reluctance,” Sills says.

“Whenever the agency lost a round, it would fight the same battle again and again, and keep losing over and over. It didn’t give up until Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki finally agreed to grant benefits to anyone who suffered from diseases that could have been caused by herbicide exposure, according to the best available science. It still amazes me that it took so long to make this happen.”

The Cover-ups Didn’t Stop With Vietnam

Sadly, the government’s unwillingness to accept responsibility wasn’t an aberration. It has also tried to minimize the harm caused by toxins in the Middle East. Any veterans of the wars in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan whose health problems may have been caused by chemical exposure, instead of bombs and bullets, have faced similar resistance.

These troops were exposed to depleted uranium, low levels of chemical weapons, sulfur, chromium, and other toxic chemicals. The VA told many of them that they were psychologically, not physically, ill. (The same thing had happened to Vietnam veterans.) The agency also failed to keep accurate records about who was sick, who’d been treated, or even how many people had actually seen combat. Amputation records, which would seem to be relatively straightforward, were also unreliable. After a while, people who’d lost only a finger or toe weren’t included, perhaps to make the number of amputees seem smaller than they really were. And the research on chemical exposure was, once again, pretty much worthless.

Perhaps worst of all, the government allowed its major outpatient unit for wounded veterans at Walter Reed Hospital to become a shambles. Senator Jon Tester of Montana complained at a January 2008 Congressional hearing, “It is almost as if no one told the VA back in 2004-2005 that there were two wars going on.”

“Fortunately, most of these veterans won’t be forced to wait for decades to get the help they need,” says Sills. “The VA now acknowledges that many troops really were exposed to toxic chemicals. But the quality of that help will depend largely on who runs the VA in the future.

“There is a terrible disconnect between the inevitable demand to support our troops in wartime and how we treat those same troops after they come home,” Sills adds. “The people who are most eager to go to war tend to be the least eager to help soldiers once the war is over. The harm suffered by our veterans offers too much proof that war is more costly and dangerous than anyone is willing to admit, and no one wants to acknowledge this—except for the people who opposed the war in the first place.”

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Submitted by Lou Storms

We will be going to Lyons PTSD Unit for dinner service again on July 12th. Anyone wanting to join us can sign-up on the sheet up front. As Milano's Restaurant here in Vernon has been supplying the food for the past several months at half price, we thought it would be nice to recognize their contribution. We had photos taken with the owner Tony Aniani, myself, Bob Lewis, Carl Ohlson, Norm Seider and Steve Maksymiuk, which was submitted to the New Jersey Herald along with an article mentioning what we are doing (see Sunday, June 19th in the Your Life section).

Also, The Chinkchewunska Chapter of the DAR will be holding their annual Christmas in July on Friday July 22nd thru Sunday July 24th, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. You'll be able to tour the house and see displays of open hearth cooking, period costumes and uniforms, and re-enactors. Our Chapter will have a table there and will be accepting donations for the Cemetery as well as the Chapter. For more information the phone number is 201-874-1428.

Scheduled Meetings:

Meetings are held at 2:00 p.m. the 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise **noted**.

2016

26th June

24th July

28th August (picnic)

25th September

23rd October

27th November

3rd December (Christmas Party)

Calendar of Events:

June 25th – Can Shake, Acme, Vernon

July 2nd – Can Shake, ShopRite, Newton

July 4th – Sparta Parade – time not yet available

July 23rd – Can Shake, Walmart, Newton

July 22nd-24th – DAR Christmas in July, 11:00-4:00

July 30th – Can Shake, ShopRite, Warwick

Aug. 13th – Can Shake, Walmart, Franklin

Aug. 27th – Can Shake, Acme, Sussex

Sept. 17th – Can Shake, Walmart, Franklin

Oct. 1st – Can Shake, ShopRite, Warwick

Oct. 8th – Can Shake, ShopRite, Newton



Vol. 3 No. 79

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1002 – Wallkill Valley
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June 2016

Visit www.VVA1002.org for information on upcoming events.

NEW MEMBERS:

“WELCOME HOME”

James Mastrangelo
Stephen Sluka
Ronald Van Hise

PASSINGS:

No report.

CONGRATULATIONS/CONCERNS:

Happy Belated Birthday United States Army, June 14

Happy Birthday to:

John Harrigan – July 8
Jerry Magnus – July 13
George Knorr – July 24
Jim Cahill – July 24

Happy Anniversary to:

Rich & JoAnn Strader
Jim & Georgette Fox

MEMBERS CORNER:

No submissions.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. **Special Note: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call (toll free 24/7) 1-800-273-8255 and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.**
2. Jackets (\$60 (summer) & \$70 (winter)); t-shirts (\$15); hats (\$10); golf shirts (short sleeve \$28; long sleeve \$33) are still available. See Owen Martin for purchases or to place an order (pre-payment for orders are appreciated).
3. Important note to families of deceased veterans, and/or requestors:

Submitted by Bob Caggiano

It is the right of every deceased Veteran to have a Military honors team attend the graveside service, to present the Flag at no charge to the family. Honors Teams are sent out, at the expense of the US Government.

In January 2000, Congress passed legislation guaranteeing Veterans the right to at least two uniformed servicemen, a flag ceremony, and the playing of TAPS at their funeral. Unfortunately, there are not enough buglers to play TAPS, so the historic melody has been played on a CD player at many Veterans' last ceremony, or more currently on a bugle that plays Taps using an electronic insert. The volunteer organization "Bugles Across America" (a.k.a. BAA) was created to honor the service of veterans by providing Taps live by a bugler using a real instrument (such as a bugle, trumpet, cornet, or flugelhorn) at funerals or any other ceremony requiring a bugler. There are currently over 7500 volunteer buglers nationwide in all 50 states, and some overseas who stand ready to serve. BAA volunteers perform Taps as a free service.

2012 marks the 150th anniversary of Taps, with special services being held throughout the country including a special playing of Taps by hundreds of buglers at Arlington National Cemetery.

As a Vietnam era veteran member of VVA Chapter 1002 and a BAA volunteer bugler, I am available to play for anyone who needs a bugler for Taps (or other appropriate bugle calls) for any honorable discharged veteran or related military ceremony. In the event I cannot play because of a scheduling conflict, I can generally still provide a substitute bugler so please contact me - Bob Caggiano, USAF Veteran, (973) 222-7591 (cell) or FinalTaps@gmail.com.



Chapter Fundraisers:

Clothing Bins (on-going):

Clothing Bins locations are: Montaque Township Recycling Center, Vernon Township Recycling Center and the Nautilus Gym at the corner of State Hwy 206 and Halsey Road (2 miles North of Newton, behind Fairclough Fuel). They accept used clothing, shoes and stuffed toys. If you know of a location as to where additional bins can be placed, a place where they can be accessed easily, let Ted Andrews know, cell 973 570 5023. Also, call him if you notice that the bins are full and he will contact the vendor.

Editors Corner:

By Linda Skellenger (AVVA)

Please have information to be included in the May newsletter to me by Sunday, May 15th (email skelle@ptd.net) or by snail-mail to:

Linda Skellenger
174 Lewisburg Rd.
Sussex, NJ 07461