



Vietnam Veterans of America Capital District Chapter 8



“Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another”

“SITREP”

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 2015

Chapter News

As of September 30, 2015, Chapter 8 has a total of 60 members. There are 43 Life Members, 13 Individual Members and 4 Associate Members. The Chapter is allotted 2 delegate seats for all State and National elections.

In the July Newsletter, I asked whether anyone was interested in changing the day and/or location of our monthly meetings in order to make it more convenient for the majority of members.

Since I never received as much as a single response, the issue was discussed at the last Chapter meeting. Those present thought that it would be a good idea to relocate our monthly meetings to the Lansingburgh Veterans Club, in Troy.

On November 9, Chapter Secretary John Reitano sent an e-mail to members asking for input on the issue. He has yet to receive a response from anyone.

That said, to make things more comfortable and convenient for those members that do attend the meetings, beginning with the November 19 meeting, all future meetings of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 8, will be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 5:00pm at the Lansingburgh Veterans Club, 777 1 st Avenue, Troy, NY.

I would like to thank the President of the Lansingburgh Veterans Club, P.J. Higgitt Jr. for extending the invitation to us.

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6th Annual Honor Our Vets Car Show

On Saturday, August 1, 2015, Chapters 8 and 79 hosted the 6th Annual Honor Our Vets Car Show at the Stratton VAMC.

Once again, the weather was perfect, resulting in this being the best-attended show yet, with 254 registered show cars. On October 28, members of Chapters 8 and 79 presented a check for \$9,000.00 to VAMC Director Linda Weis. The monies will be used to fund the Team Albany Adaptive Sports program at the hospital.

Pictures from the Car Show can be seen on our website at www.VVA8.org

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Watchfire

On Saturday, September 26, Chapter 8 hosted the Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Watchfire at the Altamont Fairgrounds.

Despite low attendance and a lack of corporate sponsorship and funding for the event, a lot of very hard work went into making the event as meaningful as possible for our fellow veterans.

The WWII, Korea, Vietnam and OEF/OIF displays were extremely well done and drew a lot of attention and positive comments from all in attendance.

The Helderberg Post of the American Legion Riders conducted the posting of the Colors, while the Patriot Guard Riders stood a flag line. Members of the Patriot Guard Riders also conducted the ceremonial Flag Retirement Ceremony.

(Continued on page 2)

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Watchfire - Continued

The watchfire itself was, as promised, huge! Over 400 American flags were properly disposed of, and those in attendance were duly impressed.

Unfortunately, due to lack of participation and support, this was the first and most likely the last event of this kind that Chapter 8 will be able to host on its own.

I have had conversations with the VFW, Legion Riders, the Altamont Fair staff and others regarding a similar event next year. Everyone is very receptive, but it will be more a community-hosted event, rather than an event meant to honor Vietnam Vets.

Watchfire pictures can be viewed on the Chapter website at **www.VVA8.org**

Rensselaer County Honor A Deceased Veteran program

At our last Chapter meeting, Mr. P.J. Higgit Jr. asked for our support in keeping the Rensselaer County Honor A Deceased Veteran program alive.

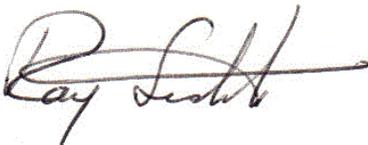
P.J. indicated that attendance by the supporting fraternal organizations was practically nil and he was trying to encourage other groups to participate.

On October 19, 2015, I submitted an application on behalf of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 8, asking that we be included in the monthly ceremonies.

The program takes place on the second Monday of each month at 08:30 in the County Office Building, in the Legislative Chambers. All are welcome to attend.

If anyone has any thoughts, or would like to talk about anything Chapter-related, I am always available.

Home: (518)463-1029
Cell: (518)669-3358



Upcoming Events

While there are no immediate events on the horizon, I understand that the Tri-County Council of Vietnam Veterans are arranging to bring the Moving Wall to Albany next September.

I would like to assist the TCCVEV in financing this effort and will be announcing fundraisers for which I will be looking to our membership to participate in and support.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Chapter 8 Secretary/Treasurer, John Reitano. John's mother, Dorothy Berlingieri Reitano passed away on October 30, 2015 after battling heart and lung disease for some time.

Her obituary reads, in part; "Dorothy worked for a number of years at the New York State Tax and Finance Department in Albany and previously had worked for Korell Dress Co. and Marshall Ray Co. A communicant of Assumption-St. Paul Church, Dorothy enjoyed cooking, baking and feeding her family and any company visiting at her home. A noted conversationalist, Dorothy was open and inquisitive of all her family and friends and people she met on a daily basis." Our thoughts and prayers go out to John and his family.

Help Wanted

Webmaster – I am still looking for someone to step up and help maintain the website **www.VVA8.org** The site was resurrected a few months ago and we are looking for someone who is handy with a computer, has basic website skills and has the time to keep the site up-to-date.

If you are interested, please let me know – raysestak@gmail.com

VVA Membership



One-time Special Offer on VVA Membership

August 1 – December 31, 2015: Life Membership Dues
\$100.00

Application is available on our website at:
www.vva8.org or use the attached form.

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

Members of VVA Chapters 8 and 79 present a check for \$9,000.00 to Linda Weiss, Director of the Stratton VAMC. The money was raised during the 7th Annual Honor Our Vets Car Show on August 1st.





One Time Special Offer

August 1 – December 31, 2015

Life Membership Application

New: _____ Renewal: _____ Membership # _____ Chapter # _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Life Membership Dues \$100.00

Life Membership Payment: Check _____ Money Order _____

Credit Card: Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Amex _____ Discover _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility: Membership is to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purpose) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975. **You MUST submit a copy of your DD214 with this application.**

Send To: Vietnam Veterans of America, PO Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299