



The Sentinel

Vol. 4 No. 4

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

April 2017

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

I would like to Thank the 67 members who attended last months meeting on the Hepatitis C education program which was given by Gilead Sciences and VVA. We were joined by Christine Panek from Snow Companies who put the program together, Bill a Vietnam Veteran who has been cured of Hepatitis C and also Angela a Gilead Community Specialist.

Bill told us that 1 in 10 Vietnam Veterans has Hepatitis C and we contracted it when we received our shots in the Service with the air gun. Bill gave a talk of how devastated he was when he learned he had contracted the disease and told us about his long road to recovery.

During his talk on this subject he also touched on how he acted when he came home with anger issues and drinking and such. A lot of the people in the audience were shaking their heads and agreeing with him and told him afterwards that what he told us were the same things they had done when they had come back to the world.

Angela who is a nurse then told us about the cure for Hepatitis C and gave us further information on the subject. The main thing we want to stress is to make sure when you go see your Primary Care Physician you ask him to check you for Hepatitis C.

Our raffle tickets should be in soon and we will let you know when they get here.

Casino night is coming up fast and will be this Saturday April 29th, here at St Francis. Last year we had a great time and if you don't know how to play the dealers will show you how to play each game so come on out and have a good time.

Remember the Chapter Can Shake will be May 27th at Mac and Lindys in Vernon. We seem to do better when there is a lot of Veterans at the table so if you have the time come out and give us a hand.

Remember the Chapter can only stay strong with the help of its members so please come out and give us a hand with our events.

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

John

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Submitted by John Brady

I would like to start off by thanking everyone for their prayers and well wishes for my recovery. On March 15 while I was shoveling after the 2 foot snowfall we had I was out of breath and my heart was pounding. I knew I had a touch of bronchitis which I had been fighting for a couple of weeks but this was much worse. Fortunately I had some angels watching over me one being my daughter, Colleen, who insisted on taking me to the Emergency Room at Newton Medical Center.

The other angel was Dr. Schwarz the cardiologist on call who decided I didn't have the typical symptoms of someone suffering from a heart attack and ordered a CAT Scan. It was discovered I had "multiple" clots in my lungs. They immediately administered blood thinners and after 2 days I was allowed to go home on St. Patrick's Day March 17. In fact I felt well enough to insist on going out for corn beef and cabbage that night.

I was told if I had waited another day or so I might not have made it to the hospital on time. As of now I feel fine and will probably be on blood thinners the rest of my life. Looks as if I'll have to wait to find out what they say about Marines is true. **"HEAVEN WON'T HAVE US AND HELL'S AFRAID WE'LL TAKE OVER".**

Also, please keep in mind the up coming Casino Night on April 29 to benefit the NNJVM Cemetery. And with the approach of the warm weather we will be

Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another!

starting our canshakes and 50/50 raffles. The dates will be in the newsletter and on the chapter website.

SERVICE OFFICER:

Submitted by Skip Kays

No report.

WOMEN VETERANS:

Submitted by Walt Hazelman

Competitive edge keeps retired Marine active **National Veterans Golden Age Games take place May 7-11**



When Marine Corps Veteran Doris Denton first heard about the National Veterans Golden Age Games she jumped at the opportunity to participate.



Doris Denton served in the Marine Corps from 1961-1981. A retired sergeant major, Denton is one of nearly 800 Veterans participating in this year's National Veterans Golden Age Games, May 7-11 in Biloxi, Miss.

"A speaker from the Biloxi VA came to the Armed Forces Retirement Home, and told us about the Games," she said. "I thought, why not?"

This is Denton's first time participating in the Games taking place May 7-11 in Biloxi, Miss. As a retired Marine, and at the young age of 74, Denton doesn't let something like a birthday keep her down. To her, "age is just a number."

"I've always been competitive, and I enjoy participating in sports," she said smiling. "It doesn't matter what the game is, I just like to play."

Denton served in the Marines from 1961-1981. She rose to the rank of sergeant major, and completed a tour in Vietnam. She grew up in Florida, but now calls Gulfport, Miss., home. She looks forward to competing in boccia, shuffleboard, horseshoes, and table tennis at the Games.

"I hope we have a great turnout of Veterans. Don't let age be a factor—next time, get off your butts and do it. I will do the best I can, and I am excited to just participate."

Registration for the National Veterans Golden Age Games has ended, but volunteers are needed to help make the events successful. Interested volunteers can sign up online at www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov and clicking on the "Volunteer" tab, or call Robert Davis, 228-523-5763 or email at Robert.Davis854f4@va.gov.

POW/MIA:

Submitted by Bob Gilbert

Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For (Pelletier)

March 21, 2017 — The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, killed during the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Cpl. Joseph N. Pelletier, 20, of Berlin, New Hampshire.



Marine Missing From World War II Accounted For (Tye)

March 21, 2017 — 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. Harry K. Tye, 21, of Orinoco, Kentucky.





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Soldier Missing From World War II Accounted For

(Mumford) March 16, 2017 — 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 Air Forces 2nd Lt. John D. Mumford, 22, of St. Petersburg.



Civilian Missing From World War II Accounted For

(Hammer) March 16, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. civilian, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Mr. Maax C. Hammer, Jr., 25, of Cairo, Illinois.

Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For

(Shepler) March 07, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Cpl. Gerald I. Shepler, 20, of Liberty, Indiana.



USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II Accounted For

(Grow) March 30, 2017 — 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 Seaman 2nd Class Vernon N. Grow, 25, of Redding, California.

Soldier Missing From World War II Accounted For

(Moessner) March 29, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from World War II, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Robert E. Moessner, 24, of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For

(Noehren) March 27, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Sgt. Donald D. Noehren, 23, of Harlan, Iowa.

Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For

(Hauterman) March 21, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Cpl. Jules Hauterman, Jr., 19, of Hampden, Massachusetts.

Soldier Missing From World War II Accounted For (Schlegel)

March 21, 2017 — 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 Air Forces Capt. Albert L. Schlegel, 25, of Cleveland, Ohio.



Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For (Abney)

March 30, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Sgt. Homer R. Abney, 24, of Dallas.



Airman Missing From Vietnam War Accounted For (Barnett)

March 30, 2017 — 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. Air Force Capt. Robert R. Barnett, 32, of Gladewater, Texas.



Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For (Mainhart)

March 30, 2017 — The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, killed during the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Cpl. James T. Mainhart, 19, of Butler, Pennsylvania.



Civilian Missing From World War II Accounted For (Atkinson)

March 30, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. civilian, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Mr. Peter W. Atkinson, 25, of Berkley Springs, West Virginia.

USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II

Accounted For (Cargile) March 30, 2017 — 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 Seaman 1st Class Murry R. Cargile, 21, of Robersonville, North Carolina.

Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For (Miller)

April 14, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Pfc. Kenneth R. Miller, 23, of East Cleveland, Ohio.





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USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II

Accounted For (Galajdik) April 14, 2017 — 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 Fireman 1st Class Michael Galajdik, 25, of Joliet, Illinois.

Airman Missing From World War II Accounted For

(Rothman) April 12, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from World War II, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Marvin B. Rothman, 21, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio.



Marine Missing From World War II Accounted For

(Whitehurst) April 05, 2017 — 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 Corps Pfc. James O. Whitehurst, 20, of Ashford, Alabama.



Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For

(Durakovich) April 03, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Master Sgt. Joseph Durakovich, 30, of Gary, Indiana.



AGENT ORANGE:

Submitted by Owen Martin

Joint Base reports high levels of two hazardous chemicals in water

Joint Base Dix-Lakehurst-McGuire

A pair of hazardous chemicals used for decades in firefighting at Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst have contaminated ground, surface, and drinking water on and near the base, a spokesman said last week, with tests showing levels 20 to thousands of times higher in some samples than federally recommended standards.

Three of 131 private wells tested at homes off the base show evidence of the fluorinated chemicals known as PFOS and PFOA, Staff Sgt. Dustin Roberts said Friday, with one home's drinking water containing 1,392 parts per trillion. The Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory for these chemicals has set 70 parts per trillion as its recommended level.

Roberts said the base was providing the affected homes with bottled water and was studying ways to remediate the problem. None of the affected private wells serve schools or other public institutions, he said.

Two shallow wells that provide drinking water to the base showed levels as high as 215 parts per trillion,

according to Roberts. He said he did not know how much of the base's drinking water comes from the two wells.

The base spreads over 42,000 acres and straddles parts of eight municipalities in Burlington and Ocean Counties. About 3,700 military and civilian personnel work on the base.

PFOS and PFOA are ingredients in firefighting foam used for decades on military bases. To date, the Air Force has not conducted or paid for blood tests of those who might be affected by the chemicals, Roberts said. The base provided the sampling data after a request from the Inquirer. The samples were analyzed by Maxxam Analytics of Ontario, Canada.

The highest level was 264,300 parts per trillion -- or 3,775 times the federally recommended level -- found in underground water on the base, according to Roberts, who said he knows of no evidence that the affected aquifer supplies drinking water.

Of 30 ponds and streams tested on the base, 19 showed evidence of contamination, with samples ranging from 12.5 to 8,830 parts per trillion.

The testing at Joint Base is part of a nationwide effort by the military to deal with contamination from PFOS and PFOA.

In 2014, three public drinking-water systems and dozens of private wells in Horsham, Warminster, and Warrington were compromised by PFOS and PFOA that spread from former naval bases nearby. Since then, the military has started testing hundreds of bases nationwide for similar groundwater and drinking-water contamination.

Exposures to high levels of these chemicals, whose full names are perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) have been linked to a wide range of ailments, according to the EPA. These can include "developmental effects" in fetuses and breast-fed infants, low birth weight in newborns, accelerated puberty, testicular and liver cancers, tissue damage to livers, and effects on the immune and thyroid systems.

In use at McGuire and most other Air Force bases since 1970, PFOS and PFOA are additives in the chemical foam used to put out petroleum fires in crashed aircraft. They also were used frequently in practice drills by base firefighters. Roberts said Joint Base has discontinued their use in drills and fires, and is phasing them out of sprinkler systems in hangars.

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Submitted by Lou Storms

Our trip to the Lyons PTSD Unit for dinner service had to be cancelled as we would have been traveling during the snow

storm. We will be going again on May 9th. The sign-up sheet is up front for anyone wanting to join us.

Scheduled Meetings:

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

23rd April
28th May
25th June
23rd July
27th August (Picnic – subject to change)
24th September
22nd October
26th November
December (TBD-Christmas Party)

Calendar of Events:

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

April:

29th – Casino Night at St. Francis
to benefit the cemetery

May:

27th – Can Shake – Mac & Lindys, Vernon

July:

14th-16th – DAR Christmas in July, Wantage

NEW MEMBERS:

“WELCOME HOME”

John Brooks

Robert White

PASSINGS:

FRED MAAS

CONGRATULATIONS/CONCERNS:

Happy Anniversary:

Kathy & John Brady – 29th

Happy Birthday:

Linda Skellenger – 4th

Bob Caggiano - 8th

Don Johnson - 8th

Dave Lambert - 15th

Kathy Brady - 21st



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MEMBERS CORNER:

Submitted By: Richard E. Predmore

1. Scholarship Program 2017

As of 15 April 2017, we have received 58 scholarship applications for the Wallkill Valley Chapter #1002 "Patriot Scholarship" for 2017.

The scholarship committee will meet to review and rank the applicants. Once that is completed the top 15 applicants will be given to the chapter members for their review, and to make the selection of the 4 scholarship winners.

2. Northern New Jersey Veterans Memorial Cemetery Inc.

As of 15 April 2017, we have had 76 burials, with one cremation burial scheduled for 22 April 2017.

- World War II Veterans = 16 (One was a female US Army Veteran)
- Korean War Veterans = 13
- Vietnam War Veterans = 25
- US Veterans & Cold War Veterans = 9 (One was a female USMC Veteran)
- Persian Gulf Veterans = 1
- Spouses = 12
- Oldest Veteran = 101 Years Young
- Youngest Veteran = 45 Years Old
- United States Army Veterans = 35
- United States Marine Corps Veterans = 9
- United States Navy Veterans = 15
- United States Air Force Veterans = 3
- United States Navy & United States Air Force Veteran = 1
- U.S. Merchant Marines Veteran = 1

As of 15 April 2017, we have had 240 plots purchased.

- Burial Plots (Full Grave Burial) = 119
- Cremation Plots = 121

Bill Gardner our grounds supervisor will be starting to mow the cemetery on Wednesdays weather permitting. If anyone wishes to help Bill, it would be greatly appreciated.

We are planning our weekly Wednesday morning work parties weather permitting. They usually start at 9 AM and are done by noon. If anyone wish to volunteer and join Rich's Gang, it would be greatly appreciated. **All are Welcome!!** Just E-Mail Rich Predmore at rcpredmore15@ptd.net or call (973) 827-5447 if interested or just take a ride on Wednesday mornings pass the cemetery to see if we are there. PS If you have hand tools please bring them with you – Thank You.

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.

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.



Editors Corner:

By Linda Skellenger (AVVA)

Please have information to be included in the May newsletter to me by Sunday, May 21st (email skelle@ptd.net) or by snail-mail to:

Linda Skellenger
174 Lewisburg Rd.
Sussex, N.J. 07461