



# *The Sentinel*

Vol. 3 No. 80

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1002 – Wallkill Valley

July 2016

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Website: [www.VVA1002.org](http://www.VVA1002.org)

President: John Harrigan

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: John Brady

Secretary: Carl Ohlson

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Walt Hazelman

Chaplin: George Burns

Treasurer: Owen Martin

Sergeant at Arms: Ted Andrews

## **FROM THE MINEFIELD:**

*Submitted by John Harrigan*

Once again this year our Chapter took part in the 4th of July parade in Sparta and Thanks to Linda we again had the tractor and wagon so that our members who could not march were able to ride. We had 22 members participate and it was a great experience, as while we started the Parade and as we were marching we received standing ovations from the crowd. I noticed parents were telling their children to stand up and applaud as we passed by. It was a great feeling.

Some of our members participated in the DAR Christmas in July this past Friday and Saturday and like always we were Thanks by them for being there.

Our next event will be the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show. We have been asked to be the Color Guard for the opening night and will be presenting the colors on Friday night. We were given a table in the Veterans Tent for our Chapter and the Cemetery and the dates are August 5th to the 14th and we still need some people to man it. This is a t 10 day fair and our table should be manned as much as possible. As of now we only have 11 people signed up and really need more. We will be selling raffle tickets and hats and have a donation jug for the Cemetery. You don't have to be there all day just a few hours and then someone else will take over. Remember Vets get in free and if you are bringing your wife we can see about getting them a ticket. So if you have the time please come out and help.

Next up will be the Sussex County 4th Annual Veterans Picnic on Saturday August 27th 12-3 which will be held at the American Legion Post 213 Rt. 23 Sussex. You must call 973-579-0555 ext. 1221 senior services by August 19th and let them know you are attending. (Food will be served at 1230).

On Sunday August 28th we will have the Chapter Picnic here at St Francis starting at 2 pm. We will be having hamburgers and Hot Dogs supplied by the Chapter and just as in years past bring something for your table and something to drink. Hope to see you there.

At our Chapter Board meeting it was voted on to have at least 2 people on each committee. We still have openings so please see me after the meeting and help us out by signing up for one of them. We also discussed trying to get advertising for our newsletter, and also a Memorial page for Veterans that have passed. There will be more information on this in the future. Uncle Jerry and Aunt Audrey have volunteered to take over planning trips for the Chapter and already have one planned which they will discuss at the meeting.

Remember the Chapter is only as strong as its members and we are very lucky to have a membership that is so involved but can always use more help, so if you haven't done so yet please step up and give us a hand with these upcoming events.

See you at the meeting.

John

## **1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:**

*Submitted by John Brady*

This month I would like to talk about an article that was given to me by one of our members that appeared in the Times Herald-Record on June 24 of this year. This would be of special interest to our Navy brothers, especially those of the "Silent Service" who have either served in submarines or may have a friend or family member that is serving or did serve in the Navy (like my Dad).

*Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another!*

The first thing you see at the Submarine Veterans Memorial on Route 208 in New Paltz, N.Y. is the torpedo on display.

It's a very impressive memorial and often the site for special remembrances, weather permitting. It fronts the VFW Post 8645 and is home to the Hudson Valley Submarine Base. Members meet once a month at the VFW to honor and perpetuate the memory of their shipmates who never returned to port and who remain on the "Eternal Patrol". The membership engages in various projects and deeds. They also pledge loyalty and patriotism to the USA and its Constitution.

Currently the base is recruiting new members who are submarine veterans and interested in keeping the memory of lost boats and men alive.

The invitation says to "Come see who we are and what we do". You can obtain further information about the group and what they do by going to their website at [www.hvsubvets.org](http://www.hvsubvets.org).

## **SERVICE OFFICER:**

*Submitted by Skip Kays*

No report.

## **WOMEN VETERANS:**

*Submitted by Walt Hazelman*

### **Women Veterans Call Center**

The Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) at 1-855 VA WOMEN (1-855-829-6636) is expanding its outreach to women Veterans with a new online, one-to-one chat function. The new service enables women Veterans to go online and anonymously chat via real-time text messaging with a trained WVCC representative. All the representatives at the Women Veterans Call Center are women, many of whom are Veterans themselves. The new feature provides women Veterans with another avenue to ask general questions about benefits, eligibility, and services specifically for women Veterans. WVCC chat is available by visiting the Women Veterans Health Care Web page at [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov), and clicking the "Chat with the Women Veterans Call Center" icon. As the chat function is anonymous, users are cautioned to please omit any personally identifiable information (PII), e.g., social security numbers. WVCC Chat is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m., and on Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Help us spread the word about the chat function!

## **POW/MIA:**

*Submitted by Bob Gilbert*

### **POW-MIA Update as of 7/11/16**

**USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II Accounted For (Nash)** June 30, 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 Fire Controlman 1st Class Paul A. Nash, 26, of Carlisle, Indiana.

**Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For (Crofts)** June 30, 2016 — 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. Charles B. Crofts, 19, of Shelley, Idaho.

**Marine Missing From World War II Accounted For (Carter)** July 06, 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. Robert J. Carter, 19, of Oklahoma City.

July 11, 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. U.S. Army Air Forces Pvt. Evans E. Overbey, 25, of Coeburn, Virginia.



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### **AGENT ORANGE:**

*Submitted by Owen Martin*

#### **VA officials pledge new studies into effects of Agent Orange on vets and their children**

By Mike Hixenbaugh, The Virginian-Pilot,  
Charles Ornstein and Terry Parris Jr.,  
ProPublication



Stephen M. Katz | The Virginian-Pilot

Victoria Davey, a VA scientist, said her team would begin mailing lengthy questionnaires to randomly selected Vietnam era veterans in the fall, asking dozens of questions about their health and economic status, as well as the health of their children during a forum hosted by ProPublica and The Virginian-Pilot on the possible multi-generational impacts of Agent Orange exposure Thursday, June 30, 2016, in Stephen M. Katz | The Virginian-Pilot

Kenneth Ramos, chairman of a recent Institute of Medicine committee that reviewed research on Agent Orange, left, answers a question posed by Charles Ornstein, right, during a forum hosted by ProPublica and The Virginian-Pilot on the possible multi-generational impacts of Agent Orange exposure Thursday, June 30, 2016, in Washington, D.C. Also on the panel, from left, were Heather Bowser, the president of Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance, Rory Riley-Topping, former lawyer for the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and principal at Riley-Topping Consulting, and

Linda Spoonster Schwartz, the VA's assistant secretary for policy.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding its efforts to determine how Vietnam veterans and their children have been affected by exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange.

The VA will conduct its first nationwide survey of Vietnam veterans in more than three decades and request an outside panel of experts to continue its work studying the health effects of Agent Orange on veterans, their children and their grandchildren. Both initiatives were discussed Thursday in Washington at a [forum](#) hosted by ProPublica and The Virginian-Pilot on the possible multigenerational impacts of Agent Orange.

Vietnam veterans have argued for years that their exposure to the toxic herbicide has damaged their health as well as their children's. From 1962 to 1971, some 2.6 million U.S. service members were potentially exposed to Agent Orange, which contained a dangerous strand of the chemical dioxin. While the VA has linked Agent Orange exposure to a host of diseases in Vietnam vets, experts and veterans advocates have criticized the lack of research into the effects on future generations.

"I believe that these individuals deserve an answer," Linda Spoonster Schwartz, the VA's assistant secretary for policy and planning, said in response to a question about the lack of research. "I believe that we need to at least ask the question. ... This is the right thing to do."

ProPublica and The Pilot have been examining the effects of Agent Orange for the past year and have heard from more than 5,500 veterans and their families.

Thursday's forum – titled "A Toxic Legacy: Has Agent Orange Hurt the Children of Vietnam Vets?" – featured veterans advocates, researchers and policymakers. It also provided a rare opportunity for frustrated veterans to vent directly to high-ranking VA officials.

Veterans came from as far away as Mississippi and Pennsylvania to share their stories. Pilot photographer Stephen Katz [told of his own health problems](#), which he believes may be linked to his father's exposure to Agent Orange.

In one emotional exchange, Reginald Russell Sr., an Army veteran from Suffolk, rose from the audience and accused the VA of ignoring anecdotal evidence that Agent Orange had harmed children of vets.

Russell's first son, born shortly after he returned from Vietnam in 1971, died inexplicably at 9 months old. His youngest son, born a few years later with a heart defect, died in 2012 at 32.

Russell held up a photo of a grave marker: "That's my child," he said, choking up.

"I can't imagine the pain you're having," said Schwartz, who joined the VA in 2014 after years spent researching and advocating for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange. "Let me say that this is a new day. ... We can do this study. I know you've heard this before, and so have I, but we will do this not just for the ones who have passed away, but for the ones who have yet to be born."

A small number of male veterans' children – those born with spina bifida – are eligible for Agent Orange disability payments from the VA. So are the children of female vets born with about a dozen other defects.

Although the majority of Vietnam veterans are men, most of the research about the transgenerational effects of Agent Orange has been focused on women, said Dr. Kenneth Ramos, chairman of an Institute of Medicine committee that recently reviewed research on Agent Orange.

Ramos said scientific evidence increasingly supports the idea that a father's exposure to toxins can affect his offspring genetically, potentially harming children and grandchildren. But more research needs to be done.

## **COMMUNITY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS:**

*Submitted by Lou Storms*

On July 12, myself, Bob Lewis and Steve Maksymiuk made another trip to the Lyons Inpatient PTSD Unit for dinner service and socializing with the vets there. It was, as always, very enjoyable to be able to acknowledge the hardships these vets are facing. There were four Vietnam Vets in residence this month and we were happy to get a chance to speak with them.

We will be going again on September 13th and anyone wanting to join should sign the sheet up front or call me at 973-728-3859.

We also delivered to them jigsaw puzzles and games contributed by a fellow Vietnam Vet, Charlie Becker of Narrowsburg, NY.

## **Scheduled Meetings:**

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

### **2016**

24<sup>th</sup> July

28<sup>th</sup> August (picnic)

25<sup>th</sup> September

23<sup>rd</sup> October

27<sup>th</sup> November

**3<sup>rd</sup> December (Christmas Party)**

## **Calendar of Events:**

July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Can Shake, Walmart, Newton

July 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> – DAR Christmas in July, 11:00-4:00

July 30<sup>th</sup> – Can Shake, ShopRite, Warwick

Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> – Can Shake, Walmart, Franklin

Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> – Can Shake, Acme, Sussex

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – Can Shake, Walmart, Franklin

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – Can Shake, ShopRite, Warwick

Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – Can Shake, ShopRite, Newton

Visit [www.VVA1002.org](http://www.VVA1002.org) for information on upcoming events.

## **NEW MEMBERS:**

**“WELCOME HOME”**

## **PASSINGS:**

No report.

## **CONGRATULATIONS/CONCERNS:**

Happy Birthday to:

United States Coast Guard - August 4, 1790

"SEMPER PARATUS"

Tony Alia – August 22

Happy Anniversary to:

Kathy & Tony Alia

## **MEMBERS CORNER:**

No submissions.



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## **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](mailto:FinalTaps@gmail.com).



## **Chapter Fundraisers:**

No report.

## **Editors Corner:**

By Linda Skellenger (AVVA)

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

Linda Skellenger  
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