



The Sentinel

Vol. 3 No. 82

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

October 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

As October draws to a close that can only mean one thing and that is before you know it our Chapter Christmas Party will be here. This year it is on Saturday December 3rd at 2 pm here at St. Francis deSales. I am happy to report that Santa will again be in attendance but on a sad note his Elf has moved to a warmer climate in Florida so if anyone knows if there is another Elf available for the day please let me know. We will need a headcount of adults and children attending so we can give the caterer the exact number. If you have not signed up at the Chapter meeting please call the Chapter phone number with how many adults and children. Please let us know the names of the children and boy or girl so Santa can get them a little something.

On Friday November 4th our Chapter and American Legion Post 132 in Franklin will be hosting a Claims Clinic held by the Veterans Administration from Newark, from 10am to 2pm. This is open to Veterans and Veterans Families to discuss a pending claim or file a new claim. So if you or someone you know needs some answers from the Veterans Administration on a pending claim or filing a claim please come down and get it done face to face with a claims Specialist and get an answer.

On Sunday November 6th the Chapter members will be attending the 16th Annual Salute to Veterans at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. The Lineup is at 12 noon with the parade starting at 1pm. We always have a great showing at this event so come on out and march with your brother and sister Veterans.

Our next event is the Veterans Mass here at St Francis on Sunday November 13th at 2pm. This has been an ongoing event here at the Church and as in years past you can be of any faith to attend. There will be

refreshments afterwards in the Social Hall provided by the CCD group. This is open to all Veterans, VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, Purple Heart, Marine Corp League and all the Veterans in Sussex County.

On November 16th we will be going to the American Music Theater in Lancaster for the Christmas Show, and dinner at the Plain and Fancy Farm Restaurant so if you have not done so already please contact Uncle Jerry and Aunt Audrey for more information.

See you at the meeting.

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Submitted by John Brady

Here it is October with Halloween and Veterans Day on the horizon. Yet there's something else to look forward to, our annual Veterans Mass at St. Francis de Sales! I know, some of you are saying the roof will fall in, lightning will strike or some other calamity will befall us all if I go into a church. Well none of these scenarios or anything just as terrible has happened when I go, and I'm there almost every day, then I think we'll all be safe.

If we can get from 50 to 70 people to attend our monthly meetings then I don't see any reason why we can't do the same to honor veterans and thank God for their service and sacrifice. Besides, at our meetings we have coffee and some cookies and cakes. After the Mass the Confirmation class will feed us a whole lot better. They've done a great job in the past and I'm sure they'll be equal to the task this time as well.

Another important reason to attend is that these kids want to honor us and meet us. I hear so many complaints that the "youth" of today don't care about veterans. My experience so far has shown me otherwise. At our can shakes and 50/50 ticket sales they come up to us and thank us for our service, and don't forget all that

Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another!

the students of Vo-Tech have done for the Veterans Cemetery.

Some people say the kids of today act as if they know everything and can do anything. Sounds very familiar about how we were before the service. Then we got a "learning experience" and found out otherwise.

This is a an opportunity for a "learning experience" for these kids but we have to be there for them , to be their teachers, to help them learn that the life they have and all the freedoms and privileges didn't just happen but were earned by those who served.

Also remember this mass is for all veterans regardless of when or where they served. So let's attend this celebration, you've earned it!

The mass will be at St. Francis de Sales Church on Sunday, November 13 at 14:00 (2 P.M.).

SERVICE OFFICER:

Submitted by Skip Kays

No report.

WOMEN VETERANS:

Submitted by Walt Hazelman

FEMALE VETS PROTEST DIFFERENCES IN CARE

OCTOBER 13, 2016

By Fariba Pajooh and Duke Omara

Synolve Netterville was idealistic, motivated and ready to serve her country. Joining the military at 24-years-old fulfilled a carefully thought-out plan. She had imagined retiring from the US Air Force and looking back proudly at years of service.

All that changed the night she was raped.

She spent most of the last 36 years trying to forget "that strange night" when her world was shattered by the people she was supposed to count on—her comrades-in-arms.

"I buried a lot of it. It made me a very secretive and introverted person. It made me bury things. You don't really forget everything but you can bury it so deep you might as well have forgotten it," Netterville said.

After decades of seeking refuge behind the wall of silence she had built, Netterville is one of many female veterans, who say the Veterans Administration has failed to provide them with the same level of care as their male counterparts for mental and physical health issues.

Many of these women say they are increasingly relying on charities and non-profit organizations to raise their voices and provide encouragement to others who often feel neglected by the government's vast network of veteran services.

Strength in numbers

"A lot of women who come to me don't consider themselves veterans," said Arthurine Jones, a former lieutenant colonel in the Army and a board member with the Chicago-based National Women's Veterans United (NWVU) group which has for the last few years dedicated itself to helping women adjust to life after their service.

"Some of them feel like a veteran is somebody who went and served 20 years in active duty service. All they want to do is forget about it because things happened to them," said Jones.

The number of women seeking services is still woefully small compared to their male counterparts. Last year, women accounted for only six percent of those utilizing VA services despite making up 15 percent of the active duty and National Guard and Reserves component of the armed forces, according to a 2012 VA report.

For the first time ever, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) placed the VA in 2015 on its biennial list of high risk "agencies and program areas that are high risk due to their vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, or are most in need of transformation."

That label reflected what the GAO called "serious and longstanding problems with veterans' access to care, which were highlighted in a series of congressional hearings in the spring and summer of 2014."

Many of the problems women face go beyond poor access to care, according to some of those interviewed. They say the VA is heavily skewed towards providing services to males, a claim backed by the nonprofit group, Disabled American Veterans, in a comprehensive 2014 study.

"The vast majority of these deficiencies result from a disregard for the differing needs of women veterans and a focusing on the 80 percent solution for men who dominate in both numbers and public consciousness," the DAV report said.

The report also noted that one in five women veterans has delayed or gone without needed care in the prior 12 months.

Room for improvement

Despite all this, it's not all bad news.

After hearing female veterans' concerns, the VA has instituted nationwide changes that are meant to improve services and increase confidence in its services, said Kayla Williams, the VA's Director of the Center for Women Veterans in Washington D.C.

"They have trained over 3000 designated women health providers through women's national health many residency programs, they have expanded the types of services available to women veterans, now to include seven days of newborn baby care," Williams said.



The Sentinel

Vol. 3 No. 82

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1002 – Wallkill Valley

October 2016

Website: www.VVA1002.org

Maternity care coordinators are also on hand to “ensure that pregnant women veterans know about all the services available to them and to coordinate all their care so it can be handled much more smoothly than it might have been in the past,” she added.

Williams said many other services given by the agency continue to show the high quality of care that women patients could expect during their visits.

“In 2016, 88 percent of VA patients got cervical cancer screenings on time versus only about 75 percent of patients in the private sector and only 60 percent of Medicaid patients. And when it comes to breast cancer screening, 86 percent of VA patients get mammograms when recommended compared to only around 70 percent of those in the private sector,” said Williams.

Williams acknowledged the sense among many women that a disparity exists between their treatment and that of their male counterparts.

This has led the agency to launch a “culture change campaign” to ensure “that all VA staff and providers and male veterans, some of whom served in an era when very few women were in the military, know women are veterans and we deserve to be treated with equal respect and dignity, and honor the service that we’ve given to our country and to try and challenge some of the fundamental misconceptions that people have,” said Williams, herself an Army veteran.

Female veterans welcome the changes.

“There is room for improvement and there is still a long way to go. Acknowledging that there are female vets, and that there are programs specially for them like the women’s clinic is going a long way, and that is a great advancement,” said Hattie Tyson, a former Army sergeant from Maxton, NC., who is also a volunteer at several veterans’ groups including the DAV

POW/MIA:

Submitted by Bob Gilbert

Marine from World War II Accounted For (Moore) September 29, 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 Sgt. Fae V. Moore, 23, of Chadron, Nebraska.

USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II Accounted For (Schmitt) September 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 Lt. j.g. Aloysius H. Schmitt, 32, of St. Lucas, Iowa.

USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II Accounted For (Wagoner) September 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 Seaman 2nd Class Lewis L. Wagoner, 20, of Douglass County, Missouri.

Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For (Baxter) September 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 Sgt. 1st Class Louis M. Baxter, 22, of Massena, New York.

Marine from World War II Accounted For (Vosmer) September 30, 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 will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Pfc. Ronald W. Vosmer, 22, of Denver, Colorado.

Soldier Killed In Korean War Accounted For (Smith, William) September 30, 2016 — 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.

Soldier Killed In Korean War Accounted For (Hendrickson) October 07, 2016 — 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. Donald R. Hendrickson, 19, of Janesville.

Airman Missing From World War II Accounted For (Barnes) October 07, 2016 — 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. Ben B. Barnes, 23, of Miller, South Dakota.

USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II Accounted For (Hopkins) October 07, 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 Fireman 3rd Class Edwin C. Hopkins, 19, of Keene, New Hampshire.

USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II Accounted For (Piskuran) October 07, 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 Seaman 2nd Class Rudolph V. Piskuran, 19, of Elyria, Ohio.

Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For (Bullis) October 14, 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. Milton T. Bullis, 19, of Detroit.

Marine Missing From World War II Accounted For (Smith, James) October 11, 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 S. Smith, 19, of Liberty, Mississippi.

USS Oklahoma Sailor From World War II Accounted For (Phipps) October 11, 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 Seaman 2nd Class James N. Phipps, 24, of Rainier, Oregon.

Airman Missing From World War II Accounted For (Beals) October 11, 2016 — 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. Donald L. Beals, 22, of Brookings.

Soldier Missing From Korean War Accounted For (Shunney) October 07, 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. 1st Class James P. Shunney, 19, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

AGENT ORANGE:

Submitted by Owen Martin

Occidental to pay \$165M toward Passaic River cleanup but \$1B more needed



One of the nation's largest chemical companies will pay \$165 million to design the cleanup plan for the lower Passaic River under an agreement reached with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, officials announced Wednesday.

The settlement with Occidental Chemical Corp. of Houston was hailed as a "milestone" by EPA officials. But the agency still has to come up with more than \$1 billion to fund the massive dredge-and-cap project that is at least four years away from beginning and a decade away from completion.

EPA officials said they will soon begin negotiating financial settlements with more than 100 companies and public entities that either polluted the waterway or inherited the liability of past polluters. If the companies balk, the EPA will issue an order compelling them to fund the project.

"They are going to be paying these costs sooner or later," EPA regional Administrator Judith Enck said during a conference call with reporters Wednesday.

The \$1.38 billion project announced in March would remove enough sediment laced with cancer-causing dioxin, PCBs, mercury and other industrial pollution to fill Red Bull Stadium three times.

Those 3.8 million cubic yards would be dredged for eight miles from Newark Bay to Belleville, the worst stretch of pollution in the river's lower 17 miles. Contaminated sediment would be taken to an out of state landfill.

When the work is done, more than half of the pollution in the river — about 6 million cubic yards of



Vol. 3 No. 82

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1002 – Wallkill Valley

October 2016

Website: www.VVA1002.org

contamination — will remain in the Passaic, covered with sand and other materials. The New Jersey Sierra Club has said the cap will likely degrade quickly due to the strong tidal currents in the Passaic. EPA officials stand by the plan and the long timeline until completion.

“We’re dealing with a century of pollution,” Enck said. “We need a decade to get it cleaned up.”

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Submitted by Lou Storms

We will be going to the Lyons Inpatient PTSD Unit for our bi-monthly dinner service on November 8th. The food will again be donated by Inserra Supermarket's ShopRite West Milford. I have written to Mr. Inserra to thank him, and let him know how much the vets enjoyed the meal and how much we appreciate Inserra Supermarket's generosity.

Anyone wanting to join us for November's dinner can sign the sheet up front or contact me at stormy2@optonline.net or 973-728-3859.

Scheduled Meetings:

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

23rd October

27th November

3rd December (Christmas Party)

Calendar of Events:

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

November:

4th – VA Claims Clinic – American Legion,
1 Legion Rd., Franklin – 10:00am-2:00pm

6th – Veterans Parade – Fair Grounds -1:00pm

13th – Mass at St. Francis deSales – 2:00pm

16th – Bus trip to Lancaster, PA –

St. Francis deSales church -11:00am

NEW MEMBERS:

“WELCOME HOME”

William Gardner
Lawrence Leve

John Sedlack
Rhoda Seider

PASSINGS:

No report.

CONGRATULATIONS/CONCERNS:

Happy Belated Birthday to United States Air Force,
Sept. 18, 1947 "AIM HIGH"

Happy Birthday United States Navy, Oct. 13, 1775
"A GLOBAL FORCE FOR GOOD"

Happy Birthday to:
Audrey Magnus (11/13)

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 November newsletter to me by Sunday, November 20th (email skelle@ptd.net) or by snail-mail to:

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