

**November 2019**  
**Post Newsletter**  
WesternSpringsVFW.org

**Commander's Stuff**

**By Rich Jesswein**

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Is it snowing yet?? Is it snowing yet??  
The first snow of the winter is always exciting!! I don't know about you, but the last snow of the year is even more exciting for me!!

I attended the District 4 meeting on Oct. 13 and learned a lot!! It seems the district folks are very concerned about growing the VFW membership. To meet the district's personal objectives, the district has to grow by over 100 folks (not an easy thing to do).

The Blue Water Navy AO exposure claims have been halted until Jan. 1, 2020. However, the VA will expedite the claims ahead of that date in the circumstances of acute financial hardships, terminal illness, and/ or homelessness. Plus, a widow of a Blue Water Sailor, no matter if he died yesterday or 20 years ago, is eligible to receive a \$1,300 a month stipend, tax free.

Talking about benefits, if a veteran has been diagnosed with PTSD and owns a dog, that dog can be trained as a service dog at no cost to the veteran.

Well, the essays for the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy are in. Once

**Save the Dates**

Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church  
Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – Hospital Visit  
Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for December Newsletter  
Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

again, we had a good showing!! The judges for this year will have another difficult time choosing the best of the best. They also had a difficult time picking the Teacher of the year!!

I talked about flu shots in my last letter, well, the person who was going to give them left her job. I don't know if her replacement will give us shots. I suggest getting your own shots.

We had a luncheon at Bethlehem Woods on Oct. 23 for the folks from our Post to meet and talk with the veterans who live there. We also talked with Norme Torres, Executive Director of Bethlehem Woods, about doing a pinning ceremony for those vets who live there.

Nov. 11 is Veterans Day!! We are very busy that day! At 10 a.m. Forest Hills school will have a ceremony. They

asked us to provide a Color Guard. We'll provide a drummer and several of our members will carry flags for that ceremony. At 11 a.m., our Post celebrates Veterans Day at Veterans Park (near Grand Avenue School). And at 12:30 p.m. Lyons Township High School has a touching ceremony for veterans.

There are some more important days in November:

Nov. 10 - Marine Corp Birthday

Nov. 22 - National Family Volunteer Day.

Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving.

Once again, I've rattled too long,  
sooooooooooooooooooooo

*Roses are Red  
Violets are Blue  
Congratulations to all those students  
We are very proud of you*

Till next month, CHOI

### **Quartermaster Report**

**By Mike Winner**

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#### Statement of funds as of 10/9/19:

Post General Fund	\$9,900.11
Post Relief Fund	\$3,181.69
TOTAL:	\$13,081.80

Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis!

### **Stuff of Interest for Veterans**

**By Chuck Bosko**

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Roger McGill is a Viet Nam vet (Army, 25th Division, Cav) and works part-time for the Viet Nam Veterans of America across the hall from my office.

Roger is one those vets who is truly down to earth and always involved with Nam vets in some fashion. Roger is also 100% IRISH and very involved with the Irish American Cultural Center. It will be there around 11:30 a.m. (following Mass) on Sunday, Nov. 17, that Roger and two other fellow Nam vets will present a forum where they will share their Nam experiences with other guests.

The flyer is elsewhere in this newsletter. Roger is in the middle. REMEMBER THIS- Roger is indeed Irish so if you ask him a question, pull up a chair and stay about an hour for the answer! He is a truly good guy.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a few brief notes about the new IDVA Veterans Home located 4250 N. Oak Park Ave. (between Montrose and Irving). Should you seek some additional information, call or email me.

See ya, Allons and Airborne!

# VIETNAM VETERANS TELL THEIR STORY

Veteran's Day Mass and Remembrance

Sunday, November 17, 2019



The IAHC and Vietnam Veterans of America, Chicago Chapter 242, honor those who have served and sacrificed for their country with a Veteran's Day program.

Mass is celebrated at 10:30am followed by a discussion with chapter members who have published their stories.

Books will be available for purchase and light refreshments will be served.

**Mike Duffy**

*From Chicago to Vietnam  
A MEMOIR OF WAR*

82nd Airborne Division, C Battery  
7th Battalion, 9th Artillery  
Ben Hoa Base Camp: 1967-1968

**Roger McGill**

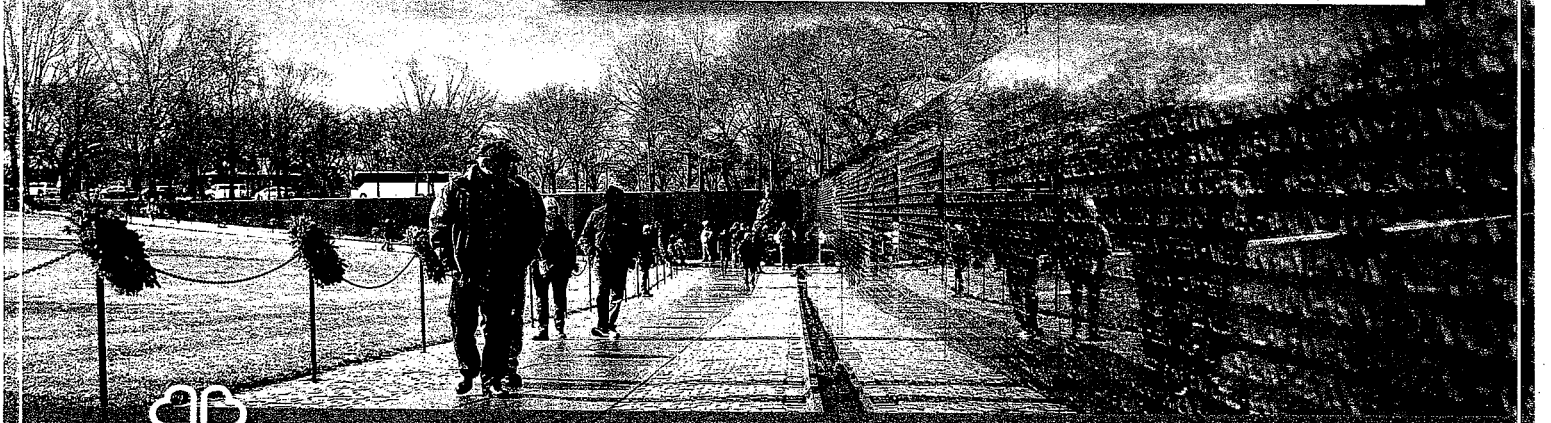
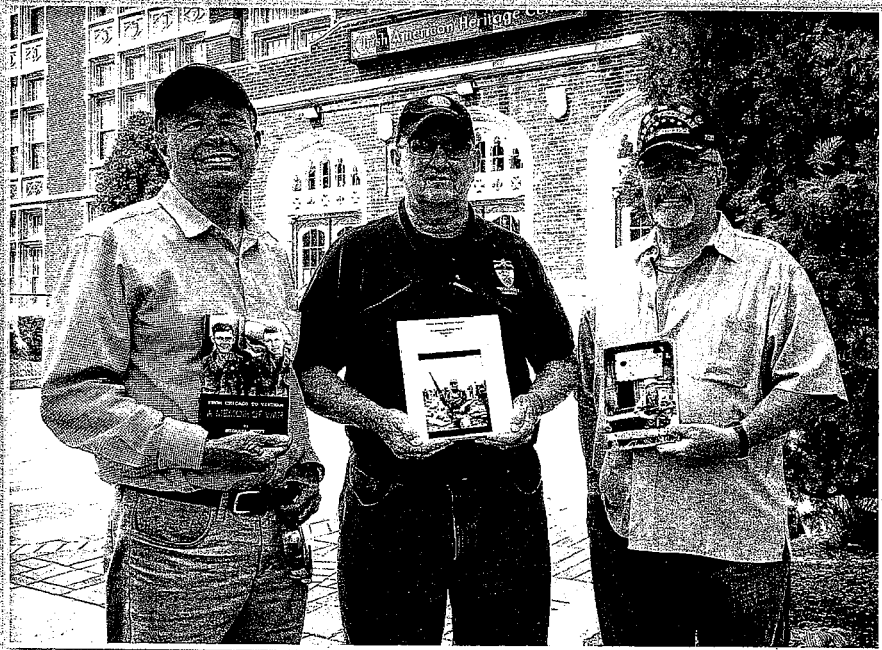
*Before, During, And After Vietnam*

25th Infantry Division, HHT  
3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry  
Cu Chi, Vietnam: 1965-1966

**John Jennings**

*Napalm And Filet Mignon*

4th Infantry Division, B Co.  
1/14th Infantry  
Plieku, Vietnam: 1969-1970



 **Irish American Heritage Center**

4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630 • (773) 282-7035, ext 10 • [irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)

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## ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT CHICAGO

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The Illinois Veterans Home at Chicago will be located at 4250 N. Oak Park Avenue in Chicago, which is adjacent to Chicago Reed Hospital. The building is scheduled to be completed in December 2019; with admissions to start in April 2020. The facility will provide long-term, skilled nursing care.

The building consists of five floors. The first floor will have resident common areas, administration, and the facility's support departments. The second floor will be a skilled nursing Special Needs Unit that is secured to help keep residents who wander, safe. The Special Needs Unit will have its own roof-top garden outdoor space.

Floors 3-5 will be open access, long-term skilled care nursing units. Each resident room is single occupancy with a private bathroom which includes a wheelchair accessible shower. Each community living unit will have its own serving kitchen area, separate dining area, living room, and den.

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) is currently taking names for veterans who wish to apply for admission to the Home or those names of current residents who wish to transfer to the Chicago Home once it opens. Starting in October 2019, we will contact interested parties to begin the admission application process. Please do not send applications at this time.

- If you are a current resident of one of the Illinois Veterans Homes and wish to put your name forward to transfer to the Chicago Home, please contact the Adjutant's Office at your Veterans Home and request they forward your name to the Senior Home Administrator.
- If you are interested in applying for admission to our Chicago Veterans Home and would like to be notified when the application procedure is opened for the Chicago Home, please contact the IDVA Central Office at (217) 782-6641 or via email at [idva.media@illinois.gov](mailto:idva.media@illinois.gov) to be placed on our list to receive an application. Please provide the following information:
  - Name of Veteran
  - Name of Point of Contact for the Veteran, if applicable
  - Mailing address for Veteran or Point of Contact
  - Phone Number for Veteran or Point of Contact

