



**Volume 15 • Issue 09**

**VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter**

**September 2015**



**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12  
PO Box 276, Allenhurst, NJ 07711**

**'For those who fought for it, Freedom has a special flavor the protected will never know.'**



## OFFICERS AND E-BOARD

Dennis Beauregard	President	908-902-8789	<a href="mailto:vva12p@verizon.net">vva12p@verizon.net</a>
Ernie Diorio	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	732-245-5552	<a href="mailto:litetrop67@aol.com">litetrop67@aol.com</a>
Don Davison	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	732-988-4056	<a href="mailto:soulpony@aol.com">soulpony@aol.com</a>
Tony Corbella	Secretary	732-272-8770	<a href="mailto:paddybella@optonline.net">paddybella@optonline.net</a>
Richard Brandon	Treasurer	518-966-8347	<a href="mailto:richbrandon1952@yahoo.com">richbrandon1952@yahoo.com</a>

## COMMITTEES

Bob Lopez	Minority Affairs	732-988-9241	<a href="mailto:seabees7@verizon.net">seabees7@verizon.net</a>
Charles Wuth	PTSD	732-241-1846	<a href="mailto:cwuth@verizon.net">cwuth@verizon.net</a>
John Rahill	Transportation, Cremains	732-495-2593	<a href="mailto:gladnan@juno.com">gladnan@juno.com</a>
Don Davison	School Speakers Program	732-988-4056	<a href="mailto:soulpony@aol.com">soulpony@aol.com</a>
Tom Milmoie	Agent Orange	732-859-8783	<a href="mailto:milmoe7@aol.com">milmoe7@aol.com</a>
Ernie Diorio	School Speaker Program	732-245-5552	<a href="mailto:litetrop67@aol.com">litetrop67@aol.com</a>
Bob Hopkins	Membership, Grievance	732-531-2574	<a href="mailto:herc3000@aol.com">herc3000@aol.com</a>
	Chaplain		
Bucky Grimm	POW/MIA	732-222-9376	<a href="mailto:wheat1111@comcast.net">wheat1111@comcast.net</a>
Rich Gough	Product Sales, Cremains	732-539-0206	<a href="mailto:rpg3706@aol.com">rpg3706@aol.com</a>
	Public Affairs		
Rich Magovern	Cremains, Community	732-842-2950	<a href="mailto:richandnema@verizon.net">richandnema@verizon.net</a>
—	Affairs		
Michael Quilty	Homeless Vets, Car	732-939-8938	<a href="mailto:quiltym@gmail.com">quiltym@gmail.com</a>
—	Show		
Ernie Diorio	Finance, Fund Raising	732-245-5552	<a href="mailto:litetrop67@aol.com">litetrop67@aol.com</a>
Joe McCreary	Veterans' Health Care	732-228-7852	<a href="mailto:joecmbg@yahoo.com">joecmbg@yahoo.com</a>
Dan Higgins	Cremains, Product Sales	732-581-9715	<a href="mailto:danielhiggins123@coccast.net">danielhiggins123@coccast.net</a>

## STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES

Michael Berman, Delegate	Mike Quilty, Alternate Delegate
Paul Bausch, Delegate	Dan Higgins, Alternate Delegate
Tony Ponzio, Delegate	

## OTHER CONTACTS

Margaret Wojciechowicz	VVA National Service Officer	973-297-3227	<a href="mailto:margaret.wojciechowicz@va.gov">margaret.wojciechowicz@va.gov</a>
Bob Parrella	AVVA Liaison	732-303-1689	<a href="mailto:bobpark4@aol.com">bobpark4@aol.com</a>
<b>Rob Ford</b>	<b>BITW Editer &amp; Web Master</b>	<b>732-687-3846</b>	<a href="mailto:nlvva12@gmail.com">nlvva12@gmail.com</a>

Please remember our fellow Chapter members, and their families in your prayers, as they continue to face very serious medical conditions.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Please visit and like our [Face Book](#) page, "Vietnam Veterans NJ Shore Area Chapter 12" for info on what we are doing – photos, and more.

Please visit our Chapter web site – [www.vvachapter12.net](http://www.vvachapter12.net) for photo albums, News Letter Archive's, Chapter History.

.....  
We have been informed that in lieu of specific items to send to troops on deployment, gift cards to the PX would be appreciated. The troops can get almost anything in the PX, but could use the help via gift card. This is also a money and effort saver on our part. Donations to the PX gift card fund are being accepted. We are also switching from actual food to gift cards for our food bank as this will better serve our veterans in need.

.....  
**Anyone needing a ride to the VA, please contact Ernie Diorio for assistance.**

**If you are able to provide transportation ,please let Ernie know, so the same people aren't doing it all the time.**

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are looking for a fellow vet that you lost track of, or someone that you served with, that might have information you need, please send it to us and we will put it in the monthly newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Check this link out if you need help with an appeal, or know a Vet that does. Keep it moving, and pass it on to all other Vets you know. <http://www.vetsprobono.org/index.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Anyone wanting to submit an article, picture, or story please send it to: [va12p@verizon.net](mailto:va12p@verizon.net) or [nlvva12@gmail.com](mailto:nlvva12@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Anything received after that will be placed in the following month's newsletter. (Make sure it can be verified)

## Presidents Message

It was a perfect day for a picnic. Lt and his volunteer cooks, Mike the Q, and Old reliable "Sparkie" Don Davison cooked the menu to perfection. The weather was perfect with no humidity or rain showers and everyone who attended had a great time and enjoyed the food. The highlight of the picnic was seeing our brother, Rob Ford, walking down the path to our location. He made the day a special day. Rob informed us that he and Carole are enjoying their new lifestyle in Florida. As our Chapter Newsletter Editor, he and his trusty camera had taken snap shots for the newsletter. He informed me that I was fired as his photographer . He requested that I find someone that can take real pictures of all Chapter events, so I need a volunteer who can take photos with a real camera, not a cell phone, and email them to him. Who will it be ?????????????????? Please let me know. **ROB NEEDS HELP.**

Speaking of volunteers, we have four Chapter members who have been working hard on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War picnic that will be held on September 13, 2015, noon to 5:00pm, at VFW Post 2179 . We not only need your help setting up, but we need your support by attending this event. It is a family event at no cost to you. We will have games and prizes for your grandchildren, cotton candy, snow cones for their taste buds, horse shoes and Corn Hole tournament for the adults. DJ Steve will play the songs that we all remember. The Menu of the day will include Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Roast Pig, beans ,water melon , soda , water. This picnic is for all Vietnam Era Veterans and their families. The Chapter and the VFW have joined together selling a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary T shirt for only \$20.00, and will split the profits .This a great design shirt which a couple of us purchased at the National Convention from our old friend Steve for \$25 each.

**Please call Me at 908-902-8789 to volunteer for this event.**

**SEE YOU THERE ON THE 13 of September, rain or shine. "Picnic or Hall picnic"  
Posting of the Colors will be at noon, with the reading of names of the Township KIA,**

At the September meeting we will be showing you a short DVD that we purchased in Springfield this past July, on the history of VVA, with our own LT in a couple of scenes. Since this is September already, we will be helping our AVVA member Carmen Peterson at her annual POW/MIA Service on Sept 18 at the Middletown VFW 2179 at 7:00pm. This event has always been well attended by both Chapter members and town residents. This past June, at the VFW Convention, Carmen was given an award for the best POW/MIA service in the State.

Chapter members will be attending the POW/MIA Gold Star Mothers Service on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial .

If anyone is interested in attend Gold Star Luncheon on Sept 19, at VFW 4303 , please contact me.

Chapter Members will be in attendance at the dedication of the Gold Star Family Monument on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, at the end of the Run for the Fallen, between 4pm and 6pm .

Chapter members will be meeting at 8:00 am on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> to help volunteer for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show fund raiser. See Mike Q to sign up to help.

It has been decided to bring back Chapter can shake this year. We will be asking your assistance for only a couple of hours to help raise additional funds to keep our programs in tact and help us to continue in help others. Chairmen will be appointed and will keep all informed of dates of the shake ( poppy drive).

## **The Colonel**



## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

The next Chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, September 2, at 7:30PM. Location is at VFW 2226, 210 Norwood Ave., Oakhurst, NJ.

Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Welcome Home" Picnic (flyer)

Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, A/O Town Hall Meeting (flyer)

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show (flyer)

Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, Guest Speaker at monthly meeting. (flyer)

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall Washing (flyer)

## BIRTHDAYS

Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> Don McNamara  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Geri DiOrio  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Lynn McGowan  
Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> Evan Goode  
Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> Jim Finaldi  
Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> Michael Quilty  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Joanne Parrella

## ANNIVERSARIES

Strphanie & Howie Furth, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>  
Joanne & Bob Parrella, Sept. 21st

**Anyone born in September?? Please let me know so I can put it here and embarrass you properly!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

If you wish to post a birthday or anniversary please submit the info by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next month's news letter.



**Vietnam War Commemoration  
Vietnam Era Veterans  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**FREE “Welcome Home Picnic “  
FREE**

**Please bring your family and grandchildren, will have games and prizes**

**When: September 13, 2015. 12:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Posting of the Colors at noon**

**Rain or shine**

**Picnic Location: VFW Post 2179**

**1 Veterans Lane  
Port Monmouth, NJ**

**FREE Picnic Menu: Soda, Water, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Baked  
Beans, Chicken, Water melon**



**NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL  
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA,  
INC.  
Post Office Box 1229  
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002-6229**



**TOWN HALL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015**

**CONDUCTED BY: NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL, VIETNAM VETERANS  
OF AMERICA**

**HOSTED BY: BERGEN COUNTY CHAPTER 800, VIETNAM VETERANS OF  
AMERICA**

**LOCATION: VFW POST 809, 100 MAIN STREET, LITTLE FERRY, NJ 07643**

**\*\*TIME: 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.\*\***

**CONTACT: MICHAEL ECKSTEIN, VVA NJ STATE COUNCIL**

**CELL (201) 803-2943**

**EMAIL - [MRE1065@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MRE1065@GMAIL.COM)**

**LOCAL CONTACT: TOM WOJCIECHOWICZ, VVA BERGEN COUNTY  
CHAPTER 800**

**CELL (201) 970-0782**

**EMAIL-TOMWOJCIECHOWICZ@COMCAST.NET**

**ARE YOU A VETERAN EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE  
AND OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES DURING & AFTER  
THE VIETNAM WAR?**

**ARE YOU A VETERAN OF THE FIRST WAR IN THE  
GULF?**

**ARE YOU A VETERAN OF THE WAR IN IRAQ?**

**ARE YOU A VETERAN OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN?**

**IF YOU SERVED IN THE MILITARY DURING THOSE TIMES THEN YOU AND  
YOUR FAMILY MIGHT BE AT RISK OF ILLNESSES AND OF BIRTH  
DEFECTS IN YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND IN FUTURE  
GENERATIONS NOT YET BORN**



**UPPER LEFT - AGENT ORANGE SPRAYING IN VIETNAM**

**LOWER LEFT - OIL WELL FIRES IN KUWAIT  
THE UNITED STATES**

**UPPER RIGHT - BURN PITS OF IRAQ &**

**LOWER RIGHT - CONTAMINATION IN**

**THE MOBILE VET CENTER AND STAFF WILL BE PRESENT BEFORE, DURING & AFTER  
THE MEETING**

Join Us

4<sup>th</sup>

CAR  
SHOW

Music

Presented by

Food  
Trophies



To Support & Benefit



NEW

ERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL VIETNAM

ERAMUSEUM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER

**Saturday, October 3, 2014**

At the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center

Exit 116 off the Garden State Parkway

10AM - 4PM (Raindate Sunday, Oct 4)

All registration fees go directly to support the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center. \$20 donation to register vehicle & driver, \$5 donation per spectator. Children under 12 are free.

**For additional information call Herb at 732-849-5700**



**RESCHEDULED**

**Guest Speaker**

VVA Monthly Meeting

**10/7/15**

Robert J. Brown

US Navy CPO (Ret)

Veterans Service Officer

Division of Veterans Services

State of NJ Dept. of Military and Veterans

Affairs

Q & A to follow



# **Attention**

**MAN POWER IS NEEDED FOR**

**October 24, 2015 AT 10:00 AM**

**Where:**

**The Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Education Center,  
Holmdel, NJ Exit 116 G.S. PKWY.**

## **The last time this season!**

**wall washing and clean up of all grounds around the  
MEMORIAL and walkways**

**PLEASE CONTACT: JOHN AITKEN**

**[jwa437@comcast.net](mailto:jwa437@comcast.net) or 732-757-1711**

**for information or directions.**

**In brotherhood,**

**The Colonel**



## PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 3, 2015**

**No. 15-18**

**Press Release**

**Contact:  
Mokie Porter  
301-585-4000, Ext. 146**

### John Rowan to Serve Sixth Term As National President of Vietnam Veterans of America

(Washington, D.C.)--John Rowan was reelected to a sixth term as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) on July 24, at the organization's 17th National Convention in Springfield, Illinois. Rowan, who was elected to VVA's highest office in 2005, has served as the chairman of VVA's Conference of State Council Presidents, for three terms on the organization's Board of Directors, and as president of VVA's New York State Council. He served as a linguist in the U.S. Air Force's 6990 Security Squadron in Vietnam and at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, providing the Strategic Air Command with intelligence on North Vietnam's SAM sites to protect their bombing missions.

Rowan was a founding member and the first president of VVA Chapter 32 in Queens, New York. He retired from city service as an investigator with the City of New York's Comptroller's Office. He lives in Middle Village, New York, with his wife, Mariann.

Marsha Four of Springfield, Pennsylvania, was reelected to serve as Vice President; Bill Meeks, Jr., of The Woodlands, Texas, was reelected as Secretary; and Wayne Reynolds of Athens, Alabama, was reelected as VVA's Treasurer. In addition, 19 National Board of Directors were elected: Ten At-Large and nine Regional. The At-Large directors are Dottie Barickman (IA); Richard C. DeLong (LA); Charlie Hobbs (TN); Joe Kristek (NC); Felix Peterson (OK); Dave Simmons (WV); Dan Stenvold (ND); Kerwin Stone (TX); Sandie Wilson (MI); and Jerry Yamamoto (CA).

The nine Regional directors elected to serve a 2015-2017 term are: Region 1, John Miner (VT); Region 2, Ted Wilkinson (NY); Region 3, Sara McVicker (MD); Region 4, Craig Tonjes (FL); Region 5, Tom Burke (OH); Region 6, Mike Demske (WI); Region 7, Dennis Andras (LA); Region 8, Ron Morgan (OR); and Region 9, Dick

# House passes cost of living adjustment for veterans' benefits

The House approved legislation on Tuesday that would increase rates of benefit compensation for veterans with disabilities caused by their military service.

Passed 409-0, the measure hikes cost-of-living adjustments for benefits offered through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to keep up with inflation. Social Security benefits receive similar cost-of-living adjustments that occur automatically.

“Many disabled veterans and their families depend on VA benefits to pay for their housing, their food, and other necessities. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that VA benefits keep pace with the rate of inflation so that our nation's heroes are able to make ends meet,” said House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.).

Cost-of-living adjustments for veterans' disability benefits must be approved by Congress each year, unlike the automatic process for Social Security.

Another provision based off of legislation authored by Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.), would require the VA to pay any accrued benefits to a deceased veteran's estate.

The VA currently pays accrued benefits to a deceased veteran's family members, such as spouses or dependent children. But the VA keeps the benefit payments if the veteran dies without surviving qualifying family members.

## Rebuttal to Article Asserting POW/MIA Flag is “Racist”

Giving the benefit of doubt as to the origin of the headline for Mr. Pearlstein’s article in the Washington Spectator, picked up by Newsweek.com, the best one can say is that the assertion our POW/MIA flag reflects “racist hate” is unsupported and unsupportable. The purpose appears to be a blatant attempt to generate interest in Mr. Pearlstein’s latest book focused on trite, outdated political theories, overcome by events that have transpired over the past four decades.

Setting aside the race-baiting headline and its purpose, the “opinions” written to dismiss the POW/MIA accounting mission as “mythology” seem intended to build on similar unsubstantiated assertions by another political author from the past, peddling similar political opinions, H. Bruce Franklin in his 1992 book, M.I.A., or, Mythmaking In America. Clearly, neither author sought to understand the solid foundation upon which the League’s expectations were established.

Those who took the time and made the effort, both in Washington, DC, and in Hanoi, knew the importance. Following relatively feeble US attention post-war, the League, supported by our Nation’s major national Veteran organizations, worked to sustain public interest in and support for the principles most Americans hold dear – standing behind those who serve our country – including making every reasonable effort to return them to their families and our country – alive or dead.

As a result, and after several extremely difficult years, the US set about developing the ability to account for America’s POW/MIAs in 1981 by working directly to establish meaningful dialogue with Vietnam. Most importantly the Vietnamese leadership, having long known the value of American POWs, had retrieved and centralized recovered remains and archival documents that could shed light on those not returned in 1973.

Assertions that significant bilateral efforts were based on mythology are rendered moot when you recognize how far Vietnam and the US

have come together since the actual end of the war in 1975. From a personal perspective, the 1,019 families of US personnel previously missing are returned for burial with full military honors, meant an end to their many years of uncertainty.

Recognized first by Vietnam as their “bridge to normalization of relations” with the US, the humanitarian nature of accounting for former combatants is both honorable and served as a sustainable and defensible path for policy level dialogue between former enemies.

Representing the National League of POW/MIA Families, I participated in that interagency process from 1978 until 1992; theories are unnecessary in today’s environment. .

This past July, the US and Vietnam celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of normalization of bilateral relations. This year also saw the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first joint field recovery attempt in northern Vietnam, and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official end of the Vietnam War. Nevertheless, it was little short of astonishing to participate in activities related to the visit to Washington, DC, of His Excellency Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, a visit that included meeting with President Obama in the Oval Office.

For both countries, the visit was highly symbolic, even unprecedented, though Vietnam’s President visited in 2013 and their Prime Minister a few years earlier, and countless visits back and forth by senior US officials. Most importantly, there were pioneers on both sides who had the courage and vision to move forward. For many, the pace seemed far too slow, but restoring relations between former enemies is no simple task.

There are some Americans and Vietnamese who will never understand the importance of what has occurred, much less forgive all that took place in the past. Having dedicated roughly 40 years to ensure that America, as a nation, stands behind those who serve, the League knows there is much more that can and will be done to account for our unreturned Veterans. Very importantly, we are proud to be part of ensuring that those serving today know that should they be captured or listed as missing, our Nation will be there for them, to bring them home – alive or dead – persistence and dedication will make it happen.

**Mr. Pearlstein appears to have no knowledge of the bipartisan support through successive administrations that now has brought formation of the new Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, thanks to former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's unwavering support. The League and our legions of supporters, including our Nation's major national veteran organizations, know the POW/MIA flag symbolizes the principles intended when it first appeared in 1970.**

**Written by: Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman of the Board, National League of POW/MIA Families and MIA sister of CDR James B. Mills, USNR, MIA 9-21-66, North Vietnam**

**The New Jersey Gold Star Family Monument  
Foundation**

**Cordially invites you to the  
Dedication Ceremony for the NJ Gold Star Family  
Monument**

**To be held at  
The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial  
Holmdel, New Jersey**

**On  
Sunday, September 27, 2015  
At 5:00 PM immediately following the conclusion of the  
New Jersey Run for the Fallen**

We can be contacted at [Njgoldstarfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:Njgoldstarfamilies@gmail.com)



From: Paul Sutton  
Date: Aug 20, 2015 11:55:50 AM  
Subject: NJ National Guard Youth Challenge Academy - request

From Congressman LoBiondo's office...

ALCON:

Please forward to your respective Commanders and Organizational Leaders:

Attached is a 1 page brief on the New Jersey National Guard Youth Challenge Academy. In short- **this Federal and State partnership** program is a live-in 5 ½ month (quasi-military) school that helps New Jersey at-risk youth who have dropped out of high school by preparing them for the GED. In addition this program offers many life-changing benefits and opportunities for the students. This program is offered completely free to New Jersey students. **It is a wonderful program that can transform lives.** Please read the attached for more details.

**I am sending this to you in hopes that your offices can help us find candidates and mentors for this program or recommend agency contacts that can help us find students who could benefit from this program. This is a program that is not well known but is a tremendous opportunity.**

The following Recruiters are available to visit and personally brief you on the Academy:

**(North NJ)** - Warren, Sussex, Morris, Passaic, Essex and Bergen Counties New Jersey –  
**Mr. Maurice Tindall - [609-556-6082](tel:609-556-6082)**

**(Central NJ)** Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, Middlesex, Mercer and Monmouth Counties -  
**Mr. Ed Hoyles – [609-556-6084](tel:609-556-6084)**

**(South NJ)** Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic and Cape May Counties – **Ms. Stephanie Dearden - [609-556-6085](tel:609-556-6085)**

As always thank you for your support.



**New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy**  
**Recruitment / Placement / Mentoring Department (RPM)**

**Phone: 609-556-6080**

**Fax: 609-556-6101**

---

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the New Jersey Youth ChalleNGe Academy. It is our hope to give at-risk youth a second chance at receiving their high school diploma. Sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and the state of New Jersey, this award winning Academy provides a structured environment fulfilling youth's need to seek control of their world and gain the respect of others.

Located on the Joint Base, this 5½ month program is structured in a military curriculum. We focus on academics, leadership, development, physical training, and personal growth. The students (cadets as we call them) gain a strong sense of community through responsible citizenship and outreach projects. Students with the desire and discipline develop self-management skills promoting prospects for a brighter future.

Our program is completed in phases. The first two weeks are allotted for candidates to adjust to the physical, mental, and social discipline of the program. After they are acclimated, cadets begin a strict classroom routine geared to the five core subjects: social studies, math, writing, science, and reading. At the end of the five months the cadets will have the opportunity to take the GED, and if they pass the exam they will receive their high school diploma.

The 12-month period after graduation is called the Post-Residential Phase. Cadets return to their communities to be productive citizens. Reporting monthly to the academy, cadets keep us updated as they pursue their goals. Graduates from the Academy go on to 2-year and 4-year colleges; they join the workforce; or join the military.

The program services the entire state of New Jersey, and the program is tuition free. We accept a wide range of students, with the requirements being that they must be 16-18 years of age and residents of New Jersey. The program is voluntary, and requires students to be free of any legal obligations upon entrance.

## Various URLs of Interest

### A/O in Okinawa

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has granted compensation to another former service member for exposure to Agent Orange while stationed on Okinawa during the Vietnam War era. Dated October 2013, the award was made to a retired marine corps driver suffering from prostate cancer that, the presiding judge ruled, had been triggered by his transportation and usage of the toxic defoliant on the island between 1967 and 1968.

The decision to grant the claim comes in spite of repeated Pentagon denials that Agent Orange was ever present in Okinawa.

2014 <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/community/2014/03/17/issues/ailing-u-s-veteran-wins-payout-over-agent-orange-exposure-in-okinawa/>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **One Time Special Offer: August 1 – December 31, 2015**

### **Life Membership Dues \$100.00 - [Download the application here](#)**

Questions? Need more information? Download:

- [Membership Procedures Guide](#)
- [The Membership Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Incarcerated Veterans Membership Info](#)

To join, [print a Membership Application](#). Please include a copy of your DD-214 with your membership application.

Families, friends, supporters, and veterans of other eras can join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America and receive the same benefits.

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Items Left at The Wall* Now Available for View Online



On August 6, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service unveiled “Items Left at The Wall,” a virtual collection of nearly 500 items. This is the largest exhibit of items left at The Wall to be made available online, and is representative of the 400,000 items left since The Wall was dedicated in 1982.

View the collection: [www.vvmf.org/items](http://www.vvmf.org/items)

\*\*\*\*\*

## September Is National Suicide Awareness Month

To learn more about what you can do to help, go to: <http://spreadtheword.veteranscrisisline.net/>

**Sunset Flag Ceremony  
USCG Station  
Cape May  
August 4, 2015**



**Marsha Four  
VVA National Vice President**

# CHAPTER PICNIC 2015





( All that's missing is Yogi & Boo Boo )

## Bad Joke Time Again

### **Subject: FW: The Ocean View restaurant**

A group of 15-year old boys discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Dairy Queen next to the Ocean View restaurant because they only had \$6.00 between them and Jennie Johnson, that cute girl in Social Studies, lives on that street and they might see her and they can ride their bikes there.

Ten years later, the group of 25-year-old guys discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the beer was cheap, they had free snacks, the band was good, there was no cover and there were lots of cute girls.

Ten years later, at 35 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the booze was good, it was right near the gym and if they went late enough, there wouldn't be too many whiny little kids.

Ten years later, at 45 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the martinis were big, and the waitresses had nice boobs and wore tight pants.

Ten years later, at 55 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the prices were reasonable, the wine list was good and fish is good for your cholesterol.

Ten years later, at 65 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the lighting was good and they have an early bird special.

Ten years later, at 75 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the food was not too spicy, and the restaurant was handicapped accessible.

Ten years later, at 85 years of age, the group once again discussed where they should meet for dinner. It was agreed they should meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they had never been there before.



## THE HAIRCUT

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.'

The florist was pleased and left the shop.

When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.' The cop was happy and left the shop.

The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a Congressman came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you. I'm doing community service this week.' The Congressman was very happy and left the shop.

The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Congressmen lined up waiting for a free haircut.

**And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.**

# The Bookstore

So, I was walking through the mall and I saw that there was a Muslim bookstore. I was wondering what exactly was in a Muslim bookstore so I went in.

As I was wandering around taking a look, the clerk stopped me and asked if he could help me.

I asked, "Do you have a copy of Donald Trump's book on his U.S. Immigration Policy regarding Muslims and illegal Mexicans?"

The clerk said, "F— off, get out and stay out!"

I said, "Yes, that's the one. Do you have it in paperback?"

TRUISMS???

<p>I saw a woman wearing a sweat shirt with 'Guess' on it. So I said 'Implants?' She hit me.</p>	<p>Marriage changes passion. Suddenly you're in bed with a relative.</p>
<p>Now that food has replaced sex in my life, I can't even get into my own pants.</p>	<p>How come we choose from just two people to run for president and over fifty for Miss America?</p>
<p>When I was young we used to go 'skinny dipping,' now I just 'chunky dunk.'</p>	<p>I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!</p>
<p>Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over? AMEN, AMEN!</p>	<p>Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.</p>
<p>Wouldn't you know it... Brain cells come and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever.</p>	<p>Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison? A completely brilliant question!</p>
<p>Bumper sticker of the year: 'If you can read this, thank a teacher - And, since it's in English, thank a soldier'</p>	<p>Why do I have to swear on the Bible in court when the Ten Commandments cannot be displayed outside? Another completely brilliant question!</p>

***And remember:Life is like a roll of toilet paper.***

***The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.***

***Save the Earth...It's the only planet with  
chocolate.***

## TAPS

Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord

Unavailable At This Time

**REST IN PEACE BROTHERS**