



BACK IN THE WORLD

Volume 16• Issue 11/12

VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter

December 2016



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	vva12p@verizon.net
Ernie Diorio	1 st Vice President	732-245-5552	litetrop67@aol.com
Don Davison	2 nd Vice President	732-988-4056	soulpony@aol.com
Tony Corbella	Secretary	732-272-8770	paddybella@optonline.net
Richard Brandon	Treasurer	518-966-8347	richbrandon1952@yahoo.com

COMMITTEES

Bob Lopez	Minority Affairs	732-988-9241	seabees7@verizon.net
Joe Leone	PTSD	609-577-7848	anamvet1969@gmail.com
John Rahill	Transportation, Cremains	732-495-2593	gladnan@juno.com
Don Davison	School Speakers Program	732-988-4056	soulpony@aol.com
Tom Milmoe	Agent Orange	732-859-8783	milmoe7@aol.com
Ernie Diorio	School Speaker Program	732-245-5552	litetrop67@aol.com
Bob Hopkins	Membership, Grievance	732-531-2574	herc3000@aol.com
	Chaplain		
Bucky Grimm	POW/MIA	732-222-9376	wheat1111@comcast.net
Rich Gough	Product Sales, Cremains	732-539-0206	rpg3706@aol.com
Rich Magovern	Public Affairs Cremains, Community	732-842-2950	richandnema@verizon.net
Michael Quilty	Affairs Homeless Vets, Car	732-939-8938	quiltym@gmail.com
Ernie Diorio	Show Finance, Fund Raising	732-245-5552	litetrop67@aol.com
Joe McCreary	Veterans' Health Care	732-228-7852	joecmbg@yahoo.com
Dan Higgins	Cremains, Product Sales	732-581-9715	danielhiggins123@comcast.net

STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES

Michael Berman, Delegate
Mike Quilty, Delegate
Dan Higgins, Delegate

Phil Pesco, Alternate Delegate
Carmelo Burgaretta, Alternate Delegate

OTHER CONTACTS

Margaret Wojciechowicz	VVA National Service Officer	973-297-3227	margaret.wojciechowicz@va.gov
Bob Parrella	AVVA Liaison	732-303-1689	bobpark4@aol.com
Rob Ford	BITW Editor & Web Master	732-687-3846	nlvva12@gmail.com

Presidents Message

We are in the month of November, one of our busiest months of the year.

First of all I wish to thank Rob Ford for all his years as of Chapter Editor for our monthly newsletter. Rob has decided to step down as the editor of a award winner newsletter for three times in his rein. He wishes to stay on as web master and will be updating each month of our events. Second would like to introduce Carl Force as Chapter 12 new editor. Carol has been editor for the VFW 2179 newsletter for the past 5 years. I agree with her that a newsletter is only as good as the information sent to her for print. If you have something to relay to the membership, please forward to caf7881@gmail.com.

This month the school speakers had visited 4 schools, our cremains program is now a sponsor for MIA,US and getting ready to put nine veterans to rest .The Chapter continues to help with Home Depot's Kids Woodwork shop. John Aitkens and I were able to get a grant for VFW2179 for all new ceiling tiles from Home Depot. Thanks to Home Depot and all their employees for all the help this past year at the Memorial clean ups.

This past year we had two tables of 10 for the annual Gala for the Memorial, Chapter 699 was the only Chapter that had sent two members. After I had sat down, I reviewed their annual journal and to my surprise we were the only Chapter that had taken an ad along with the State Council who always takes the back page, this should not have been, every Chapter should have taken an ad.

On December 10 we will be hosting our annual Holiday party at the Middletown VFW, the only cost is a unwrapped toy for Santa. Since we have so many grandkids attending I asked a local Boy Scout troop to help keep them busy. See flyer for details.

On November 19, 11 Chapter members had attended The Brennan Stand Along annual dinner and had presented them a \$1000.00 check, this is the money from our monthly 50/50.

Congratulation to Vice President Ernie DiOrio as Chairman to the Manalapan Veterans committee for their unveilings of their Veterans memorial, which was done on donations only. Outstanding job Brother Ernie

At last month's meeting I was able to present two awards , where members were unable to attend this year's dinner dance, first Congratulation to Greg Kucharewski for receiving the Chapters Point man of the year, and John Rahill for Brotherhood of the year

**JUST A REMINDER THE HOLIDAY PARTY SERVES AS OUR MONTHLY MEETING FOR
DECEMBER.**

In Brotherhood

The Colonel



NOTES FROM CHAPTER 12

- ⇒ 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 Facebook page, “Vietnam Veterans NJ Shore Area Chapter 12” for info on what we are doing.
- ⇒ Please visit our CHAPTER WEBSITE—www.vvachapter12.net for photo albums, news letter archives, Chapter history.
- ⇒ Anyone needing a ride to the VA, please contact Ernie Dorio 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’ll 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, pass it on to other Vets you know: <http://www.vetsprobono.org/index.htm>
- ⇒ Anyone wanting to submit an article, picture, or story, please send it to VVA12p@verizon.net or nivva12@gmail.com by the 25th of each month. Anything received after that will be placed in the following month’s newsletter. (Make sure your article can be verified.
- ⇒ 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 help via gift card. This is also a money and effort saver on our part. Donations to the PX gift care 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.**

New Study Could Pressure VA to Expand Agent Orange Benefits



More than four decades after the end of the Vietnam War, research is still showing the effects of the herbicide Agent Orange. The latest findings: An association between exposure and high blood pressure.

by Charles Ornstein, ProPublica, and Mike Hixenbaugh, The Virginian-Pilot Nov. 15, 2016, 11 a.m.

This is part of an ongoing investigation—[Reliving Agent Orange](#)

A new study has found a close relationship between Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War and high blood pressure, a conclusion that could lead the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to dramatically expand the number of veterans eligible for compensation.

The study, published last week by VA researchers in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, found a higher rate of hypertension among members of the Army Chemical Corps who handled Agent Orange during the war compared to those who didn't. Corps members who served in Vietnam but did not spray the chemicals also had a higher rate of hypertension than their peers who served outside Vietnam.

Both results were statistically significant and add to a body of evidence linking Agent Orange exposure and hypertension.

Hypertension is the most common ailment among veterans seeking health care at the VA—indeed it is one of the most common ailments among older adults generally.

The study released last week found the prevalence of hypertension among members of the Army Chemical Corps to be higher than among other aging veterans. Although most of the Agent Orange used in Vietnam was sprayed from Air Force planes, the Army Chemical Corps also sprayed the herbicide from hand sprayers and helicopters.

The findings come 41 years after the close of the Vietnam War and decades since the last supplies of Agent Orange were incinerated. Since then, veterans have become increasingly distrustful of the VA. They maintain that their exposure to Agent Orange, which contained the toxic chemical dioxin, has harmed their own health and has been passed on to their children.

A VA working group has been studying the latest scientific literature since March to determine if any illnesses should be added to the agency's list of diseases for which vets are automatically entitled to compensation if they served in Vietnam. Specifically, the group has been looking at new evidence linking bladder cancer, under-active thyroid, Parkinson's-like symptoms and hypertension to Agent Orange exposure.

The VA had been expected to announce its decision this year, but officials now say that will be left to the administration of President-elect Donald Trump.

For more information: <https://www.propublica.org/article/new-study-could-pressure-va-to-expand-agent->



Cremains Project Report

As of today, of the 15 veterans remains originally identified, 2 have been claimed by family members as a result of our efforts. We have posted all required notifications for the remaining 13 cremains and the 30 day wait period has expired. We are currently moving ahead and submitted paperwork requests for American Flags for each veteran. All that remains is obtaining urns for those that are needed and scheduling at BG William C Doyle Cemetery. Since we are restricted to 9 ceremonies on any given day and the rate of daily services being held at the Cemetery, we anticipate our first service to be about the middle of December.

We have also identified 2 qualified spouses. However, since the New Jersey law only allows us to claim veterans and not their eligible spouses or dependents, members of our committee, Rich Magovern, Ernie Diorio, and Dan Higgins met with Sen. Jennifer Beck and Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon on October 26 in an effort to initiate amendments to the current laws. The results of that meeting were very positive.

I would also like to thank Phil Pesano, Ernie, and anonymous for their generous donation for the purchase of a portable scanner to be used for recording cremains, death, and other required records at the funeral homes.

For the Committee

Rich Gough

VA News Releases

[VA and Social Security Partner to Speed Up Disability Decisions for Veterans](#)

11/09/2016 11:00 AM EST

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) launched a new Health IT initiative that enables VA to share medical records electronically with social security disability processors. This secure process will save time and money resulting in better service for Veterans and dependents who apply for social security disability benefits. The SSA requests nearly 15 million medical records from health care organizations yearly to make medical decisions on about three million disability claims. For decades, SSA obtained medical records through a manual process. This new national initiative puts in place an automated process to obtain Veterans' medical records entirely electronically.



HOLIDAY PARTY

Our annual Holiday Party will be held on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10** at **VFW Post 2179 in Middletown**. The party will run from **3:00 PM to 6:00 PM**.

As always, we will have a **Sweets and Treats** table. The best **home made** dessert will win a prize, but all desserts are welcome. We will also have games and prizes and, for the grandchildren, a special surprise guest!!!

In the past, we've asked that you call to let us know if you're coming, but we no longer need for you to respond, as we pretty much have this down pat and always have enough food.

If you have any questions or need directions, give me a call at (732) 531-2574. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Bob Hopkins
Santa's Helper

Cost of attendance is 1 or 2 new, unwrapped toys for Santa to distribute at local hospitals.

PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a General Membership meeting on **Wednesday, December 7**. The Holiday Party serves as the General Membership meeting for the month of December.



Play HOOK— e Veterans Fishing Group News

I would like to thank everyone for participating in our 2016 Play HOOK-e Veterans Fishing Group.

We will promote the following new programs for 2017:

Boat Fishing/Fly Casting Trips
Archery Target Practice
Private Pond Bass Fishing Trip
Outdoor Sports Shows
Saltwater Aquarium Tour
Peaceful Warrior Meditation
Boater Education and Safety
Horse Therapy

Save the Date

Join us at our next Play HOOK-e Veterans fishing program on Sunday, December 4th with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing at VFW Post 2226, 212 Norwood Ave., Oakhurst, NJ.

From **9:00 am till 10:00 am** the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 "Play HOOK-e" will discuss **10 Tips for Attending Boating and Outdoor Sport Shows**. We will have plenty of free door prizes, discounts, and refreshments. **Please email or phone to register [732-785-9278](tel:732-785-9278)**

Immediately after that, **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Shore Chapter** will present from **10 a.m. until noon**, featuring an introduction to saltwater naturals and imitations, with fly tying instruction and casting practice. That two-hour session will be led by Raoul Cordeaux, with tentative speakers to be announced.

Greg Kucharews

New Jersey Approves Medical Marijuana For PTSD Treatment

The state has almost half a million veterans, of whom it's estimated roughly 80,000 deal with PTSD.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, surprising skeptics, on Wednesday approved a bill that will allow people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder to use medical marijuana when conventional treatments fail. Patients and their advocates had lobbied for the bill for more than a year, citing statistics that show military veterans with PTSD have a high rate of suicide.

"I'm ecstatic, I'm happily surprised, I'm going to go get my card," said Don Karpowich, 57, an Air Force special operations veteran from Morristown with PTSD who has attended several demonstrations at the Statehouse over the past year to push for the bill.

Christie had said at several town halls that he did not want to expand the medical marijuana program. Two years ago he turned down a petition submitted by Coalition Medical Marijuana New Jersey to add PTSD to the list of a dozen ailments that qualify for cannabis use.

But a month and a half after the bipartisan bill was placed on his desk, Christie signed it with a statement explaining his reasons.

Christie cited statistics of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs estimating that 20 percent of veterans who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade suffer from PTSD.

"Throughout the country, significant resources are being used to research PTSD and increase access to traditional treatments, such as psychotherapy and antidepressant medications. This bill would provide struggling veterans and others with the ability to use medical marijuana to treat PTSD, but only after it has been determined by a physician or psychiatrist that conventional medical therapy is ineffective," he wrote.

Christie said that "requiring conventional medical therapy to be ineffective in treating PTSD before medical marijuana can be prescribed is an appropriate threshold safeguard to deter misuse."

He said he will also direct the health commissioner to create new regulations to further prevent misuse, an issue he has raised in the past to explain why he does not favor expanding the program.



1st Lt. Brian Brennan Stands Alone Foundation



On November 19, 2016, some members of VVA Chapter 12 attended the annual dinner dance for the Brennan Stands Alone Foundation. The Foundation was started by Jim and Joann Brennan, parents of Lt. Brian Brennan. Brian was seriously injured in Afghanistan by an IED. He suffered cardiac arrest, multiple fractures, loss of both legs and a traumatic brain injury. Through much rehabilitation, today he is Captain in the United States Army.

The foundation helps to raise money every year for two veterans. These veterans are honored at the dinner dance. The money given to these two veterans is to help these veterans to focus on treatment and rehabilitation in order to regain their return to society.

The dinner dance had singer, Theresa Sareo. Theresa sang "Through a Soldiers Eyes". She not only sang it beautifully, but also wrote the song.

We also got to meet Medal of Honor recipient, Jack Jacobs, who served in Vietnam. It was a great honor to meet him.

Also, our friend, Stephen Baker, Touchdown Maker #85 from Super Bowl XXV New York Giants, attended with our Chapter 12 members.

Chapter 12 has been attending the dinner dance for the last four years. We are always treated with so much dignity and respect as Vietnam Veterans. Chapter 12 has a 50-50 every month at our meeting. Proceeds from this 50-50 is donated to the Brennan Stands Alone Foundation.

Submitted by: Ernie Diorio, 1st Vice President

Manalapan Veterans Walk of Honor Memorial Dedicated

Veterans Day 2016 in Manalapan, NJ turned out to be a beautiful day. VVA Chapter 12 members and their families helped to celebrate the dedication of the Manalapan Veterans Walk of Honor Memorial. The memorial includes pavers engraved with the names of veterans who are being honored. There are six flagpoles honoring the branches of service, including the POW and KIA flags. The memorial has a sitting wall which lights up at night highlighting the memorial. It is a beautiful tribute to our veterans.

Chairman of the Manalapan Veterans Committee, 1st Vice President Ernie Dorio, unveiled the Veterans Walk at the Dedication. The Colonel's two grandsons, Preston and Evan were there to support their Uncle Ernie.



The Colonel's Grandsons with Stephen Baker at the Manalapan dedication.

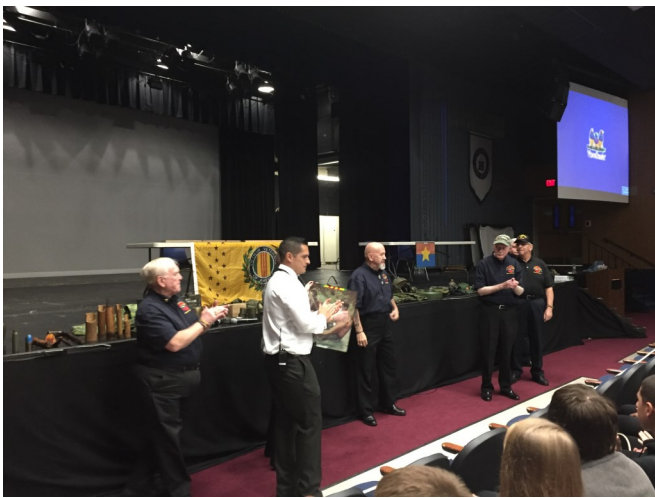
Chapter 12 Volunteers at the Home Depot Kids Workshop

On November 26, twelve Chapter members attended the Home Depot Kids Workshop at our home base store Hazlet. The kids and adults alike had a great time!



EDUCATING OUR YOUTH

On November 7th, VVA Chapter 12 presented a program to the students of Howell High School.



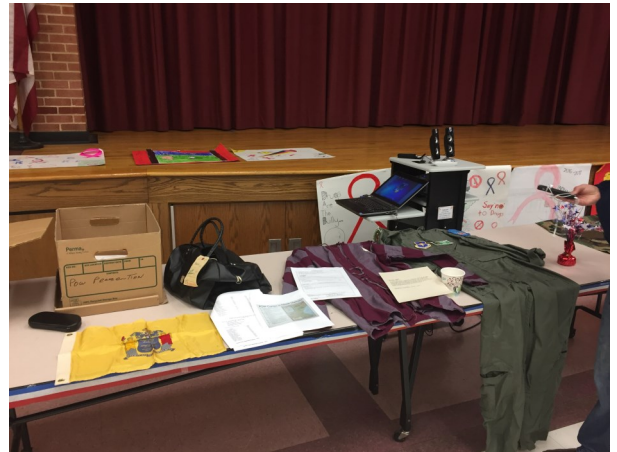
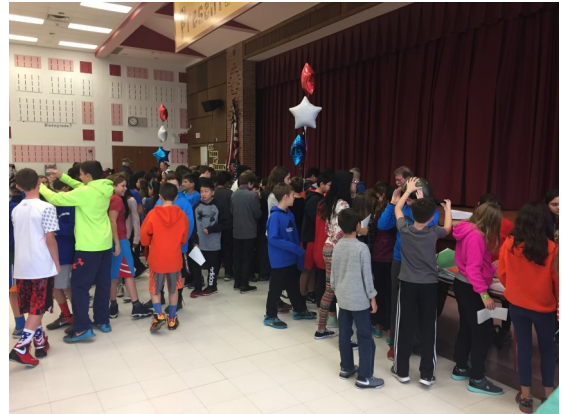
EDUCATING OUR YOUTH

On November 9th, VVA Chapter 12 presented a program to the students of Shore Regional High School.



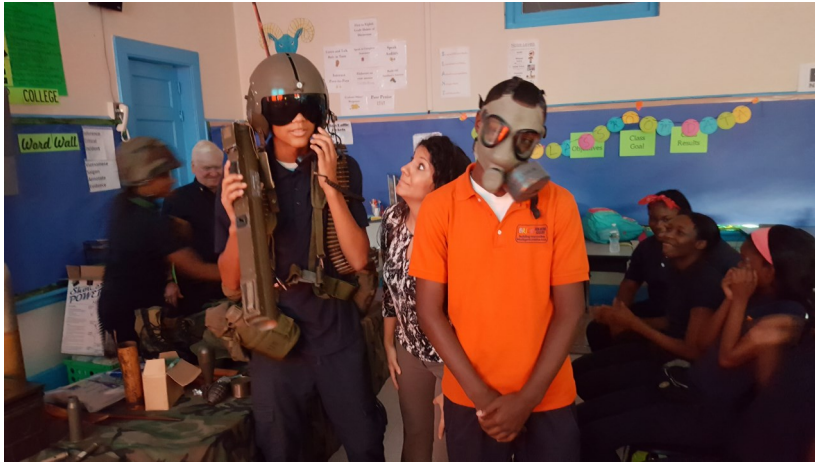
EDUCATING OUR YOUTH

On November 9th, VVA Chapter 12 presented a program to the students of Indian Hill School in Holmdel.



EDUCATING OUR YOUTH

School speaker program visits Avon Ave School in Newark



FALL CLEAN-UP 2016



Submitted by:
John Aitken
VVA Chapter 12



Holmdel holds POW/MIA remembrance ceremony

A Monmouth County community on Friday honored soldiers who were killed or went missing while serving the nation. A remembrance ceremony was held at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel.

The ceremony honored prisoners of war, those missing in action and Gold Star Mothers. The Gold Star Mothers organization provides support to mothers who have lost children in the line...



Happy Birthday

October— Desiree Weiss
Cathy Lasowski

November— Dennis Beauregard
Hailey Weiss

December—Dominique Beauregard

Happy Anniversary

October— Pat and Carole Lipka
Dennis and Dolores Beauregard

Sick Call

Bucky Grimm is doing well with his re-hab!

**Chapter member
Mike Q marching
in Middletown
Veterans Day Pa-
rade as a Elk**



TAPS

Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord

James A. Clark U.S. Marine Corps

Robert W. Emmer U.S. Navy

Lawrence J. Darcy U.S. Army

Charles Michael Ruth Jr. U.S. Navy

John Wolf U.S. Marines

John A. Seals U.S. Air Force

Joseph R. Meola U.S. Army

Robert A Peterson U.S. Navy

Paul T McCartney U.S. Army

Thomas K. Masterson U.S. Army

Michael Crory U.S. Army

Jose E (Junior) Castro U.S. Army

James Passaretti U.S. Army

Donald F. Wood U.S. Army

Wilbur Bishoff U.S. Army

REST IN PEACE BROTHERS