



**Volume 29• Issue 11-12**

**VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter**

**November/December  
2019**

Photo No. K-21496 USN Reserve (111-16) on 24 April 1960



**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12**

**PO Box 276, Allenhurst, NJ 07711**

## 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>                 |
| Don Davison      | School Speakers Program                       | 732-988-4056                                     | <a href="mailto:soulpony@aol.com">soulpony@aol.com</a>                         |
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| Bob Hopkins      | Membership, Grievance                         | 732-531-2574                                     | <a href="mailto:herc3000@aol.com">herc3000@aol.com</a>                         |
| 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>                           |
| Rich Magovern    | Public Affairs<br>Cremains, Community Affairs | 732-842-2950                                     | <a href="mailto:richandnema@verizon.net">richandnema@verizon.net</a>           |
| Michael Quilty   | Homeless Vets, Car Show                       | 732-939-8938                                     | <a href="mailto:quiltym@gmail.com">quiltym@gmail.com</a>                       |
| Ernie Diorio     | Finance, Fund Raising                         | 732-245-5552                                     | <a href="mailto:litetrop67@aol.com">litetrop67@aol.com</a>                     |
| Erwin Coons,     | Veterans' Health Care                         | shove <a href="mailto:03@aol.com">03@aol.com</a> | <a href="tel:732-539-1383">732-539-1383</a>                                    |
| Dan Higgins      | Cremains, Product Sales                       | 732-581-9715                                     | <a href="mailto:danielhiggins123@coccast.net">danielhiggins123@coccast.net</a> |
| Greg Kucharewski | E-mail, Play Hook-e, PTSD                     | 732-840-9197                                     | <a href="mailto:gkuchaerews@aol.com">gkuchaerews@aol.com</a>                   |
| Joe Leone        | PTSD  | 609-577-7848                                     | <a href="mailto:anamvet1969@gmail.com">anamvet1969@gmail.com</a>               |
| Alan Saltzman    | Fund raising,                                 | 646-261-2615                                     | <a href="mailto:alstimers@aol.com">alstimers@aol.com</a>                       |

## STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES

|                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Michael Berman, Delegate     | Phil Pesano, Alternate Delegate   |
| Carmelo Burgaretta, Delegate | Tony Corbella, Alternate Delegate |
| Dan Higgins, Delegate        |                                   |

## OTHER CONTACTS

|                        |                              |              |  |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Margaret Wojciechowicz | VVA National Service Officer | 973-297-3227 | <a href="mailto:margaret.wojciechowicz@va.gov">margaret.wojciechowicz@va.gov</a> |
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| Rob Ford               | Web Master                   | 732-687-3846 | <a href="mailto:nlvva12@gmail.com">nlvva12@gmail.com</a>                         |
| Carol Force            | BITW editor                  | 908-601-3132 | <a href="mailto:caf7881@gmail.com">caf7881@gmail.com</a>                         |



## 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.vvchapter12.net](http://www.vvchapter12.net) for photo albums, news letter archives, Chapter history.
- ⇒ 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’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](mailto:VVA12p@verizon.net) or [nivva12@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## **President's Message**



**I hope that all of our members and their families are doing well during these hard times dealing with COVID-19 virus that has hit this country hard. Before Governor Murphy executive order of all residents are directed to stay at home with the exceptions of shopping for essential goods or services, seeking medical attention, visiting family or close friends, reporting to work or engaging in outdoor activities. Then his ordering of the closing of all non-essential retail businesses to shut down.**

**On March 14, I had Carol Force send out my decision that our April general meeting and board meeting will be cancelled along with my decision that our Chapter annual dance that was schedule for April 4 would be re schedule for September 12, 2020.**

**I will keep you posted if we are able to resume our monthly meeting schedule for May 6, 2020.**

**In Brotherhood**

**The Colonel**

## **Dennis Beauregard**

### **2019 Distinguished Citizen of the Year**



**The 2019 Distinguished Citizen of the Year award was presented to Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Dennis Beauregard in recognition of his tremendous efforts to advocate for veterans.**

**Mr. Beauregard has been President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 for 26 years and served as an original member of the all-volunteer Middletown Veterans Affairs Committee. He spearheaded a number of projects, such as re-dedicating the recently-restored World War I Doughboy Monument, bringing the 50th Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Picnic to Middletown, and was a key contributor to the success of the Township's Fallen Veterans Commemorative Street Sign Program. Mr. Beauregard was also the driving force behind donating 17 POW/MIA flags to our public schools and fire houses and the VVA Chapter 12 Veterans Cremains Project. There is a reason why everyone refers to him as "The Colonel" and that's because he gets things done!**

**We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated, reliable and talented individual as one of Middletown's own.**

Reprinted: Middletown Minutes

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Dennis Beauregard

### 2019 Distinguished Citizen of the Year



*VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
NEW JERSEY SHORE AREA - CHAPTER 12*



**26th ANNUAL INSTALLATION & DINNER DANCE**  
**CELEBRATING 38 YEARS OF SERVICE TO**  
**VETERANS AND COMMUNITY**

Our Annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday,

September 12, 2020 - 6:00 pm at VFW 2179,

September 12, 2020 - 6:00 pm at VFW 2179,

**September 12, 2020 6:00 P.M. at VFW 2179,** One Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth, NJ

07758. Tickets are

\$45.00 per person. To reserve tickets, please contact, Ernie Diorio at 732-245-5552

We hope to see some more familiar faces there this year.

**Featuring entertainment by ROCK N RHYTHM**



The [PTSD Coach app](#) is a digital resource provided by the National Center for PTSD aimed at helping veterans learn more about and manage their symptoms of PTSD from anywhere. Through the PTSD Coach app you are able to use the built-in coping tools when you feel upset or stressed as well as create your own support network. You can also track your progress to see if symptoms are improving over time.

Recently, the app has been upgraded to include new features allowing you to have a customized and personal experience. You're now able to make your own music playlists and upload your own photos. Download the app to get started today.

This app is also available in Spanish. You can personalize the app through your profile and choose your preferred language.





## Blue Water Navy Veterans received \$140M in retroactive benefits in January, February

Blue Water Navy Veterans and survivors who filed compensation claims in January and February 2020 have so far received over \$140 million in retroactive benefits. This information can be found in a new monthly report published on the 10th business day of each month to inform Veterans and other stakeholders about BWN claims decisions.

These figures show the latest results from VA directly acting upon the [Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veteran Act of 2019](#) that went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

The BWN Act extends the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, as well as Veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone between Sept. 1, 1967, and Aug. 31, 1971. Prior to this law, only Veterans who served on the ground in Vietnam or within Vietnam's inland waterways were eligible to receive disability compensation based on a presumption of herbicide exposure.

### How to file

Filing a claim for BWN benefits is a straightforward process. Veterans who wish to file an initial claim for an herbicide-related disability that have not been previously decided by VA can use [VA Form 21-526EZ](#), Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, online at <https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim>.

However, BWN Veterans who were previously denied will be able to reapply using [VA Form 20-0995](#), Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim. As of Jan. 1, VA began processing BWN claims that were stayed in the VA review process or under appeal.

Survivors and dependents who have never filed a claim but want to file a claim now can use [VA Form 21P-534EZ](#). Survivors and dependents who have been previously denied a Dependency and Indemnity claim and want to file another claim now can use VA [Form 20-0995](#). For additional Dependency and Indemnity claims information, visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation>.

### Additional assistance

If Veterans or survivors need help determining the location of the vessel a Veteran traveled on, VA has collaborated with the [National Archives and Records Administration](#) (NARA) to digitize the deck logs of more than 1,800 Navy and Coast Guard vessels.

VA also developed an internal claims-related technical processing system which incorporates data from the digital deck logs and identifies vessels that may have traveled within the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam. While there are others claiming to be able to help BWN Veterans locate their ship positions, VA strongly discourages Veterans from relying on any unauthorized service or tool as VA cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information. VA was also not involved in developing any publicly available online tools currently being advertised.

VA encourages any Veteran who thinks that they may be eligible for Blue Water Navy benefits to contact an accredited [Veterans Service Organization](#) (VSO) to assist with the application process. Veterans can also contact their [state Veterans Affairs Office](#).

Additional information and resources about the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, eligibility requirements and how to file an initial or supplemental claim can be found online at <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>.



## **POW/MIA Report**

**Submitted by: Bucky Grimm**

**More than 81,900 Americans remain missing from WW11, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War and the Gulf Wars/ other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,900 missing 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea. (i.e.ship losses, known aircraft water losses,**

**These are the latest totals from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.**

***WW11.....72,627***

***Korea..... 7,600***

***Vietnam.....1,587***

***Cold War.... 126***

***Gulf Wars.. 5***

***Coronado***

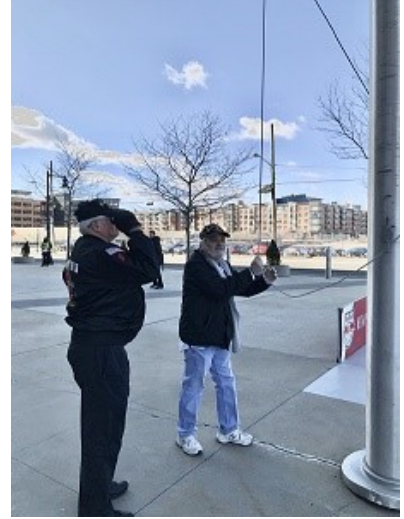
***Canyon.....1***

***Total.....81,946***

## KIA FLAG FLIES AT RED BULLS STADIUM

Here are a few pictures of the raising of the KIA flag at Red Bulls stadium. The event and day were lovely. We had a nice time.

Allen Saltzman  
VVA Chapter 12



# **“Play HOOK-e” From PTSD**

By Greg Kucharewski

## Managing Stress Associated with the COVID-19 Virus Outbreak

Veteran groups and organizations are adapting to the mandated “Social Distancing” (SD) rules from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. For all of us to be safe we must comply with restrictions in our daily life at this time. I can’t stress how important it is to “Follow the Rules.”

As a PTSD veteran, I know, for my own mental health I need to get outside in open green spaces to breath some fresh air. If not, I’m like a cat in the house going from window to window. Eco-therapy is one of my coping tools to limit PTSD symptoms. This is what I do: I usually walk outside alone, but if a friend joins me, I still maintain the 6-foot distance rule. I try only to walk with people I live with or friends that are following the rules of SD and practice extreme cleansing behaviors. If you go walking, biking, or running, with a friend remember to keep a safe distance.

Outdoor chores are another way to get outside, not a favorite of mine, but we now have clean windows and screens. Rainy days are the hardest for me to deal with. Those are the days I usually touch-base with a few veterans and phone to cheer them up. Making phone calls also helps my mental wellbeing by giving me purpose. I find prayer takes a good portion of my day now, because friends ask me to pray for them. For all of us it’s very hard not to visit relatives, grandchildren, and friends. They are part of our PTSD support system. We are fortunate we have Facetime, Skype, and Zoom. Using technology, we can at least see our loved ones and veteran brothers and sisters during these difficult times.

As we all face the disruption and uncertainty related to Coronavirus, please remember to reach out and phone a veteran friend to check that they are okay. Who understands better than another PTSD Veteran? Our Play HOOK-e Chapter 12 team is always ready to help our PTSD brothers and sisters through a difficult day. Visit the link below to learn more about managing PTSD during these stressful times. We will also post the link on our website.

[https://www.ptsd.va.gov/covid/COVID\\_managing\\_stress.asp](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/covid/COVID_managing_stress.asp)

**Many of our Play HOOK-e activities are postponed as are upcoming boat trips and other group events. Please visit our VVA 12 Facebook, Chapter 12 website, and Play HOOK-e page for updates and cancellations. [www.vvachapter12.net](http://www.vvachapter12.net)**

### **VVA 12 South Vets Fishing Day**

We did manage to have our VVA Chapter 12 South, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Play HOOK-e from PTSD, “Take a Veteran Fishing Day” in Deerfield Beach, Florida before COVID-19 restrictions were in place.

“Play HOOK-e from PTSD” was the theme for veterans attending the third annual Play HOOK-e Take a Veteran Fishing Day and BBQ to honor veterans. Ellesmere E building residents purchased all the food and drinks to make sure veterans were honored and well fed. We thank Jimmy Johns and everyone at Ellesmere E for their contributions

to make our veteran fishing day and BBQ successful for all veterans attending. We are most thankful for the CVE fishing club members that assisted our veterans and the "Play HOOK-e Angels" Catherine Kucharewski, Libby Fuschino, Irene Lichtenstein, and AnnMarie Montgomery, for cooking and serving our veterans at the BBQ.



Len Friedland with a prize Spotted Gar



Skip Fuschino, VVA 12 was one of the 3 door prize winners

## Veterans getting ready to eat some grub from the “Play HOOK-e Angles”

We did manage to have our VVA Chapter 12 South, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Play HOOK-e from PTSD, “Take a Veteran Fishing Day” in Deerfield Beach, Florida before COVID-19 restrictions were in place.

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**Over 25 NEW Tica rods and reels used for instruction.**



## **Surf Fishing Clinic and Instruction**

The Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament is postponed until October 25, 2020 but veterans that would like to try surf fishing can sign up for a one on one surf fishing instruction at Island Beach State Park as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are eased. Over the winter, George Brown and other volunteers from New Jersey Beach Buggy Association worked on outfitting the surf fishing cart with new equipment for fishing clinics and surf fishing instruction. The surf fishing cart is used to teach new anglers, students, and veterans the sport of surf casting and fishing. George Brown, NJBBA, Tom Sheehan, George Murnyak, Lou Fusco, Dan Weidmuller and Tim Burden will conduct fishing clinics at the park. A lot of work went into organizing the surf cart that holds seining nets, waders, surf bags, rod/reels, tables, terminal tackle and maintenance equipment. Beach wheelchairs with balloon-tires are available for disabled anglers to utilize. The surf cart is also used for NJ HOFNOD schools, veteran Play HOOK-e fishing programs and community-based programs.

If you are interested in attending a surf fishing clinic or a one on one fishing instruction, please email [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org)

## **Island Beach State Park Fishing**

Island Beach State Park will be open for visitors from 5:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. All restrooms and park buildings are closed. There is no entrance fee. Access to the beach for Mobile Sport Fishing will be limited from 5:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. The following passes will allow you access for Mobile Sport Fishing:

- A current 2020 Mobile Sport Fishing permit.
- A Mobile Sport Fishing permit from 2015 - 2019
- Temporary Mobile Sport Fishing permits will be available for purchase over the phone
- Temporary free disabled veteran permit will be available for purchase over the phone
- These permits are available by calling the park office @ (732) 793-0506 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Keep in mind, as restrictions ease to take advantage of traveling short distances. If you have any questions, please phone IBSP before visiting the park the entrance fee and access is subject to change.

## **Flashback Grocery Mission**

I receive the following email from a former Army Special Forces Officer:

I went out to shop this morning at 6AM for groceries. It was like when I was planning a military operation in Vietnam. Instead of checking weapons and ammo, I checked for hand sanitizer, wipes and gloves. Instead of a gas mask I was looked for a face masks but could not find one. Instead of checking a map looking for fields of fire and how to reach the objective, I had a prepared list that my wife and I split up to attack different aisles to reach our objectives, chicken, frozen foods and other products. When we got home, we stored the reasons for the mission. We met a friend while shopping and we asked each other if we needed any help at 6-foot distance. We will know if we were successful if neither of us gets sick in next 5 days.

The world has changed. Please stop watching the news and watch a comedy. Call, skype, face time or zoom the ones you love. Also do this for people you know who are alone and could be feeling lonely.

## Two New Play HOOK-e Options



**Wheelchair Accessible 27' Kelly Girl Charter Boat**

Rich Gough, VVA 12 Executive Board member met Capt. Damian Emerick who offered to take disabled veterans fishing and scenic tours out of the Atlantic Highlands. I spoke to Capt. Damian and he is excited to welcome disabled veterans aboard the 27' Kelly Girl charter boat. His boat is wheelchair accessible with a ramp that leads directly to his sweet patriotic ride. Now we can accommodate our wheelchair veterans and they can enjoy a nice day fishing or sightseeing. There is no cost to the veteran and a family member. We will start scheduling trips as soon as it is safe for our veterans to resume outdoor activities in small groups. We welcome Capt. Damian to our Play HOOK-e support group.

During the summer months, veterans will also have an opportunity to ride in vintage vehicles and listen to oldies music. We are working on details to make this available and information will be in the next VVA Chapter 12 newsletter. Wouldn't it be nice to ride to the Kelly Girl in a vintage vehicle? In the meantime, stay safe and "Follow the Rules."





## FOUR CHAPLAINS GALA

On February 6, 2020 10 Chapter members attended the annual Four Chaplains Gala in Penn's Point Philadelphia, Pa.



## PTSD Research Quarterly VOLUME 30/NO. 2, 2019

The latest issue of the *PTSD Research Quarterly* is now available:

### [PTSD and TBI Comorbidity](#)

Jasmeet P. Hayes, PhD

Brain injury, has often been a concern in PTSD patients, most notably from shell shock to TBI during WW I and OEF/OIF/OND, respectively, but also from domestic violence and motor vehicle accidents. This issue of the Research Quarterly provides a comprehensive and thoughtful guide to the literature on PTSD and comorbid mild TBI.

Sign up for the [PTSD Monthly Update](#) or [other publications](#) from the National Center for PTSD.

ARE YOU TREATING U.S. VETERANS WITH PTSD?

**WE CAN HELP.**



Our [PTSD Consultation Program](#) can answer questions about assessment, treatment, medications, and more: [PTSDconsult@va.gov](mailto:PTSDconsult@va.gov) or 866-948-7880.

**ARE YOU HAVING AN  
ACTIVITY IN THE PTSD UNIT ?**

**BOTTLED WATER, SODA, PAPER PLATES, 16 OZ. PLASTIC CUPS  
AND  
PLASTIC UTENSILS ARE NEEDED**



I hope all my brothers and sisters are all well and are enjoying the summer, the guitar classes have been going well, we have 10 Vets in the class and they are doing good . We still have one guitar left for a Vet who would like to join the class, for info contact Dennis Champ 723-239-6288 or email me at [dsclnc1953@gmail.com](mailto:dsclnc1953@gmail.com).

The Vet band has been very busy this summer, some of the gigs we played were Lakehurst joint base, Earle Naval base, Honor Night at Lakehurst, just to name a few , we will also be playing at the Lakewood Vet center picnic , hope to see you all there. Enjoy the rest of the summer, take care and be will. Keep on pickin.

Dennis Champ



**New Pilot VAVS Program  
“Courtesy Transportation”**

**VA New Jersey Health Care System is seeking contributions of Uber  
gift cards for Veterans  
in need of transportation assistance.**

**Uber services will be offered to Veterans that are not eligible for  
beneficiary travel and have no means of transportation home.**

**Uber gift cards are now available nationwide.**

**Any questions regarding this special need, please contact Voluntary  
Service at  
908-604-5814.**

# TAPS

## Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord

BRUCE W EITEL ARMY

JOHN JACK BOLLENTIN ARMY

MICHAEL MANTELLA ARMY

ROBERT EARL OWENBURG AR-  
MY

BRUCE W EITEL ARMY

ARTHUR HUNNENMANN ARMY

RICHARD CARUNCHIO SR ARMY

WALT EMERY ARMY

EUGENE J CAPOAONO ARMY

BRUCE G, BOLLINGER

RICH GRONQUIST ARMY

LT. COL. JAMES PATRICK FI-  
NEGAN RETIRED ARMY

EDWARD H. SHALHOUB MD AR-  
MY

WILLIAM SAMUEL SCHUCKER JR.

ARTHUR UNKEFER NAVY

FRED LEWIS MARINES

PAUL IVANS NAVY

ROBERT J. SHARKEY NAVY

ROBERT C. GIFFORD NAVY

JOSEPH L. BLACK NAVY

HAZEL E. PANGBURN NAVY

VITO W' LASALA NAVY

CAPTAIN FREDERICK Q. VOGEL NAVY

RAYMOND J. GAYNOR JR. MARINE  
CORPS

ROBERT NEVILL MARINES

MARIO BUONGIOVANNI MARINES

STEVEN M. BERGMANN MARINES

THOMAS J. PLAWSKI AIR FORCE

GEORGE MCCARRON AIR FORCE

GERALD JERRY SNEE AIR FORCE

JAMES (DOC) BRANIGAN NAVY

BILL FLAHERTY ARMY