



Volume 29 • Issue 5—6

VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter

May June 2019



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12

PO Box 276, Allenhurst, NJ 07711

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Presidents Message



This past Memorial Day 2019 marked our 37th year that this Chapter had marched 12 members in the annual Spring Lake Parade Memorial Day.

Just a reminder that we do not meet in the months of July and August our next meeting is scheduled for September 4.

On July 16th our 7 delegates will be flying to Spokane, Washington to vote on VVA plan A or plan B .

I hope everyone has a great summer of fun and will see you in September.

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.vvchapter12.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.**

News Flash



Victory for Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans as the U.S. Senate follows the U.S. House lead and passes H.R. 299 unanimously. Now that both houses have passed the bill it will be presented to the President for signature

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Mark Takano, Chairman

Senate Unanimously Passes the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act

Jun 12, 2019

Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Chairman Mark Takano released the following statement after the Senate unanimously passed the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, H.R. 299.

“Tonight, we can finally tell the tens of thousands of veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War but wrongly denied benefits that justice is finally coming. By passing the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, Congress has proven to the nation, to our veterans and their families, and the surviving loved ones of those we lost to toxic exposure, that we have righted a terrible injustice. I want to say thank you to the Veteran Service Organizations and the countless veterans across the country who have been with us throughout this fight. Thank you for never losing hope that this country would deliver on the promise it made to our veterans. Now we call on President Trump to sign HR 299 and finally finish this fight-- these veterans have waited long enough.”

Background:

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 will extend benefits to servicemembers that served in the territorial waters off the coast of Vietnam and were exposed to Agent Orange. This was the first bill Chairman Takano introduced this Congress after a similar bill was passed unanimously in the House of Representatives last Congress but stalled in the Senate. This legislation will ensure tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans finally get the benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

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Source : <https://veterans.house.gov/news/press-releases/senate-unanimously-passes-blue-water-navy-vietnam-veterans-act>

Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation’s only congressionally chartered veterans’ service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA’s founding principle is “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon

Cremins Project Report



As some of you may know, we entered our 4 minute presentation video "Forgotten" into a few local film festivals in hopes of getting more exposure to our local funeral homes. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gO2eJ8h6UIU>). We have been accepted into the Jersey Shore Film Festival under the "Jersey short short" category. This means that we have a chance of winning a spot in the final competition on awards night. By doing so we will get the word out nationally about the unclaimed remains of our military veterans and hopefully create a favorable exposure with our area funeral homes. This years festival runs from June 23 until June 30 when the winners will be announced at the awards gala. Our film will be presented at two times during the festival.

Second on Saturday, June 29 at 12:00 PM at the Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel, 1401 Ocean Ave. Asbury Park, NJ

Both of these dates will be shared with other films and will cost \$15 for entry.

If you would like to purchase tickets to either of these screenings click on the link below and page down to "FORGOTTEN":

<https://www.jerseyshorefilmfestival.com/films/?film=forgotten&category=>

Enjoy the festival..

Rich Gough
VVA Chapter 12
Cremins Chairman



Cremains Project Report

May 2019

April 30 Ernie and I met with Scott ----- with Monmouth County Veterans Chamber of Commerce to initiate any action that would help us with the Cremains Project.

On **May 15**, Ernie and I met with Mike Ferrara, of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office and Jeff Lovas of the funeral directors association. The purpose of the meeting was to find a way to access our area funeral homes for cooperation of our Cremains Project. The result of that meeting is that we are developing a 2 hour training program for the Monmouth and Ocean County funeral directors to show them how we can both accomplish our mission with almost no effort on their part.

On **May 16**, Dan Higgins, Mike Quilty and I set up and manned a table at the Association of the US Army open presentation evening for veterans and their families. We displayed some of our school program items, our Playing Hook-E information and our Cremains information.

For the committee

Rich Gough

Play “HOOK-e” From PTSD

By Greg Kucharewski

VVA 12 REACHES OUT TO SOUTH FLORIDA

Fluke Fishing Thursday July 11th, Point Pleasant

Don't miss this Play HOOK-e event at Riverfront Park and fish for Fluke. Thursday, July 11, 2019 7:00 am till 9:00 am. Loaner rods and reels will be available and bait but you are welcome to bring your own gear. After fishing we will have a tailgate breakfast of pepper and egg sandwiches complements of the Cathy K. Please register to receive parking instructions, and directions. Largest fluke wins a prize. [Register>>](#)



News

1. We have some refurbished rod and reel donations that we are making available to our Play HOOK-e from PTSD program. We thank everyone that made donations. If you need a rod and reel let us know and we will do our best to get the equipment to you. 2. Norma K III has helped us out again and provided party boat fishing passes for door prizes. The mates do a great job of helping to land and clean fish. Don't forget to tip the mate when fishing aboard their vessel. 3. Dennis Owens, Play HOOK-e volunteer donated a full set of Vietnam War books for our school program. Brick High School will receive them. 4. We were invited to speak about the Play HOOK-e program at the Marine Corps Detachment 796 meeting on Tuesday, July 2nd VFW Post 210 Courthouse Lane Toms River, NJ. 5. We will also present our Play HOOK-e program on Sunday, July 7th in Edison, NJ.

Veterans Attend Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

Lots of visitors came to say hello to our veterans fishing the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament we thank Ray Bukowski, NJ DEP Acting Commissioner ; Olivia Glenn, NJ Director of Parks and Forestry; and Dave Golden, Acting Director NJ Fish and Wildlife. We appreciate the World Jeep Volunteer Team, Shrewsbury, NJ Taylor Cook, Cheryl Brown, and TJ Trippe for assisting our disabled veterans to and from the beach. Many thanks go to Bogan's Brielle Bait and Tackle and Tim Burden, Jersey Shore Surf Casters.



Play HOOK-e Take a Veteran Fishing a Great Success

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, Mr. Vito Cardinale, CEO/President Cardinale Enterprises LLC, hosted the 3rd Annual "Play HOOK-e" Take A Veteran Fishing Day to honor veterans.

This year's event was attended by well over 100, along with volunteers from several counties in New Jersey. Veterans traveled from New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to fish with a wartime buddy at Lake Julianna. Two veterans met lakeside were from the same Parris Island Platoon 1051, serving in the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) and stated "There are very few of us left." The day was filled with many surprises and veteran Joe Morrison's wife stated "It made my heart sing to see my husband smiling and enjoying time with other veterans."

Due to the amount of interest, the veteran fishing day has expanded to veterans helping special needs children at Lake Julianna. This September, Mr. Cardinale will host the 3rd Annual "Kids Wish'n To Go Fish'n" Fun Day, where veterans become volunteers that help special needs and disabled children fish at the lake.

Veterans enjoyed plenty of fun, food and friendship at Lake Julianna. Many thanks to Mr. Cardinale for hosting the event with his family and friends.







Veteran Surf Fishing Spring Lake, NJ Byron Griffin was high hook catching a Striped Bass



**Scott Policastro, President Jenna's P Sportfishing
Jenna's Reel Warriors Honoring Our Combat Veterans**

After speaking to Captain Scott Policastro, about scheduling combat veterans to go fishing, I knew he really cared about honoring veterans. Charter boat Captain Scott and his family wanted to be able to give back to our combat Veterans for all the sacrifices they made for our country. "We wanted to honor our combat veterans and the only way we knew how, was take them fishing!" Captain Scott also told me, "These days Veterans aren't shown the appreciation that they deserve." That's why we decided to go through the lengthily process of applying for a 501c. During the fall of 2018, Jenna's Reel Warriors received 501c approval and other legal documents needed to get combat veterans on the water at no cost.

Captain Scott has fished all his life and is very familiar with the waters of Raritan Bay, Navesink/ Shrewsbury Rivers and Atlantic Ocean. Jenna's Reel Warriors focus is geared towards providing the best fishing experience for combat veterans and giving them a stress free day on the water, only fighting fish.



You must be a combat veteran to participate. Proof of combat service/ID is required.



Successful Benefit for Women Veterans

Special focus in support of Women Veterans at Bar A, was a great success. Our friends John and Sharon Bentham were at our Play HOOK-e booth and did a great job getting the word out about upcoming programs. Bob Hopkins, Charlie Wuth, and Dennis Champ were there to lend support/volunteer and play a few songs.

Ocean County Opportunity Rocks Drug Awareness

We were invited by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, to set up a booth at RWJ Barnabas Health Arena, Youth Resource Fair, Toms River to display information about the Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs and how we partner with the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Youth Education Program. The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office will meet with us in July to learn more about our Play HOOK-e from PTSD, Take a Veteran Fishing program and possibly incorporate it into their Veteran program.



Quilts of Valor Anne Carreiro and Stephanie Keenan present a quilt to Combat Veteran Allen Saltzman.

Quilts of Valor

Quilts of Valor Anne Carreiro and Stephanie Keenan present a quilt to Combat Veteran Allen Saltzman.

Each month a Quilt of Valor will be presented to a combat veteran from VVA Chapter 12. We thank all the Quilts of Valor volunteers for all the hours of work that they do to honor and recognize our veterans.



VVA Chapter 12 Happenings

Rich Magovern and Mike Quilty
at Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Spring Lake Memorial Day Parade



HONOR FLIGHT JUNE 5, 2018

It all started at 0430 hrs. We were taken by bus from Manchester, N.J. to Williamstown High School South N.J. (about one & half hour trip) We met up with the other veterans a total of one hundred sixty one veterans and guardians plus six busses. We were served a full breakfast in the high school cafeteria, soup to nuts at 0815. As we were leaving the school every student & teacher (a total of 2,000 plus) lined the hallway waving flags, clapping & shanking our hands. I actually got the chills and my eyes filled up with tears. They all thanked us for our service. (These young high school students showed us so much respect) We than boarded the busses and left the school with a police escort & some bikers from Rolling Thunder right to Washington, D.C. The first stop was the Airforce Memorial where there was a honor guard. (we had lunch there) Then it was off to the WW11 Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials. We then left Washington, D.C. with a police escort & 18 bikers. We went back to Williamstown High School where we were met by about 400 students, an honor guard, drill team and bagpipes and were served a full dinner. I had a great day and what an honor it was to be able to go on this Honor Flight. This day was one of the best days of my life.



GOD BLESS AMERICA.

BERNIE FUSCHINO



Want to learn to play the guitar or sharpened your existing skills
for free?

Maybe there is a rock star or country crooner among us!

Join your fellow veterans on Mondays at the Manalapan Community Center.

If you have a guitar that you are not using? Please consider donating it to the program.

If you are interested, contact Dennis Champ, VVA Chapter 12 member,

dscinc1953@gmail.com.

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.

ARE YOU HAVING AN ACTIVITY IN THE PTSD UNIT ?

BOTTLED WATER, SODA, PAPER PLATES, 16 OZ. PLASTIC CUPS

AND

PLASTIC UTENSILS ARE NEEDED

TAPS

Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord

STEVEN E. DOOBIE DAVIS ARMY

THOMAS J. STRUBLE ARMY

ROBERT S. CATHCART ARMY

JOHN CASIERO ARMY

STEPHEN W. PARRATT ARMY

EDWARD DELNERO ARMY

ROBERT KOENSE ARMY

PAUL NYITRAI ARMY

JAMES F. SCHAFFNER ARMY

CHARLES WESLEY MORTON, JR. ARMY

JAMES W. SWIGER ARMY

JOHN E. BRACKEN SR. ARMY

WILLIAM J. MICHALSKI ARMY

RON CEBRICK ARMY

BRUCE W. CAMPBELL ARMY

JOSEPH P. FITZGERALD ARM

KEVEN M. KING MARINES//////////

RICHARD MICHAEL POWELL ARMY

NICHOLAS C. SICA ARMY

PETER JAMES ZEITLER III ARMY

FRANCIS XAVIER WADE AIRFORCE

WILLIAM ARTHUR ROBBINS AIR FORCE

CHARLES CRESCENZ MARINES

ROY DANIELS ARMY

ALFRED PEDMONTI ARMY

RUSSELL A. BATTLE ARMY

JOHN E. BULMER JR' ARMY

NEIL GILLIGAN ARMY

MICHAEL A. BOCHIS ARMY

BENJAMIN A. BAILEY NAVY

CARMON W. APPLGATE JR NAVY

CHARLES E. BERNATH NAVY

ROBERT F, BOB COTTRELL NAVY

FREDERICK R. WELCH NAVY

RICHARD M COTTON NAVY

FRANK TONY BEAR EVANS NAVY

MICHAEL L. TUCKER NAVY

CHARLES E. BERNATH NAVY

PATRICK FLANNERY NAVY

BENEDICT J. SMITH JR MARINES

WILLIAM W. HALL MARINES

DAVID C. BONHAM MARINES

WAYNE G. GARN AIR FORCE