



The Sentinel



Vol. 9 No. 1

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1002 – Wallkill Valley
P.O. box 463, Vernon, NJ 07462 - 973-271-2413

January 2022

Website: www.VVA1002.org

President: John Harrigan

1st Vice President: John Brady

Secretary: Carl Ohlson

2nd Vice President: Walt Hazelman

Chaplin: George Burns

Treasurer: Owen Martin

Sergeant at Arms: Ted Andrews

FROM THE MINEFIELD:

Submitted by John Harrigan

healthy and safe in the New Year and we can all make it to 2023.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Chapter continues to increase its membership as we again move up to 200 VVA members. I would like to thank everyone who attended the Wreaths Across America at the Cemetery in December. We had over 200 family and friends there to place wreaths on the Graves of our Veterans. This year I was the bugler and played taps at the end of the ceremony. It's a good thing the battery worked and all I had to do was press play and hold the bugle up to my lips.

We are still meeting downstairs at the Church on Thursdays and more and more people are coming out to sit and talk. This past week we had 18 there just talking about anything and everything. So, if you get bored on Thursday mornings come over to the Church for a good laugh. I know some of you are still gun-shy about coming out but when you feel like it's OK we're here for you.

I received an email from our Chapter in Kentucky about the tornados they had and how they have nothing left, so I asked our Thursday group if it was OK to send them \$1000.00 from our Chapter to help them out and we did. This is the example of our commitment to our Brother and Sister Vietnam Veterans, To help one another.

We will start our monthly meetings this January and will hold them on the 4th Sunday of every month. There is nothing else going on right now but just remember we are here for one another no matter what happens. Stay

Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another!

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Submitted by John Brady

This update is for the Marines, their families and anyone who was assigned or worked at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina prior to 1987.

ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) is currently conducting two public health activities of their ongoing efforts to increase scientific knowledge on potential connections between past exposure to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune and adverse health effects. The ongoing Cancer Incidence Study is investigating whether residential or workplace exposure to drinking water contaminants that were present in years past are associated with increased risks of specific cancers. Additionally, the Vapor Intrusion Public Health Assessment is evaluating whether people's health might be harmed from exposure to indoor air contamination that may have resulted from vapor intrusion on Camp Lejeune. Vapor intrusion can occur when contaminants in shallow ground water evaporate and the vapors move upward into the indoor air in overlying buildings.

Completion dates for these two studies have yet to be confirmed, but ATSDR estimates that information on remaining public health activities may be available to the public as early as 2023. For more information about these and other ATSDR public health activities, visit <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/lejeune> or call (800) 232-4636.

SERVICE OFFICER:

Submitted by Skip Kays

No report.



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WOMEN VETERANS:

Submitted by Walt Hazelman

No report.

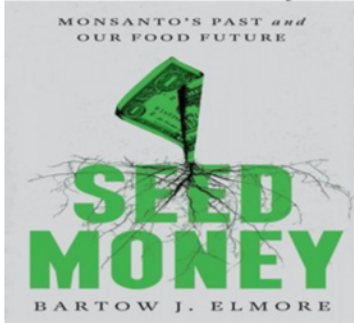
POW/MIA:

Submitted by Bob Gilbert

No report.

AGENT ORANGE:

Submitted by Owen Martin



‘Seed Money’ Explores Monsanto’s Troubling Past and its Impact on the Future of Food

For decades, the company once known as Monsanto has dominated U.S. agriculture. Famous for its Roundup Ready system—which consists of the herbicide Roundup, made with glyphosate, and seeds genetically modified to resist it—the global corporation became the largest seller of seeds in the world by the 1990s. Fast forward nearly 30 years, and Bayer, the German pharmaceutical company that bought Monsanto in 2018, now faces a number of high-profile lawsuits related to glyphosate’s cancer-causing potential as well as the failures of the Roundup system.

In his new book *Seed Money: Monsanto’s Past and Our Food Future*, historian Bartow J. Elmore uncovers Monsanto’s record of producing not only Roundup, but also many of the chemicals that make up our modern

world: the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in electrical equipment, the defoliants in home-garden herbicides and the Agent Orange used for chemical warfare during the Vietnam War, and the herbicide dicamba.

Elmore traces the company’s record of misleading regulators and the public about the dangers of such chemicals to human health and the environment and explains how the chemicals themselves have become deeply ingrained in our economy and agricultural system for the foreseeable future.

More toxic exposure to military and their families

Toxic exposures on our military are no new thing, often it is the side effect of chemical war like mustard gas, nuclear or radiation, agent orange, or burn pits. But what I am going to talk about is the exposure to our families inside our own country. This isn’t about PFAS, or the exposures on Fort McClellan or Camp Lejeune, this is about the drinking water at military installations in Hawaii.

There were already reports of residents on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam being sickened, possibly from the water. On November 29, the base commander, Captain Erik A. Spitzer, sent out a message to all military housing residents. He stated: “I can tell you at this point that there are no immediate indications that the water is not safe... We visited several communities and homes last night to get samples of water and we talked with residents who had concerns.”

But it was found that just before Thanksgiving on November 22 a fuel-water mixture totaling 14,000 gallons was spilled from a leak in a drain line on Pearl Harbor.

Monsanto tees up SCOTUS slugfest over landmark cancer verdict



Meetings are held at 2:00 p.m. the 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise **noted**.

2022

- 23rd January
- 27th February
- 27th March
- 24th April
- 22nd May
- 26th June
- 24th July
- 28th August

Dates to have information in for the newsletter:

- 20th February
- 20th March
- 17th April
- 15th May
- 19th June

Calendar of Events:

Visit www.VVA1002.org for information on upcoming events.

NEW MEMBERS:

“WELCOME HOME”

No report.

PASSINGS:

No report.

Homeless Committee:

We still are in need of someone to take over this committee so if you or you know of someone who is interested, please contact John Harrigan.

MEMBERS CORNER:

Nothing submitted.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. **Special Note: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call (toll free**

The Supreme Court could decide this week whether to take up a legal battle that has the potential to upend a watershed victory by a California landowner against the manufacturer of a popular weedkiller.

Monsanto Co.’s petition — should the Supreme Court choose to take it — would throw into question the future of a \$25 million verdict a jury awarded to Edwin Hardeman, who was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma after years of using Roundup on his San Francisco Bay Area property, as well as potentially billions more in settlements.

Hardeman’s verdict, which was affirmed this year by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, was the test case for thousands of trials over the harm posed by glyphosate, the key ingredient in Roundup.

Monsanto wrote in its petition for Supreme Court review that the justices should not allow the 9th Circuit’s decision to govern that massive body of consolidated cases.

“Because important federal questions related to Roundup and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma that would otherwise be tested in different courts nationwide are instead being resolved solely in a single district, this Court should not wait to grant review,” Monsanto wrote.

Monsanto v. Hardeman is one of thousands of petitions that make their way to the Supreme Court each year. The justices grant just a tiny fraction of the petitions they receive. The petition is scheduled for discussion during the justices’ conference tomorrow. They could announce a decision by early next week on whether they will hear the case.

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Submitted by Lou Storms

No report.

Scheduled Meetings:



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24/7) 1-800-273-8255 and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.

- 2. Jackets (\$60 (summer) & \$70 (winter)); t-shirts (\$15); hats (\$10); golf shirts (short sleeve \$28; long sleeve \$33) are still available. See Owen Martin for purchases or to place an order (pre-payment for orders are appreciated)
- 3. Important note to families of deceased veterans, and/or requestors: *Submitted by Bob Caggiano*
It is the right of every deceased Veteran to have a Military honors team attend the graveside service, to present the Flag at no charge to the family. Honors Teams are sent out, at the expense of the US Government.

In January 2000, Congress passed legislation guaranteeing Veterans the right to at least two uniformed servicemen, a flag ceremony, and the playing of TAPS at their funeral. Unfortunately, there are not enough buglers to play TAPS, so the historic melody has been played on a CD player at many Veterans' last ceremony, or more currently on a bugle that plays Taps using an electronic insert. The volunteer organization "Bugles Across America" (a.k.a. BAA) was created to honor the service of veterans by providing Taps live by a bugler using a real instrument (such as a bugle, trumpet, cornet, or flugelhorn) at funerals or any other ceremony requiring a bugler. There are currently over 7500 volunteer buglers nationwide in all 50 states, and some overseas who stand ready to serve. BAA volunteers perform Taps as a free service.

As a Vietnam era veteran member of VVA Chapter 1002 and a BAA volunteer bugler, I am available to play for anyone who needs a bugler for Taps (or other appropriate bugle calls) for any honorable discharged veteran or related military ceremony. In the event I cannot play because of a scheduling conflict, I can generally still provide a substitute bugler so please contact me - Bob

Caggiano, USAF Veteran, (973) 222-7591 (cell) or FinalTaps@gmail.com.



Editors Corner:

By Linda Skellenger (AVVA)

Please have information to be included in the February newsletter to me by Sunday, February 20th by email: skelle@ptd.net or by snail-mail to:

Linda Skellenger
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