



The Sentinel

Vol. 4 No. 9

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

September 2017

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

Our last meeting was attended by Dan Perez who is running for Sussex County Freeholder. He asked us what services were available to Veterans in Sussex County and the overall response was none. The only thing listed for Veterans on Sussex County's Web site was Internment Officer and that is just a recording. He told us what he would try and do if elected and also heard our concerns. We advised him we do not endorse anyone running for office and he understood that and said he just wanted to come and show what he would try and accomplish if elected. It was very informative on both parts

Our Thursdays Vets helping Vets is getting quite busy with us helping 6 Vets who came in and 3 more phone calls this past week. People know we are here and are willing to help Veterans and Family members no matter when or where they served.

There are 2 more can shakes for this year and once again Jack and Sharon have done a fantastic job in setting these up and getting people to sit and sell tickets. We could use more help so if you can please contact them and let them know you can help out at one or both of these events.

If you haven't already done so please contact them or the Chapter and get your raffle tickets and send them back as soon as possible.

The sign-up sheet for the Christmas party has been started and was out at the last meeting and will be out for September and October meeting so, please sign up so we

can order the right amount of food. We have to know by November 22nd as the party will be held on December 2nd and need time to place our order. Once again we will supply the food and if you could bring a desert and your own drinks that would be great. Don't forget sign to sign up. See you at the meeting.

John

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Submitted by John Brady

I really have nothing to report this month. I hope everyone had a wonderful and a safe summer. Fall is approaching, the leaves are slowly beginning to turn and fall covering the ground or at least my driveway.

Also, depending on how you feel the kids, grandkids, great grandkids and in some cases great-great grandkids are back in school. For some it's a relief but for me it means an uptick on my POP-POP Uber responsibilities.

One other thing, please remember in your thoughts and prayers the people of Texas, Florida and the islands that took such a beating from hurricanes recently. Consider assisting them in whatever way you are able or feel comfortable doing.

SERVICE OFFICER:

Submitted by Skip Kays

If you want any further information, or have any suggestions you can contact me at 973 459-9392 or at skays1@embarqmail.com.

Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another!

Navy Exchange opens to Veterans on Veteran's Day in 2017

Beginning this Veteran's Day, November 11, 2017, all honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Military, even if you weren't lucky enough to be in the Navy, can shop online from the exchange.

Visit VetVerify.org to establish your authentication and sign up.

The shopping site is www.shopmyexchange.com

When I signed up I received an email saying I was part of the testing and could order early.

I have looked a few times and it appears that the prices are sometimes less than you would find on Amazon for the same item, but I haven't actually ordered anything.

An American Citizen Fighting For ISIS Has Been Captured In Syria

Over the past week it was reported that an American-born ISIS fighter had been captured in Syria by Kurdish forces.

"Syrian Democratic Forces turned over to US forces an American citizen who surrendered to the SDF on or around September 12," a Marine Corps spokesperson stated, referring to the US-backed Kurdish led group fighting ISIS in Syria.

"The US citizen is being legally detained by Department of Defense personnel as a known enemy combatant."

Assuming that this person is prosecuted in some manner, he is not the first, and ends up in prison for a lengthy stay, it is unfortunate for him that Obama is not still president, otherwise he would have a pretty good chance of being pardoned.

Arlington National Cemetery

Over the past few years, awareness has risen concerning the rapidly shrinking in-ground burial space availability at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). A recent report to Congress indicates that given current conditions, ANC will reach its capacity and will be forced to close in about 25 years. To remedy this, several proposals have been offered for consideration by the Department of Defense, including restricting the eligibility criteria required for burial, as well as expanding the cemetery by annexing pieces of Ft. Meyer. Last month, ANC launched an online survey, in order to gauge the opinions of visitors, military members, veterans and retirees, regarding the best way forward for this piece of hallowed ground. The VFW provided in-depth feedback to ANC regarding the questions, and hosted representatives from ANC at the 118th VFW National Convention in order to provide an update. Read more and take the survey.

WOMEN VETERANS:

Submitted by Walt Hazelman

Milunka Savić: Possibly The Most Decorated Female In The History Of Warfare

INSTANT ARTICLES WORLD WAR II

Jul 4, 2017 Holly Godbey

Fighting in the Balkan Wars and then in World War I, Milunka Savić was considered by some to be the most decorated female soldier in history. While some of the history regarding Savić's life is contradictory, one thing everyone agrees on is Savić's undeniable bravery and military prowess.

Early Life and Motivation

Savić was born in Serbia, in the late 1880s. She was a poor rural farm girl, living in a small village. She had a relatively uneventful childhood until, when she was 24, her brother was sent to fight against the Bulgarians, in the Balkan Wars.

Savić decided to join her brother. She chopped off her hair, disguised herself as a man and successfully enrolled in the army. Accounts of her brother's role in this differ. Some say she joined him, while others say she took his place.

Her motives also differ from account to account. Either Savić entered the army because she was bored, or she was trying to protect her sick brother, or she was an extreme patriot. However, it is certain she disguised herself, and fought in the Serbian Army, with the aim of driving the Ottoman-Turkish Empire out of the region.



Milunka Savić, date unknown, presumed after her seven continuous years of war.

The Balkan Wars

Savić saw her first action quickly, within a few months of her enlistment. She had turned up a little too late for the First Balkan War but, luckily, she was in time



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for the Second. The largest battle of the entire war was the Battle of Bregalnica, which took place in the summer of 1913. Savić earned her first medals for bravery, as well as a promotion. She was now a Corporal.



Bulgarian forces during the Balkan War.

On her 10th combat charge during this Second War, she was hit by a Bulgarian grenade. Savić sustained injuries and was carried to the field hospital, where the doctor discovered she was, in fact, a woman. When she recovered, she was sent to appear before her commanding officer to answer for her actions.

Considering her successes, her superior did not want to let her go, but he did not know how to handle the situation. He told Savić she would not be punished.

Given her courage shown in battle, she could transfer to the Nursing Corp.

However, Savić promptly told him she would not take any position that would not allow her to carry a gun, enter battle and protect her country. In response, he said he would think about her request and give her an answer the next day. Savić told him she would wait, and she would not leave, continuing to stand at attention. After an hour, the officer acquiesced and gave her leave to return to the infantry. He also promoted her to junior sergeant.



Milunka Savić, after being promoted to the role of sergeant.

World War I

The Second Balkan War ended the same year, but World War I began just a year later, in 1914. The Austro-Hungarian Empire invaded Serbia with 450,000 troops. The Serbian Army was made up of 250,000 mostly volunteer soldiers with inadequate weaponry. However, the Serbian army charged the Austro-Hungarian Army regardless, Savić among them.

During World War I Savić earned many awards. She was given two *Karadorde*

Stars with Swords (the highest military honor Serbia gave) after the Battles of Kolubara Crna Bend. She captured 23 Bulgarians by herself in the latter, and 20 German soldiers in the former.

Unfortunately, despite Savić's valiant efforts, Serbia was not doing well in the war. The retreating army was enveloped into the French army. The French generals were not convinced a woman should be allowed to stay in the battle. The French General Maurice Sarrail bet her a case of 1880 Cognac that she could not hit a bottle at 40

meters. She did and shared the prize with her fellow soldiers.

Maurice Sarraïl, who did not quite believe Savić's abilities.

By the time the war was over, she had received: two Legion d'Honneur medals from France; the Cross of St. George from Russia; the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael from Great Britain and the Milos Obilic Medal from Serbia. She was also the only woman to receive the Croix de Guerre in World War I, and could have received a French pension if she had moved there.

After World War I

After seven years of continuous service, Savić moved back to Serbia to continue a relatively normal life, at least for a while. She got a job as a postal worker, married, had a child, divorced and adopted several more children.

When World War II began, she did not rejoin the army but instead started a small hospital to treat the wounded. The Germans arrested her (whether for operating the hospital or for refusing to attend a banquet with German officers, is unclear). She was sent to a concentration camp, where she lived for ten months. She was to be executed, but an officer recognized her and, confirming she was the famous Serbian he had heard about, ordered her release.

Unfortunately, after World War II, she was not looked upon favorably by the

Yugoslavian rulers. She became relatively impoverished, working as a cleaning lady at a bank. She died in 1973, after a stroke, and was buried with military honors.

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POW/MIA:

Submitted by Bob Gilbert

[Funeral Announcement for Marine Killed In World War II \(Spayd\)](#) September 08, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from World War II, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Donald S. Spayd, 19, of Los Angeles.

[Funeral Announcement for Marine Killed During World War II \(Cook\)](#) August 31, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from World War II, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Sidney A. Cook, 32, of Ohio.

[Funeral Announcement for USS Oklahoma Sailor Killed During World War II \(Thompson, W.M.\)](#)

August 31, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from World War II, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Navy Reserve Ensign William M. Thompson, 21, of Summit, New Jersey.

[Marine Killed During World War II Accounted For \(Andregg\)](#) August 23, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, unaccounted for since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Corps Reserve Cpl. Henry Andregg, Jr., 22, of Whitwell.

[Soldier Captured During The Korean War Accounted For \(Harris\)](#) August 18, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Sgt. 1st Class Max E. Harris, 21, of Monticello, Indiana.

[Funeral Announcement for Marine Killed During World War II \(Blanchette, A\)](#) September 11, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from World War II, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Alberic M. Blanchette, 19, of Caribou, Maine.

[Funeral Announcement for Marine Killed During World War II \(Schaede, R.\)](#) September 11, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from World War II, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Pfc. Roland E. Schaede, 19, of Maywood, Illinois.

[Funeral Announcement for Marine Killed During World War II \(Snapp\)](#) September 08, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from World War II, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Marine Corps Cpl. Raymond C. Snapp, 24, of Bonita, Texas.

[Funeral Announcement for Soldier Captured During The Korean War \(Skates\)](#) September 08, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from the Korean War, are being returned to his family for burial with full military



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honors. Army Cpl. Clarence R. Skates, 19, of Los Angeles.

Funeral Announcement for USS Oklahoma Sailor

Killed During World War II (Casto) September 08, 2017 — The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, recently accounted-for from World War II, are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Navy Fireman 1st Class Charles Ray Casto, 20, of East Liverpool, Ohio.

AGENT ORANGE:

Submitted by Owen Martin

Serious Doubts' Over Bayer and Monsanto's \$57 Billion Megadeal, Says EU

Bayer AG's takeover of Monsanto Co. faces deeper scrutiny from European antitrust regulators who say they have "serious doubts" about uniting two of the world's largest manufacturers of genetically engineered crop seeds and pesticides.

The European Commission said the \$57 billion deal could add pressure on farmers already struggling against low crop prices. It has completed a preliminary probe but said Tuesday that it may need until January to finish its work, throwing into doubt the companies' plans to complete their deal by year-end.

It is common for regulators to take longer than initially expected to conduct their analyses. The planned tie-up between Bayer and Monsanto, the largest in a string of deals that are reshaping the global agricultural industry, was struck last September as several other rival seed and pesticide makers had made their own deals to combine.

EU antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager said: "We need to ensure effective competition."

European Commission officials have said the Bayer-Monsanto deal raised concerns that farmers could wind

up paying more for a narrower range of seeds and sprays, and see a slower pace of innovation in the labs where crop scientists tweak plant genes to enable them to survive herbicides and repel bugs.

Bayer and Monsanto both said the companies would continue to work with regulators with a view to obtaining approvals for the transaction by the end of the year.

A separate review by U.S. regulators is ongoing, and Bayer earlier this year said it had received requests for information from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Bayer and Monsanto have pitched their deal as a way to more tightly integrate research into new chemicals and seed genes, which in turn would help deliver better-performing supplies to farmers at a faster pace while reducing the companies' costs.

But some farm groups and lawmakers in the U.S. have warned that the succession of mergers will diminish competition and lead to higher prices on the farm, and potentially for consumers.

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Submitted by Lou Storms

I'm very happy to tell you that Shop-Rite of West Milford has agreed to continue the donation of \$400.00 of catered food, for our Lyons bi-monthly visits for the next year. Without the continued support of Inserra Supermarkets we would not have been able to continue the program.

On September 12, myself, Bob Lewis, Carl Ohlson and John Fedynich brought dinner to the PTSD In-Patient Unit and the 3rd floor Ladies Unit. Everyone really enjoyed the food and we were able to have a good visit with the vets.

I'm not sure how many of you are aware of the Veterans Memorial that has been under construction in Sparrowbush, NY for the past few years, but myself and

Bob Lewis have been a part of the volunteer construction crew for a while, and it has been completed. We attended the dedication on the 9th. The project was begun by Floyd Babcock in 2011 and he persevered for six years to see it completed.

It is a beautiful memorial. If you're ever around that area you should stop by, it's located on Main Street just off of Route 42, behind the firehouse. Memorial pavers are available, or anyone interested just see me after the meeting.

Scheduled Meetings:

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

24th September

22nd October

26th November

December (TBD-Christmas Party)

Calendar of Events:

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

October:

7th – Shop Rite Warwick – can shake

21st – Shop Rite Franklin – can shake

NEW MEMBERS:

“WELCOME HOME”

PASSINGS:

William (Billy) Bihn

CONGRATULATIONS/CONCERNS:

Happy Anniversary:

Don & Kathy Schulz (10/2)

Linda & Andy Skellenger (10/5)

Bea & John Harrigan (10/9)

Happy Birthday:

Teri Deaver (10/15)

Lenny Weakland (10/31)

Happy Birthday United States Navy

Oct 13, 1775 "A GLOBAL FORCE FOR GOOD"

MEMBERS CORNER:

Submitted by Owen Martin

September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Disease Without Initial Symptoms to Claim 27,000 Lives in 2017

CHICAGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Awareness for prostate cancer is especially important since the disease has no symptoms until it's advanced. It will claim the lives of approximately 27,000 men this year. In an effort to elevate awareness, September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. One in seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer - the most common non-skin, male-specific cancer. Nearly three million men in the US are living with a prostate cancer diagnosis; and that number is estimated to reach four million by 2024 as baby boomers age.

“Too often a simple PSA blood test for prostate cancer isn't part of a man's annual physical exam,” notes Chuck Strand, CEO of Us TOO International, a nonprofit that provides educational resources and support services to the prostate cancer community at no charge. “An elevated PSA level doesn't necessarily indicate prostate cancer. But think of it like a ‘check engine’ light on your car. It's information that's good to have for making an informed decision.”

Results from the PSA blood test along with a DRE (digital rectal exam) may indicate the need for a biopsy, which is required to diagnose prostate cancer. If diagnosed early, prostate cancer is often treatable. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force provides a “C” recommendation for PSA-based screening for prostate cancer for men who are between 55 and 69 years of age. Their recommendation does not address testing for men who are at high-risk for prostate cancer, which includes African Americans, men with a history of prostate cancer in the family, and military veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or other chemicals. While 97 percent of the men diagnosed with prostate cancer are at least 50 years old, men who are at high-risk should make an informed decision about starting annual PSA testing at the age of 40.



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MISCELLANEOUS:

1. **Special Note: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call (toll free 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 October newsletter to me by Sunday, October 15th (email skelle@ptd.net) or by snail-mail to:

Linda Skellenger
174 Lewisburg Rd.
Sussex, N.J. 07461