

"Once again with my brothers...as we were together then...we are together now..."



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

A Nationally acclaimed and award winning Veteran Newsletter & Website

QUAD CITIES CHAPTER 299 WWW.QCVVA299.ORG

MARCH 2010

SOME MEN ARE BORN BROTHERS, OTHERS BECOME BROTHERS

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: TURNING THE PAGE

"By now a large segment of the America public had turned against the war. We could feel the hostility whenever we left the base at Quantico, and the resentment was particularly strong in and around Washington. It got to the point where the C.O. of The Basic School issued an order that officers going off base should no longer wear their uniforms. Over at the Marine headquarters in Arlington, they were now wearing civilian clothes to work." Circa 1970 (Oliver L. North: Under Fire page 124)

The prevailing attitude described above by Oliver North is something which we all experienced in one way or another as part of the Vietnam experience. It has been a journey of thirty plus years to bring about a change in perception but our efforts are beginning to pay off. The Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Day (WHVVD) Resolution, currently being processed through the Illinois State Legislature, represents an opportunity for the cast members of the Vietnam era drama, to set the record straight. It will be a step taken in correcting the perception created by the anti-war interests of that time in history that all Vietnam Veterans were a leaderless, drug crazed ragtag band of lost soles thrust upon the world stage to be vilified, ridiculed, stigmatized and victimized as a group of directionless misfits.

That perception is the farthest

thing from the truth. The successes achieved by our post Vietnam career military underscores tremendous accomplishments through leadership which was born of combat and sharpened by positive assessments of lessons learned from the Southeast Asia conflict. Additionally, there are a significant number of Vietnam Veterans who chose to resume civilian careers after combat and they have proven to be leaders of industry and commerce to the extent that their achievements far surpass those of citizens that chose not to serve. We are proud of our service, we answered the call!"

Our delegates to the National Convention in 2009 returned home with a mandate to support the WHVVD Initiative which we have done. In am proud to say that Chapter 299 has been successful in obtaining a grass roots acceptance of this initiative locally here in the Quad Cities through municipality endorsement. We now look to Springfield for final legislative approval which should come at anytime.

**RESPECTFULLY,
RAY G. HAMILTON
PRESIDENT
QCVVA CHAPTER 299**

CHAPTER 299

**VETS IN CRISIS HOTLINE
1.800.273.8255**

**President-Ray Hamilton
309.523.3259**

r.hamilton@mchsi.com

**Vice President-Todd Harlow
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tharlow@co.rock-island.il.us

**Secretary-Bill Albracht
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309.799.7763**

**Membership-Larry Tschappat
309.788.2729**

let289@hotmail.com

**VVA National Offices
800.882.1316**

**VA Outpatient Clinic Bettendorf
563.332.8528**

**VAMC Iowa City, IA
800.346.1843
319.338.0581**

**IL Dept of Veterans Affairs
Dan Bebber VSO
309.793.1460**

**RI County Vet Ast Comm.
*Todd Harlow - Supt. & VSO
309.558.3546**

**The Vet Center
Fred Weymouth
309.762.6954**

**Iowa Veteran Affairs
*David Woods
563.326.8723**

***Veteran Service Officers
Al "Butch" Huber
309.721.1453**

**Steve Lowther
309.737.2954**

**Honor Guard Co-Captains
Dennis Laird - Funerals
H: 309.797.3207**

C: 309.230.3559

**Andy Anderson - Parades
C: 563.940.5980**

MINUTES VVA 299 BOARD MEETING - MOLINE VFW HALL -02-09-2010**MINUTES VVA 299 CHAPTER MEETING - ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL -02-16-2010****February Board Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Ray Hamilton with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our fallen and missing brothers, both past and present.

Ray gave an update on the Sgt. Baker/VN Veteran monument. All is moving forward and we are now looking at a dedication date in June. There is much to be done aside from the actual monument itself. All is on track and moving forward, albeit not at the speed we hoped for.

The Chapter's Hog Roaster (aka The Flying Pig II) is in various stages of assembly and should be ready to make its first appearance about the same time as the monument. It was further learned that Ray has secured an agreement with the Moline Viking Club to do the Hog Roast food prep on their premises. The Second Annual Chapter 299 911 Golf outing is now scheduled for September 10th, 2010. The golf course is TBD. Katherman, Lavell & Schroeder have volunteered to serve on committee.

USA Today will be doing an article on the WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY initiative on a nationwide perspective. Our Chapter will be featured as moving this forward to a national level via the IL state legislature (see USA Today story reprint in this STS issue).

Ray announced that anyone seeking Chapter office in April should submit a bio (100 word max) on a WORD Doc. to the STS staff for inclusion in the Special April STS Newsletter.

Larry Tschappat reported that we are currently at 416 members, which puts us within one or two

of the eighth largest Chapter in the Nation! He also stated that Ray is the Chapter's top recruiter.

Bill Albracht, Charities Committee Chair, presented a request from Alley Cats Boxing Club. The Board voted a \$400 donation. It will now go to committee for further action prior to presentation for membership approval. Todd Harlow advised that Chapter member Hattie Hughes-Burns was facing a very serious health issue and requested to be remembered in our Chapter member's special thoughts and prayers.

The Honor Guard will be marching again in the QCA's Bi-State St. Patrick Day Parade on Saturday, March 13th. ANYONE who cares to walk/march with our Honor Guard will be most welcomed.

Frenchy Eaves suggested that our Chapter purchase additional American Flags with poles so that the row of marchers behind the primary first row can display American Flags also. A suggestion that the second row use some type of American flag pendants to differentiate itself from the first row will also be looked into.

Frenchy Eaves said that the quarterly visit to the Iowa City Veterans Hospital will be held on Tuesday, March 2. Next scheduled trip will be in June. Terry Kramer gave the Treasures Report. Bingo lost \$448 in January. At the April Board meeting, the Board will vote weather or not to keep bingo. April was chosen as it will have been one year since the move from the Lions Club to the American Legion. Kramer also told the Board that the Chapter's fiscal year begins on March

1st and ends on the last day of February. All Chapter accounting procedure has now been set up to reflect these dates for yearly annals.

Bingo Chair, Clayton Peterson was not present at the Board meeting so Ray instructed Todd Harlow to tell Clayton to start a data base of all those who attend bingo. The data base that was established for the first Trivia Night has become an invaluable tool in repeat players.

Ray reported that Trivia Night netted the Chapter \$2,552! Besides finishing in the black, all attendees, workers and players, had a great time.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Albracht – Chapter Secretary

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2010
MINUTES

Call to order 7:04

Secretary Bill Albracht excused, Board of Directors Andy Ortiz and Mike Green excused.

Mike Green is making a presentation to the Rock Island County Board on the Welcome Home Proclamation. Minutes for the January meeting were reviewed and passed.

Ray Hamilton answered questions in regard to the Phone notices.

Ray Hamilton: comments:

Trivia Night Moline American Legion: Some members stated no notice. Ray said the notice had been in the newsletter for the past number of months. Ray also stated that Mr. Trivia donated \$150.00 back to the chapter and Dick Schroeder

donated his proceeds back to the Chapter.

John Baker Monument: All is going well. The wax for the statue had to be redone.

John Ketner: He is working on the statue.

John Baker: John will be contacted for his attendance.

Rocky Bleier: Still not certain about his availability.

Jumers is alright and ready to go.

Roaster: Ray reported it will be great and ready to go soon.

Welcome Home Resolution:

Mike Green is presenting it now to the Rock Island County Board.

Iowa is still a question.

USA Today and article was printed in regard to the Welcome Home Resolution.

Golf Outing is scheduled for September 10, 2010. John Katherman is committee chair.

A meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening Feb 18 at 7:00 PM at the Vikings Club for those who wish to help.

Lap Tops for Troops: The plan is to rework laptops for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Ray is still checking on this.

Living History: Greg Pauline of #776 is looking for Vietnam Vets to give their history of Vietnam for a Living History project.

Annual Meeting location: American Legion post 246 in Moline.

"minutes" cont. from page 2

Food: Ray asked that the members use discretion in their consumption of food.

Chapter Business: Minimum if possible.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Larry Tschappat reported we now have 3 new members, Ken Cook, Pedro Lopez, and John Lewis, welcome home. Our chapter now has 419 members, 8th place nationally. 53 AVVA members, largest in the state.

Ray questioned Larry on Mel Poston being in the VVA Veteran

newsletter under Taps section, Larry said he would find out if so or why not.

Charities: Bob McSparin, none at this time.

Honor Guard: Dennis, March is St Patty's Day parade, also upcoming events are as listed: Softball games, Armed Forces Day, the Vigil in Springfield, Vet to Vet: Frenchie stated March 2, 7:00 AM Tuesday at the Iowa Machine Shed.

Art Hyderman of 776 said they are doing the same on March 17, 2010 7:00 AM at the Flying J Truck Stop. The Vets love it.

Minorities: Andy was excused, no report.

Treasurer: Terry gave his report. It was passed.

Old Business:

Ray asked about the destruction of used and tattered flags. Dennis stated to bring them to him and he would have them properly disposed of.

New Business: Ron Staes mentioned that the members running for office should send a bio of themselves of 100 words or less to be published in the Shoulder to Shoulder in April.

Moline Police is looking for our help in establishing an Honor Guard.

Good of the Order: Todd Harlow mentioned that Linwood Becket, a member was hospitalized.

Freda stated that AVVA is awaiting their charter from national.

50/50 drawing was Bob McSparin, he asked that the money be donated to the Honor Flight.

Dean Mayers was the lifetime membership drawing winner.

Submitted by Vice President Todd Harlow.

Chapter 299's efforts on behalf of the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day proclamation recognized as part of the nationwide effort. See below article that appeared in USA Today on February 15, 2010. As a sidebar - what other Chapter do you know that made it to USA Today!

VIETNAM VETS LOBBY FOR A DAY OF HONOR

By Judy Keen, USA TODAY

Some Vietnam War veterans are fighting for a day of their own. They have persuaded several state legislatures and dozens of cities to designate Vietnam Veterans Day and are lobbying others for a symbol of the gratitude and respect they believe they were denied when they came home from an unpopular war.

"We served with honor and we want people to know that," says Bill Albracht, 61, Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) chapter in the Quad Cities area of Iowa and Illinois. "We were ridiculed and defamed ... and we took it. Now we're trying to set the record straight." The U.S. honors all of its war veterans on Nov. 11. Several area cities passed proclamations making March 30 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day,

and on Tuesday, Albracht will ask the Rock Island County (Ill.) Board for support.

Some advocates say the last U.S. troops left Vietnam on March 30, 1973; others say the correct date is March 29 and support recognizing Vietnam War veterans on that day. Neither group is seeking a national holiday that gives federal workers the day off.

"People really just want some recognition," says John Rowan, national VVA president. In September, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation making March 30 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. "They're still a lost generation out there in many ways," says Assemblyman Paul Cook, a Republican and Vietnam War veteran.

José Ramos, 60, a Vietnam veteran in Whittier, Calif., helped lead the effort in his state. Working for appreciation for vets helps him cope with the war's still-vivid scars, he says. "I'm really proud, but my nightmares are my nightmares," he says. Dann Dunham, 60, a Vietnam veteran in Crossville, Tenn., who organizes efforts to commemorate Vietnam War vets on March 29, says at least eight states have passed proclamations and there are active campaigns in others. Veterans in Ohio are working for passage of legislation there. "It doesn't cost anything, it's so simple — how could anyone be against it?" says Paul Hauke, 61, a Vietnam War veteran from Sandusky, Ohio. He will be in Columbus this week to make the case.

Donald Lanthorn, with the Ohio American Legion, testified in a

legislative committee against the proposed March 29 holiday there, in part because William Calley, the Army officer who led the 1968 My Lai massacre in Vietnam, was convicted on that date in 1971.

"We're not convinced," Lanthorn says, that a separate day of recognition for Vietnam War vets is needed, but "we're not attempting to demean their service."

Diane Finneemann will mark the third Vietnam veterans observance next month in Minnesota, where her lobbying helped win passage in 2008. Her brother Wallace Schmidt, a Vietnam War vet who had post-traumatic stress disorder, committed suicide in 1972. "I feel," she says, "as though I have extended my brother's life's work."

ELECTION 2010!

Attention all Chapter 299 members. At 7pm on Tuesday, April 20th, the Chapter's annual election and reception will be held at the Moline American Legion, 1623-15 Street. Anyone interested in running for the office of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer or one of the six director slots, to include two state delegates should submit their name to the Shoulder To Shoulder (STS) Newsletter staff as soon as possible. It is further recommended that a short bio/statement accompany your notification as it will be printed in the April STS that will come out prior to the election. Those running

for Election Committee will also be posted.

The bio/statement should be no more than 100 words.

On the night of the election, all candidates will be individually introduced, state their name and the position they seek. There will be no electioneering of any type in the American Legion. As in the past, candidates may hand out literature outside the American Legion hall. Please submit your bio/statement on a WORD Doc. to Ron Staes (ronstaes@mchsi.com) or Bill

Albracht (walbracht@gmail.com) as soon as possible for inclusion in the April STS. Cut off date is March 31st. The message contained in all campaign material should be positive and in the spirit of brotherhood and unity. The VVA logo may be used.

Immediately after the election and short meeting, the Chapter's annual membership appreciation election reception will be held. It is a once a year event and the Chapter will provide light appetizers and beverages.

Good luck to all and let the games begin!

CELEBRATION CRUISE SHOWS RESPECT FOR OUR FLAG

As everyone who lives in the QCA, it's been a tough winter. It came early, hit us hard and doesn't seem to want to leave (not unlike some of my in-laws – but that's another story). As I drove down River Drive in Moline in February, I saw first hand the toll the winter winds have taken on the American flags displayed in the Celebration Cruise Ship parking lot (never could figure out what the difference is between a ship and a boat so forgive me if I got it wrong). They were in various states of what can only be called taters.

When I got home, I called the Celebration business office and eventually made contact with the owner. I explained the situation and told him that I was calling on behalf of ALL veterans and requested that the flags be removed as soon as possible. Without hesitation, he thanked me and advised that they would be

removed this same day...which they were.

So, thank you Celebration Cruise for your understanding and swift action.

So guys, if you see Old Glory in a condition that warrants her removal and retirement, step up, make the call or knock on the door. Let's preserve the symbol of our service to our country.

Just one man's opinion...

- *Bill Albracht*

ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERS WHO OWN A BUSINESS

The Chapter Newsletter is compiling a list of member owned business that will be listed throughout the year in the STS. If you own a business, do work on the side, or have a skill that others would pay for, drop us an e-mail and let us know. We will be

compiling a complete list to share with our membership. Who better to hire than a brother veteran?

Send all e-mails to Ron States (ronstates@mchsi.com) and/or Bill Albracht (walbracht@gmail.com).

QCVVA299.ORG

That's our Chapter's award winning web site address which is sponsored in it's entirety by the generosity of Eriksen Chevrolet-Buick in Milan. Although it is a very popular site, when was the last time YOU visited? There are some very interesting and entertaining video vignettes. We recommend to all who have not been there in a couple months, take a new look at an old friend and while you're there...click on the ERIKSEN tab and check out a new (or pre owned) set of wheels!

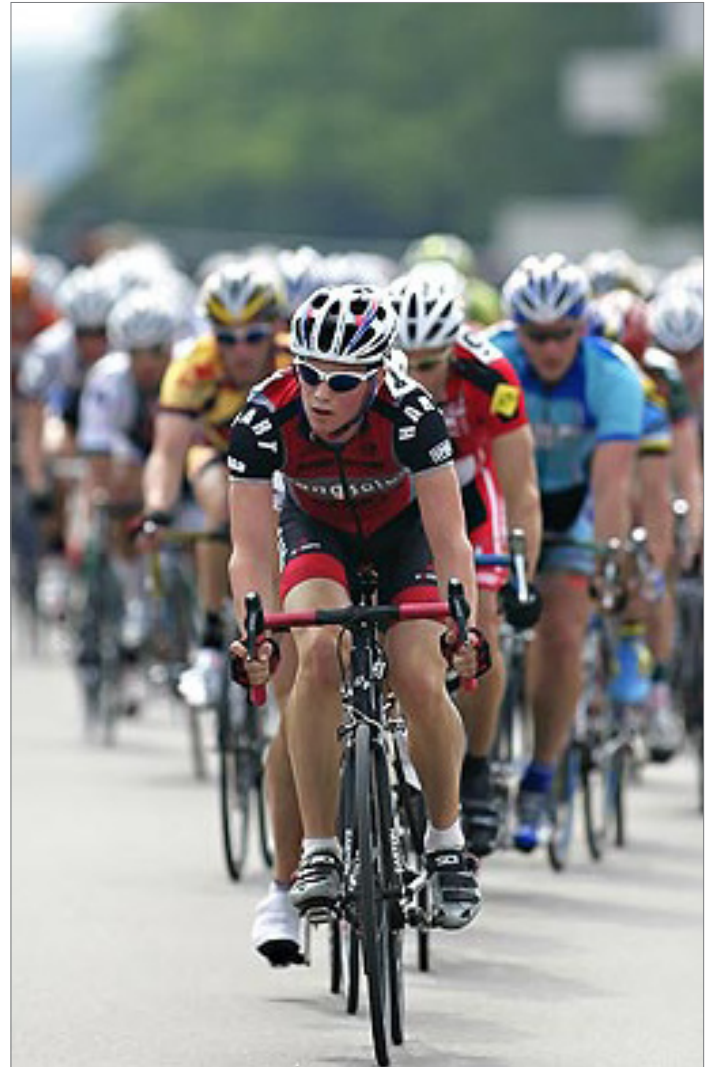
PLEASE CHECK YOUR CALENDARS NOW....

The Criterium – May 28/29, & June 1 &
The Rock Island Grand Prix – Sept. 1, 2 & 7,
8 INVITES Chapter 299 To provide labor to
once again move barrels, fence and other
race track supplies from the Argus basement
to the parking lot for dispersal.

If you can not work these days opportunities
also exist on Sept. 3, 4, & 5.

This provides a good donation to help in our
Chapter projects and has been a good team
effort by our members in previous years.
Any period of two hours or more would be
welcome.

Any questions... please check with Bob
Jackson at any meeting or call 309-781-8190
for questions or sign up.



As a bagpiper, I play many
gigs.. Recently I was asked
by a funeral director to play
at a grave side service for a
homeless man. He had no family or
friends, so the service was to be at a
pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky
back-country.

As I was not familiar with the
backwoods, I got lost; and being a typical
man I didn't stop for directions. I finally
arrived an hour late and saw the funeral
guy had evidently gone and the hearse
was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew
left and they were eating lunch .I felt
badly and apologized to the men for
being late. I went to the side of the
grave and looked down and the vault lid
was already in place. I didn't know what
else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches
and began to gather around. I played
out my heart and soul for this man with
no family and friends. I played like I've
never played before for this homeless
man.

And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the
workers began to weep. They wept, I
wept, we all wept together.. When I
finished I packed up my bagpipes and
started for my car. Though my head
hung low my heart was full.

As I was opened the door to my car,
I heard one of the workers say, " I never
seen nothin' like that before and I've
been putting in septic tanks for twenty
years."

A tip of the helmet to Chapter member
Jim Brozovich for this jewel!

VA TO AUTOMATE ITS AGENT ORANGE CLAIMS PROCESS

By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to announce today that it will fully automate how it pays claims for illnesses related to exposure to the chemical Agent Orange to keep an overburdened system from collapse.

It is the department's first effort at automating claims processing in its 80-year history, says VA chief technology officer Peter Levin. It comes as the agency struggles to cut a backlog of more than 1 million disability claims, appeals and other cases.

The system "is likely to break" if nothing is done, Levin says.

"Look, the bottom line is why the hell they didn't do (automation) 30 years ago," says John Rowan, national president of Vietnam Veterans of America. "The question is whether they will do it right."

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki took office last year and said no disability claim should take longer than four months to process. However, department records show that almost 40% take an average of 161 days to process and that will

increase to 190 days without automation.

The increase is largely the result of Shinseki's efforts to allow more Agent Orange disability claims.

The military used Agent Orange to defoliate plants and trees in which Vietnamese insurgents hid during the Vietnam War. It was later shown to cause cancer, birth defects and other ailments. After years of debate and medical research, the VA began compensating veterans for illnesses linked to Agent Orange with non-taxable, monthly payments to those without dependents ranging from \$123 to \$2,673.

In October, Shinseki added three more illness to those linked to the herbicide:

Parkinson's disease, B-cell leukemia and heart disease. He told Congress this would generate another 228,000 claims in the next two years.

The automated claims system will apply only to veterans filing these new Agent Orange claims. If it works, the VA hopes to expand automated claims processing through the department, says Roger Baker, an assistant secretary for information and technology.

Shinseki said in a statement that veterans harmed during



military service deserve the "best this nation has to offer."

Old, incomplete or complicated records have hampered the VA's move to automation, says former VA secretary James Peake, who applauded Shinseki's move. Many records require hands-on investigation, says Peake, who led the department from 2007 to 2009.

Agent Orange cases, however, may be a good place to start, Peake says. Once the information from a veteran's

discharge papers is entered into a computer, the VA can quickly verify service in Vietnam in many cases — a key factor in determining eligibility for Agent Orange benefits.

WWW.QCVVA299.ORG

AIRPORT SCREENING PROBLEMS SLOVED!!!

Here's a brilliant solution to all the current controversy over the use of full-body scanners..... Someone should get busy and invent a type of booth that a person could step into, that wouldn't X-ray, but instead....would detonate any explosive device a person might be wearing! This idea is simple, could be used at airports, boarding docks, and stadium entries.... anywhere there is concern. This would be a win-win situation for everyone (except a terrorist)...plus, it would finally put an end to all the crap about racial profiling !!!!!

A tip of the helmet to Chapter member Dan Johnson for solving the problems of those long lines at airport security!



A WISH FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

One of our Chapter's most staunch supporters & Newsletter sponsor, Bud Canfield of Bud's Skyline Inn in Moline, is recovering from surgery in Florida. Although Florida in the winter is nice, the view from a hospital room leaves much to be desired. Get well Bud and we'll see you in the spring!

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY INITIATIVE PASSES THE IL HOUSE

IL Representative Pat Verschoore has once again stepped up to the plate and hit it out of the park on behalf of all IL Vietnam Veterans in the State of Illinois. Pat has shepherded the WHVVD proclamation through the IL House and has now handed it off State Senator Mike Jacobs who will sponsor same in the IL Senate. We will monitor and report as this progresses.

WWW.QCVVA299.ORG

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER IS BROUGHT TO YOU EACH MONTH BY:

BILL ALBRACHT & RON STAES - NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS
and SEAN MURPHY - CHAPTER WEBMASTER & NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

LIST OF SHIPS WITH AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE CONFIRMED

Salem-News.com

If a Vet's records show they served aboard one of these ships, exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development.

(WASHINGTON D.C.) - The Retired Enlisted Association Newsletter is running a listing it has received from the Department of Veterans Affairs this week outlining which ships are now considered to have been exposed to Agent Orange during the Viet Nam war. Here is the listing taken directly from their newsletter today:

"VA Issues List of Ships with Agent Orange Exposure--The Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing regional offices with information to assist with development in Haas related disability claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy Veterans.

To date, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) received verification from various sources showing that a number of offshore "blue water" naval vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and delta areas of Vietnam.

The VA also has identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. The ships and dates of inland waterway service are listed on the Compensation & Pension Service Bulletin [PDF]. For your convenience, we also have listed the ships and dates below.

If a Veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development.

All vessels of Inshore Fire Support [IFS]

Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour

USS Carronade (IFS 1)

USS Clarion River (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship, Medium, Rocket]

USS Francis River (LSMR 525)

USS White River (LSMR 536)

All vessels with the designation LST [Landing Ship, Tank] during their entire tour [WWII ships converted to transport supplies on rivers and serve as barracks for brown water Mobile Riverine Forces]

All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] during their entire tour

All vessels with the designation PCF [Patrol Craft, Fast] during their entire tour [Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy interdiction on close coastal waters]

All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland waterways and featured in the Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now"]

USS Ingersoll (DD-652) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River , October 24-25, 1965]

USS Mansfield (DD-728) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River August 8-19, 1967 and December 21-24, 1968]

USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849) [Destroyer] [Operated on coastal inlet north of Da Nang, June 2-5, 1966, protecting Marines holding a bridge]

USS Basilone (DD-824) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, May 24-25, 1966]

USS Hamner (DD-718) [Destroyer] [Operated on Song Lon Tao and Long Song Tao Rivers, August 15-September 1,

1966]

USS Conway (DD-507) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River , early August 1966]

USS Fiske (DD-842) [Destroyer] [Operated on Mekong River , June 16-21, 1966]

USS Black (DD-666) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River , July 13-19, 1966]

USS Providence (CLG-6) [Cruiser, Light, Guided Missile] [Operated on Saigon River 3 days during January 1964]

USS Mahan (DLG-11) [Guided Missile Frigate] [Operated on Saigon River October 24-28, 1964]

USS Okanogan (APA-220) [Attack Transport] [Operated on Saigon River July 22-23, 29-30, 1968 and August 5-6, 1968]

USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores Ship] [Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and Cam Rahn Bay , April 22-25, 1968]"

CWO3 Tom Barnes, USCG (Ret.)



MEMBERSHIP REPORT MARCH 2010

As of 28 February, we have a total VVA membership of 425. This puts us as the 8th largest Chapter in the country, but only if those folks whose membership expires this month pay their dues. If you're not sure if you are in this group, please call me at (309) 788-2729.

Now welcome our newest one-year members: Mike Fritz, Virgil Dueysen, Tim Brozovich, Ken Cook SR, Jim Hixson, Pedro Lopez JR, Gene Ernster and Wilson Richard JR.

I also want to recognize our latest three-year members: Dennis Carlson, David Clark, Gary Feldman, Ted Dorough, John Tolle and Dale Willhite. And our newest Life member is Craig Morton. Welcome aboard, guys !!

Our congratulations' to Gib DeKoster, Al Andrews, and Thom Munos for each bringing in five or more new members.....way to go, fellows.

And last, but not least, my apology to Life member Don Dias for his name 'typo' in our last newsletter....sorry about that !! If any other 'typos' have occurred, do call me.

And remember our \$10 dollar one-year membership 'special' will end on 30 APR 10, and that it is good for new, former or current renewing members. Such a deal !! Thank you.

Respectfully,
Larry Tschappat

FROM THE TOC (TACTICAL OPERATION CENTER)

Chapter Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 1900 hrs. in the Rock Island Arsenal Cafeteria. The board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 1900 hrs. at the Moline VFW. There are no meetings in December.

Please help support all our sponsors and those organizations that give us free use of their facilities. Moline VFW Post 2153 - Every Friday Night Fish Fry Dinner - 4:30 P.M. To 7:45 P.M. (309-764-3344)

Fact: Everyday Vietnam veterans are being diagnosed with Agent Orange chemical health ailments. We are dying at a faster, earlier rate than our non-veteran peers.

Attention Vet 2 Vet Volunteers...

Our next Vet to Vet trip to Iowa City V.A. Hospital will be Tuesday, March 2. Please be at the Machine Shed in Davenport at 7 AM for breakfast. We will be pulling out at 8AM for Iowa City. For further details call Frenchy at 563-386-1696. Thanks for being part of Vet to Vet.

Bingo is in need of volunteers...

Bingo is held every Saturday night at the Rock Island Lions Club. Please contact Todd Harlow if you can help out.

Wanted: Your stories & news articles

All VVA Chapter members are encouraged to send in articles and photographs to be published for everyone's interest and enjoyment. Send articles in Microsoft Word format. Digital photos are best for publication. E-mail articles and pictures to: w.albracht@mchsi.com or rstaes@mchsi.com
Don't forget...

"Immediately following April's general meeting and the Chapter's election of new officers, there will be a reception for all members and special Chapter guests at the Moline American Legion."

Sick Call:

Our prayers and thoughts go out to our fellow chapter veterans on sick call - Hattie Hughes-Burns and Lane Evans who is currently in assisted living at Lighthouse, Silvis. Please contact our Newsletter editors if you know of a chapter member in a nursing home or who is sick or hospitalized.
Reminder Dates:

March 29 - Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day

April 9 - MIA/POW Remembrance Day

Invitation from a Brother Chapter:

WELCOMING HOME WISCONSIN'S

VIETNAM VETERANS

May 21-23, 2010, a wide-reaching statewide effort to honor Wisconsin Vietnam War Veterans culminates in a weekend of recognition and celebration of their service and sacrifice for veterans and their families at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. All veterans, family members, friends and other Wisconsin residents are invited to attend. Find event details, local information and details on the statewide kick-off motorcycle rally from La Crosse to Green Bay and more online at LZLambeau.org.

CHAPTER ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Chapter and Honor Guard Activities

MARCH

2 - Vet 2 Vet Iowa City VA
4 - Chapter BINGO
9 - VVA Board Meeting - 7pm - Moline VFW
11- Chapter BINGO
16 - VVA Membership Meeting - 7pm - R.I. Arsenal Cafeteria
17- St. Patrick's Day
18- Chapter BINGO
25- Chapter BINGO
29- Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day

APRIL

1 - Chapter BINGO
8 - Chapter BINGO
9 - MIA/POW Remembrance Day
13 - VVA Board Meeting - 7pm - Moline VFW
15 - Chapter BINGO
20 - VVA Membership Meeting - 7pm - Moline American Legion
(Chapter Elections and Reception)
22 - Chapter BINGO
29 - Chapter BINGO

Our Chapter thanks Chapter 776 and MAVVA for their help with funerals and other VVA Events.

See our Web page for updates
www.qcvva299.org

LIGHTENING STRIKES TWICE!!!

Believe it or not, Pat & Dick Schroeder won the 50/50 drawing at the Chapter's February 6th Trivia Night held at the Moline American Legion. Not only did they win this one, but they were also the winners at the November Welcome Home Dance! And, as they did in November, Pat & Dick donated the entire \$335 back to the Chapter!!! On behalf of a grateful Chapter, thank you both and God bless.



WWW.QCVVA299.ORG

**God Bless America
&
God Bless
Our Troops & Veterans.**



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