

*"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

SEPTEMBER 2011

*"We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would harm us." George Orwell*

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As many of you knew, Vietnam Veterans of America held it's national convention August 16-20 in Reno Nevada. I, along with 9 other delegates from our chapter, attended. This being my first national convention of any kind, I flew to Reno with much trepidation.

My fears were relieved quite a bit knowing that several chapter members, including Larry Tschappat, and Terry Kramer, had made sure that all the "T"s were crossed and "I"s dotted on the myriad of forms that allowed us to attend.

These are some of my observations as a "Rookie" convention goer.

Chapter 299 made up a full Third of the whole Illinois delegation. A large percent of chapter 299 delegates are Very active in chapter activities, but not all of them. The National President and State Council President were "Amazed" at the number of first time delegates, indicating that there have been FEW in the past.

Many delegates seemed to be "career" delegates, and were more interested in their 2 minutes of fame at the mic, and their seemingly inexhaustible knowledge of Roberts

Rules of Order, than they were with the resolutions being discussed.

This being said, I was extremely impressed with the body of work that has been accomplished over the last 25 years by Vietnam Veterans of America. We can truly be proud of the legislation that has helped vets with Agent Orange, PTSD, and other health issues, homeless vets, women and minority vets, incarcerated vets, POW/MIAs, and the new generation of vets.

I thought that the convention, as a whole, was very well run and organized. The entertainment was good. The speakers, including authors, generals, the Director of the VA, and Medal of Honor recipients, were excellent.

In closing, I would strongly urge newer members of chapter 299 to accept the challenge of running for delegate to the State Convention and also the next National Convention..

**Respectfully,  
John Katherman  
President**

## CHAPTER 299

**VETS IN CRISIS HOTLINE  
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800.882.1316**

**VA Outpatient Clinic Bettendorf  
563.332.8528**

**VA Med Cent IA City  
319.338.0581 & 800.346.1843**

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

**RI Cty Vet Ast & VSO  
Todd Harlow  
309.558.3546**

**VET Cent - Fred Wyemouth  
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**IL Vet Employ Reps  
Ken Lilly & John Toile  
309.764.8731**

**IA Vet Affairs & VSO  
David Woods  
563.326.8723**

**Honor Guard Co-Captains  
Dennis Laird - Funerals  
309.278.3452**

**Andy Anderson - Parades  
C: 563.940.5980**

**C. Norris & J. Kerr  
IA Workforce Vet Reps,  
563.445.3200**

## MINUTES VVA299 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 08/09/2011

Call to order by Vice President Jim Lavell with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for our fallen and missing brothers.

### Committee Reports

**Membership** – Larry Tschappat reported 406 members and 42 AVVA members. Paul Gillespie is the newest member. Bob Groene took advantage of winning the drawing at last month's membership meeting and is our newest Life member.

**Charities** – No report

**Honor Guard** – Dennis Laird reported the group was at the Willhite funeral. Lim Loveless reported that the Honor Guard was very well received and respected at the Brewers game, where they presented the Colors.

**Vet2Vet** – Paul "Frenchy" Eaves

reported that the Good Samaritan trip on Monday, 8/8 was the "best one yet!" The group received a standing ovation.

**Minorities** – No report

**Treasurer** – Terry Kramer reported July Income of \$1455, Expenses of \$5681 resulting in a Net deficit for the month of \$4226. YTD Income of \$5596 and Expenses of \$15756 resulting in a Net deficit of \$10,159. Larry Tschappat questioned the accurate placement of Ad expense under Membership.

**9/11 Golf Outing** – Still spaces available. [ at the time of the August Meeting ]

Ray Hamilton mentioned the need for renewal of our non-taxable status.

### Old Business

Honor Express – No report  
National Convention – Discussion of travel plans and reimbursement of expenses.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Roman, Secretary

## WHEN DUTY CALLS, RON STAES ALWAYS ANSWERS

A couple years ago, Chapter member Ron Staes moved from the QCA to Texas. I lost a very good friend and confidant and the Chapter lost one of the most giving, caring and veteran motivated members we have ever had. Ron was always there when you needed...well, anything. No matter the project, he made time to be involved.

Ron is still our Chapter member, albeit long distance and he still is there when we need him. Recently, our Chapter presented the QCA Building Trades and all the companies that assisted in the John Baker/Vietnam Veteran Monument a beautifully framed and matted Vietnam Veterans of America full color Certificate of Appreciation. Every Certificate was hand made by Ron and shipped to our Chapter for framing.

They say you never know what you have until it's gone, well here's hoping that Chapter 299 will never know what it's like to not have Ron Staes lending a hand where he can.

- Bill Albracht

**VIETNAM VETERANS of  
AMERICA  
ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL  
2011 POLARIS ATV  
RANGER 400**



**TICKETS \$5.00 EACH  
Three for \$10.00**

**DRAWING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 11, 2011**

The proceeds from the ATV Raffle will be used to help offset the cost of sending Chapter delegates/representatives to the VVA National Convention this summer in Reno, NV.

# SIXTH ANNUAL “WELCOME HOME” VETERANS DAY DANCE IS ON!!

As long as we live, it will be part of our life. When we hear a song from our youth, we are transported back to another time. Junior High, High School, Vietnam, College or maybe even your first kiss. The music is Rock & Roll and the occasion is a day of honor and pay tribute to all who served – yes folks, it’s VETERANS DAY!

**WHEN:** Friday – 11 November, 2011 – Veterans Day

**WHERE:** Jumer’s Casino & Hotel main ballroom (Hotel side-monument entrance)

**TIME:** Doors open at 1700 hours – Live R&R music from 1900-2300 hours

**TICKETS:** Go on sale at all QCA Hy-Vee stores starting 1 November.

**PRICE:** \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door, but seriously – how can you put a price on a good time!

**MUSIC:** Once again, back by popular demand – The Fabulous Coupe De Vile!!! The Cadillac of Rock & Roll!

**ALL ARE WELCOME:** The public is welcomed and encouraged (excluding Jane Fonda) to come be a part of our special day!

Start spreading the word and get your friends and family to plan on being part of an evening of good music, good fun but most of all – the enjoyment of the camaraderie that is shared by all who served this great Nation. We will remember and pay tribute to all in attendance and all who have passed.

Proceeds will go to fund the Chapter’s annual Holiday Food Basket Program that provides a wonderful meal to veterans and non-veteran families that are in need during the holiday season. Terry Lynch & Bill Albracht– Dance Co-Chairs

## VIETNAM VETERAN HONOR EXPRESS AND THE HONOR FLIGHT

The incredible work that has been done by the country’s Honor Flight Program and in particular the Quad Cities own program which has moved heaven and earth to get our area vets back to WDC. The list of WWII vets in the QCA that are still waiting for transport is dwindling and the organizers are in the preliminary stages to move on to the Korean War vets. After the Korean War vets, Vietnam veterans are up.

Many of us were quite young when the Korean War broke out and it lasted for three bloody years. Since it started only five years after WWII, many of the WWII vets were also Korean War vets. WWII vets that also saw action in Korea and have gone east on an Honor Flight will not be going back for a second trip. This means that the Korean vets will likely move through the Honor Flight system at warp speed and that will clear the way for the Honor Flight to focus on Vietnam vets.

When that time comes, it will be formally announced and seat allocation will be on a first come first served basis. Please note that at present, any terminally ill vet takes first priority.

Back in 2009 when the concept of a Vietnam Veteran Honor Express train trip back to The Wall was initially conceived, the Honor Flight was years away from our ilk and era. This is no longer is the case. Due to the age of our WWII brothers and the dual service of vets in WWII & Korea, the Honor Flight is closer than anyone thought it would be two years ago. Thus we are now faced with a decision – press on with the VN Vet Honor Express or throw our efforts and monies collected behind the Honor Flight. Both are noble ideas. One is funded, tried and tested and one that is

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## Congressman Bobby Schilling

SERVING THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

October 1, 2011

### VETERANS FORUM

Hosted by Bobby Schilling  
American Legion Post 246  
1623 15th Street, Moline, IL  
From 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Congressman Schilling's guest will be Mr. Duane Honeycutt, Director of the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Chicago, who has graciously agreed to meet with veterans to address issues pertaining to the operation of the VARO.

Issues such as: how to file a claim, the claim and appeal process, what documents are necessary to file a claim, the length of time to review a claim, as well as other issues that pertain to the VARO.

The Forum is open to veterans, their spouses, VSOs, and other individuals who may have

business related to the specific nature of the forum.

We must stress that the forum is not designed to be an outlet for veterans to vent or complain about their specific case. The forum is designed to be an educational forum, to disseminate information and collect information from veterans to better help the VARO serve veterans in the future.

Those wishing to have a questions answered will be required to submit their questions on a 3 x 5 index card, which will be collected and read during the forum.

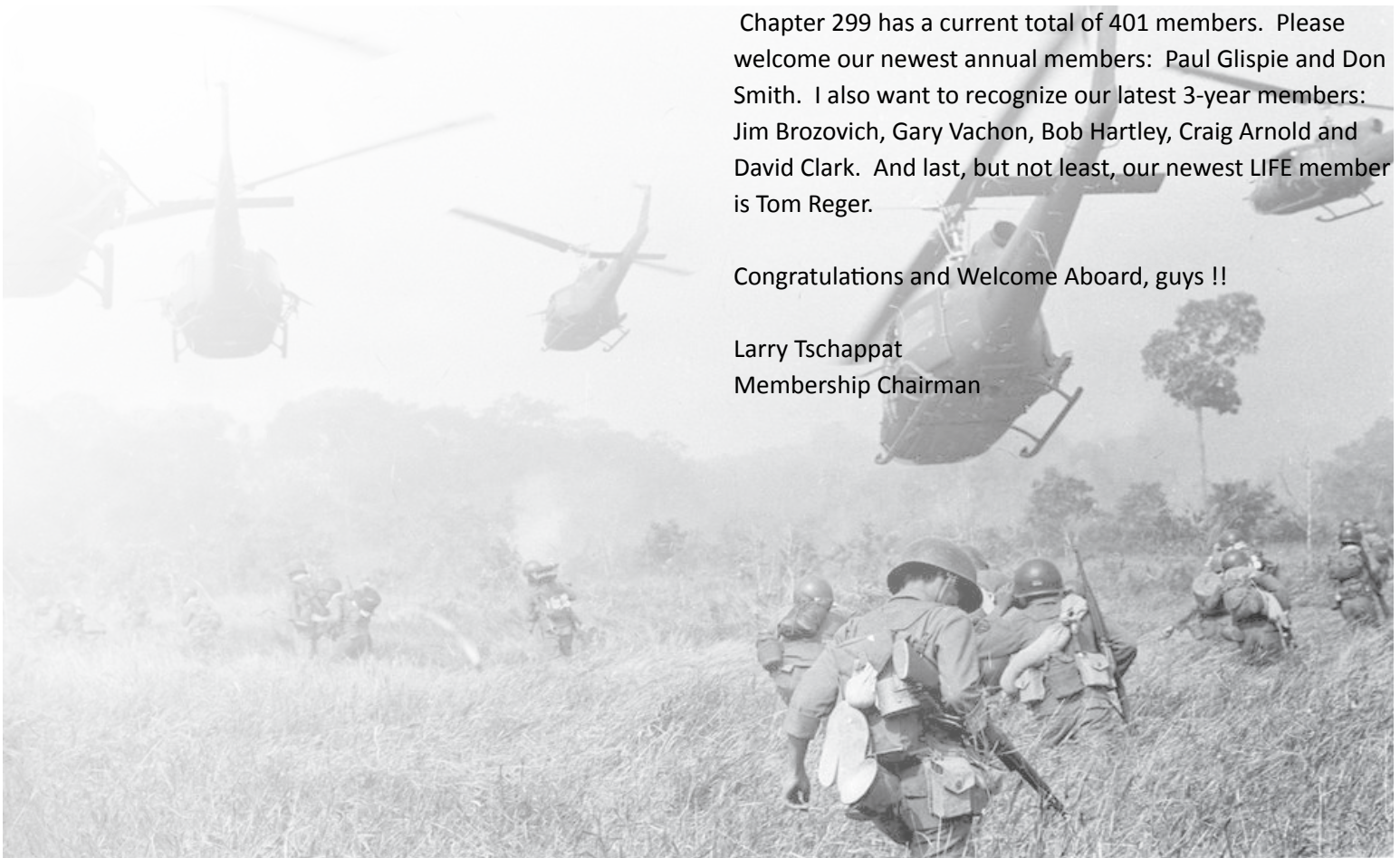
If you have any questions pertaining to the Forum, please contact Ken Moffett at Congressman Schilling's office at (309) 757-7630 or [Ken.Moffett@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ken.Moffett@mail.house.gov)

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT SEPTEMBER 2011

Chapter 299 has a current total of 401 members. Please welcome our newest annual members: Paul Glispie and Don Smith. I also want to recognize our latest 3-year members: Jim Brozovich, Gary Vachon, Bob Hartley, Craig Arnold and David Clark. And last, but not least, our newest LIFE member is Tom Reger.

Congratulations and Welcome Aboard, guys !!

Larry Tschappat  
Membership Chairman



## SIVYER STEEL FUNDRAISER

We will be cooking and serving for Sivy Steel 225 S 33rd Street, Bettendorf this weekend. There will be 900 adults and 500 children. We will prepare pulled pork for the adults plus cook 400 hot dogs for the children. We will serve from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Saturday 8/27/2011 at Sivy Steel in Bettendorf. The menu will be pulled pork, hot dogs, baked beans and potato salad.

We will prep pork at the Vikings Club in Moline at 9:00 AM on Friday 8/26/2011 then store in their walk-in cooler. We will also prepare the "mixens" for the beans at that time and have it ready to add to the beans on Saturday morning when we fire up the beans roasters. We will get a couple of roasters of beans prepared at the Vikings Club and take them hot to Sivy then add as need to on site. We will start cooking the meat (pork) at 3:00 AM on Sat

and have it ready to pull by 9:00 AM at the Viking club.

We will use the stainless gas cooker to cook the hot dogs on site at Sivy beginning at 12:00 Noon so as to have a good number ready to serve by 2:00 PM. We will continue to cook the dogs on site as needed throughout the afternoon.

After the pork is pulled at the Viking Club, we will move the cooker and meat to Sivy in 2 roasters and the cooking pans. We will get set up to start serving there by 1:30 PM. We should leave the Vikings Club by 12:00 Noon. We will keep the pulled pork warm in the cooking pans in the big roaster at Sivy like we did this past weekend at Water Park and transfer the pork to roasters as needed.

The serving table will consist of the pulled pork (one roaster), buns, hotdogs (in a stainless pan)

hot dog buns, potato salad, baked beans (one roaster) condiments, plates, forks, and napkins. We will need at least six of our tables.

Dan Carothers will lead the logistics team and get the big roaster to Sivy from the Vikings. We will set up the canopy and tables and the stainless steel cooker at Sivy the day before 8/26/2011 after the prepping is done at the Vikings Club. Ray Hamilton will transport the pulled pork to Sivy from the Vikings on Sat. Bob Brooks will pick up the buns and potato salad Saturday morning and take directly to Sivy. We will clean up at the Vikings before we leave. If necessary we will return to tidy up any unfinished business there after the Sivy duties.

Crews:

Prep on Friday at the Vikings will require at least 10 people. Gib and Andy

will lead that team.

Ray Hamilton      Bob Jackson      Rudy Hernandez      Bob Brooks Tom Bump

Volunteer? Sign up here  
Judy "Beans" Mueller  
2nd Volunteer? Sign up here  
VOLUNTEERS; CALL RUDY

Cooking Crew 3:00 AM Sat at the Vikings Ray Hamilton and Tom Bump

Pulling crew 9:00 AM at the Vikings Club Sat (8/127/11)

Terry Lynch  
Rip Van Winkle  
John Katherman  
Tom Marxen  
Dennis Johnson  
Charlie Witherbee  
Mike Ellis  
Jim Lavell  
Greg Morton  
Terry Lynch  
BEANS DONE BY "Beans"  
John Katherman  
Dennis Johnson  
Mike Ellis  
Craig Morton

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# HELICOPTER PILOTS PART TWO

## Joey Galloway to Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association

I had the chance to say some good things about all of you at the Memorial Service at The Wall on Sunday. I meant every word of that..... and more. You chopper guys were our heroes in Vietnam. You were our rides....but you were much much more than that. We were always either cussing you for hauling our butts into deep kimchi..... or ready to kiss you for hauling us out of it. I have a feeling that without you and your birds that would have been a much shorter and far more brutish war.

You were our heroes, though, first last and always. You saved us from having to walk to work every day. You brought in our food and ammo and water.....and sometimes even a marmite can full of hot chow. To this day I think the finest meal I ever ate was a canteen cup full of hot split pea soup that a Huey delivered to a hilltop in the dry paddies of the Bong Son Plain in January of 1966. For a moment there I thought if the Army could get a hot meal out to an Infantry company on patrol maybe..... just maybe.....we could win the damn war.

Oh well.

I think often of all that you did for us.....all that you meant to us: You came for our wounded. You came to get our dead brothers. You came.... when the fight was over.....to give us a ride home from hell. There isn't a former Grunt alive who doesn't freeze for a moment and feel the hair rise on the back of his neck when he hears the whup whup whup of those helicopter blades.

What I want to say now is just between us.....because America still doesn't get it.....still doesn't know the truth, and the truth is: You are the cream of the crop of our generation.....the best and finest of an entire generation of Americans. You are the ones who answered when you were called to serve.....You are the ones who fought bravely and endured a terrible war in a terrible place. You are the ones for whom the words duty. .honor. country have real meaning because you have lived those words and the meaning behind those words.

You are my brothers in arms.... and I am not ashamed to say that I love you, would not trade one of you for a whole trainload of instant Canadians.....or a whole boatload of Rhodes Scholars bound for England.....or a whole campus full of guys who turned up for their draft physicals wearing panty hose. On behalf of a country that too easily forgets the true cost of war.....and who pays that price....I say Thank you for your service! On behalf of the people of our country who didn't have good sense enough to separate the war they hated from the young warriors they sent to fight that war.....I say we are sorry. We owe you all a very large apology.....and a debt of gratitude that we can never adequately repay.

For myself and all my buddies in the Infantry I say: Thanks for all the rides in and out....especially the rides out. It is great to see you all gathered here for this reunion. A friend of mine, Mike Norman, a former Marine

grunt....wrote a wonderful book called "These Good Men" about his quest to find and reunite with all the survivors of his platoon from Vietnam. He thought long and deep about why we gather as we have done this evening and he explained it thusly:

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best.....men who suffered and sacrificed.....who were stripped raw.....right down to their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation..... the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made.....the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory I will think of them all.....every day. I am sure that when I leave this world....my last thought will be of my family and my comrades.....such good men. I'm going to shut up now and let us all get down n to the real business of drinking and lying.....er..... telling war stories.

Thank you. I salute you. I remember you. I will teach my sons the stories and legends about you. And I will warn my daughters never ever to go out with aviators.....

Good evening. God bless..

Submission by Chief Dan Johnson

# V.A. MAKING RETROACTIVE TO 1 YEAR PAYMENTS / AGENT ORANGE

Over \$2.2 Billion in Retroactive Agent Orange Benefits Paid to 89,000 Vietnam Veterans and Survivors for Presumptive Conditions

WASHINGTON (August 31, 2011)- Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced today that more than \$2.2 billion in retroactive benefits has already been paid to approximately 89,000 Vietnam Veterans and their survivors who filed claims related to one of three new Agent Orange presumptive conditions.

On August 31, 2010, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) amended its regulations to add ischemic heart disease, hairy cell leukemia and other chronic B-cell leukemias, and Parkinson's disease to the list of diseases presumed to be related to exposure to Agent Orange.

"As the President said to the American Legion yesterday, VA is committed to ensuring Veterans and their families receive the care and benefits they have earned," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "I encourage all potentially eligible Veterans to apply as soon as possible to preserve the most favorable effective

date for payments."

For new claims, VA may authorize up to one year of retroactive benefits if a Veteran can show that he or she has experienced one of those conditions since the date of the regulatory change.

VA has reviewed, and continues to review, thousands of previously filed claims that may qualify for retroactive benefits under a long-standing court order of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in *Nehmer vs. U.S. Veterans Administration*.

"VA encourages survivors of Veterans whose death may be due to one of the three diseases to file a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation," added Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

Secretary Shinseki's decision to add these conditions to the list of Agent Orange presumptive conditions was based on a study by the Institute of Medicine, which indicated a positive association between exposure to certain herbicides and the subsequent development of one or more of the three conditions.

Potentially eligible Veterans include those who were

exposed based on duty or visitation in Vietnam or on its inland waterways between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975; exposed along the demilitarized zone in Korea between April 1, 1968, and August 31, 1971; or exposed due to herbicide tests and storage at military bases within and outside of the United States.

The Agent Orange Claims Processing System website located at <https://www.fasttrack.va.gov/AOFastTrack/> may be used to submit claims related to the three new presumptive conditions.

The website makes it easy to electronically file a claim and allows Veterans and their physicians to upload evidence supporting the claim. It also permits online viewing of claim status.

Beyond the three new presumptive disabilities, Veterans may file online at VA's My-eBenefits web site at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>. They can check the status of their claim with a premium account (confirming their identity), and use a growing number of online services.

Service members may enroll

in My-eBenefits by using their Common Access Card at anytime during their military service, or before they leave during their Transition Assistance Program briefings.

Veterans may also enroll through their myPay or MyHealtheVet accounts by visiting their local VA regional office or Veteran Service Organization, or by calling 1-800-827-1000.

For more information about Agent Orange presumptive and disability compensation, go to <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/>. For questions about Agent Orange, Veterans may call VA's Special Issues Helpline at 1-800-749-8387 and press 3. Submitted by Greg McCluskey

**CONTINUED**

Hot Dog Cooking at noon at Sivyver Andy Anderson, Bob Brooks, Ray Hamilton Keeping the Serving containers full on the table and ensuring the tables are clean will fall into the logistics arena. Ray Hamilton, Tom Bump and Terry Lynch will assist Dan Carothers with this chore.

Serving Crew....Crew will wear our aprons and food handler gloves! If you have one of the maroon aprons please bring it clean to the event.

Jerry Polito        Judy Johnson  
Lisa Polito        Diana

Brooks  
Bill Albracht        “Beans”  
Mueller  
Mary Albracht       Jim Kerr  
Pat Hamilton  
Clean up crew will be headed by Bob McSparin Clean up as we go (if it is dirty clean it) and set it aside for future use.

Bob Jackson        Rip  
Dennis Johnson    Gib  
Ray Hamilton        Dan  
Carothers  
and those not specifically assigned a task will help with this.

At 6:00 PM or when we finish serving we will pick up all of our stuff and leave the premises. We will go back to the Vikings

to ensure we have left the Club as we found it. Then we put everything away.

Rudy, please call all the volunteers that are not on the e-mail distribution to see who can help and when they can help. Terry Kramer will be out of pocket this weekend.

If you are not assigned to a crew and you want to help, call Rudy and sign up. The more the merrier and the lighter the load.

Get signed up ASAP so we know who is going to make it. This is not all-inclusive but it is a game plan! Any questions call Rudy or me.

By the By, last week at the Water Park Car Wash we made \$657.00 in walk up donations. That is beyond the donation that is to come from the Car Wash.

Thanks Ray

Editor’s Note: This is a memo from “retired” President Ray Hamilton to Rudy Hernandez.

The Sivyver Steel Event succeeded the Water Park Car Wash fundraiser the week before. QCVVA 299 has 401 Members according to our Membership Chairman. Is it me or do I see the same 12-15 Volunteers each month that is equivalent to @ 2.7% of the Membership?

**AGENT ORANGE: U.S.NAVY AND COAST GUARD SHIPS IN VIETNAM**

VA has released a list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships associated with military service in Vietnam and possible exposure to Agent Orange based on military records.

This evolving list will help Veterans who served aboard ships, including “Blue Water Veterans,” find out if they may qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure.

Veterans must meet VA’s criteria for service in Vietnam, which includes aboard boats on the inland waterways or brief visits ashore, to be presumed to have been exposed to herbicides.

Veterans who qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure are not required to show they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides when seeking VA compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.

**Find Your Ship**

Ships or boats that were part of the Mobile Riverine Force, Inshore Fire Support (ISF) Division 93 or had one of the following designations operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam. Veterans whose military records confirm they were aboard these ships qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure.

During your Vietnam tour, did your ship or boat have one of the following designations?

- LCM (Landing Craft, Mechanized)
- LCU (Landing Craft, Utility)
- LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel)
- LST (Landing Ship, Tank)
- PBR (Patrol Boat, River)
- PCF (Patrol Craft, Fast or Swift Boat)
- PG (Patrol Gunboat)
- WAK (Cargo Vessel)
- WHEC (High Endurance Cutter)
- WLB (Buoy Tender)
- WPB (Patrol Boat)
- YFU (Harbor Utility Craft)

**Alphabetized Ship List**

If your vessel is not included in the Mobile Riverine Force, ISF Division 93 or above designations, check VA’s Alphabetized Ship List. Go to [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp)

## QUAD CITIES VVA CHAPTER 299 TO PRESENT ROCKY BLEIER

The Rock Island County Chapter of the NAACP will host the NAACP Illinois State and 75th Annual Convention at the i-Wireless Center in Moline, Illinois October 14 – 16, 2011. The theme will be AFFIRMING AMERICA'S PROMISE.

On Saturday October 15th, Chapter 299 will sponsor a Veterans Workshop and Luncheon. Special attention will be paid to the discussion of PTSD and we will coordinate with NAACP to offer specific solutions to the Veteran population.

Our sponsored speaker will be Rocky Bleier, decorated Vietnam Veteran and 4 Time Super Bowl

Champion at the Noon Veterans Luncheon. Lieutenant General Sam Brailsford [retired] will pay homage to the African-American Soldier in a keynote speech. A "Remembrance Table" from the U.S. Marines will be included at the luncheon.

Our Chapter has been invited to attend a Community Prayer Breakfast on Sunday morning at 7 A.M.

Rock Island County Chairwoman, Liz Sherwin addressed our Chapter, Election Night 2011 and encourages all Members to "show up and show out".



Editors' Note: please remember your drill instructors' admonitions, 'there is no black, no white, no brown, the ONLY color is green; [or Navy/Air Force Blue] we all bleed red.'

## AVVA MEMORANDUM

We attended opening ceremonies enjoying Richard Pimentel and other guest speakers. We attended various seminars to include Caregivers of Grumpy old Vietnam Vets. Roundtable discussion, VA Voluntary Service, Membership, Secondary PTSD, presented by Tom Berger PhD.. One thing that was discussed was that homeless veterans have no one to attend their funerals, AVVA is going to start a program to attend homeless veterans funerals to show they were appreciated. We will be working on membership, to get our name and services to the community and as always we are looking for new ideas and suggestions on fund raising and ways to help our veterans. Our meeting our held on the third Tuesday of the month same as the VVA. AVVA starts at 6.30 We look forward to seeing new faces and lots of new ideas.

Thank You  
Jeanette Laird  
President

**SHOULDER TO SHOULDER IS BROUGHT TO YOU EACH MONTH BY:**

**BILL ALBRACHT & JIM LOVELESS NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS**

**SEAN MURPHY - CHAPTER WEBMASTER & NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR**

**JIM HIXSON; MANAGING EDITOR [ 309 ] 792-0068 E-MAIL = NXG211@QCONLINE.COM**

# VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT; A PROJECT OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LIFE CENTER OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Most of you are familiar with Ken Burns and his many documentaries including The Brooklyn Bridge, the nine part series, Baseball, The Civil War and in 2007 The War, a World War Two documentary aired on PBS.

Since year 2,000 the Library of Congress has set up a Veterans History Project to “collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American War Veterans so that future generations may hear directly from Veterans and better understand the realities of war.” Your story can be told through personal narratives [ audio and video-taped interviews ] and written memoirs, correspondence [ letters, post cards, V-Mail or personal diaries ], and visual materials such as photographs, drawings or scrapbooks. The stories need not be strictly

combat stories. The interview can include adapting to military life, funny stories, boot camp occurrences, military “missions” that do not include personal perceptions of the participants and etc.

The project collects first hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars:

WW 1 [1914-1920], \* WWII [ 1939-1946 ], \*Korean War [ 1950-1955, \*Vietnam War [ 1962- 1975 ], \*Persian Gulf War [ 1990-1995 ] Afghanistan and Iraq Wars 9/11 to present day.

VHP relies on Volunteers throughout the Nation to collect Veterans’ stories on behalf of the Library of Congress. VHP and The Library depend on people like members of QCVVA Chapter 299

to record and submit first-person narratives by wartime Veterans. As a Chapter we might consider enrolling a Volunteer [ s ] to help compile an archive for scholars and future generations with our stories of service to Country.

We encourage you to view the web site at [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov) or call 1-888-371-5848. The web site contains all the information one needs to participate in the project including a down loadable “kit” [ free ] to get you informed and started as a Volunteer.

Interviewers and Interviewees must sign a consent form.  
Your Editors : JL, BA, & JH

unfunded, new and dynamic.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

As always, the Chapter leadership answers to the membership and the membership sets the course. For this reason we are asking input from the membership AND we are asking who would be interested in taking a train ride to WDC. Those that are physically disabled and those that are lacking in funds will be the top priority and will ride for free. Others who are capable of paying their own freight will do so. An estimated cost for each is \$500. This would include the round trip, room, transportation around WDC and meals.

Please e-mail you comments and/or non-binding commitment to go on the trip to: [editor.vva299@gmail.com](mailto:editor.vva299@gmail.com) . In your e-mail response, please indicate if you would be able to pay your way or would need your brothers to lend a hand.

Item last, although Chapter 299 members have top priority, we embrace all area VN Vets so please, spread the word.

Bill Albracht – VN Vet Honor Express Committee Member

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

 **Eriksen**

**CHEVROLET • BUICK**

Milan, Illinois



