

*“Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another.”*



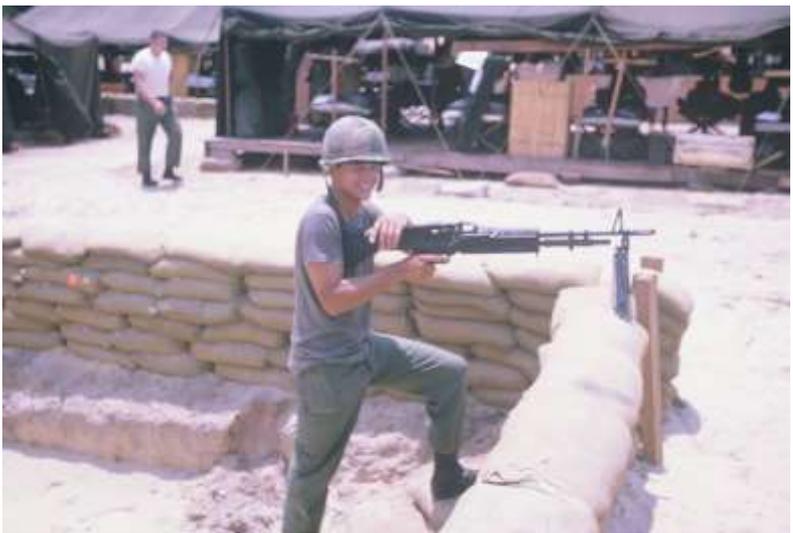
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**Appleton, WI 54912-1862**

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*January/February  
2017*



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POW/MIA	Richard Forrest
Military Support Group	Mike Weaver
FV Veterans Council & Recognition	David Evans
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Educational Program Coordinator	John Koehler
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Adopt-A-Highway	Jer Sanderfoot

### **Nomination / Constitution**

Nomination	Board of Directors
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## NEWSLETTER COVER PHOTO

This photo was taken almost 50 years ago at our base camp in Cam Ranh Bay, Viet Nam. We returned from a convoy escort and had just finished cleaning the 60 cal. machine gun. In one of our lighter moments we decided to take a photo in one of the camp bunkers.

*Photo and story courtesy of Gary Wolf*

## VVA 351 MEETINGS

The Chapter meets one Thursday a month at 7:00 pm at VFW Post 2778, 501 N. Richmond Street, Appleton—according to the schedule below. Refreshments/Social time at 6:30 p.m.—Call to Order/Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Meeting time is approximately one hour. Special events of interest may periodically follow the regular meeting and there is also time to socialize.

### 2017 Chapter Meeting Dates

January 19	February— No meeting
March 16	April 20
May 18	June, July, August— No meeting
September 21	October 19
November 30	December—No meeting

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 1<sup>st</sup>** New Year's Day  
**January 16<sup>th</sup>** Martin Luther King Day  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>** Inauguration Day: 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States  
**February 4<sup>th</sup>** USO Birthday  
**February 14<sup>th</sup>** Valentine's Day  
**February 19<sup>th</sup>** Coast Guard Reserve Birthday  
**February 20** President's Day

### 2017 Chapter Valentine Appreciation Dinner

**Tuesday , February 14<sup>th</sup> at The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter, Little Chute (I41 & N)**

The Valentine's Day Dinner and Social Gathering will be held February 14<sup>th</sup> for Chapter members, associate members, a spouse or a friend. Cocktails at 5:30 with dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m. Chicken and Tips will be served Family Style. VVA-351 will pay \$10 of the cost for each Chapter and Associate member that attends. Thus the cost is \$4 for a Chapter or Associate member and \$14 for a spouse or guest. Please bring your check payable to VVA Chapter 351 or bring cash to the January 19 meeting. *The meals must be pre-paid: **Member Only-\$4, Member +Guest-\$18.*** Attire is casual; hope to see you there.

Please RSVP Michael Weaver, if you are interested in attending.

**920-470-4674, skipatroldoc@gmail.com**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS...

### **Saturday Veterans Breakfast @ Angel's**

If you have free time on Saturday mornings and would like to join other veterans for breakfast we would like you to attend. ALL Veterans of the US Armed Forces are welcome; bring a veteran buddy along—there is a lot of room. Veterans do not have to be affiliated with any veteran organization; we have vets from WWII, the Korean, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars at our table(s). Angel's is at 1401 E. John St. Appleton—between College Ave. and John St. roundabouts.

**Veterans Breakfasts are on Saturday mornings from 8:30 -10:00 a.m. - January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18.**

*Contact: John Koehler 920-858-3310 / kent1952@live.com*

*John Koehler '69-72' Semper Fi*

## SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you know of a Chapter member that is not feeling well or is having surgery, contact Chuck Lewis at 667-4765. Chuck sends get-well cards to those folks so they know that the Chapter has their well-being in mind.

## VETERAN

A “Veteran”—whether active duty, reserve, discharged, or retired—is someone who, at one point in life, wrote a blank check payable to The United States of America, for an amount “up to, and including his or her life”. This is a definition of honor, and there are many people in our country who do not understand—or perhaps have forgotten—that fact!

## NOTIFICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

### *President's Message*

With our last meeting of 2016 in the rear view mirror, I want to thank all of you for participating in our programs and helping to make this Chapter so successful. Remember, each one of you have something to offer, so step in, step up, get involved, it's part of the rent we need to pay for the pleasure of stumbling around this earth, for as long as we have, my hope is, you probably think the same way as I.—Larry.

### *Editor's Note*

Hello and welcome home. My name is Dale Siebers—the *latest* newsletter editor—following Jake Paltzer; I hope to be able to fill his shoes and do as good a job as he has done over the past years.

I would also like to extend an invitation to anyone with interesting news, stories, or photographs to send them on to me for inclusion in the Chapter Newsletter. You can e-mail or even “snail mail” me at the following: [rcpo633@gmail.com](mailto:rcpo633@gmail.com), 502 Park Ave-Little Chute 54140. Please include information such as origin of the news, story, or photograph; times, dates, and places (if known) will make the item more interesting to readers. Deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month (Feb, Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct, & Dec.)

So, I am happy to be on board and look forward to doing service for our Chapter for a few years. Thanks for making me be useful—Ed.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### *VVA 351 Member Request – Funds for Non-profit Causes*

Periodically, a request for financial assistance for a non-profit organization is brought to the floor by a Chapter member. When this type of request is made, the following steps must be followed:

*The request must be in writing, stating the name of the organization, the amount of money requested, specifically what it is to be used for, and when it is needed. If known, state what other group is currently helping to fund the entity.*

*The request must be submitted to the President or VP of the Chapter who—in turn—will submit it to the Executive Board for discussion and review. The Executive Board will present their views at the next scheduled membership meeting.*

- *If the amount requested does not exceed \$200.00 the board will approve or disapprove the request.
  - *If the request is disapproved a member can request a vote at the next scheduled membership meeting. If the majority votes to fund the request, the board's decision will be overruled and the request will be granted.**
- *If the amount exceeds \$200.00 the membership will be asked to vote on the request at the next scheduled membership meeting.*

## CHAPTER NEWS...

### *Planning for the Year Ahead*

A meeting was held at the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss updates for the Educational Program, Committees, Website / newsletter changes, and the upcoming Valentine' Day Appreciation Dinner. A fruitful discussion was held and some of the results are listed below:

- The tentative schedule for the Educational Display has been established; there is much interest by schools and other organizations. Some firm commitment dates have been set; others are works-in-progress.
- The officer and committee list for the Website and newsletter was established, which lists changes and updates to personnel.
- The Membership Application has been tailored and streamlined to suit Chapter 351's needs; prospective members will find it easier to use.
- A place, date, and cost has been established for the Valentine's Day Appreciation Dinner.
- A Toxic Exposure (formerly known as Agent Orange) seminar will be held April 22 at the Bordini Center at Fox Valley Tech.
- The Chapter is planning on having a summer cruise on the Chain of Lakes in Waupaca again; the tentative date is July 18

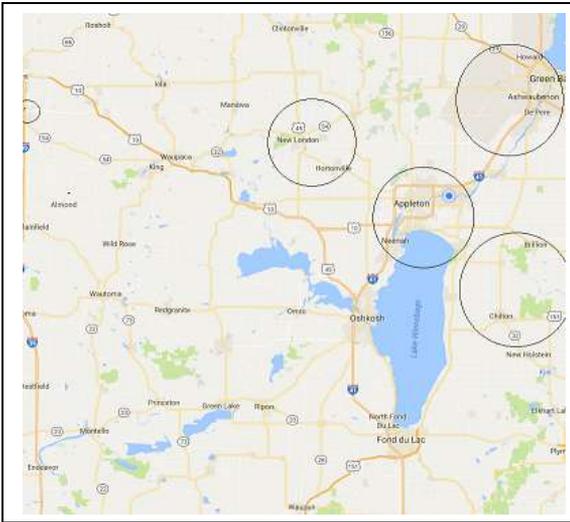
All of the bulleted items are discussed in other parts of this newsletter.

The meeting consisted of regular planners with a few new faces added; the discussion was lively and respectful. It appears that all in attendance are looking forward to the next session.

## CHAPTER NEWS...

### *Educational Display Commitments for 2017*

We have an ambitious plan and schedule for the Chapter Educational Display. While not yet finalized, we have firm commitments for over 10 school locations in Appleton and the surrounding area covering a 30 mile radius, others as far as 75 miles—including Rawhide, Humana, and Plover.



*Place to go and people to educate...*

## REGIONAL NEWS & BEYOND

### **Agent Orange Now Toxic Exposure**

What became known as Agent Orange now falls under the much broader title: Toxic Exposure. According to Agent Orange Record—a Website dedicated to the history of Agent Orange use—“the last official spray run by the US Air Force took place on January 7, 1971.”, however, collection, storage, and destruction of the remaining stores continued after that date.

*Source [www.agentorangerecord.com/agent\\_orange\\_history/](http://www.agentorangerecord.com/agent_orange_history/)*

H.R. 5484 was introduced on September 16, 2014 to establish a National Center researching diagnosis and treatment of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service in the Armed Forces. The bill—in short—provided a wider definition of toxic substances than just Agent Orange.

Gulf War Veterans, for example, were exposed to toxic chemicals in Iraq at munitions storage depots like Khamisiyah. The DoD has concluded that about 100,000 troops could have been exposed to low levels of nerve agents such as sarin and cyclosporine. Among other reasons, this helps explain the new term.

*Source: [www.publichealth.va.gov/gulfwar/sources/chem-bioweapons.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/gulfwar/sources/chem-bioweapons.asp)*

### **Vietnam Era Health Study**

“A Vietnam Era Health Study was announced in November, 2016. Its purpose is to assess the current health and disposition of Vietnam, Blue Water Navy, and other veterans who served elsewhere during the Vietnam Era [1961-75]. 43,000 veterans will participate.” (*VFW Action Corps Weekly*, November 4, 2016).

The study—VE-HEROeS—is available online. For more information, go to this Website: [www.publichealth.va.gov/epidemiology/studies/heroes/](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/epidemiology/studies/heroes/).

## REGIONAL NEWS & BEYOND...

Toxic Exposure extended from Brown Water Navy to Blue Water...

**90,000 VIETNAM WAR SAILORS AFFECTED**

### House OKs Benefits for 'Blue Water' Navy Vets

The House approved a bill in May that offers "blue water" Navy veterans of the Vietnam War VA health care and benefits for Agent Orange-related conditions. An amendment to the Military Construction and VA Appropriations Act of 2017—H.R. 4974—directs VA to presume that these sailors were exposed to the herbicide.

Blue water Navy vets are those who served aboard ships in ports and off-shore Vietnam during the war. While U.S. troops who served on land and "brown water" sailors who served on inland waterways are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange—and therefore eligible for VA compensation and benefits if they have one of 14 conditions associated with exposure—blue water sailors are not. The 14 diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure are listed at [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp).

VFW supports granting blue water Navy vets of Vietnam presumptive service connection for Agent Orange exposure. Delegates at the organization's national convention in 2015 approved Res. 679, which notes that blue water sailors "are still arbitrarily and unjustly denied such presumption."

One reason for VFW's support, according to Ray Kelley, VFW's director of National Legislative Service, is a 2002 Australian study's conclusion that offshore ships brought in contaminated water during their desalination processes. Sailors were exposed to dioxins when that water was used for cooking, drinking and bathing.

Another reason, Kelley says, is that VA continues to add blue water ships to its list of vessels that entered Vietnam's inland waterways, and thus qualify for Agent Orange presumptive status. He says VA has been forced to do this because veterans have proven—through such means as deck logs—when filing disability claims that their ships did in fact enter Vietnam's brown waters.

Lawmakers who have opposed granting benefits to blue water sailors in the past have often cited the cost. Kelley said that Rep. Chris Gibson (R-N.Y.), who authored the amendment in the bill, withdrew his original proposal and submitted a reworded version. The approved amendment (*H. Amend. 1078*) prevents VA from using funds to deny blue water vets Agent Orange-related coverage. There is no similar provision in the Senate appropriations bill, so the Gibson amendment will be part of the negotiations when the bill is confereed. VFW will fight for this amendment to remain in the final version of the bill.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that it would cost about \$90 million annually to provide Agent Orange benefits for the estimated 90,000 blue water sailors who were exposed. Access VA's list of ships exposed to Agent Orange at [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp).



The USS Ogden made numerous dockings at DaNang from February 1966 to March 1973 to transport troops and supplies. Crew members went ashore.

*Photo and article courtesy of VFW Magazine, August 2016*

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### PRESTIGIOUS MEDALS: NAVY GOOD CONDUCT

Prestigious service medals someone might receive while serving in U.S. Armed Forces.



The Navy Good Conduct Medal is the third oldest continuously awarded medal in the United States. There have been a total of four versions of the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the 1<sup>st</sup> version of which was issued from 1870 to 1884. The 1<sup>st</sup> version was not worn on the uniform, but was presented with discharge papers. The 2<sup>nd</sup>—1880-84—worn, but also transitional—was phased out by 1885. The 3<sup>rd</sup> version lasted until 1961; horizontal “enlistment bars” were placed across the ribbon for every period completed. The 4<sup>th</sup> and current version eliminated “enlistment bars”; it is issued for 3 years of honorable and faithful service [since 1996]; prior 1996, the period was 4 years.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST...

### Vietnam 1945 to 1975: timeline

Key events in the background to the Vietnam war:

- 1945** - Viet Minh seize power. Ho Chi Minh declares independence.
- 1946** - French attack Viet Minh in Haiphong sparking a war.
- 1950** - Democratic Republic of Vietnam recognized by China/USSR.
- 1954** - At Geneva, Vietnam is split into N/S at the 17th Parallel.
- 1956** - President Diem persecutes political dissidents.
- 1957** - Beginning of communist insurgency in the South.
- 1959** - Weapons/men from N. Vietnam start infiltrating the South.
- 1960** - American aid to Diem increased.
- 1962** - US military advisers in South Vietnam rise to 12,000.
- 1963** - Viet Cong defeat units of ARVN. Diem overthrown.
- 1964** - "Gulf of Tonkin Incident" - US bombs N. Vietnam.
- 1965** - 200,000 US combat troops arrive in South Vietnam.
- 1966** - US troops rise to 400,000, then 500,000 in 1966.
- 1968** - Tet Offensive - My Lai massacre.
- 1969** - President Nixon cuts US ground troops in Vietnam.
- 1970** - Paris Peace talks begin.
- 1973** - Ceasefire agreement in Paris.
- 1975** - N. Vietnam invades S. Vietnam - S. Vietnam surrenders.

Source: BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/1026782.stm>

ITEMS OF INTEREST...

American Flag

Our flag was wind-pushed flapping  
And making a strong sound—  
The beauty of its colors  
Saying, "I'm the best around,"

And I thought about the past,  
And the future, and our fate,  
And how we must continue  
To make our nation great.

"Purple Heart—Combat Wounded"

At times I wear the hat  
And some may see conceit—  
To me it holds the memories  
Of men and war and heat

And rain and wind and insects  
And the "\*\*\*\* you" lizard's call,  
But mostly it says, "Vietnam"—  
Thanks those who gave their all.

R.K. Mitby  
Plastic Water p.17

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#### *Veterans In Need*

American National Bank Fox Cities has partnered with the Fox Valley Veterans Council to build an emergency fund for Fox Valley Veterans in need. Funds are needed annually for housing, utility payments, clothing, food, medicine, transportation or any other high priority need. This emergency fund can save lives and families. Visit our website at [americannationalbank.org/vets](http://americannationalbank.org/vets)

#### *Military Accounts*

American National Bank Fox Cities offers a special Liberty Checking and Savings account with benefits for military service members on active duty, Reserves, National Guard, or Veteran status.

#### *Bank Here & We Donate*

American National Bank Fox Cities will donate to the Fox Valley Veterans emergency fund throughout the year when you open a new checking or savings account, or when you take out a mortgage loan. (Now offering VA loans).

- \$10 - Checking Account
- \$10 - Savings Account
- \$50 - Mortgage Loan



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## **Special Life Membership Offer**

**Life Membership Dues are normally \$100.00**

### **Eligibility Requirements for regular membership:**

Service in Vietnam between 2/28/1961 and 5/7/1975 **OR** active service at any duty location in the world between 8/5/1964 and 5/7/1975.

### **Copy of DD 214 is required for verification.**

*DD-214's are not kept on file by V.V.A Chapter 351 after verification and enrollment.*

V.V.A. Chapter 351 will pay \$50 of the \$100 Life Membership when you Join Chapter 351; here is all you have to do:

1. Fill out the form completely-PLEASE PRINT;
2. Attach a copy of your DD-214 to the form;
3. Attach a \$50 check payable to VVA Chapter 351 to the form;
4. Send the filled-out form and attachments to:

Vietnam Veterans of America  
410 W Franklin St Unit 1862  
Appleton, WI 54912-1862

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/ZIP: _____
Telephone/Email: _____

For more information on what we do and what opportunities are available, contact Joe Eiting at 920-205-1565 OR e-mail [capteiting@aol.com](mailto:capteiting@aol.com)

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC**  
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