



# VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## Chapter 1061



**Volume 6 Number 1**

**Chartered April 2012**

**January, 2019**

*Within the chapter, we have some that need our prayers: They are as follows: Tom Pfaff, Ed "Sarge" Solomon, Ern Grover, Dale Boyers, Daneen Coakley, Dick Phillipi, Bernard Wilfong, Bennie Swindall, Bill Henry, Tom Pruitt, Charles Whitmore and Norm Fifer, Holley Watts. Cards and calls are always welcomed by our sick and wounded.*

### 69 Members and three visitors

Minutes were presented by Secretary Tom Snook and a Finance report by Bill Ludholtz - both reports were approved.

We have 130 members. Robert King, Carl Simmons, James and Sheri MacDougall and Joel Warner have joined.

If you have not registered your email address, birthday or anniversary with Tom Snook please do. It is needed to ensure you get any Chapter news. We are growing faster than we can keep score.

The website password is still VVA1061. The membership will be listed with names only. If you have items for the website get them to Sonny. Check the website.

The Honor Guard is available to help with any veterans' funeral. If you are helping with the Honor Guard please have your uniform ready at all times. Sometimes the notice is short. Anyone interested in helping— see Tom Snook.

The last fundraiser of the year netted \$ 425 for the Chapter. It was a cold day and we thank those who were there. We had budgeted to raise \$8,700 in 2018 and closed close to \$10,000. WELL DONE!

Danny Sanders reported that scholarship applications are available on our website and the deadline for filing is June 1, 2019.

Kenny Emerson is open to suggestions for speakers in 2019.

Doc Talbot announced that evidence for cause and effect for hypertension and bladder cancer are emerging. Slowly, we are winning what is due us.

#### Dates to Remember:

Scott Lane is working on a roster/calendar of yearly events. Send information to Scott @ twolanes2000@yahoo.com

Mary T. Strickler, a local English teacher, is trying to get Volume 3 of a Veterans Yearbook together. If you have not been contacted before and would like to get your information printed, contact her at:

[mstricler@harrisonburg.k12.va.edu](mailto:mstricler@harrisonburg.k12.va.edu).

Bruce Orebaugh and the Helping Hands crew wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you know of anyone needing help or would like to help let Bruce know.

There is no longer a yearly membership fee for the VVA. There is a onetime fee of \$50.00 for a life membership. If you paid for life membership in September or October you need to apply for a rebate. We have six members who are not yet life members.

If you took a Veterans VA survey form please fill it out so we can send it to National.

The next State meeting will be March 29-31 in Richmond and Region will meet March 21-23 in Durham, NC. The National meeting is set for July 16-20 in Spokane, WA and we will send 3 delegates.

### CHAPTER BULLETIN BOARD

Nelson County will be taking over management of The Ruckersville Vietnam Museum. They hope to open in 2019 with a site in Nelson County.

The annual Christmas Party at Jerry & Ember O'Hara's was a huge success with 51 people attending and consuming only a part of the food and drink. We may need to find a larger site for 2019 since the house was 'maxed' out. 2019's event is scheduled for December 7, 2019.

Bruce Dillinger made a sketch which he presented to the Chapter. It is an exclusive signed original. Similar ones, without the Chapter patch will be available for \$40 and can be personalized for an additional \$20-\$25. See Alice Dillinger.

Sonny has vests, tee shirts and ladies shirts. See Tom Snook if you need a name tag or flag patch for Honor Guard. Your attention is drawn to the latest "Veteran" where President Rowan has an article (p. 5) called "Looking to the Future" that deals with Group 1 recommendations and there is another on Group I on p.10. Tom Snook has an article on p. 44. Read your newsletter for future changes for veterans.

Chapter 936 is planning a trip to The Wall this year.

The Chapter sang "Happy Birthday" to Mandy, one of our servers and gave her a birthday card

The next meeting will be at the Golden Corral February 9, 2019. Breakfast at 8 a.m. Business at 9 a.m.

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January Birthdays—Lavonne Bailey, Debi Clutteur, Welford Davis and Dick Phillipi.

January Anniversaries Bill & Cindy Ludholtz

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Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98", she replied..."two years older than me". "So you're 96", the undertaker commented....She responded, "Hardly worth going home, isn't it?"

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## STATE DELEGATES

**Jerry O'Hara Tom Snook Bill Ludholtz**



## WIN SOME - LOSE SOME -SOMETIMES BREAK EVEN.

A few months ago this chapter began a discussion with the VA concerning the testing of veterans who served in SE Asia and may have eaten native food and became contaminated with a liver fluke with a lifespan of over 35 years. This fluke can cause irritation and eventual INCURABLE cancer of the common bile duct. The VA and its local and regional facilities denied any knowledge of such a threat and had no plans or provisions for testing. WRONG! The literature has quite a bit to say about the parasite and a simple stool exam would tell if infection was present. Now the pyrrhic victory. In a recent Agent Orange Newsletter from the VA an article appeared admitting its existence but denying that there is a specific test IN THIS COUNTRY available, that there are several major risk factors for of bile duct cancer (especially Hepatitis B or C) and that the life span of the fluke would make it unlikely that there are any undiagnosed cases left. That, of course, does not exclude veterans who may have served in SE Asia less than 30 years ago. If you have a concern, ask your health care provider. We can take pleasure in the fact that the bureaucracy has responded to a veterans call.

To learn more about bile duct cancer and liver fluke infection:  
[www:publichealth.va.gov/exposures/infectious-diseases/cholangiocarcinoma.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/infectious-diseases/cholangiocarcinoma.asp)

Liver flukes in general: [www.cdc.gov/parasites/liver\\_flukes/](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/liver_flukes/).

Below re some reference sites for more benefits information.

## VA BENEFITS RESOURCES

Web resources

Benefits overview:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/index.asp>

Health care:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/health-care.asp>

Agent Orange registry exam:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

eBenefits (24/7 access to VA and Department of Defense benefits):

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>

Compensation for Agent Orange exposure:

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/claims-postservice-agent\\_orange.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/claims-postservice-agent_orange.asp)

Survivor benefits:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/survivors.asp>

Benefits for Veterans'children with birth defects:

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/claims-postservice-agent\\_orange.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/claims-postservice-agent_orange.asp)

Telephone resources

Health care: 1-877-222-8387 Benefits: 1-800-827-1000 TDD (hearing impaired): 1-800-829-4833

# THE VETERAN'S VOICE

*Editor's Note: Much controversy swirls about Donald Trump—and justifiably so. He is cut from a different cloth than any previous president. He is not a politician—he is a businessman. He also (a) was elected to the office he holds, (b) is striving to make good on his campaign promises, and (3) needs to be evaluate in the light of what the other candidate would have done had she been elected!*

Recently, Henry Kissinger (now 94 and a respected statesman) did an interview and said some very amazing things regarding President Trump. Except for the last line of praise this is provably accurate.

He starts with: "Donald Trump is a phenomenon that foreign countries haven't seen before"! The former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger gives us a new understanding of President Donald Trump's foreign policy and predicts its success: "Liberals and all those who favor (Hillary) Clinton will never admit it. They will never admit that he is the one true leader. The man is doing changes like never before and does all of it for the sake of this nation's people. After eight years of tyranny, we finally see a difference."

Kissinger knows it and he continues with: "Every country now has to consider two things: One, their perception that the previous president, or the outgoing president, basically withdrew America from international politics, so that they had to make their own assessments of their necessities. And secondly, that there is a new president who's asking a lot of unfamiliar questions. And because of the combination of the partial vacuum and the new questions, one could imagine that something remarkable and new emerges out of it."

Then Kissinger puts it bluntly: "Trump puts America and its people first. This is why people love him and this is why he will remain in charge for so long. There is not a single thing wrong with him and people need to open their eyes." When he boasts that he has a "bigger red button" than Kim Jung Un does, he so transcends the mealy-mouthed rhetoric of the past, thereby forcing a new recognition of American power.

Kissinger once wrote: "The weak grow strong by effrontery – The strong grow weak through inhibition!" No sentence better captures the U.S.-North Korea relationship. Trump is discarding the inhibitions and calling the bluff on North Korea's effrontery: His point is that the contrast of American retreat under Obama and its new assertion of power under Trump creates a new dynamic that every one of our allies and of our enemies must consider. Our allies grew complacent with Obama's passivity and now are fearful due to Trump's activism. And they must balance the two in developing their policies: They realize that the old assumptions, catalyzed by Bush 43's preoccupation with Iraq and Obama's refusal to lead are obsolete. So, Trump is forcing a new calculus with a new power behind American interests. Those - here and abroad - who rode the old apple cart worry about its being toppled. But, as Kissinger so boldly stated: "Trump is the one true leader in world affairs and he is forcing policy changes that put America first!"

This is the most accurate statement of what the American Citizens who live outside of the swamp want and expect from their government.

