



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chapter 1061



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Within the chapter, we have some that need our prayers: They are as follows: Tom Pfaff, Ed "Sarge" Solomon, Rusty Davis, Ern Grover, Dale Boyers, Mike Woodward, Daneen Coakley, Wayne Whetzel, Sonny Clutteur, Bernard Wilfong, Dick Phillipi is home and improving daily, and Norm Fifer. Bennie Swindall is home from the hospital and doing better, . Cards and calls are always welcomed by our sick and wounded.

74 Members and seven visitors

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

We have 127 members, having added four today.

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.

The website password is still VVA1061). There have been over 11,000 hits since we began. If you have items for the website get them to Sonny. Check the website.

The Honor Guard is requested to have the Chapter patch sewn on the left shoulder of a white shirt and the American flag patch on the right. If you need a patch, see Tom Snook. Jerry has the Chapter patch. Each are \$5 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.

Our speakers today were Brenda Sponagule RN and Holly Huffman RN addressing the types of diabetes and their symptoms. Holly also spoke about the different devices available to diabetics. They answered questions and urged everyone to get their flu shot. **GOOD COUNSEL!**

The last fundraiser of the year netted \$ 425 for the Chapter. It was a cold day and we thank those who were there.

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

Kenny Emerson noted that we will not have a speaker at the December meeting.

Dates to Remember:

Scott Lane is working on a roster/calendar of yearly events. Send information to Scott @ twolaness2000@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.

Bruce Orebaugh and the Helping Hands crew helped get a lift installed for Sarge's scooter. If you know of anyone needing help or would like to help let Bruce know.

Tom Snook and Bennie Swindall attended the State VVA meeting in Virginia Beach (is that why Bennie is in the hospital?) and report that 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. Jerry is working on the details.

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 The Ruckersville Vietnam Museum.

Bruce Dillinger spoke about his life and how he became interested in veterans. He created a pencil print honoring our chapter which he presented to the Chapter. It has the Chapter number on the dog tags and the VVA emblem. It is an exclusive signed original. Similar ones will be available for \$40 and can be personalized for an additional \$20-\$25.

Sonny has vests, tee shirts and ladies shirts. See Tom Snook if you need a name tag. Be sure to let people know about our organization by wearing our distinctive apparel. If you ordered a tee shirt with your name on it from Jerry; please pick it up ASAP.

The next meeting will be at the Golden Corral January 12, 2019. Breakfast at 8 a.m. Business at 9 a.m.

December Birthdays—Don Bailey, Bill Conlin, Billy Gentry, Bill Ludholtz, Robert Miller, Jim Oberg, Tom Snook, Wayne Whetzel and Glenna Koontz

December Anniversaries – Dale & Jean Boyers, Robert & Karen Miller, Roger & Linda Nelson, Tom & Bonnie Snook, George & Neila Luzaich, Bill & Cindy Martin, Melvin & Elaine Estep, Bart & Barbara Smith and David & Brenda Keplinger.

WHY ARE RETIREES SO SLOW TO CLEAN OUT THE BASEMENT, ATTIC OR GARAGE?

BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT AS SOON AS THEY DO ONE OF THEIR ADULT KIDS WILL WANT TO STORE STUFF THERE!

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STATE DELEGATES

Jerry O'Hara Tom Snook Bill Ludholtz

I sure have gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation: can hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I am 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends.

But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

VETERANS' DOINGS

Stories and pictures by Tom Snook

Friday, November 9, Miller Coors opened their doors to local veterans for their annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast. Since the weather was freezing, the event was held indoors with a very short greeting. Thirteen members from Chapter 1061, led by 1st Vice President Danny Sanders attended. They enjoyed a hearty breakfast and a lot of good fellowship. Coors employees were on hand to assist the veterans, among whom were the American Legion, VFW and Amvets.



(L-R) Joyce & Danny Sanders, Bill & Cindy Ludholtz, and Kenny & Shirley Emerson enjoy the Coors breakfast



Our fearless leader, Jerry O'Hara, (AKA Uncle Sam) is having trouble selecting his chapeau.



On left: Tom Snook, Bernie Wilfong, Danny Judy and Tom Pfaff. On Right: Sonny Clutteur, Danny Sanders, Bill Ludholtz, and Daneen Coakley.

November 3 was the 2nd annual Don Hess Appreciation Dinner held by the McGaheysville Ruritans and the Officers and Directors of Chapter 1061 were invited. The keynote speaker was the National Governor of the Ruritans. One veteran attending was a 100 year old WW II survivor. The fried oyster dinner was enjoyed by all as we remembered our own Don Hess. Danny Sanders led our group of nine members.

Our Chapter led the Harrisonburg Veterans Day Parade behind the HHS JROTC unit and band. Our 30 members led by Uncle Sam had 3 trucks (red, white and blue), Rusty Davis' antique fire truck, Bernie Wilfong and Norm Fifer's antique cars with Chapter logo and Bennie Swindall and Paul Clancy's trikes. Several members walked the route distributing American flags, Chapter coins and candy. After the parade sixteen of our group went to O'Charley's for their Veterans Day meal and others went to Golden Corral or a church also honoring veterans. A good time was had by all.

THE VETERAN'S VOICE

Among our cherished liberties, guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, is Freedom OF Religion. When we took an oath to protect and defend those principles we were willing to put it all on the line for that purpose. Unfortunately, while many of us were doing just that in the jungles of Vietnam, the same people who would spit on our shoes and deride us when we came home were selling our heritage out. In 1962 Madeline Murray O'Hare and the ACLU maneuvered a number of cases through the courts which took the flag and prayer out of our schools (and subtly out of the lives of our children). President Obama cancelled the National Day of Prayer “to avoid offending anyone” in May of 2007, yet encouraged teaching the Koran in the public schools for extra credit. In September 2007 50,000 Muslims gathered on the west front of the Capitol for a prayer meeting. A verse from the Koran was used to open a major conference in the White House in 2015 but no other religious material was used.

I am sorry, but I AM OFFENDED! Hypocrisy and unilateral emphasis of any faith is unacceptable. In Michigan, Maryland and Arizona it is permissible for Muslims students to pray during school hours. Yet Christians cannot have prayer, the Bible, the Ten Commandments or our flag there. The world is out of balance. The question is asked why we are having these terrible massacres, bombing and shootings. Ruth Graham, Billy Graham's daughter answered that we told God to get out of the schools and like a gentlemen He left. These things did not happen when we were kids. We were taught right from wrong, exposed to (Oh Horrors!) Sunday school, patriotism, and rules for conduct. The mentally ill and potentially dangerous were detained and treated, not turned loose on the streets. Our “adult” legislators cannot even have an honest debate or a civil conversation. “Helicopter” parents are doing it all for their kids, blinding themselves to the possibility that “Angelpuss” may be wrong or need tutoring. Fools scream that we need to have laws banning guns when a gun is an inanimate object purely controlled by an animate person who needs to be contained and corrected.

The world must be returned to balance. The church must educate, encourage worship, help to preserve civilization and follow its own rules—not legislate in the marketplace. Science must follow the natural laws, deal in objective evidence, accept the obvious until evidence for change appears, and perform and publish honest experimentation. Government must take its foundational principles seriously, be peopled by those who truly represent their constituencies rather than creating a career position. To compromise and debate are appropriate within the context of maintaining basic principles. The courts are to interpret the laws and enforce them—not to legislate as their opinions dictate. All legal matters must be determined on the basis of evidence and fact, as opposed to a trial by combat between attorneys. It all starts with parents training their children, ignoring the modern dictum of child-centered homes and taking responsibility for their families. The schools can help (but we must empower the schools), the government can best help by limiting its involvement in everyday life, and the Church needs to have an honest status from which its authority should rightly come. Clergy need to avoid “Doublespeak” and The “that is what the Bible says but it is not what it means” approach.

America will either see its weakness and error or disappear like its predecessors. Our Founding Fathers knew what they were doing. We just don't do it.

If you rob a bank in a sanctuary city is it illegal or just an Undocumented Withdrawal?

If only 11 million people have Obama-Care, how will 24 million people die if it is repealed?

Will an additional 13 million people be randomly shot?

If women do the same job for less money, why do companies hire men to do the same job for more money?

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town

Once again Jerry and Ember O'Hara sacrificed their home and hosted the annual Christmas Party. Fifty-one raucous and ravenous veterans , guests and wives invaded their serenity and dined on all the delicacies they could find. Santa was there holding his riotous "Stab your friend in the back" [Chinese] auction which was the highlight of the affair, as usual. There were the usual pots, pans, hot sauces, toys and knickknacks. The central figure was a wooden nutcracker—a music box and animated trumpet and jaw. It was originally obtained by Jean Talbot but it passed through almost everyone's hands before the day was over. In the true spirit of Christmas and our "Band of Brothers and Sisters, Bruce Orebaugh and Kenney Emerson deliberately traded for it so they could trade it back to Jean Talbot—such devotion is only seen in groups such as ours. Nevertheless, Bonnie Thompson waited patiently to be the last number drawn and scoured the room to find it and triumphantly take it home. C'est la guerre!

Gift stockings were given to the youngest and oldest attendees and to the ones who came the longest and the shortest distance . A great time was had by all.



One must eat to live (or live to eat?)



SAY WHAT!!!



Lucky 1st Vice President Danny Sanders got a Chapter hat



Roger Nelson led off the Santa Wars



Diana Payne thinks she got a mousetrap



The Final Resting Place for the Nutcracker—
under Gary Thompson's chair