

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

19 May, 2021

Elks Club

5555 W. Good Hope Rd.

Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

Future Meetings

16 June, 21 July, 18 August

Chapter web page: www.vietnamvetschapter324.com

National web page: www.vva.org

Chapter Officers

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John is listed in the phone book - good luck finding one

In Person Meeting: 19 May Elections will be held - Wear your mask

Making community emergency care easier for Veterans

Vantage Point March 24, 2021

Using an online tool or a central phone number, it's now easier to notify VA within 72 hours when a Veteran receives emergency care at a community provider.

VA's centralized online Emergency Care Reporting (ECR) portal assists with coordination of an eligible Veteran's care at a community emergency department and transfer to a VA medical center if necessary.

Eligible Veterans who require emergency treatment can receive care at a local community emergency department without prior approval from VA. Usually, eligible Veterans can receive VA-authorized emergency care at an in-network community facility if VA is notified within 72 hours of the start of care.

Submit treatment information through ECR portal within 72 hours

Veterans, their representatives or community

emergency department providers should submit treatment information through the ECR portal at <https://EmergencyCareReporting.CommunityCare.va.gov>, or by calling 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842).

Timely reporting through the portal helps ensure administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met.

Providers are required to include a valid email address for decision correspondence when reporting emergency treatment for a Veteran and also when coordinating follow-on care and transfers from a community emergency department to a VA medical center.

Providers need the notification identification number assigned upon submission of reporting through the ECR portal or by phone to retrieve authorization decision information on emergency events.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Milwaukee Chapter 324 April 21, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Pat Ciofani

Attendance – Pat Ciofani, Pat Moore, John Morgan and Dennis Szymanski

Treasurer's Report – Pat Moore - \$2514.03 in our checking account

Fund Raising – Brewers are reevaluating their fund raising policies per COVID restrictions – We will be notified when dates become available

NEW BUSINESS

March 2021 Wis. State Council Meeting – Was to be held virtually – Quorum could not be reached so meeting was not held

July 4th Apatosaurus Parade – To be held on July 5th – we have been invited and will participate

Elections – Due to small attendance elections have been postponed – Current officers and board members will continue to serve until elections can be held

Adjournment – 7:40 pm

VA Finds PTSD Affects Women Differently Than Men

By Jim Absher, Military.com, 24 Feb 2021

The military is facing a new challenge: understanding the toll combat takes on the female psyche. Combat trauma is common in women; five out of ten women experience a traumatic event.

Women tend to experience trauma differently than men. While both men and women report the same symptoms of PTSD (hyperarousal, reexperiencing, avoidance, and numbing), some symptoms are more common for women or men.

What is the Difference?

Women are more likely to be jumpy, to have more trouble feeling emotions, and to avoid things that remind them of the trauma than men. Men are more likely to feel angry and to have trouble controlling their anger than women.

Women with PTSD are more likely to feel depressed and anxious, while men with PTSD are more likely to have problems with alcohol or drugs. Both women and men who experience PTSD may develop physical health problems.

Why do Women Experience PTSD?

Women in the military are at high risk for exposure to traumatic events, especially during times of war. Although men are more likely to experience combat, a growing number of women are now being exposed to combat.

Women in the military are at higher risk for exposure to sexual harassment or sexual assault than men. More studies are needed to better understand the effects of women's exposure to both combat and sexual assault.

Do More Women than Men Experience PTSD?

Women are more than twice as likely to develop PTSD than men (10% for women and 4% for men). There are a few reasons women might get PTSD more than men:

More likely to experience sexual assault.

Sexual assault is more likely to cause PTSD than many other events.

Women may be more likely to blame themselves for trauma experiences than men. Not all women who experience a traumatic event develop PTSD. Women are more likely to develop PTSD if they:

Have a past mental health problem

Experienced a very severe trauma

Were sexually assaulted

Were injured during the event

Had a severe reaction at the time of the event

Experienced other stressful events afterwards

Do not have good social support

Help and Treatment

The VA has established a Women Veterans hotline 855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636) to receive and respond to questions from women veterans, their families about available VA services and resources.

If you or a loved one are experiencing symptoms contact the 24 hour Veterans Crisis Line: 800-273-8255, press 1 (or text 838255 for immediate help.) You can also use the VA's Confidential Veterans Chat to seek assistance online.

The Moving Wall

Frame Park, Waukesha, WI

May 27 – 31, 2021

(Memorial Day)

THE 58,220 WHO DIED

I lived through the war. So why don't I know this?
Bad luck meant taking a wrong step. Stepping on a mine.
Or tripping a booby trap.
It meant a pull on a trip wire strung across a trail.
A pull-friction fuse in the small end of an explosive charge.
Mines and booby traps caused about 11 per cent of U.S. casualties.
But 11 percent? Really? From only mines and booby traps?
Eleven per cent died without ever making contact with Victor Charlie?
It doesn't seem right.

I lived through the war. So why don't I know this?
Threats were everywhere. Victor Charlie hid everywhere, setting up his ambushes.
He waited. Waited patiently. Small. Shadowy. Silent.
Victor Charlie knew what he was doing. And he did it well.
He adapted to the terrain. He used the terrain to support his tactical operations.
Because Victor Charlie feared our air power and artillery, the fighting was up front and personal. Close quarters. This tactic was known as "hanging on to their belts".
He attacked, then disappeared into the jungle, into the villages or into his underground tunnel complexes, to fight another day.
Another 51 per cent of U.S. casualties were caused by small arms fire in ambushes or firefights.
Fifty-one per cent? Why don't I know this?

I lived through the war. So why don't I know this?
In our base camp, I lost my mind during the nighttime rocket and mortar barrages.
The fatal wounds. The holes and amputations. The paralyzed bodies.
The sounds of bones cracking and blood gurgling, as we moved our wounded to medevac landing zones.
The prayers, whispered face down in the mud, as incoming hit all around us.
Sometimes, those nights lasted past dawn.
At first, the rocket and mortar barrages at base camp were a rush. Then they were faintly predictable. Finally they were routine. But does a violent death ever become routine?

I lived through the war. So why don't I know this?
I remember the subaural whop-whop of distant helicopters.
It was different noises, actually, if you listened closely. Thickness noise made by the helicopter blades. Blade-vortex-interaction noise. High-speed turbine noise.
Once we were in an area of operations, rows of helicopters came either to pick us up or to drop off reinforcements.
I heard the helicopters. But could they hear us?
Could the helicopter crews hear the hush in the jungle? Could



they hear us suffering in the heat, our greasy fingers playing with the full auto safety selector lever of our M16s?
Could they hear us chambering a round?

I lived through the war. So why don't I know this?
O my brothers! My brothers!
When we die do we finally see the bright lining of the world?
The brightness of the smallest wren on the smallest branch?
Is meaning finally decoded? Every sign? Does everything finally make sense?
Or does everything remain ugly and vulgar, my brothers? And does nothing in life, here on earth, have any true beauty or true meaning?

I lived through the war. So why don't I know this?
Parades. Black hearses. Honor guards.
Coffins draped with flags. Mothers presented with folded flags on behalf of a grateful nation.
Taps played by a lone bugler.
My brothers, I knew you in your last hours. But do you still remember me?

DIED IN ACCIDENTS: 9,107 DIED OF ILLNESS: 939
DECLARED DEAD DURING SURGERY: 1,201 DIED OF WOUNDS FOLLOWING SURGERY: 5,299
KILLED IN ACTION: 40,934
PRESUMED DEAD (BODY REMAINS RECOVERED): 32 (BODY REMAINS NOT RECOVERED): 91
SUICIDE: 382 HOMICIDE: 236
An Anonymous Marine

The Real Patriots Invaded the Nation's Capital Fifty Years Ago

by Elise Lemire, 4/18/2021

<https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/179891?fbclid=IwAR380R75C3GmqprNnMz57YHiQXUaeZISidTp-YULnkZ-J3r-DRfxbfh3b7o>

Elise Lemire is the author of the just released *Battle Green Vietnam: The 1971 March on Concord, Lexington, and Boston* (University of Pennsylvania Press) and other titles. She is Professor of Literature at Purchase College, SUNY.

of “peace with honor” by lowering the number of American ground troops in Vietnam. Much to the horror of thousands of recently returned GIs, the civilian branch of the most vocal and sustained antiwar movement in American history took the bait and stopped protesting.



Vietnam Veterans Against the War in Washington, DC. 1971

They called their trip to Washington, D.C., an “invasion.” Vowing not be “deterred or intimidated by police, government agents, [or] U.S. marshals,” they arrived outfitted for war in fatigues and jungle boots with weapons and gas masks firmly in hand. Calling themselves “concerned citizens” and “patriots,” they announced their intention to “protect the flag” by “stop[ing] all business as usual, until the government recognizes and responds positively to our demands.”

No, these were not the self-professed patriots who stormed the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021.

This was back in 1971 when President Richard Nixon claimed to be fulfilling his campaign promise

And thus, on the evening before Patriots’ Day, twelve hundred members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (“VVAW”) arrived in Washington from around the country for what they called Operation Dewey Canyon III in a pointed rebuke of the recent American expansion of the air war into Laos under code names Operation Dewey Canyon I and II.

At first the public was confused. The men who descended on the nation’s capital in olive drab, some with bandoliers strapped across their chests, did not look anything like the closely clipped GIs featured in the military recruiting posters plastering America’s post offices. These guys had beards and long hair.

Continued next page

Patriots continued

“Son, I don’t think what you’re doing is good for the troops,” a Daughter of the American Revolution complained to one them, as the veterans marched past the DAR’s Memorial Hall.

“Lady, we are the troops,” was the ready reply.

After four days spent in such peaceable pursuits as lobbying their congresspeople, laying funeral wreaths at Arlington National Ceremony for both the American and the Vietnamese dead, holding a candlelight vigil at the White House, and testifying in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the veterans announced their plan to descend on the Capitol Building, which the Nixon administration decided to surround, preemptively, with a version of the same kind of barrier fence that encircles it now.

The nation held its collective breath.

But rather than storm the seat of the legislative branch of the U.S. government, the veterans set about assembling a makeshift platform on the west side of the Capitol, which they equipped with a powerful sound system. At the appointed time, those who were not confined to wheelchairs walked up to the microphone one-by-one. Holding up their medals, ribbons, and citations, each man told the assembled crowd of veterans and journalists what the nation’s highest honors meant to him.

“A symbol of dishonor, shame, and inhumanity,” said one veteran as he hurled his medals over the barrier fence.

“Worthless,” said another as the pile of discarded honors grew.

Many of the veterans called out the American government for being racist.

“I symbolically return my Vietnam medals and other service medals given me by the power structure that has genocidal policies against the nonwhite peoples of the world.”

“Our hearts,” many of the veterans declared, “are broken,” and their copious tears proved it.

In taking a stand against the war in front of the Capitol Building, the veterans were following in the footsteps of Martin Luther King Jr., who addressed the American people in 1963 from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial as a means of asking them to measure the distance between the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation and the reality of Jim Crow. VVAW was similarly asking the country to note the difference between the promise of an inclusive and transparent government, as represented by the welcoming façade

and the usually open doors of the Capitol Building, and the secret air war the Nixon administration was conducting.

These first veterans to protest a war in which they had served won their countrymen’s respect. Noting that the day they began their protest was the “anniversary of the day the ‘shot heard round the world’ was fired at Concord Bridge,” one Boston newspaper asked any readers who might be reluctant to recognize the veterans as patriots to remember, “in 1775 the colonial forces were also unruly and young.”

After being photographed and filmed by all of the major news outlets throwing away their medals and discarding what turned out to be Mattel-manufactured toy M16s, the veterans packed up their gear and policed their campsite on the National Mall. Just to be sure they left it in better shape than they had found it, they planted a tree. Then they went home to their local VVAW chapters where they continued to work to end the war by mobilizing other sacred symbols.

The New England chapter marched Paul Revere’s route in reverse, stopping at the famed Revolutionary War battlefields in Concord, Lexington, and Charlestown to perform mock search-and-destroy missions in a demonstration of the difference between fighting an imperialist regime and becoming one.

On another occasion, antiwar veterans signaled their distress about the ongoing war in Southeast Asia by hanging an upside-down American flag from the crown of the Statue of Liberty. And when the war was finally over in 1975, VVAW set to work advocating for better mental health care for those American servicemen who had been traumatized by being asked to do the most un-American thing imaginable: deny another country its own April 19, 1775.

On this Patriots’ Day, fifty years after a battalion of Vietnam veterans brought their anguish and their outrage to the Capitol Building, the nation owes its thanks not only to the colonial militiamen who lost their lives along the famed Battle Road, but also to their direct descendants, the antiwar veterans who, in reminding a nation of its foundational values, sought to reset its course.

Veterans Discounts Available Every Day Compiled by the VA

https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/?utm_source=VRfeature&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources



Vietnam Veterans of America #324
PO Box 18631
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Time Valued Material
Correction Service Requested
Forwarding Postage Guaranteed

Sign Up Now With Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 324

Anyone can join! Membership Options:

Life Membership for all veterans \$50:

VVA is only offering LIFE memberships at \$50. If you have been getting a 1 year membership for \$20 you will need to pay \$50 at your next renew or be dropped from the VVA. If you paid \$50 at your last renewal you will become a LIFE member automatically without any further payment. NEW members will only have the \$50 LIFE membership when they join. (with a DD214 submitted).

Anyone Else:

- Associate Member - 1 year \$20 • Associate Member 3 year \$50 • Associate Life Member \$250
- Associate Life Member Installment Plan (\$50 Deposit; \$25 per month for 8 Months)

Please Print

Name _____ Membership # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

I would like to help Chapter 324 by donating \$ _____

Make checks payable to VVA324 and mail with this completed application to:
VVA Chapter 324 - Membership, PO Box 18631, Milwaukee, WI 53218