

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

20 July, '11

Elks Lodge

5555 W. Good Hope Rd.

Board Meeting 6 p.m.

Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday each month. You are also invited to join members for conversation and discussion after the meeting.

Chapter web page :

National web page: www.vva.org

Future Meetings

2011

17 August, 21 September,
19 October, 16 November, 21 December

Chapter 324 Officers

President - Paul Javins 358-2813

Vice President - Pat Moore 354-2533

Secretary - Dennis Symanski 453-3600

Treasurer - Kent Draper 963-0375

Director - Pat Ciofani 332-7734

Director - Ron Coppersmith 262-255-2832

Director - Michael Lang 355-1496

Director - John Morgan 871-9274

Director - Oliver Williams 538-4416

Seen in Washington:

House Committee on Veterans Affairs: 24 May 2011

May 24, 2011 Start time: 10:30AM Location: Room 334 Cannon House Office Building

****POSTPONED**--Putting Veterans Back to Work**

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
MILWAUKEE CHAPTER 324
JUNE 15, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Paul Javins.

A moment of silence was observed for our brothers and sisters no longer with us and for all POW/MIA's and their families.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: Dennis Szymanski, Patrick Moore, John Zutz, Pat Ciofani, Ron Coppersmith, Oliver Williams, John Morgan, Milan Mursec, Michael Lang, Paul Javins

Minutes of the May 2011 meeting reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report submitted.

Communications - Thank you received from Dry Hootch for donation from raffle.

OLD BUSINESS

Brewers Fund Raiser - \$1320.73 raised from the first 2 games we worked – Thanks to all who participated – Ron needs help for the August 3 day game.

By-Laws – Being worked on by the Board of Directors – We hope to have a document to present to the membership soon.

Bingo – WE NEED HELP!

RCOH and Flag Day Ceremonies at the Marcus Center – Report of events was given by those who attended.

NEW BUSINESS

August 3rd Brewer Game – We need help for the fund raiser –It is an afternoon game

Veterans Day at the Zoo July 3rd – Tickets available from the county VSO building 4.

July 4th Parade in Wauwatosa – Join us as we participate in one of best parades – Meet behind Boston Store at Mayfair – Parade steps off at 9:00 am.

Fisher House – Moved and passed to donate

\$200 to the Wisconsin Fisher House project

Bank CD – Moved and passed to roll over our CD for another 3 year term.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

Presidents Message – President Javins would like to lead our chapter in increasing our fund raising efforts, completing our new By –Laws, getting a chapter web site up and running, and mending any fences from any hard feelings and disagreements that may have occurred in the past. Together we can do big things!

Adjournment – 7:55



"It's not a mohawk ... it's a tall flat top!"



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Milwaukee Chapter #324
Milwaukee, WI 53223
Presidents Message**

It is my pleasure to be president of the Chapter 324 of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

My background

In 1968 I joined the Navy after high school went to great lakes for boot camp and Hospital core school. Needless to say like many of us I did not think I would go to Nam at the age of 19. But then I got my orders to Field Medical Service School at Camp Le-June NC with the Marines. In Dec of 69 I was in country and was sent to 1st Marine Div as a hospital corpsman. From there I came to Milwaukee and began school started out in nursing and ended up as a teacher but did not start teaching until 1992 as a sub. Then in 2003 I got my masters in Special Ed and am presently a full time teacher.

Ch 324 gave \$1900 to the Dry Hootch from our raffle. They were very grateful for the money and our work. Hopefully this will help them support their mission of helping the old and the new generation of Vets for years to come; this is something we did not have.

We as a group have many things to do in the coming year.

- My hope is that we will increase our fund rising and wisely distribute of our funds to worthwhile Veterans groups
- The committee is working hard finish the updates on the bi laws by the end of August.
- Would like to see our web site up and running. Anyone with knowledge would be of great help.
- Mend the fences with our fellow vets in other organizations.

Meetings

Look, we do not have the enough people volunteering to run things or even enough to have a good meeting. A lot of us put in many hours and it is the same people at our events and fund raising. You will find the same faces doing the work and at the meetings. We are not getting any younger we need help to help Vets.

You must drop your personal feelings and your dislikes of others and contribute to this chapter. Many of us have problems from Nam but we are all in the same boat. Do you feel you have been shafted in the past and that is why you have stopped coming to the meetings? Is the reason you don't come is because you did not like the direction the chapter was going? I would like to know. If you feel you can contribute to this chapter then come to the meetings. Things will only change, if you as members want them to change. We must work together. I hope to see you at our next meeting in July.

Remember we are the lucky ones, we came back.

Thanks for reading my Ramblings

Contact me at webedivn914@sbcglobal.net or at 414-358-2813

Paul Javins

President of Chapter 324

Our Lefty Military

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF June 15, 2011

As we search for paths out of America's economic crisis, many suggest business as a paradigm for cutting costs. According to my back-of-the-envelope math, top C.E.O.'s earn as much as \$1 a second around the clock, partly by cutting medical benefits for employees. So they must be paragons of efficiency, right?

Actually, I'm not so sure. The business sector is dazzlingly productive, but it also periodically blows up our financial system. Yet if we seek another model, one that emphasizes universal health care and educational opportunity, one that seeks to curb income inequality, we don't have to turn to Sweden. Rather, look to the United States military.

You see, when our armed forces are not firing missiles, they live by an astonishingly liberal ethos — and it works. The military helped lead the way in racial desegregation, and even today it does more to provide equal opportunity to working-class families — especially to blacks — than just about any social program. It has been an escalator of social mobility in American society because it invests in soldiers and gives them skills and opportunities.

The United States armed forces knit together whites, blacks, Asians and Hispanics from diverse backgrounds, invests in their education and training, provides them with excellent health care and child care. And it does all this with minimal income gaps: A senior general earns about 10 times what a private makes, while, by my calculation, C.E.O.'s at major companies earn about 300 times as much as those cleaning their offices. That's right: the military ethos can sound pretty lefty.

"It's the purest application of socialism there is," Wesley Clark, the retired four-star general and former supreme allied commander of NATO forces in Europe, told me. And he was only partly joking. "It's a really fair system, and a lot of thought has been put into it, and people respond to it really well," he added. The country can learn from that sense of mission, he said, from that emphasis on long-term strategic thinking.

The military is innately hierarchical, yet it nurtures a camaraderie in part because the military looks after its employees. This is a rare enclave of single-payer universal health care, and it continues with a veterans' health care system that has much lower costs than the American system as a whole. Perhaps the most impressive achievement of the American military isn't its aircraft carriers, stunning as they are. Rather, it's the military day care system for working parents.

While one of America's greatest failings is underin-

vestment in early childhood education (which seems to be one of the best ways to break cycles of poverty from replicating), the military manages to provide superb child care. The cost depends on family income and starts at \$44 per week.

"I absolutely think it's a model," said Linda K. Smith, executive director of the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, which advocates for better child care in America. Ms. Smith, who used to oversee the military day care system before she retired from the Defense Department, said that the military sees child care as a strategic necessity to maintain military readiness and to retain highly trained officers.

One of the things I admire most about the military is the way it invests in educating and training its people. Its universities — the military academies — are excellent, and it has R.O.T.C. programs at other campuses around the country. Many soldiers get medical training, law degrees, or Ph.D.'s while in service, sometimes at the country's finest universities.

Then there are the Army War College, the Naval War College and the Air War College, giving top officers a mid-career intellectual and leadership boost before resuming their careers. It's common to hear bromides about investing in human capital, but the military actually shows that it believes that.

Partly as a result, it manages to retain first-rate officers who could earn far higher salaries in the private sector. And while the ethic of business is often "Gimme," the military inculcates an ideal of public service that runs deep. In Afghanistan, for example, soldiers sometimes dig into their own pockets to help provide supplies for local schools.

Granted, it may seem odd to seek a model of compassion in an organization whose mission involves killing people. It's also true that the military remains often unwelcoming to gays and lesbians and is conflicted about women as well. And, of course, the opportunities for working-class Americans are mingled with danger.

But as we as a country grope for new directions in a difficult economic environment, the tendency has been to move toward a corporatist model that sees investments in people as woolly-minded sentimentalism or as unaffordable luxuries. That's not the only model out there.

So as the United States armed forces try to pull Iraqi and Afghan societies into the 21st century, maybe they could do the same for America's.

Hoo-ah!

Report reveals sexual assaults at veterans' facilities

By Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY June 8, 2011

There were 284 cases of alleged, attempted or confirmed sex assaults at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities from January 2007 to last July, according to a government investigation report released Tuesday.

Men and women were victims. Patients and employees were among those assaulted or who committed abuse. The crimes ranged from inappropriate touching to rape, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) study found.

Investigators blamed the assaults on a host of problems, including haphazard security measures, too few VA police and no program for assessing potentially dangerous patients. There was also a failure to report crimes to higher leadership for corrective systemwide action and to the VA inspector general.

Last week, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee introduced legislation that would require the VA to track all sexual assaults and better assess those at risk of committing crimes.

"It's just inexcusable in veterans hospitals what is going on," said Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle, R-N.Y., chairwoman of the panel's health subcommittee and co-sponsor of the legislation. Sexual abuse "just can't be allowed to happen. It's got to be stopped. It's got to be addressed right now."

The VA is reviewing the study and taking corrective steps, said Josh Taylor, VA press secretary. An operations center established in 2009 has improved the tracking of crime, he said.

"We are taking steps to expand and improve our reporting of allegations and to provide more secure facilities," Taylor said. "We take all allegations seriously and investigate them thoroughly."

The department operates 152 medical centers, treats 6 million veterans and is the largest integrated health care system in the nation, Taylor said. The patient population now contains more young and female veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, along with veterans with histories of incarceration, the GAO report says.

Million-Veteran Genetics Program to Expand

By a GenomeWeb staff reporter May 05, 2011

http://www.genomeweb.com/node/968222?hq_e=el&hq_m=1001860&hq_l=1&hq_v=697986eecf

NEW YORK (GenomeWeb News) – A large-scale project seeking to harness medical and genomic information from one million US veterans in order to identify health and disease-related genes is preparing a national expansion plan that will take between five and seven years, the Department of Veterans Affairs said today.

The Million Veteran Program (MVP) will seek to consolidate individual genetic information with a wide range of applicable data from individual veterans, including military exposure, health, and lifestyle information, into one secure database, VA said.

The aim of the program is to use the VA's medical and other personnel records with genetic information to identify gene-health connections that could be used to screen for, diagnose, and prognose diseases and develop personalized therapies.

VA Secretary Erik Shinseki said in a statement that the program will put the agency "at the leading edge of genomics research. "This innovative research program will support VA's mission to provide veterans and their families with the care they have earned," Shinseki said.

VA Under Secretary for Health Robert Petzel said that the partnership seeks to "learn more about how genes affect health, and thus, transform health care for veterans and for all Americans."

The program was launched in January at one VA medical center, but the VA now plans to expand it nationally. VA is "superbly positioned to conduct complex genomics research," the agency said, because of its "large, diverse, and altruistic patient population" and other assets.

"We have a research establishment that is embedded in an integrated health care system with a state-of-the-art electronic health record, fully equipped genomic laboratories with the latest in technology, and top-caliber investigators — most of whom also provide direct patient care," added Joel Kupersmith, VA's chief research and development officer. "The merger of these distinct attributes — with the Veteran as a partner — make VA uniquely able to conduct this ground breaking genomic research."

Sign Up Now With Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 324

Anyone can join! Membership Options:

Vietnam Veterans (A copy of your DD214 must be included):

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

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 application to:
VVA Chapter 324 - Membership, PO Box 18631, Milwaukee, WI 53218



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 324
PO Box 18631
Milwaukee, WI 53218**



Time Valued Material
Correction Service Requested
Forwarding Postage Guaranteed