

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

21 July, 2021

Elks Club

5555 W. Good Hope Rd.

Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

Future Meetings

18 August, 16 September

Chapter web page: www.vietnamvetschapter324.com

National web page: www.vva.org

Chapter Officers

President: Pat Ciofani [rezmel\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:rezmel(at)sbcglobal.net)

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414-871-9274

Newsletter: John Zutz [john\(at\)zutz.org](mailto:john(at)zutz.org)

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

324 Fundraiser - We need your help

Our only fundraiser of the year lasts 3 hours

The more people working, the more money we raise

American Family Field Saturday, July 10

Parking lot opens at 3 pm – Your parking fee will be reimbursed

Sandwiches and refreshment provided

Meet near the Yount statue on the first base side

Brewers vs Cincinnati

First pitch 6:15 pm

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Milwaukee Chapter 324
June 16, 2021

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

Pledge of Allegiance

A Moment of Silence was observed for our brothers and sisters no longer with us, for all POW/MIA's and their families and for all serving our country

Attendance – John Zutz, Pat Ciofani, Pat Moore John Morgan – **Guest** – James Balk

Minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting reviewed and accepted

Treasurer's Report – Pat Moore - \$3074.15 balance in our checking account

Communications

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Allied Veterans Update – Virtual meeting – We owe our annual dues

Fund Raising – July 10th at American Family Field – We can set up 3 hours before game time – Parking will be reimbursed by the chapter and sandwiches and refreshments will be provided – This is our only fund raising opportunity, please consider coming out and helping

Website – Contact Pat Moore with items of interest to post

OLD BUSINESS

Wauwatosa 4th of July Parade – July 5th – 9:00 am – We will assemble behind the Library and Municipal Building on 77th and North Ave. - Rides will be available to those who can't walk the route

Wisconsin State Council Meeting – June 19th

NEW BUSINESS

Allied Veterans Dues – Moved and passed to pay \$40 for our annual dues

Elks Club Donation – Moved and passed to donate \$200 to the Elks Club for allowing us to use their facilities and to help with the upkeep of the building

Adjournment – 7:40 pm

Wauwatosa July 4 Parade (Held July 5th)

Assemble behind the Library/Municipal Building on 77th & North Av.

Rides will be available for those who can't walk the whole route

Step off 9 am



Over 30,000 Veterans of Post-9/11 Wars Have Killed Themselves Since 2001

JULIA CONLEY, STAFF WRITER, June 21, 2021

New research released Monday shows the post-9/11 wars launched by the U.S. military since 2001 have resulted in over 30,000 suicides by active duty American soldiers and veterans—over four times the number killed in combat operations.

According to Brown University's Costs of War Project—established in 2010 to account for the loss of lives and taxpayer dollars spent on U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—an estimated 30,177 veterans and service members have killed themselves over the last nearly two decades, compared with 7,057 members of the military who have been killed in combat.

The findings were compiled from interviews, government data, and secondary literature.

“The sheer length of the war has kept service members in the fight longer, providing more opportunities for traumatic exposure.” —Costs of War Project

The report “reveals an increasingly severe crisis,” the authors wrote, with the veteran suicide rate per 100,000 people in the U.S. outpacing that of the public.

“The V.A. 2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report reveals the suicide rate of veterans overall and adjusted for age and sex is 1.5 times that of the general population,” the report reads. “This rate is likely a conservative one because, unlike earlier reports, the V.A. only counts veterans who were federally activated, leaving out Reservists and National Guardsmen who were not activated.”

From 2011 to 2020 an estimated 1,193 National Guard members and 1,607 Reservists have died by suicide; data is not available for 2001 -2011.

Among active duty service members, 5,116 have died by suicide in the past two decades.

The suicide rate among active duty service members has historically been lower than that of the general U.S. population, the report noted, revealing “a significant shift.”

The study points to a number of factors that may contribute to the rise in suicides, including multiple deployments, an increase in the use of improvised explosive devices and their association with traumatic brain injuries, exposure to trauma, military culture and training, the wide availability of guns, and stressors associated with returning to civilian life.

“Modern medical advances have also allowed

service members to survive physical traumas and return to the frontlines, even though the combination of multiple traumatic exposures, chronic pain, and lasting physical wounds is linked to suicidal behaviors,” reads the report. “The sheer length of the war has kept service members in the fight longer, providing more opportunities for traumatic exposure. The U.S. government's inability to address the suicide crisis is a significant cost of the U.S. post-9/11 wars, and the result is a mental health crisis among our veterans and service members with significant long-term consequences.”

Thomas “Ben” Suitt III, who authored the report, said many service members don't get the treatment they need—sometimes as a result of trying to hide their struggles—and the paper details how this makes them more vulnerable to suicidal behavior.

“There was a sense that an active service member would rather lie on a screening to be able to stay in the military,” Suitt told NBC News. “If they have a traumatic brain injury but no other physical injuries, they downplay it to stay in their career.”

The report comes days after the World Health Organization (WHO) released a study showing that one in 100 deaths around the world is the result of suicide, and that in the Americas region, including the U.S., the rate rose by 17% between 2000 and 2009.

As we come closer to the twentieth anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we must reflect on the mental health cost of the Global War on Terror. The human cost for our veterans and service members far outweighs even the most crippling financial costs we have endured to send them to war.

Stephanie Savell, co-director of the Costs of War Project, said policymakers in the U.S. “must examine and address those factors” which are leading greater numbers of service members and veterans to take their own lives.

“As we come closer to the twentieth anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we must reflect on the mental health cost of the Global War on Terror,” the report reads. “The human cost for our veterans far outweighs even the crippling financial costs we have endured to send them to war.”

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255, text HOME to 741741, or visit <http://SpeakingOfSuicide.com/resources> for additional resources.

Whole Health & Well-Being Calendar Milwaukee VA and Clinics: July 1- Sept. 31

Classes open to Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare - **No classes on Federal Holidays**

MONDAY Call to register: 1-888-469-6614		
Times	Class	Extension
10:00-11 a.m.	*TAG (Harm Reduction Program)	46851, 45776
10:30-11a.m.	Guided Imagery - 1-872-701-0185 Conference ID: 916 314 395#	43611
1:30-2:00 p.m.	Warrior Stance Chair Yoga - virtual	43611
4:30-5:15 p.m.	Tai chi - in-person & virtual Session I: July 12-Aug. 9 Session II: Aug. 23-Sept. 27	43611
TUESDAY Call to register: 1-888-469-6614		
9:00-10:00 a.m.	WAMM (Walk A Mile or More)	42893
9:00-12:00 p.m.	Diabetes Self-Management Education Class (VVC) 7/13, 7/20, 7/27 & 8/3/21	41903
10:00-11:00 a.m.	*TAG (AODA Harm Reduction Program)	46851, 45776
10:30-11:15 a.m.	Tai Chi: 8/24-10/5 (no class 9/14) in-person and virtual	43611
11:30-12:00 p.m.	Meditation	43611
Noon-1:30 p.m.	Healthy Sleep Class - June 22nd, July 27th, Aug. 24th	41668
1:00-2:00 p.m.	*Recovery Boot Camp	44933, 41846
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Power of the Mind, for Staff & Veterans 7/13-9/14, no class 7/27 or 8/17 Virtual	43611
4:00-5:00 p.m.	*Anger Management	41848
WEDNESDAY Call to register: 1-888-469-6614		
9:00-10:00 a.m.	WAMM (Walk A Mile or More)	42893
10:00-11:00 a.m.	*TAG (Harm Reduction Program)	45776
2:00-3:30 p.m.	MOVE! Wednesdays April 21st & June 16th	47387
3:00-4:00 p.m.	*Healthy Relationship Skills for Men	41848
4:30-5:15 p.m.	Gentle Yoga begins 7/14 in-person and virtual	43611
THURSDAY Call to register: 1-888-469-6614		
8:30-9:30am	*Meditation and Journaling Skills group	41848
9:00-10:00 a.m.	WAMM (Walk A Mile or More)	42893
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Soil for the Soul – Gardening, in-person (no class 7/1 and 7/8)	48629
10:00-11:00 a.m.	Meditation and Mindful Awareness	43611
11:00-Noon	Live Your Best Life: Whole Health and Well-Being Orientation	43611
10:00-11:00 a.m.	*Tag (AODA Harm Reduction Program)	45776
1:00-2:00 p.m.	*Recovery Boot Camp	44933, 41846
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Move! Orientation Thursdays July 15 & September 16	47387
3:30-4:15 p.m.	Introduction to Tai chi Sept. 30th, in-person and virtual	43611
FRIDAY Call to register: 1-888-469-6614		
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Emotional Freedom Technique: Tapping for pain & stress (Aug. 20 & Sept. 17)	43611
10:00-11:00 a.m.	*TAG (AODA Harm Reduction Program)	46851, 45776
1:00-2:00 p.m.	*Depression/Mood Group	41848
1:30-2:15p.m.	Chair yoga (Aug. 27th - Oct. 1st) Virtual and In-person	43611



*For patients who have been seen by a Mental Health provider within the past 2 years.

VA Video Connect Program Help Desk

1-866-651-3180 | Learn more at: mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect

Dan Bullock



Dan Bullock (December 21, 1953 – June 7, 1969) was a United States Marine and the youngest American serviceman killed in action during the Vietnam War, dying at the age of 15.

Early life and education

Bullock was born in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He lived in North Carolina until he was about 12, when his mother died and he and his younger sister, Gloria, moved to Brooklyn to live with their father and his wife. He had wanted to become a pilot, a police officer, or a U.S. Marine.

Career

When he was 14 years old, he altered the date on his birth certificate to show he was born December 21, 1949. He processed through the recruiting station, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on September 18, 1968. As a member of Platoon 3039 in Parris Island. At first he struggled to make it through, but was able to with help from one of his fellow recruits. Bullock graduated from boot camp on December 10, 1968.

Bullock arrived in South Vietnam on May 18, 1969 and was assigned as a rifleman in 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was stationed at An Hoa Combat Base west of Hội An in Quảng Nam Province. He was killed instantly by small arms fire on June 7, 1969, during a North Vietnamese army night attack while on watch, according to his squad leader. Bullock was just 15 years old.

After he was interred, his gravesite did not have a marker. In 2000, one was finally provided.

WARBIRDS ARE COMING

The Warbirds Weekend Aircraft Exhibit will be at the Rock County Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport on July 23-25, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. One of the aircraft on display will be an AC-47 Gunship, also known as “Spooky” or “Puff the Magic Dragon”. You can view this aircraft from both the inside and the outside. Admission is \$10.00 per person.

For more information, visit Janesville Warbirds Weekend 2021 on the internet.

Born – December 21, 1953
Goldsboro, North Carolina, U.S.

Died – June 7, 1969(aged 15)
An Hoa Combat Base, Quảng Nam Province, South Vietnam

Allegiance – United States of America

Service/branch – United States Marine Corps

Rank – Private first class

Unit – Foxtrot Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division

Battles/wars – Vietnam War



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

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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