

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

15 September, '10

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

2010

15 September, 20 October, 17 November,
15 December

2011

19 January, 16 February, 16 March, 20 April, 18 May,
15 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September,
19 October, 16 November, 21 December

Chapter 324 Officers

President -

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 - John Morgan 871-9274

~ AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING ~

Meet Dennis Johnson, Director of the Homeless Veterans Initiative of Milwaukee Veterans for Peace

Statewide Convention

Vietnam Veterans of America - Wisconsin

September 10, 11 & 12, 2010

Radisson Hotel

Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072

Meet your comrades and welcome new veterans to the State Council. Come with questions and get answers about your health, career, employment, financial support and much, much more. Learn the most up-to-date information from County Veteran Service Officer(s).

For more information & registration, go to:

www.vvawi.org

or call Karen at 920-684-4386

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Milwaukee Chapter 324
August 18, 2010

Meeting Called To Order at 7:00 By Acting President Pat Moore.

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Self – Introductions – Dennis Szymanski, Kent Draper, John Zutz, Bob Rugg, Milan Mursec, Joe Herbert, Dick Paradowski, Pat Moore, Kasey Beaman.

Minutes of July 21, 2010 meeting reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's report from June 11th – August 11th reviewed and accepted.

Communications – Read by Pat Moore & Joe Herbert.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VVA Membership Update – Joe Herbert

Fund-Raising – Kent Draper - \$631.14 raised at our August 6th Brewers fund raiser. Thanks to the 5 members who participated. - Looking at holding our raffle early next year.

Website – Kent Draper & John Zutz – Looking at starting up a trial site in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS

Bingo – We are in need of volunteers for a couple of hours on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of the month to help with the kitchen during the early Bingo session. Please consider joining us for one or more Tuesday evenings.

We are usually done around 8 pm.

Open Office Positions – We are currently looking for someone to fill the vacant positions of President and Board of Director. Please consider stepping forward and taking a leadership role in your chapter.

Dry Hootch – Grand opening August 28th at 1030 E. Brady Street.

Run/Walk For The Fallen – August 22, 2010 at the VA.

NEW BUSINESS

State Convention in Pewaukee September 10 – 12, 2010 – Chapter will pay \$ 35 registration fee for members interested in attending but can't afford fee. This does not include meals.

Storage Locker Fee – Discussion on whether to have direct deposit payment or pay in one lump sum – Issue was tabled until next month so we could come up with more details

Packer Party For The Dom – Kent and Kasey will look into the chapter hosting a Packer Party for the residents of the Dom. We will need the OK from the VA.

Moved to donate \$100 for the Donut Dollies.

Discussion on getting the chapter involved in something "Bold" in the community to get out name out to more veterans and the community.

– We are looking for ideas!

For the Good of the Chapter – POW/MIA Day rally Sept.16th in Hales Corners – Free veterans admission to Indian Summer.

Adjournment – 8:10 pm



Chapter By-law Request

From Bob Rugg

We still have been unable to locate a copy of the bylaws for chaoter 324, It is respectfully requested that anyone having a copy, for whatever reason, please bring those materials to the next chapter meeting in September. I have made multiple reqests to state for thier copy and have never received a reply in any fashion. Perhaps Pat Moore will have better luck with those people.

John Zutz has been kind enough to volunteer to revise the bylaws to bring them up to date. Howeve, he would need a starting point to do so. If anyone should have any materials that they feel belongs in chaoter files, weither it be bylaws or other materials, please take the time to bring them to the September meeting. Thank you for your time and aid in this matter.

VVA Asks to Sanction CIA

By MARIA DINZEO

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/08/27/29919.htm>

SAN FRANCISCO (CN) - The Vietnam Veterans of America asked a federal judge to impose sanctions on the Central Intelligence Agency, for failing to produce documents on the CIA's testing of hundreds of kinds of drugs - including sarin and phosgene nerve gas and LSD - on thousands of soldiers.

The Vietnam Veterans of America sued the CIA in January 2009, claiming the agency had experimented on soldiers at Edgewood Arsenal and Fort Detrick, Md., testing the effects of mind-controlling drugs.

The VVA says soldiers were treated "in the same capacity as laboratory rats or guinea pigs." The underlying federal complaint claims that at least 7,800 soldiers were subjected to "at least 250, but as many as 400 chemical and biological agents."

This original complaint, filed in January 2009, claimed that "this vast program of human experimentation, shrouded in secrecy," was done without informed consent of the soldier-guinea pigs. "In 1970, defendants provided Congress with an alphabetical list showing that they had tested 145 drugs during Projects Bluebird, Artichoke, MKULTRA and MKDELTA."

These drugs included sarin and other deadly nerve toxins, barbiturates, irritants, including cyanide, phosgene nerve gas, LSC, PCP and other psychedelics, THC "about times the then-street strength of marijuana," and tranquilizers. In its request for sanctions, the Vietnam Veterans claims the CIA stalled discovery, in bad faith, by refusing to turn over requested documents related to the secretive project, without adequate explanation.

It claims the CIA has released only about 1,600 documents, and 40 percent of them "deal only with the six individual plaintiffs' military records and Veterans Administration claim files."

The complaint adds: "Defendants have continually resisted producing relevant documents by standing on myriad objections and unsubstantiated claims of privilege. ... Even more unbelievably, it appears that defendants have yet to search even the most obvious location for documents - Edgewood Arsenal itself.

"Defendants also consistently refused to enter into a routine protective order that would protect information subject to the Privacy Act or HIPAA from disclosure or use outside of this litigation, thereby permitting its production to plaintiffs. Instead, defendants have refused to produce documents containing such information, or have produced documents with such information wholly redacted. For example, defendants used the Privacy Act as a basis for withholding the names of all Edgewood test subjects other than the named plaintiffs, despite the fact that the test subjects are all potential class members and percipient witnesses. (Vecchio Decl. ¶ 6, Ex. A.)

Defendants have also used the Privacy Act as an excuse to withhold documents concerning individuals who conducted the test programs. These categorical refusals to provide the names of critical witnesses, when a routine protective order could have obviated any of defendants' concerns, have unnecessarily delayed discovery and prejudiced plaintiffs."

Oral arguments are to begin Sept. 29.

Vets suspect Agent Orange dangers passed down to kids

By Craig Smith PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Bobbie and Philip Morris have never heard their daughter speak.

Born with diseases that baffled her doctors, Dara Rae Morris has lived for 37 years in silence. Mentally and physically challenged, she has three leaks in her heart. "She doesn't say 'I love you' or 'Mom and Dad,' but she knows ..." Bobbie Morris said, her voice trailing off.

Dara Rae Morris spent the first 15 years of her life mostly hospitalized, undergoing open heart surgery and other procedures. During a hospital visit last fall, doctors found more leaks in her heart and told her parents they believe that fixing them would be too much for her to endure.

Bobbie and Philip Morris, a Vietnam veteran who was exposed to Agent Orange, a defoliant containing dioxin, were asked to prepare a living will for their daughter. They are among a growing number of parents connecting exposure to Agent Orange with the ailments affecting their children.

Dioxin exposure will be a key topic at a national leadership conference of Vietnam Veterans of America in Orlando, Fla., today through Saturday. The organization, which includes more than 50,000 members, will host town hall meetings on Agent Orange, starting in California, in October.

"There's not a lot of legislators out there who were around or involved in the Agent Orange Act (of 1991). Education is a high priority," said Alan Oates, chairman of the group's Agent Orange/Dioxin and Other Toxic Substances committee.

The 1991 act declared that veterans who served in Vietnam are presumed to have been exposed to dioxin-contaminated herbicide such as Agent Orange and any diseases the secretary of Veterans Affairs recognizes as associated with herbicide exposure are presumed to be service-related. The veterans are eligible for disability compensation.

The Air Force sprayed nearly 19 million gallons of herbicides in Vietnam between 1962 and 1971, including 11 million gallons of Agent Orange. Soldiers often reused the barrels to store water, or fashioned barbecue grills out of them for cooking.

"It was in the ground. It was in the water. It was in the food they ate," said Bobbie Morris, 60. Philip Morris, 63, of Industry served in the Air Force at an air base in Korot, Thailand, from 1965 to 1968.

As many as 15,000 barrels of Agent Orange were stored there, Bobbie Morris said.

The issue of exposure remains divisive 40 years after the war.

C. Bernie Good, a professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and chief of the section on general internal medicine at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, said there is little credible research on a link between birth defects and dioxin exposure in men.

About 2.3 percent of all live births have a major birth defect, he said. "With 2.6 million men (serving in Vietnam), there would be 52,000 to 78,000 babies born with birth defects even without exposure to Agent Orange," Good said.

One leading expert on Agent Orange exposure, Arnold J. Schechter, professor of environmental and occupational health sciences at the University of Texas School of Public Health, said the link between the herbicide and health problems of subsequent generations is a weak one that needs research.

A leading lay expert on congenital defects related to Agent Orange said the science is not weak; it's "developing."

"We've found this pattern. It just won't go away," said Betty Mekdeci, executive director of Birth Defect Research for Children, of Celebration, Fla.

The health problems of children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans are "something that's been very quiet for a long time. ... Now people are stepping forward," said Mokie Porter, editor of VVA Veteran, the magazine of Vietnam Veterans of America, which is documenting the effects of the war on second and third generations.

They include Kelly Derrick, 35, of Langhorne in Bucks County, who takes 20 medications each day and is under the care of 10 doctors. "This is my life. ... I am sick every day," she said.

Her father, Air Force Master Sgt. Harry C. Mackel, was exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam during the war. A decorated Philadelphia police officer who was wounded in the 1978 MOVE shootout, he died of cancer in 1982 at age 37.

"My father died for this country, even though he didn't die 'in country,'" Derrick said. "Our fathers are dead or are dying, and they are not getting the recognition they deserve."

Wellness Fair for Women Veterans

Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 11:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Women veterans can attend the fair at their convenience.

This wellness fair will honor the service of female veterans and will provide information about women's health and wellness. Informational display tables will include information about women veterans' benefits, preventive health, employment, and other resources for women veterans. Opportunities for small group instruction may be available for some topics.

Matousek Auditorium, Milwaukee VAMC, 5000 W. National Av.

VA Mortgages Have Low Delinquencies

VA News Release 19 Aug 2010

Mortgage loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continue to have the lowest rate for serious delinquency and foreclosures in the industry. There are currently about 1.3 million active home loans that have been obtained using VA's Home Loan Guaranty Program.

The program makes home ownership more affordable for Veterans, active-duty service members, and eligible surviving spouses by permitting low or no down payment loans and by protecting lenders from loss if the borrower fails to repay the loan.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association National Delinquency Survey, VA's foreclosure rate for the last eight quarters and serious delinquency rate for the last five consecutive quarters have been the lowest of all measured loan types, even prime loans.

Much of the program's strength stems from the efforts of VA employees and loan servicers nationwide, whose primary mission

is to ensure all Veterans receive every possible opportunity to remain in their homes, avoid foreclosure, and protect their credit from the consequences of a foreclosure. Depending on the situation, VA's loan specialists can intervene on a Veteran's behalf to help pursue home-retention options such as repayment plans, forbearances and loan modifications.

When home retention is not an option, sometimes VA can help arrange a sale, or a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, both of which are better options for Veteran borrowers than foreclosure. Since 1944, when home-loan guaranties were first offered under the original GI Bill, VA has guaranteed more than 18.8 million home loans worth \$1.06 trillion.

To obtain more information about the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program, Veterans can call VA at 1(877) 827-3702. Information can also be obtained online at <http://www.homeloans.va.gov>.

Database of Studies Related to Agent Orange / Dioxin Exposures

Over the years one of VVA members and a former Chairman of the Agent Orange Committee put together a database of studies related to "Agent Orange/Dioxin" exposures and their impact. George Claxton wants to share this information with his fellow veterans. We are grateful for George's hard work and dedication in working on these important issues.

In order to make this information available to veterans, the Agent Orange/Dioxin and Other Toxic Substances Committee has converted the information into a PDF file as well as an excel spreadsheet, and as a Microsoft works spread sheet.

See the VVA web page <http://www.vva.org>

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



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

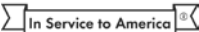


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