

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America

Meeting Notice

18 September, '13

**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

2013

16 October, 20 November, 18 December

2014

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

Chapter 324 Officers

President -

Vice President - Pat Moore 354-2533

Secretary - Dennis Symanski 453-3600

Treasurer - Kent Draper 963-0375

Director - Pat Ciofani 702-7734

Director - Ron Coppersmith 262-255-2832

Director - John Morgan 871-9274

Director - Joe Murray 262-389-7325

Director - Oliver Williams 538-4416

VA Bonuses

GovExec.com | Eric Katz | 23 Aug 2013

Doctors working for the Veterans Affairs department received performance-based bonuses despite providing poor treatment, according to a new report. In fiscal 2011, about 80 percent of Veterans Health Administration providers -- physicians and dentists -- received \$150 million in incentivized pay, according to a Government Accountability Office JUL 2013 audit report to Congressional requesters available online at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/656185.pdf>.

These employees are eligible to collect up to \$15,000 or 7.5 percent of their base pay in an annual lump sum. Additionally, about 20 percent of providers received \$10 million in performance awards. VA, however, has failed to provide the "overarching purpose" behind the payments, leaving each medical facility to make its own determinations. This has led to lax oversight of what qualifies the providers to receive the bonuses. Every physician in GAO's random 2010 and 2011 samples who was eligible to receive performance pay received it, even in cases where their actual performance was problematic.

- One physician practiced with an expired license for three months, but still received more than

\$7,600 in performance pay -- despite being "reprimanded" by his employer -- because having a current license was "not a factor that was considered" in determining whether to make the payment.

- Another provider repeatedly refused to see patients in the emergency room because he believed they were falsely admitted. That doctor failed on 12 of his 13 performance goals, but still received more than \$7,500 in performance pay.

- GAO found one VHA radiologist "failed to read mammograms and other complex images competently," but still received more than \$8,000 in incentivized pay.

- A VHA surgeon left a surgery during the procedure and allowed his residents to continue unsupervised. The doctor was suspended for 14 days without pay, but still received more than \$11,000 in performance pay.

- Yet another physician received a three-day suspension for not responding when on call and creating "an atmosphere of fear and poor morale" through outbursts of yelling. The doctor received a performance payment of more than \$10,000.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Milwaukee Chapter 324

July 17, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Secretary Dennis Symanski

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 Symanski, Chuck Teusch, Oliver Williams, John Morgan, David Titter

Joe Herbert, Joe Murrey, John Zutz, Milan Mursec, Pat Ciofani, Guest Mike Malloy (Milw County Veteran of the Year), Kent Draper, Bob O'Neil

Minutes of June 19, 2013 meeting reviewed and accepted

Treasurer's Report – Kent Draper submitted reports for August and September

Communications – .

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VVA/AVVA Membership Update – Joe Herbert

Allied Veterans Meeting - No report

Volunteering at the VA – Joe Herbert attend a meeting at the VA. He noted the site for the Fisher House has been chosen.

Fund Raising - Kent Draper indicated that all was ready for the orange blossom fund raiser at Miller Park for August 2 7:10 pm, August 3 6:10 pm and August 4 1:10 pm - gates open 3 hours before game time - try to arrive early - parking is reimbursed.

OLD BUSINESS

There will be no August meeting.

Thanks to the 6 members who attended the Wauwatosa July 4th parade

NEW BUSINESS

Due the resignation of Paul Javins as President, VP Pat Moore has assumed the office of President. Pat Ciofani has been voted VP. Elections for officers will be held in 2014.

Pat Ciofani attended the State Council meeting in June and gave a brief report. (including Agent Orange info, how to obtain an info packet for vets to gather and maintain important papers through AVVA, and information on a movement to obtain photos of those from Wisconsin whose names appear on the wall, info at www.vvmf.org/Wisconsin.

Moved and passed \$200 donation for Standdown on September 21, 2013.

Moved and passed \$200 for Being There Reaching Out.

Moved and passed \$100 to Joe Murray for his ongoing efforts to provide car repairs for needy veterans.

The Veterans Day parade will be held Saturday November 9.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

Adjournment – 8:00 pm



JOHN COLE, THE [SCRANTON PA.] TIMES-TRIBUNE

Alcohol Related ER Visits - Study Findings

Health Day Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health, news release 14 Aug 2013

Five brands accounted for the largest amounts of beer consumed by people before they were treated for injuries at an emergency department in a large U.S. city, according to a new pilot study. Of the five brands (Budweiser, Steel Reserve, Colt 45, Bud Ice and Bud Light), three are a type of 'malt liquor', which has a higher alcohol content than regular beer.

Four brands of malt liquor (Steel Reserve, Colt 45, Bud Ice and King Cobra) accounted for 46 percent of the beer consumed by the patients, even though those four brands account for only 2.4 percent of beer consumed in the general population. Knowing which types of alcohol are linked to serious injuries may help guide new policies, researcher says.

For the study, researchers interviewed patients at the Johns Hopkins Hospital emergency department in Baltimore on Friday and Saturday nights between April 2010 and June 2011. Of the 105 patients who admitted to drinking before they were injured, 69 percent were men.

The study, thought to be the first of its kind to assess injured ER patients' alcohol consumption by brand and type, was published online Aug. 1 in the journal *Substance Use and Misuse*. The researchers

also found that the proportion of vodka, gin and brandy/cognac consumed by ER patients was higher than the proportion of those drinks consumed in the general population.

"Recent studies reveal that nearly a third of injury visits to Level I trauma centers were alcohol-related and frequently a result of heavy drinking," lead author David Jernigan, director of the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health, said in a Hopkins news release. "Understanding the relationship between alcohol brands and their connection to injury may help guide policy makers in considering taxation and physical availability of different types of alcohol given the harms associated with them," he explained.

The next step in this line of research would be to conduct a larger study in multiple ERs and cities, the study authors suggested. They added that policy changes from this research could include: requirements for clear labeling of alcohol content on malt liquor beverages; limits on malt liquor availability and marketing; and graduated taxation of beer based on alcohol content to discourage people from drinking beer with higher alcohol levels.

'Vietnam: The Real War,'

AP Press Release

To cover the Vietnam War, the Associated Press gathered an extraordinary group of superb photojournalists in its Saigon bureau, creating one of the great photographic legacies of the 20th century. Collected in "Vietnam: The Real War" (Abrams; Oct. 1, 2013; 304 pages; 300 photographs; US \$40.00/CAN \$45.00) are images that tell the story of the war that left a deep and lasting impression on American life.

From Malcolm Browne's photograph of the burning monk to Nick Ut's picture of a 9-year-old running from a napalm attack to Eddie Adams' photograph of the execution of a Viet Cong prisoner, this book contains the pictures that both recorded and made history, taken by unbelievably courageous photojournalists. In a moving essay, writer Pete Hamill, who reported from Vietnam in 1965, celebrates their achievement.

"Vietnam: The Real War" features more than 50 photojournalists, including Eddie Adams, Horst Faas, Henri Huet, Nick Ut and Dang Van Phuoc,

and highlights the work of such distinguished war correspondents as Peter Arnett, Malcolm Browne and Seymour Topping. A chronological text that is woven throughout places their work in historical context.

As the world begins to look back from the vantage point of half a century, this is the book that will serve as a photographic record of the drama and tragedy of the Vietnam War.

An exhibition at the Steven Kasher Gallery in Manhattan will coincide with the book's publication. It will open Oct. 24 and run through Nov. 26. More than 60 photographs will be on view.

"Across the years of the war in Vietnam, the AP photographers saw more combat than any general," Hamill writes in his introduction. "This book shows how good they were. As a young reporter, I had learned much from photographers about how to see, not merely look. From Vietnam, photographers taught the world how to see the war. Say the word 'Vietnam' today to most people of a certain age; the image that rises is usually a photograph. An AP photograph."

Agent Orange Formula Dictated by US Government

By Drew Brown — McClatchy Foreign Staff

DA NANG, VIETNAM — James R. Clary was a young Air Force officer and scientist who designed the spray tank for the C-123 cargo planes that dispensed Agent Orange and other herbicides during the Vietnam War.

Thirteen years after the conflict ended, with serious concerns being raised in Congress about the effects of defoliants on veterans' health, Clary dropped a startling bombshell: Military scientists had known that herbicides shipped to Vietnam were contaminated with dioxin and had "the potential for damage" to human health.

"However, because the material was to be used on the 'enemy,' none of us were overly concerned," Clary wrote to then-Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D. "We never considered a scenario in which our own personnel would become contaminated with the herbicide."

Agent Orange was produced primarily by the Monsanto Corp. and Dow Chemical. Both companies say the defoliant was made according to strict military specifications. "The government specified the chemical composition of Agent Orange and when, where and how the material was to be used in the field, including application rates," Monsanto says.

But a 1990 report compiled by Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr. for the Department of Veterans Affairs that recommended compensation for ailing veterans who'd been exposed to Agent Orange also detailed evidence that Dow Chemical knew as early as 1964 that dioxin was a "byproduct of the manufacturing process" and that the dangers of exposure were clear.

That report cited an internal company memo warning that exposure could result in "general organ toxicity," in addition to "psychopathological" and "other systemic" problems.

In 1965, according to another memo that's become public in federal court documents, Dow warned Monsanto and other Agent Orange makers that industry "had to resolve the (dioxin) problem before the government found out."

Monsanto and other companies ignored this warning and continued to make Agent Orange with high levels of dioxin. Dow changed its manufacturing process so that its product contained much lower levels of the contaminant.

Dow officials later admitted in federal court and in congressional testimony in the 1980s that

they didn't inform the U.S. government about dioxin contamination in Agent Orange until 1969 at the earliest.

Despite these revelations, the federal courts have consistently shielded Dow, Monsanto and other manufacturers from liability because they produced Agent Orange under government contract.

Neither Dow Chemical nor Monsanto responded to email and telephone requests for comment for this article. Both companies have publicly absolved themselves of any responsibility in the matter.

"All historic wartime issues, including the use of Agent Orange, are appropriately a matter of resolution by and among the governments of the United States, Vietnam and the allied forces," Dow Chemical says on its website.

Today, Clary stands by the original concept of Operation Ranch Hand, as the U.S. Air Force defoliation program was known, as a "sound and benign program," but he regrets that herbicides with high levels of dioxin were used in the war.

"I would like to point out that the science 50 years ago did not indicate the kind of long-term effects of dioxin that we're seeing today," he said in an email. "I would like to believe that if we had the science then that we have today that the government would not have used (Agent Orange) with high dioxin content."

Clary said he thought the United States had "a responsibility to help the Vietnamese people" deal with the legacy of Agent Orange.

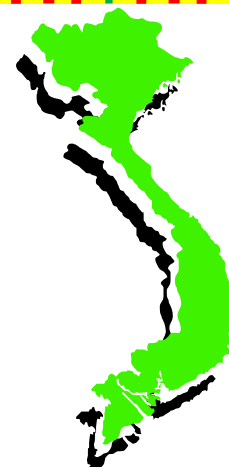
"We have a history of rebuilding and assisting our former enemies after the wars are over," he said, citing the examples of Germany and Japan after World War II. "The precedent is there; only the moral will is needed."

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

General George S. Patton



25th Anniversary of "Fragments" The Highground's Vietnam Tribute



What began as a
promise made on a
battlefield in
Vietnam in
December 1965...

Is now a guide
in the journey of
remembrance
& healing.



**All are invited to
attend!**

**Veterans &
Non-veterans,
alike!**

**Join us for this
Important Day
at The
Highground!**

Saturday, Sept. 14 @ 2:00pm

Come to The Highground for the 25th Anniversary Celebration
of one of the most Inspirational, Meaningful and Important Veteran's Tributes!

Honored guest: Tom Miller, Highground Founder

Guest Speakers: Howard Sherpe & Steve Piotrowski—Original members of
The Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project / The Highground

Robert Kanyusik - "Fragments" sculptor

UH-1 Huey Helicopter from VVA 331
Several area Color Guards
Music by Military Veterans



The
Highground

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715-743-4224
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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)

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- 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)

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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



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans of America #324

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