

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

19 September, 2018

Elks Lodge 5555 W. Good Hope Rd.

Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

Future Meetings: 2018

17 October, 21 November, 19 December

2019

16 January, 20 February, 20 March, 17 April

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)
414-702-7734

Vice Pres: Oliver Williams [w.oliver96\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:w.oliver96(at)yahoo.com)
414-358-4416

Secretary: Dennis Symanski [dski06\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:dski06(at)hotmail.com)
414-453-3600

Treasurer: Pat Moore [irishpatat\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:irishpatat(at)sbcglobal.net)
414-354-2533 Cell: 414-731-6029

Director: David Titter [d.titterat\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.titterat(at)sbcglobal.net)
414-870-7012

Director: John Morgan [asa600\(at\)aol.com](mailto:asa600(at)aol.com)
414-871-9274

Membership: Joe Herbert Joe's a Luddite
414-873-7341

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

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

Voice of 'Good morning, Vietnam' dies at 79

By: [Charlsy Panzino](#) Air Force Times July 19, 2018

Adrian Cronauer, a legend of the Vietnam War, and the inspiration for the 1987 movie "Good Morning, Vietnam," died Wednesday. He was 79.

An Air Force sergeant during his service in Vietnam as a disc jockey with the Armed Forces Radio Service, Cronauer began his early morning show, "Dawnbuster," with the iconic words "Gooooood morning, Vietnam!" The 1987 movie, starring Robin Williams, turned that line into a national catch-phrase years after the war ended.

Although Cronauer co-wrote the [film](#) that was loosely based on his time as a DJ, it was rewritten several times, each time with more creative license, to take full advantage of Williams' outsize comedic talents.

Williams' madcap banter ... was an exaggeration of the real Cronauer," wrote Rick Fredericksen, a Marine newsman at American Forces Vietnam Network, for [a story that appeared in Vietnam magazine](#). "In a 2014 interview with me after Williams' death, Cronauer shared one of his favorite observations about the star's portrayal of him: 'If I did even half the things that Robin did in the movie, I'd still be in Leavenworth [federal penitentiary]. ... He was a comedic genius. ' "

Cronauer did, however, push back against the staid military conventions of the time that pushed out "entertainment" that was deadly dull. With humor, imagination and enthusiasm, he produced radio broadcasts that were truly aimed at the troops fighting the war and, for that reason, became a beloved figure and it seemed as though its mission had very little to do with improving the morale of the American community in Vietnam.

In the movie, Cronauer, as portrayed by Williams, befriends a Vietnamese boy who turns out to be a Viet Cong terrorist, and he is forced to leave Vietnam before his tour is over. None of that actually happened.

Even so, Cronauer told Military Times in 2014 that he enjoyed Williams' performance. "It was never intended to be a point-by-point accurate biography," Cronauer told Military Times. "It was intended to be a piece of entertainment, and it certainly was that. It was nominated for an Academy Award, and you don't get much better than that."

Cronauer left the Air Force as a sergeant in 1966 and eventually served as an adviser to the deputy assistant secretary of defense from 2001 to 2009, according to Cronauer's [obituary](#).

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Milwaukee Chapter 324
July 18, 2018

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance – Dennis Szymanski, Pat Ciofani, John Morgan, Milan Mursec, John Zutz, Pat Moore

Minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting reviewed and approved

Treasurer's Report – Pat Moore - \$6061.31 balance in our checking account

Communications – Thanks received from the Memorial Day Parade Committee and from the Lao Hmong American Veterans Memorial for past donations

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fund Raising – Miller Park Fund Raising – Thanks to the 6 members who participated in the July 5th and 8th fund raising efforts - \$600 was raised on Thursday and \$ \$1414 on Sunday for a total of \$2014.

Website – Contact Pat Moore to have items of interest posted on our website

OLD BUSINESS

Reminder Sooth Milwaukee Parade July 28th
NO AUGUST MEETING

NEW BUSINESS

Thoughts on future donations from our fund raising efforts

State VVA Meeting September 23

ADJOURNMENT – 7:25

I am a Seenager. (Senior Teenager)

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager
(only 50+ years later).

I don't have to go to school or work.

I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars
and the liquor store.

The people I hang around with
are not scared of getting pregnant.

And I don't have acne.

Life is Good!

To the Editor:

Hello Mr. Zutz,

I want to thank you for including an article about the cancer-causing liver flukes in your March newsletter. These parasites are endemic in SE Asia and many of our Vietnam Veterans may have been exposed to them during their service there.

I am the wife of a Vietnam Vet who was diagnosed with the liver fluke cancer--Cholangiocarcinoma (Bile Duct Cancer)--last year. I came across your newsletter as I frequently search the internet for recent articles or references to this deadly cancer.

Thank you for including the Newsday article in your newsletter, as it is so important to create awareness about this issue. Cholangiocarcinoma (Bile Duct Cancer) is considered rare here in the U.S. But this cancer is prevalent in SE Asia, including Vietnam, because of liver flukes.

Again, thank you for making sure your members know about this.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pat Farrell, Ohio



3 Miles west of Neillsville, WI

30th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial

EXHIBITS

PTSD books / program info / exploring different helpful activities & interests; Steve Conto – “Final Bridge” project & WI Vietnam Memorial Wall display; WPT – “Face for Every Name” & founder, Bryce Kelley; Other exhibits honoring WI Vietnam KIA / MIAs; Agent Orange barrels for Vietnam veterans to sign; The Highground’s Big Map of the Vietnam War for Veterans and Gold Star families to sign; Vietnam War timeline exhibit; Display of US Flags; Volunteers reading the names of all WI KIA / MIAs in the Vietnam War – 9:30am – 11am; VVA #331 Trailered UH-1H Huey helicopter; BJ Prior – author / book signing “Behind My Wings” – veteran stories; Famous Kokosz Family Raffle / Silent Auction & Hot Dog Feed – 10am – 4pm; UH-1H Huey helicopter landing at 2pm (weather permitting)

Event Information (Events and Times Subject to Change)

Friday September 21st

Friday evening Highground tour for Vietnam veterans with private talking circle

Saturday September 22nd

30th Anniversary Ceremony begins with Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 Missing Man Table Ceremony at 1:45PM

Color Guard, Rifle Unit and “Taps” – Craig F. Olson VFW #8514 & Color Guard, Rifle Unit – Loyal American Legion #175

Speakers : Don Quicker – Vietnam Veteran, original and current member of Highground Board of Directors, Treasurer

Jake Leinenkugel – former senior White House adviser to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Marine Corps veteran

Skip Klabon – Vietnam Veteran, Marine Corps, Highground volunteer and co-leader of Veterans Retreats among many other veterans programs

Jon Weiler – Highground Director, Desert Storm veteran, Army (ret.) John Miller – poet from Brule WI

Skydiving Display TBA

Neillsville American Legion #73 serving food at the Highground at 4pm – ?

Music at the Highground: 5pm – 6pm – The Promise Quartet 6pm – 8pm – Red Higgins & Freedom Train

Fireworks at Dark – approximately 8:15pm

More information at: <https://www.thehighground.us/events/30th-anniversary/>

The protester and the POW

How McCain bridged a gap to help heal the wounds of Vietnam

by Andrea Mitchell, NBC, Aug.26.2018

WASHINGTON — John McCain's legacy of bridging divides can perhaps be best understood by his efforts to help a Democratic president reconcile with Vietnam, despite McCain's own disabling injuries from years of torture in a Hanoi prison, at a time when the political wounds of that conflict were still raw.

He did it with the help of a man he did not either like or understand, a fellow senator who had fought in the war, and later protested against it.

It was 1993, and McCain and John Kerry, two Vietnam veterans, had been working on a Senate committee to resolve the fate of prisoners of war and those missing in action from Vietnam. But their experiences and reactions to the war could not have been more different.

McCain heroically refused an early exit from prison because it would violate the military honor code of "last in, last out." And he wanted to deny the North Vietnamese a propaganda victory over his father, John S. McCain II, a four-star admiral then commanding all U.S. forces in the Vietnam theater.

Kerry, the angular Yale graduate, had returned from the war to testify against the conflict before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1971, joining a protest of veterans who tossed their ribbons over a barricade at the Capitol during an anti-war rally. McCain, then still in prison, later said the North Vietnamese guards taunted the American POW's with accounts of that protest.

In a statement Saturday night, Kerry wrote, "We both loved the Navy, but had opposite views about the war of our youth. We didn't trust each other, but really, we didn't know each other. After a long conversation on a long flight, we decided to work together to make peace with Vietnam and with ourselves here in America. In the process, he was savaged by lesser men, but words could never hurt a man who was, as Hemingway wrote, 'stronger at the broken places.'"

Their journey toward better understanding continued in Hanoi, on Memorial Day in 1993, during a visit to the "Hanoi Hilton," where McCain had been incarcerated and tortured for five and a half years.

Half a world away, on that same Memorial Day in 1993, President Bill Clinton — with McCain's encouragement — was trying to make peace with his

own Vietnam history, a complicated one. During the 1992 Democratic presidential primaries, Clinton had been accused of dodging the draft, after the discovery of a letter he'd written in 1969 thanking the head of his Arkansas draft board for "saving him from the draft" with a student deferment.

Clinton was also the first president in decades who had not served in the military. Now, in office only four months, he was struggling to improve his relationship with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suspicious of his approach to the military. Trying to bridge the divide, Clinton decided to give his first Memorial Day speech at the Vietnam Memorial, despite threats from veterans groups to disrupt the event.

According to biographer Robert Timberg in "John McCain: An American Odyssey," McCain, hoping he could help head off such a confrontation, had written Clinton a letter offering to accompany him to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Clinton declined the offer, but McCain made it public, eliciting considerable criticism from many of his friends in the POW community. The protestors showed up, and almost interrupted the speech. Twenty-five years later, it is hard to describe the ferocity of their anger as they tried to shout down the first president in decades without military service.

Over the next two years, McCain worked tirelessly to smooth the path for Clinton to re-establish diplomatic relations with Hanoi. When the president finally announced the agreement to normalize relations with Vietnam in 1995, he was flanked by McCain and Kerry, his political wing men, giving him the cover to make peace with America's former enemy.

As Kerry wrote this weekend, "John McCain showed all of us how to bridge the divide between a protestor and a POW, and how to find common ground even when it was improbable." In Kerry's words, "John McCain was an American original — guts, grit, and ultimately grace personified."

The former POW's rapprochement with Vietnam is only one example of McCain's willingness to work with former rivals and embrace change.

As he said a year ago July in an impassioned farewell speech to the Senate, "We've been spinning our wheels on too many important issues because we

See McCain next page

New Enhanced Night Vision Goggles-Binocular

ArmyTimes | Todd South | March 21 & July 18, 2018

For most of modern military history, soldiers who needed to track battlefield movement or simply navigate to an objective while on foot would spend much of their time staring down at a paper map or GPS device screen, much like a distracted phone gazer bumping into people at the mall, but with deadlier consequences. A new combination of advanced night vision goggle (NVG) is merging day/night vision, thermal viewing, weapon sight and augmented reality into one view that allows a soldier to see the battlefield while maneuvering. Think Google Glass, with a gun. And the head of the Army's new cross-functional team focused on soldier lethality sees the device as a way to exponentially improve the dismounted warfighter's battlefield awareness.

"This is a true, fundamental change to the capability we're giving to our dismounted soldier," said Brig. Gen. Christopher Donahue during a recent media roundtable phone interview. The Enhanced Night Vision Goggle (ENCG), has been paired with augmented reality software and the Family of Weapons Sights-Individual (FWS-I) by the Army's Communication-Electronics, Research, Development and Engineering Center and Program Executive Office Soldier to put all of the capabilities into the view of the soldier. The weapons sight capability brings the weapon sight picture into the goggles through a camera on the sight. This allows a soldier to shoot around corners without being exposed. It also can switch views from the sight to a picture-in-picture where the normal view is presented along with the weapon's sight picture.

"The beauty of the two systems is there's wireless communication between the goggle and weapon sight," said Dave Smialek, the business development manager for Survivability, Targeting, and Sensing Solutions at BAE Systems, which is producing the goggle. "What's transmitted is the aim point from the weapons sight, displayed as an overlay on the ENVG-III image." BAE Systems developed a Rapid Target Acquisition Module to reduce target engagement time as part of building the new goggle. The augmented reality portion creates an almost individualized tracker that lets the soldier mark targets, pick waypoints while on patrol and share those digital icons with other members of the squad. Smialek said past night vision goggles didn't have the capability to display video. Advancements in wireless technology

have enabled the change.

The system simultaneously permits the shooter to see a 40-degree view while also seeing an 18-degree view from the weapon sight. This enables shooters to fire from multiple positions, around and above obstacles, without exposing themselves. The "picture-in-picture" mode lets the shooter see two different directions at once. For example, if an infantryman were on foot patrol in a tight wedge formation, the soldier or Marine could patrol while observing their left flank, turn to give hand signals from their squad leader and still watch the flank from the camera on the rifle. All of that is an aim to cut down target acquisition time for shooters.

Military Times staff participated in a media demo and shoot of the system twice in the past year. The device allows a shooter to fire from the hip and shoot around corners, using the weapon-mounted camera. The night vision portion of the system also can overcome the high-illumination problems that disabled earlier night vision devices. Side-by-side comparisons at more than 75 yards with current night vision systems showed an immediate contrast with thermal. Multiple man-sized targets were visible with both systems at various distances. A man-sized target behind camouflage netting was invisible with standard night vision goggles, but visually jumped out immediately with thermal sights. The first batch of a total of 64,000-night vision devices, the ENVG-III are arriving at infantry and special operations forces units this year.

McCain continued

keep trying to find a way to win without help from across the aisle."

And as he told Tom Brokaw last October, "You know the guy that I fought with and worked with almost more than anybody in the United States Senate was one Edward M. Kennedy. He and I would yell at each other. We would fight, we would and then we'd walk off and he'd put his arm around me and say: 'Hey we did pretty good didn't we?'"

"That's the kind of relationship that you have to have and so we did a lot of legislation together and unfortunately unless you have that kind of relationship it's hard to really achieve results."

That's one more reason why his loss is felt so deeply. In today's Senate, John McCain may have been the last of his kind.



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- 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)

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