

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

17 November, '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 December - Christmas Party

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

EVENTS

Nov 4 - 7, 10a.m - 4p.m. Harley Davidson Museum offers free admission to vets and their families. The DAV mobile claim center will be on the grounds.

Nov 5, 7p.m Admirals Hockey Game, Bradley Center, free tickets for vets during regular business hours.

Nov. 6, 11a.m. (assembly 10:30) Milwaukee Veterans Day Parade, join VVA 324 at 4th and Wells.

Nov. 11, 7p.m. Armistice Day program to celebrate and promote peace. Milwaukee City Hall Rotunda.

Nov. 11, Appleby's serving free meals to veterans and active duty military. Vets group membership card or ID card required.

Nov. 15, Golden Corral serving free meals to veterans and active duty military.

Dec. 15, Chapter 324 Christmas Party, Elks Lodge, members and family welcome. RSVP by Dec. 1 to Bob Rugg 412-3849, Pat Moore 354-2433 or john@zut.org

HAPPY VETERANS DAY



**VETERANS
DAY
"BLING"**

©Mike Lesler / Posing News Tribune / www.lesler.com / Images from a general MVA.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Milwaukee Chapter 324
October 20, 2010

Meeting called to order 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 and their families.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chaplain's Prayer – Joe Campbell

Self-Introductions – Dennis Szymanski, Patrick Ciofani, John Morgan, Paul Javins, John Zutz, Bob Rugg, Joseph Murray, Ron G. Seidner, Milan Mursic, Oliver Williams, Janice Dahlke, Joe Campbell, Jim Michelfelder, Kearney Bennet, Kent Draper, Pat Moore, Joe Herbert, Dan VanBuskirk.

Guest Speaker – Mike Cunningham – Civil Air Patrol – Presentation on CAP Wreaths Across America program – Moved and passed to donate \$150 to purchase 10 wreaths to put on veterans graves.

Minutes of September 15, 2010 meeting reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report Submitted by Kent Draper.

Communications – Mobile DAV Office Nov. 4-7 at Harley Museum – National Service Officers will be available to help with claims – **Check your e-mail for updates and information on timely events.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VVA Membership Update – Joe Herbert – 130 members

Education Outreach – Joe Campbell – We need to let schools and organizations know that we are available to talk about the Vietnam War.

Fund-Raising – Kent Draper – Raffle has been postponed until further notice.

Website – Kent Draper, Joe Campbell & John Zutz – We need some volunteers to help set-up and maintain a web-site. We currently do not have one making it very difficult to get information out about our chapter and its doings.

OLD BUSINESS

Tuesday Bingo at the Elks Club – We still need volunteers to help for a couple of hours in the kitchen on the 1,3,4 & 5th Tuesdays of the month. We are usually done shortly after 8 and is easy work.

Opening For President and Board Member – We are still seeking replacements for these open positions.

Veterans Day Parade – November 6th – 11:00 am – We will again be participating in the parade – We will be part of **Gate E** assembling at 4th and State. Check with volunteers for exact location – **Free Parking and Shuttles** will be available at the Harley Museum – **Free Lunch** for participants after parade at the War Memorial – Wrist bands are required and will be available from a chapter rep at the assembly area.

Americanism Breakfast Oct. 24th – We will recognize Bob Rugg and Kearney Bennet for their efforts in the chapter.

Chapter By-Laws – Since a copy of our original by-laws cannot be located, Bob Rugg is in the process of writing a new set that will be presented to the chapter for approval. Contact him with any suggestions or comments on what you may feel should be included in this document.

Dry Hootch – Dry Hootch is open at 1030 E Brady. Stop in and see the new coffee shop and see what they are about. They are looking for volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS

Chapter Christmas Party – December 15th – Instead of our monthly meeting, we will be having a Christmas Party for members and their families from **6 – 10**. Food and refreshments will be served so come out and share some Holiday cheer with your fellow members and families. You must **RSVP by Dec. 1st**.

Packer Party at the Doms – November 7th – Chapter 324 will host a Packer party for the residents of the Doms – Moved and passed to spend up to \$250 for pizza and soft drinks – Volunteers should arrive around 6:30pm.

For the Good of the Chapter - Various Veterans Day activities were highlighted including free Admirals Game – Free Meal at Applebees Nov. !! – Wisconsin Lutheran High School Veterans Breakfast and Service Nov. 11 at 7:30 am – Greenfield High School Veterans Ceremony Nov. 11 at 1:30 pm – Golden Coral Veterans Meal Nov.15th**Check your e-mail for more details and listings.**

Adjournment – 8:00pm.

Simply joining the armed services does not make you a hero, nor does the act of serving in combat.

Every soldier a hero? Hardly

By William J. Astore July 22, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-astore-heroes-20100722,0,3708098.story>

When I was a kid in the 1970s, I loved reading accounts of American bravery during World War II. And I was proud that my uncle had earned a Bronze Star for his service on Guadalcanal. So it came as something of a shock when, in 1980, I first heard Yoda's summary of warriors and war in "The Empire Strikes Back."

Luke Skywalker, if you remember, tells the wizened Jedi master that he seeks "a great warrior."

"Wars not make one great," Yoda replies.

I was struck by the truth of that statement even then, as I was preparing for a career in the military. Certainly, military service (especially the life-and-death struggles of combat) can provide an occasion for the exercise of heroism, but simply joining the armed services does not make you a hero, nor does the act of serving in combat.

Still, ever since the events of 9/11, there's been an almost religious veneration of U.S. service members as "Our American Heroes" (as a well-intentioned sign puts it at my local post office). But a snappy uniform — or even dented body armor — is not a magical shortcut to hero status.

A hero is someone who behaves selflessly, usually at considerable personal risk and sacrifice, to comfort or empower others and to make the world a better place. Heroes, of course, come in all sizes, shapes, ages and colors, most of them looking nothing like John Wayne or John Rambo or GI Joe (or Jane).

I come from a family of firefighters, yet our hero was my mother, a homemaker who raised five kids and endured without complaint the ravages of cancer in the 1970s, with its then crude chemotherapy regimen, its painful cobalt treatments and the collateral damage of loss of hair, vitality and lucidity. In refusing to rail against her fate, she set an example of selfless courage and heroism I shall never forget.

Whether in civilian life or in the military, heroes are rare — indeed, all too rare. Heck, that's the reason we celebrate them. They're the very best of us, which means they can't be all of us.

But does elevating our troops to hero status really cause any harm? What's wrong with praising our troops to the rafters and adding them to our pantheon of heroes?

A lot.

By making our military a league of heroes, we ensure that the brutalizing aspects and effects of war will be played down. In celebrating isolated heroic feats, we often forget that war is guaranteed to degrade humanity as well.

"War," as writer and cultural historian Louis Menand noted, "is specially terrible not because it destroys human beings, who can be destroyed in plenty of other ways, but because it turns human beings into destroyers."

When we create a legion of heroes in our minds, we blind ourselves to evidence of destructive, sometimes atrocious, behavior. Heroes, after all, don't commit atrocities. They don't, for instance, dig bullets out of pregnant women's bodies in an attempt to cover up deadly mistakes, as the Times of London recently reported may have happened in Gardez, Afghanistan. Such atrocities, so common to war's brutal chaos, produce cognitive dissonance in the minds of many Americans, who simply can't imagine their "heroes" killing innocents and then covering up the evidence. How much easier it is to see the acts of violence of our troops as necessary, admirable, even noble.

Even worse, seeing the military as universally heroic can serve to prolong wars. Consider, for example, Germany during World War I, a subject I've studied and written about. As the historian Robert Weldon Whalen noted of those German soldiers of nearly a century ago: "The young men in field-grey were, first of all, not just soldiers, but young heroes, Junge Helden. They fought in the heroes' zone, Heldenzone, and performed heroic deeds, Heldentaten. Wounded, they shed hero's blood, Heldenblut, and if they died, they suffered a hero's death, Heldentod, and were buried in a hero's grave, Heldengrab." The overuse of "Helden" as a modifier to ennoble German militarism during World War I undoubtedly prolonged the war, for how could the government make peace with the villains who had killed these heroes? Wouldn't their deaths then have been in vain?

In rejecting blanket "hero" labels today, we would not be insulting our troops. Quite the opposite: We'd be making common cause with them. Most of

Continued on next page

Cracks in Wall of Vietnam Veterans Memorial a mystery

New cracks discovered in Wall at Vietnam Veterans Memorial

By Michael E. Ruane Washington Post Staff Writer October 7, 2010

A team of geophysicists has discovered a new series of cracks in the black granite Vietnam Veterans Memorial, officials said Thursday.

The experts from Hager-Richter Geoscience were called in this week by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which built the wall, after an unusual vertical crack was discovered late last year.

The consultants began inspecting the Wall on Monday and discovered more vertical cracks, said the fund's president and founder, Jan C. Scruggs.

Most of the cracks are small - a few inches long - and are scarcely visible to the casual viewer. But the Wall has a history of cracks going back to 1984, two years after its dedication.

In 1986, two of the 144 slabs, or panels, that make up the Wall were removed for study. Scruggs said the cause of the cracking has never been clear.

One theory is that the polished stone might bend outward when heated by the sun. Scruggs said the surface of the stone can be 20 degrees warmer than the air temperature. "These panels get hot, and they bow out like a bow and arrow," he said.

Asked about the cause of the cracks, Dorothy Richter, president of New Hampshire-based Hager-Richter, said: "There have been a lot of theories offered over the many years. . . . We're constantly thinking about what might have caused the fractures. . . . We do not know with certainty."

Gene Simmons, Richter's husband and the company's vice president, said the stone is no more prone to cracking than any other type of granite.

Scruggs said Thursday that a volunteer at the Wall found the first vertical crack about a year ago. "We looked at it as sort of an odd thing, because there have been a number of [earlier] cracks . . . but they're horizontal," he said.

"It actually looks worse than it did," he said of the crack found last year. "But we've been monitoring it."

The Wall, on the Mall near the Lincoln Memorial, bears the names of 58,267 people who perished or are missing in action as a result of the Vietnam War.

It was designed by architect Maya Lin and dedicated Nov. 13, 1982. The Wall is among the most visited tourist sites in Washington, with about 3 million or 4 million visitors a year, Scruggs said.

Its stone was quarried in Bangalore, India, Scruggs said, and the fund has several blank panels in storage in case one is severely damaged. He also said the fund wants to buy more spare panels to have enough for the Wall's replacement in the future.

Richter and Simmons said that their investigation would run through Friday and that they would probably have a report ready in a few weeks.

"Maybe we worry too much about it," Scruggs said. "But that's the way we do things."

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K



Hero continued from previous page

them already know the difference between real heroism and everyday military service. Even the young "Helden" of Wilhelmine Germany knew that service alone didn't make them heroic. With the typical sardonic humor of front-line soldiers, they preferred the less comforting but more descriptive label (given their grim situation in the trenches) of "front pigs."

Whatever nationality they may be, troops at the front know the score. Even as our media and our culture seek to elevate them into the pantheon of demigods, the men and women at the front are focused on doing their jobs and returning home with their bodies, their minds and their buddies intact.

So, next time you talk to our soldiers, Marines, sailors or airmen, do them (and your country) a small favor. Thank them for their service. Let them know you appreciate them. Just don't call them heroes.

William J. Astore, a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, teaches history at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. A longer version of this piece can be found at TomDispatch.com.

Health care costs for vets to soar, report says

By Rick Maze - Staff writer Oct 8, 2010

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2010/10/military-va-health-care-costs-100810w/>

In a warning with big implications for future budget debates, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the cost of veterans health care will rise between 45 percent and 70 percent over the next decade, a massive jump that will only partly result from treating Iraq and Afghanistan combat veterans.

Veterans Affairs Department health care costs are now running about \$48 billion a year, according to a new report from the nonpartisan congressional agency. About \$2 billion of that total is associated with treating Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Treating combat veterans is expected to cost between \$5.4 billion and \$8.3 billion by 2020, while the overall VA health care budget could rise to between \$69 billion and \$85 billion a year, according to the CBO report.

There are three chief factors in the high and low estimates: the number of deployed troops in any given year; changes in enrollment eligibility that might open care to more veterans; and whether medical inflation for VA programs remains the same 5 percent per year as health care costs for the general population, or runs higher.

National health care reform is not a factor in the estimates because budget analysts said any effect in either encouraging or discouraging people from using the VA medical system instead of other health care would be small.

The report comes at a time when Congress is facing increasing pressure to hold down or even cut federal spending, and when lawmakers expect to face even more difficulty justifying extra money for veterans when other federal programs are facing dramatic cuts, according to House aides reviewing the numbers.

Aides who spoke on the condition of anonymity said they do not expect a head-on battle over veterans health care funding, especially when there are still U.S. troops in combat, but a likely result would be more careful attention paid to other areas of veterans spending, such as possible improvements in disability pay and education benefits that might get less support because of the bigger medical expenses.

Care for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is not a significant reason for the year-to-year increases because the overall number of severely wounded new combat veterans is small and because the new veterans are “typically younger and healthier than the average VA enrollee,” which makes them less expensive to treat, the report said.

The report looks at VA health care costs only through 2020, and not at the longer-term expense of providing a lifetime of care to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Recent testimony before the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee warned that long-term health care and benefits costs of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans over the next 40 to 50 years could total \$589 billion and \$934 billion, respectively.

Costs will rise as Iraq and Afghanistan vets become older and their treatment becomes more expensive, the report said.

LINGO: NAVY/USMC vs ARMY vs AIR FORCE

Head ~ Latrine ~ Powder Room
Rack ~ Bunk ~ Single with ruffle and duvet
Mess Deck ~ Chow Hall ~ Dining Facility/Cafe’
“Cookie” ~ Mess Cook ~ Contract Chef
Coffee/Mud ~ Cup of Joe ~ Vanilla Latte’
Bug Juice ~ Kool-Aid ~ Shirley Temple
Utilities ~ BDU’s ~ Casual Wear
Seaman/Private ~ Private ~ Bobby or Jimmy
Chief/Gunny ~ Sergeant ~ Bob or Jim
Captain/Skipper ~ Colonel ~ Robert or James
Captain’s Mast ~ Article 15 ~ Time Out
Berthing/Barracks ~ Barracks ~ Apartment
Skivvies / U-Trau ~ Underwear ~ Tee Shirt & Panties

Thrown in the Brig ~ Put in confinement ~ Grounded
Zoom ~ Bag ~ Flight Suit ~ Business Casual
Cover ~ Beret ~ Optional
NEX or MCXPX ~ PX ~ Shopping Mall
TAD ~ TDY ~ Working vacation
Cruise / Afloat ~ Deploy ~ Huh?
Ground Grabbers ~ Athletic Shoes ~ Flip-Flops
Boondockers ~ Jump Boots ~ Berkenstocks
Low Quarters ~ Low Quarters ~ Patent Leather Pumps
SEAL ~ Special Forces ~ High Altitude Recon
Hoo-Rah ! ~ Hoo-Ah ! ~ Uh-Oh !
MRE ~ MRE ~ Happy Meal
Grinder ~ Drill Field ~ What?

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