

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

21 November, 2018

Elks Lodge 5555 W. Good Hope Rd.

Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

2018: 19 December

Future Meetings: 2019

16 January, 20 February, 20 March, 17 April

Chapter web page: www.vietnamvetschapter324.com

National web page: www.vva.org

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

FY18 Hospital Star Ratings Show Solid Improvements

VA News Release | October 3, 2018

As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) efforts to remain transparent and hold VA facilities accountable, VA released end of fiscal year 2018 (FY2018) hospital Star ratings, which evaluate and benchmark quality of care delivery at VA medical centers (VAMCs) across the nation. "With closer monitoring and increased medical center leadership and support we have seen solid improvements at most of our facilities," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Even our highest performing facilities are getting better, and that is driving up our quality standards across the country." The Star rating designation is designed to help VA identify best practices of its top performing hospitals and share them across VA's health care system to achieve system-wide improvements.

Compared with data from the same period a year ago, the release of VA's Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning (SAIL) report shows 66 percent of VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) have improved in overall quality in the third quarter — with the largest gains seen in areas where there were VA-wide improvement initiatives, such as mortality, length of stay and avoidable adverse events. Six VAMCs experienced a decrease in quality, and improvement activities are underway at each of these facilities.

Additionally, of the medical centers placed under the Strategic Action for Transformation program (StAT), an initiative that monitors high-risk medical centers and mobilizes resources to assist them, eight are no longer considered high risk and 80 percent (12 medical centers) show measurable improvements since being placed under StAT in January 2018. To check out how the VAMC you patronage is rated (1 Star lowest | 5 star highest) go to the table at

https://www.va.gov/QUALITYOFCARE/measure-up/End_of_Year_Hospital_Star_Rating_FY2018.asp.

"There's no doubt that there's still plenty of work to do, but I'm proud of our employees, who work tirelessly to move VA in the right direction for Veterans and taxpayers," VA Secretary Wilkie said.

324 Christmas Party – Members and friends invited

6 p.m., 19 December, Elks Lodge - RSVP to Pat Moore (contact above)

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Milwaukee Chapter 324
October 17, 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, Pat Moore, John Morgan, Paul Balge, John Zutz, Joe Herbert

Minutes of the September 19, 2018 meeting reviewed and accepted

Treasurer's Report – Pat Moore - \$ 4474.59 in our checking account

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VVA Membership Update – Joe Herbert – Member Dan Moeller passed away recently - Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family

Allied Veterans Meeting Update – Pat Ciofani

Volunteering at the VA – Pat Ciofani

Website – Contact Pat Moore to post items of interest

OLD BUSINESS

Review of State Council Meeting – Pat Ciofani

Veterans Day Parade – November 10th at 11:00 am

Awards Breakfast – October 28th – Authorized \$120 for a table and \$58 for awards

Chapter Christmas Party – December 19th –

Moved and passed to spend up to \$700 for our annual Christmas Party

NEW BUSINESS

Fund Raising Donations Ideas – Moved and passed to donate \$500 to the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight – Looking into a donation to the UWM veteran's fund

For the Good of the Chapter – Contact our senators and representatives about the Blue Water Navy compensation bill

Adjournment – 7:40pm

100th Anniversary

WWI Meuse-Argonne Offensive

Sylvie Corbet , AP, September 23, 2018

It was America's deadliest battle ever, with more than 26,000 U.S. soldiers killed, tens of thousands wounded and more ammunition fired than in the whole of the Civil War. The Meuse-Argonne offensive of 1918 was also a great

American victory that helped bring an end to World War I. A remembrance ceremony took place on 23 SEP in the Meuse-Argonne cemetery, which is surrounded by green fields and forests in Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, a village in northeastern France. More than 14,000 graves were lit with candles to honor those buried there. Early Sunday, volunteers began reading the soldiers' names aloud, while others were in charge of placing candles on all the crosses.

Covering 130 acres, Meuse-Argonne is the largest American cemetery in Europe. At the cemetery, eight wide grave sections with long regular rows of crosses stretch between the trees on the gentle slopes of a hill. On top is a chapel where the names of 954 missing American soldiers, whose bodies were never found or identified, are engraved.

William M. Matz, secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) that maintains the site, told The Associated Press that this piece of history must be retold to younger generations. "I think it's important for their teachers, their parents to bring them to these beautiful sites, let them walk through the rows of crosses, let them look at the walls of remembrance, let them go into the cemetery chapels and let them learn the history of what these men did 100 years ago," he said. "It's because of their brave deeds, their acts of valor and courage and commitment ... that these young folks are able to live and enjoy the life that they're living," he added.

During 47 days of combat, 1.2 million American troops led by Gen. John J. Pershing fought to advance on the entrenched positions held by about 450,000 Germans in the Verdun region. More than 26,000 U.S. troops were killed and about 96,000 were wounded. The offensive that started on Sept. 26, 1918, was one of several simultaneous Allied attacks that brought the four-year war to an end, leading the Germans to retreat and sign the armistice on November 11. Pershing said "the success stands out as one of the very great achievements in the history of American arms."

Vets/Troops Targeted Online – Social-Media Misinformation

Mokie Porter & Kris Goldsmith, VVA Communications Dept, October 17, 2018

As The Wall Street Journal published 17 OCT, for over a year VVA has been quietly waging war against foreign elements who seek to target troops and veterans with disinformation and divisive content,” said John Rowan, president of Vietnam Veterans of America. VVA is requesting that the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs lead in the coordination of efforts by the federal government to protect our community from foreign influence and exploitation.” VVA has analyzed hundreds of Facebook Pages and Twitter Accounts, scores of deceitful websites, and thousands of individual posts and has have concluded that despite recent purges of hostile actors from, and reforms to, these online platforms — our military community remains a vulnerable target for exploitation and manipulation by foreign entities.

A 2017 Oxford University study, “Junk News on Military Affairs and National Security: Social Media Disinformation Campaigns Against US Military Personnel and Veterans,” determined that “the public tends to place trust in military personnel and veterans, making them potentially influential voters and community leaders.” The abstract continues, “Given this trust and their role in ensuring national security, these individuals have the potential to become particular targets for influence operations and information campaigns conducted on social media.”

As VVA explained in their report for congress and various federal agencies in March 2018, in August of 2017 VVA first discovered an imposter Facebook Page called “Vietnam Vets of America,” which had at times used VVA’s official logo to deceive people into believing the Page represented a legitimate veterans’ organization. The Page built trust among American veterans by producing unique content featuring Vietnam veterans and posting information relevant to the community. The page engaged in creating sensationalized and manipulated news in order to sow division and anger among American veterans.

The imposter “Vietnam Veterans of America” Page used unique tactics to manipulate the “Facebook Live” feature, as they did to run a 58-second local-media clip about vandalism of a Vietnam Veteran Monument for four hours, with the caption “Do you think the criminals must suffer?” imposed over the video. While the short story that a local media organization created was true, it had been altered and

repurposed to make a minor local story go viral. By faking a live video, this foreign entity was able to take advantage of Facebook’s algorithms, exposing hundreds of thousands of Americans to divisive political propaganda created by entities outside of the United States. This organic content had much greater reach than many of the paid ads that were so infamously promoted by Facebook Pages affiliated with Russia’s Internet Research Agency.

In March 2018, VVA discovered two other imposter Pages targeting American Vietnam veterans operated by the same entity. One of these Pages was created in 2015, again using VVA’s logo, and with a new website “Vietnam- Veterans.org” which was registered by one “Nikoli Mitov” in Bulgaria. Without specialized skills and resources, our investigation of this entity could go no further.

In the following months VVA has discovered dozens of similar pages that are targeting American veterans with divisive political content. VVA’s investigation is ongoing, but they have found over two dozen Pages targeting American veterans which together have over 100 foreign admins, with locations on 6 continents and in 26 different countries outside of the United States. Many of these Pages have paid for and displayed ads which include politically sensitive topics. On these Pages, American veterans are often encouraged to share personal information and photographs of themselves in uniform, which can then be harvested by these foreign entities for further use.

VVA has been providing information from their investigation directly to Facebook’s Threat Intel Team, and to date their reporting has resulted in the closure of several Pages which deceptively targeted service members and veterans. As a result, VVA liberated from foreign influence over twenty-million users who followed these Pages — but VVA believes that they only addressed a fraction of the problem.

VVA is thankful to the Threat Intelligence Team at Facebook, and the Site Integrity Team at Twitter, both of whom have taken this problem seriously. But this is not a private-sector problem. This is an issue of national security, and affects the wellbeing of American troops and veterans. That’s why VVA is asking for the blame game to end, and for America’s government to step up and protect our population from being targeting by foreign elements who seek to do us harm.

Vets Still Face Significant Health Risks

Leo Shane III, MilitaryTimes, October 29, 2018

Veterans remain more likely to report feeling in great medical condition even while they face an increased risk of serious health problems like cancer, arthritis and emotional distress, according to updated survey results from veterans advocates out 23 OCT. The report, from United Health Foundation and the Military Officers Association of America, has tracked health issues among former military members since 2011, with the goal of highlighting that the “health care needs of people with military service differ in several important ways from civilians.” The results come from more than 1 million responses from veterans and civilians who never served. In 2016, the most recent results, more than 56 percent of veterans reported their health is good or excellent, above the 51 percent of civilian peers who said the same.

But as has been the case in past surveys, that optimism overlooks a host of unhealthy behaviors and significant health threats facing individuals who spent time in uniform. Veterans are more likely to contract arthritis (25 percent compared with 23 percent for civilians), cardiovascular disease (10 percent vs. 7 percent), cancers (11 percent vs. 10 percent) and illnesses that leave them functionally impaired (26 percent vs. 21 percent), according to the study. “Both men and women with military service report

significantly higher rates of anxiety, depression, and frequent mental distress than men and women who have not served,” the report states.

“Despite significantly higher rates of coverage and access to care to many preventive services, those who have served are less likely to have a dedicated health care provider than those who have not served.”

Researchers did find positive news in the latest health survey update. Rates of both smoking and drinking were down significantly in the latest findings. And more veterans saw an expansion of mental health care options in recent years, giving them more access to help when needed. However, the drinking and smoking rates still outpace those of their civilian peers. Smokeless tobacco use among veterans is more than twice that of individuals who never served. And the report states that insufficient sleep remains “an ongoing concern” for veterans. The report emphasizes that the health of veterans is a national priority, Tracy Malone, president of the United Health Foundation, said in a statement, adding that she is hopeful officials will “use the insights from this report to identify opportunities for collaboration to improve the health of military members, veterans and their families across the country.” The full report is available online at <https://www.americashealthrankings.org>.

What To Do Before A Veteran Dies

American Legion, A Guide for Pre-Planning, July 23, 2018

One of the eventualities in life that spouses and families of veterans face is the death of their loved one who served America in uniform. To help ease the burden on loved ones, veterans can make preparations in advance. The first step is to make certain the family has easy access to important documents such as:

- The veteran’s discharge certificate (DD form 214).
- VA documents, if any, indicating a VA claim number.
- A copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees (if any previous marriages).
- Insurance policies, including beneficiary designation.
- A copy of the family will (not required for VA benefits).
- Location of safety deposit boxes (not required by VA).
- Business address, email address, office and cell phone numbers for local veterans service officer.

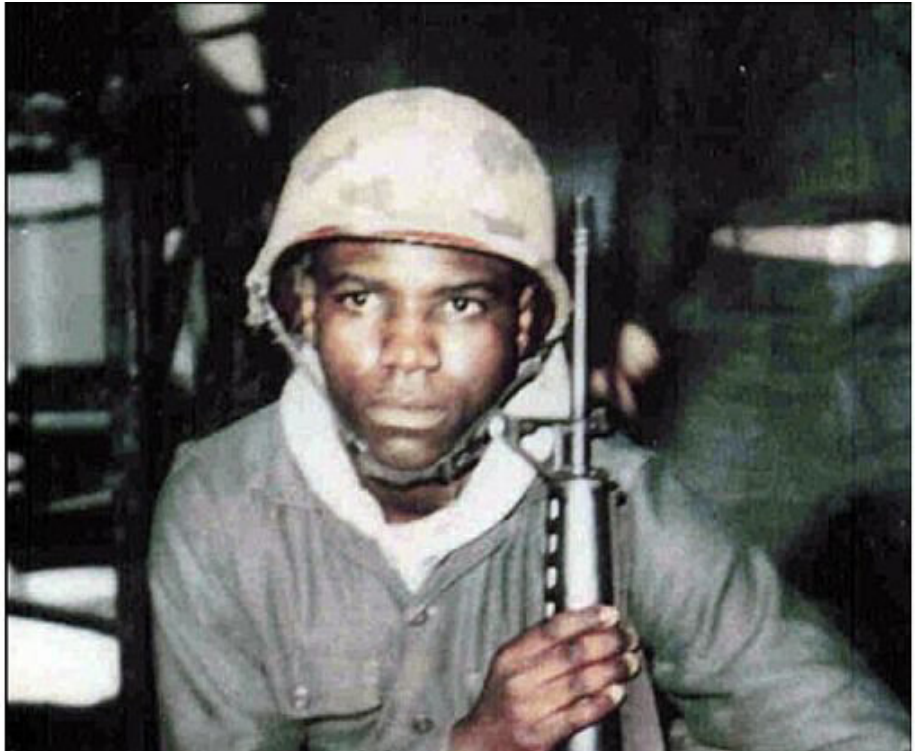
Veterans who die on active duty, or with discharges other than dishonorable, are entitled by law to:

- A gravesite in any national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave.
- A government headstone, marker, urn, or medallion in a national and/or private cemetery.
- A government-issued U.S. flag to drape over the casket, and for presentation to the surviving spouse or next-of-kin.
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate signed by the president of the United States.

Youngest Vietnam War US Marine Was Killed In Action Age 15

Sep 4, 2016 [George Winston](#)

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/military-vehicle-news/f-16-pilot-saved-british-soldiers-iraq-sonic-boom.html>



Images: [Virtual Vietnam Memorial Fund](#)

The story of an underage US Marine who fought in the Vietnam War has been uncovered. Dan Bullock joined the US Marines so that he could join the fight against the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. However, it wasn't uncovered until years later that he changed his own birth certificate so that the Marines' recruiters would believe that he was older than he was. He was accepted for the Marines, at just 14 years old.

After one year of combat in Vietnam in 1969, Dan was tragically killed in the conflict.

It was when journalists visited Dan's family in Williamsburg that the story emerged. A friend of Dan's, Franklin McArthur said that it is about time that Dan is recognized for what he did during the war, and that he was so young when he took part in the action.

Franklin would like for Dan to be remembered since hardly anyone knows his story. A picture of Dan now adorns a wall at New York's Vietnam Veterans Memorial and a street in his old neighborhood of Brooklyn has been named after him, along with a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Honolulu. Dan was buried in North Carolina, and his gravestone was donated by Sally Jesse Raphael, the famous talk show host.

All of these memorials have been brought about by Dan's old friend Franklin who has spent many years trying to get Dan more recognition for his actions.

Dan had first tried to apply for the US Marines at the Albee Square Marine recruiting post in Brooklyn, NYC. He could easily have passed for being older than he was since he towered above other teenagers at five foot nine inches and he weighed around 160lbs.

By the time he had gone through the Marines' boot camp Franklin remembers how exhausted Dan was and how he had struggled to keep up. Franklin had met Dan at the boot camp and took Dan under his wing. Once they had finished training the two trainees were split up, and Dan was sent to Vietnam as a rifleman in the 2nd Platoon of F Company based in Quang Nam Province.

It was during a nighttime firefight that Dan had to maintain the troops' ammunition supply. He had constantly been open to enemy fire but continued to keep delivering the much-needed ammunition to the frontline. It was after around an hour that Dan was hit by enemy fire and died on the spot.

Franklin feels a mix of guilt for helping Dan keep up his training and admiration for his courage.



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans of America #324
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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 completed application to:
VVA Chapter 324 - Membership, PO Box 18631, Milwaukee, WI 53218