

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Members and family are invited.
Food and refreshments provided.
Free**

**Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m.
Elks Lodge
5555 W. Good Hope Rd.**

**Let us know by Sunday, Dec. 15
how many you're bringing...**

**Contact Pat Moore
home- 354-2533
cell- 731-6029
e-mail- ischn55@Gmail.com**

Future Meetings

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



Peace on Earth

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Milwaukee Chapter 324

November 20, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by 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 and for the men and women serving our country.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chaplain Prayer

Member Self-Introductions – Dennis Szymanski, Oliver Williams, Pat Ciofani, John Zutz, Robert Spears, Paul D Balge, Bill Hoettels, Joseph Murray, Bob O'Neil, Pat Moore

Minutes of October 16th meeting reviewed and accepted

Treasurer's Report - \$5959.00 current balance

Communications – Thank you note for our donation to Stand Down

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Volunteering at the VA – Always looking for volunteers

Education Outreach – Joe Campbell was the keynote speaker for the Wisconsin Lutheran High School annual Veterans Day program

Fund Raising – We have 2 days in July and 1 in August for our Miller Park fundraising

Website – Joe Murray is in contact with a relative about creating a website

OLD BUSINESS

Acupuncture – Free acupuncture sessions are available in room 415 of the War Memorial on Mondays from 3-6 pm

Veterans Day Parade – We had 7 members participate

Americanism Awards Breakfast – Went well – Awards were presented to member Kent Draper and Max Seipert.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Party – We will have a Christmas party instead of our regular Dec. 18th meeting – It will be free to members and their families – RSVP to Pat Moore

Candy Cane Lane – We will again join Chapter 1 on December 13th to help raise donations for the MACC Fund – Join us from 6-10 on 94th Street, one block north of Oklahoma

Missing Man Table and POW/MIA Flag Raising – Lincoln Intermediate School – November 26th, 1:00 pm

Vets Center – Moved and passed to purchase 6 \$25 food certificates for needy vets

Christmas With the Vets – Moved and passed to donate \$100 for Christmas With the Vets at the VA

Post Office Box – Moved and passed to spend \$72 to renew our post office box for another year

Adjournment – 7:25

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE



from The Joyful Newsletter ©Creators Syndicate, Inc.
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Heroes of the Week: Being There-Reaching Out Volunteers

Shepherd - Express, Nov. 27, 2013

Founded in 2004 by Judith Singer, Being There-Reaching Out (BT-RO) is an entirely volunteer-run non-profit that financially, emotionally and physically assists families of Wisconsin men or women who were lost in or due to war (such as suicide). BT-RO brings together families to create connections and continue the healing process in comfortable, private and safe environments. All BT-RO programs are free of charge with the exception of hotel rooms (if needed), but no family is ever turned away and scholarships are always available.

"Our volunteers are full time and the fundraising they do is the key to our organization. We have no corporate sponsors, so they come up with the money for everything we do," Singer says. "The biggest healing is to be with other families. Participants say the BT-RO's gatherings are like a shot in the arm that keeps them going until they meet up again. I just wish we would have been able to do this for vets of past wars. Ideally, I'd like to see programs like BT-RO become available in every state."

Currently, the nonprofit is looking for volunteers to join the board of directors, help with fundraising and those with experience in grant writing. Additionally, BT-RO is seeking businesses that are willing to sponsor gathering places for retreats/events. Visit beingtherereachingout.org or contact BT-RO at 8353 W. Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53213, or Singer at 414-988-6225 or gentlyjs@yahoo.com.

Zablocki VA Medical Center named VAMC "Top Performer"

VA Secy Vet Group Liaison Office | Kevin Secor | 19 Nov 2013

Thirty-two Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities from across the nation were recently recognized as "top performers" based on data submitted in 2012 by the independent panel that accredits and certifies health care organizations. The complete report and what was factored in to make the choices can be seen. "We are proud of the medical facilities that have been recognized for demonstrating VA's commitment to provide the high-quality care our Veterans have earned through their service," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This achievement highlights the hard work of our VA medical staff to serve Veterans." The recognition came from The Joint Commission, a not-for-profit organization that ensures the quality of U.S. health care by its intensive evaluation of more than 20,000 health care organizations.

While all 151 VA medical facilities are accredited by The Joint Commission, the list

recognizes facilities that are the top performers based on The Joint Commission's annual review of evidence-based care that is closely linked to positive patient outcomes. This program recognizes Joint Commission-accredited hospitals for a significant achievement in accountability and performance measures. The Joint Commission recognized 19 VA medical facilities as top performers in 2011/2012 and 20 VA medical facilities in 2010. Nine VA facilities have been rated 24 as top performers for two consecutive years - a noteworthy distinction. "VA health care has been a leader in performance measurement, electronic health records, research and clinical quality for more than a decade," said VA Undersecretary for Health Dr. Robert Petzel. "I am proud of the staff that works hard every day to care for America's Veterans."

http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/6/TJC_Annual_Report_2013.pdf

Vet Hiring Fair in Milwaukee

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Assn 13 Oct 2013

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's (USCC) Hiring Our Heroes program employment workshop is available in one hour before the fair. These workshops are designed to help veterans and military spouses and include resume writing, interview skills, and one-on-one mentoring.

To participate, sign up for the workshop in addition to registering for the hiring fairs which are presently scheduled for the next 8 weeks. For more information about the USCC Hiring Our Heroes Program, Military Spouse Program, Transition Assistance, GE Employment Workshops, Resume Engine, etc. visit the USCC website at <http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/events>

Date: Jan 16, 2014 10a.m – 1p.m.

Event: Milwaukee, WI

URL: <http://uscham.com/1aVr35E>

Address: Goodwill James O. Wright Center, 6055 North 91st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53225

Experts Recover Military Personnel Records 40 Years After Fire

By Donna Miles American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 12, 2013 – Forty years ago today, an enormous fire erupted at the National Personnel Records Center in suburban St. Louis. Burning uncontrollably for almost 24 hours, it destroyed some 16 million to 18 million military personnel records including official documents veterans need to apply for the benefits they've earned.

Today, a team of about 30 people continues to put the pieces back together. They use the latest restoration techniques so technicians can gleam details from charred and water-damaged documents.

"It's like a MASH [Mobile Army Surgical Hospital] unit," Marta O'Neill, who heads the Preservation Lab, said during a telephone interview. "There may be 15 different routes that a record could take so we can still preserve the information and get the benefits to the veteran."

The July 12, 1973, fire destroyed up to 80 percent of the 22 million records of veterans of the Army, Army Air Force and Air Force who served between 1912 and 1963, reported William Seibert, senior archivist and chief of archival operations at the National Archives in St. Louis.

The true extent of the loss remains a mystery, because the center had no central registry at the time, explained Seibert. Even if it was physically possible to reconstruct every single missing document, nobody knows for sure which ones they are, he said.

Records are being tracked down and, when necessary, restored, by request. And four decades after the fire, requests for documents from the burned holdings or "B-Files" continue to roll in at the rate of 200 to 300 every day, O'Neill said.

Some come from veterans needing a record of their service to receive federal health-care, home loans or other veterans' benefits, she said. A homeless veteran, for example, may need a copy of his or her DD-214 discharge certificate to qualify for Department of Veterans Affairs-sponsored shelters or meals.

Sometimes requests come from veterans' families, needing the records to apply for entitlements on their loved one's behalf, or to have them buried in a national cemetery. In some cases, family members may need the records to qualify for scholarships or other benefits based on their family's military affiliation.

Other requests also come from historians or genealogists trying to piece together their own family

histories.

Fulfilling those requests can be as straightforward as tracking down one of the estimated 6.5 million records recovered from the fire, all now stored in temperature- and humidity-controlled conditions at the new National Personnel Records Center outside St. Louis.

The effort can become slightly more difficult if it requires cross-referencing of other official records to ferret out and verify the information needed.

But in other cases, fulfilling a records request involves the painstaking and time-intensive process of reconstructing a document blackened by fire, soaked with water or tainted with mold.

This is highly detailed work that O'Neill said demands both patience and a steady hand. In addition to a fulltime staff of 24, her team of technicians relies on the help of college interns eager to get hands-on experience in document preservation.

Donning gloves to handle the fragile materials, they use special equipment and techniques to clean documents of debris and mold, separate pages stuck together for the past 40 years and piece together brittle fragments into more complete documents.

State-of-the-art digital technology now helps them reconstruct documents once considered beyond repair, O'Neill said. "You can't reverse ash," she said. "But you can use scanners and digital software to enhance the document so the text on the burned part can be lifted and revealed. Basically, you look at a piece of ash, and when you digitally enhance it, you can see the writing on it."

Regardless of what it takes, O'Neill said she and her staff get their gratification from their mission -- as preservationists, archivists and human beings. They delight in taking something badly damaged and making it, although not like new, better than most people could ever imagine possible, she said.

From the archival perspective, they enjoy reconstructing history, one document at a time. Since 1999, official military personnel records are among the small percentage of government records now maintained permanently, based on their historical significance, she noted.

But the biggest reward of the mission, she said, is being able to recover documents that can make a real difference in someone's life.

"We are helping so many people in so many ways," she said.

County Executive Chris Abele and Mayor Tom Barrett invite you to support the 7th Annual Holiday Collection Event:

VETERANS DRIVE 2013



62,619
veterans were
HOMELESS
on a
single night
in 2012

to benefit

MILWAUKEE HOMELESS VETERANS INITIATIVE

NOV. 18 – DEC. 18

**Individually
wrapped,
NEW items needed:**

Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Dental Floss
Pkg. Razors (3 or more)
Shaving Cream
Deodorant
Bar of Soap
Shampoo
Conditioner
Hand Cream
Comb
Mouthwash
Can Opener
Peeler
Pkg. Cleaning Sponges/Scrub
Pads
Dish Soap
Pkg. Dish Towels
2 Wash Cloths
Shower Curtain Liner
Set of Shower Curtain Rings
Toilet Paper
Tissue
Hot Pads
Salt
Pepper
Foil
Plastic Wrap
Box of Baggies
Spatula

**GOAL :
250
OF EACH ITEM!**

Take your donations to:

City Hall Mayor's Office
200 E Wells St, 2nd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N 9th St
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Marcia P. Cogg's Human Services Center
1220 W Vliet St
Milwaukee, WI 53205

Milwaukee County House of Correction
8885 S 68th St
Franklin, WI 53132

Milwaukee County Veteran's Service Office
6419 W Greenfield Ave
West Allis, WI 53214

Northwest Health Center
7630 W Mill Rd
Milwaukee, WI 53218

For more information, visit:
www.milwaukee.gov/veteransdrive

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



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans of America #324

PO Box 18631

Milwaukee, WI 53218

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