

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

20 April, 2022

5555 W. Good Hope Rd.
Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

18 May 2022

Future Meetings

15 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September

Chapter web page: www.vietnamvetschapter324.com

National web page: www.vva.org

Chapter Officers

President: Pat Ciofani rezmel@sbcbglobal.net

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Secretary: Dennis Symanski dski06@hotmail.com

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Treasurer: Pat Moore irishpatat@sbcbglobal.net

414-354-2533 Cell: 414-731-6029

Director: John Morgan asa600@aol.com

414-871-9274

Newsletter: John Zutz john@zutz.org

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

**WISCONSIN VETERANS
LIGHT UP THE ARTS**

MAY 21, 2022
Milwaukee Art Museum
700 N Art Museum Dr, Milwaukee, WI

WISCONSIN
VETERANS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

We are at war,

If you have not already joined the battle against the enemy, please do your part, do what ever it takes to stop this adversary. A nemesis determined to take us down, maim and kill us. An adversary that can change into more insidious, dangerous forms, nobody knows if it can be stopped or not!

This is an enemy who doesn't care that the international community banned the use of biological weapons after WW1. He uses these weapons against us with impunity. This adversary is a living thing that can reproduce and transfer from host to host. It can sneak in and overtake our fortification, if we are not properly defended. Our best weapon in this war is you, me, our families, community and nation.

We all are involved whether we know it or not, either join voluntarily or be on the sidelines passively

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Milwaukee Chapter 324
April 20, 2022**

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

Attendance: Pat Ciofani, Pat Moore, John Morgan,
John Zutz, Dennis Szymanski

**Minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting reviewed
and accepted**

**Treasurer's Report – Pat Moore - \$2093.26 balance
in our checking account**

Communications

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Allied Veterans Meeting Update – We will provide
snacks for this month's meeting

Fund-Raising – July 24th and 25th are our Brewer's
fund raising dates

Website – Contact Pat Moore to post items of interest
to the chapter

OLD BUSINESS

March 19th State VVA Meeting – Pat Ciofani gave
report

NEW BUSINESS

Chapter 324 Suspension – National did not have
record of our last financial report and our chapter was
suspended – Necessary reports have since been sent
and received and suspension has been lifted

Elections – Last year elections were held for all
offices and the term was for 2 years, so it was not
necessary to hold any elections this year

Adjournment – 7:30 pm

**VVA324
FUNDRAISER
July 24 and July 25**

July 24th and July 25th are the dates that the
Vietnam Veterans of America 324 has been given
to distribute Orange Blossoms at American Family
Field before Brewer Games.

Sunday July 24th Brewers vs Rockies starts at 1:10
Monday July 25th Brewers vs Rockies starts at 7:10

**Parking lots open 3 hours before the game
begins.**

**MORE MEMBERS TURNING
OUT EQUALS MORE MONEY
RAISED
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

The Milwaukee Brewers are (again) offering
active military and veterans free tickets to Sunday
home games.

It's an easy process, starting at 10 am on the
day of the game, show proof of military/Veteran
status at any ticket window and you can receive up
to two tickets in terrace level seating.

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me, our families, community and nation.

We all are involved whether we know it or not,
either join voluntarily or be on the sidelines passively
hoping it doesn't come and take you. We are not lambs
waiting for the slaughter. During wars we have always
come together, have always come forward to put the
enemy to rest. This enemy is called Covid. Join the
citizens army and get vaccinated and wear a mask.

Rising costs, falling interest

Milwaukee Memorial Day parade ends



MILWAUKEE — Organizers of the Milwaukee Memorial Day parade announced Tuesday that the parade will no longer happen, due to rising costs and falling interest.

“The Volunteers whom have run the Parade for some 30 years have tried their best to maintain such an important event for our Community, but have exhausted the options available to try and keep it running,” the parade’s chair, Karen Armstrong, wrote in a statement.

It would have been Milwaukee’s 155th Memorial Day Parade.



Still Without Drinkable Water

\$1.3 Billion Hospital, DoD's Newest

By Patricia Kime, Military.com, 13 Apr 2022

Water restrictions have continued this week at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center at Fort Bliss, Texas, just nine months after the facility opened its doors.

As of Wednesday, hospital employees and patients were able to use the water for handwashing and showering, but restrictions continued on its use for drinking or medical needs such as sterilization and surgery after sediment and discoloration was found throughout the facility last week.

Employees noticed there was debris in the water in one department on March 25, according to a base press release. Officials thought the problem was limited to that section, but hospital-wide testing found the sediment elsewhere.

Hospital leaders declared the water unsafe to drink out of “an abundance of caution” on April 7. They noted, however, that the installation’s environmental health team found no “pathogenic or environmental concerns,” and also determined, via testing, that the problem did not stem from the water supply, which is drawn from the city of El Paso.

“Hospital officials suspect the root cause ... lies within the hospital’s internal plumbing,” they wrote in a press release.

A replacement for an aging medical center 10 miles away, the hospital was scheduled to open in 2017 at a cost of \$740.4 million. The opening was pushed to September 2020 and again to this year as a result of the pandemic, with the cost exceeding \$1.3 billion.

The seven-story complex serves thousands of patients with 30 specialty clinics, 10 operating rooms

and an emergency department and trauma center.

A Fort Bliss spokesperson told Military.com that water test results are expected Thursday. In the meantime, the installation has brought in stand-alone eye-washing facilities and “exterior water storage solutions.”

It flushed the pipes last week and shut off the main water line for inspections before allowing limited use over the weekend.

According to officials, experts from U.S. Army Environmental Command, the Defense Health Agency, the Corps of Engineers, Army Installation Management Control and Army Medical Command have



Dedication ceremony of the new facility at William Beaumont Army Medical Center at Fort Bliss, Texas on July 1, 2021. (U.S. Army photo by Jean Han)

responded to the problem.

“We have the right experts on the ground, and everybody’s working around the clock. I am in no way a scientist, but to these folks work, it’s pretty awesome,” said Lt. Col. Allie Scott, the spokesperson.

As a result of the issues, the hospital is sending new trauma patients to local facilities and has postponed all elective surgeries. Equipment sterilization is being conducted in various locations off-site, according to Scott.

No patients have been moved from the hospital, she added.

The 6-building hospital complex, with a 135-bed inpatient capacity and two large outpatient clinic buildings, opened last August following years of construction delays and cost overruns.

The water issues appear to be confined to the William Beaumont Army Medical Center campus and do not affect any base housing or work spaces other than the hospital facilities.

“WBAMC and Fort Bliss place the safety of patients and the hospital staff first. Technical experts continue to troubleshoot systems and develop both near and long-term solutions,” Fort Bliss officials said in a press release.

Nearly 4,000 More 9/11 Vets Died in the Past 20 Years Than Anticipated, Study Finds

By Patricia Kime, Military.com, 11 Feb 2022

Post-9/11 veterans are dying at higher rates than Americans overall, particularly through accidents, suicide and homicide, new research has found. The numbers are even higher for veterans who have suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Veterans who have served since Sept. 11, 2001, are dying via suicide at twice the rate of Americans overall, with homicide claiming retired service members at one-and-a-half times the rate of the general population.

The death rates were significantly higher for those with a history of traumatic brain injury: Veterans who experienced a mild traumatic brain injury died at nearly twice the general rate for accidents from 2002 to 2018 and three times the rate by suicide, while those with moderate to severe brain injuries were five times as likely to die by suicide and faced a threefold risk of being murdered or dying in an accident.

The study is the first to look at “excess deaths” among veterans who have served since Sept. 11, 2001, examining the number of deaths over and above what normally would have been expected during the 17-year study period.

The researchers, led by Jeffrey Howard, an associate professor of public health at the University of Texas at San Antonio, reviewed records of more than 2.5 million post-9/11 veterans to catalog their long-term health outcomes with a focus on those with a history of a brain injury.

They found an estimated 3,858 excess deaths among post-9/11 veterans. Compared with the general population, more of those deaths were attributed to accidents and homicides. Those veterans also died at much higher rates of suicide, cancer and cardiovascular disease when compared with civilians the same age, gender and ethnic and racial makeup.

The particularly elevated rates for those who suffered a mild, moderate or severe traumatic brain injury while serving were striking. “We already knew that suicide was high among this group, but we didn’t necessarily know these other causes of death,” Howard said during an interview with Military.com about the research.

“The risks are higher across all of these different causes of death, especially for the individuals who were exposed to TBI,” Howard said. The research found that the excess deaths were concentrated among younger veterans, ages 18 to 44, and those who have

suffered a TBI, with suicide and accidental deaths accounting for the bulk of the deaths.

While the study didn’t explain why veterans may be more vulnerable to accidental deaths and homicide, Howard said prior research shows that younger veterans who are newly separated from the military are susceptible toward engaging in risky behaviors like substance abuse, speeding, or placing themselves in dangerous situations.

They also may suffer from impulse control, anger or post-traumatic stress, increasing their risk of being placed in dangerous situations.

“What this indicates is that there is a multidimensional set of risk factors that are not necessarily medical that need to be addressed in this population, especially for those with TBI,” Howard said. The research also showed higher-than-expected deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer among post-9/11 veterans.

Howard said the deaths from heart disease, especially among those with brain injuries, are not surprising given that earlier research indicates that combat injuries place veterans at risk for hypertension, coronary artery disease, diabetes and other chronic illnesses.

“There are several possible mechanisms in these associations, including accelerated cellular aging, chronic inflammation, behavioral factors and neurological and cognitive decline,” the study stated. The authors also noted that environmental exposures such as burn pits and other chemicals “may help explain the higher cancer mortality rates” in the population.

The research follows numerous other studies focused on post-9/11 veterans, including those with traumatic brain injury, to assess the effects of their military service on their lives, health, productivity and futures.

Howard said much of the research shows “essentially, when you get these serious injuries, it effectively changes your physiology and accelerates the aging process, which leads not only to cardiovascular disease but even some other chronic diseases.”

But, he added, it’s not all bad news for veterans. Calling his study “an awareness-generating article,” he said he hopes it places attention on the deaths among veterans that are preventable.



Vietnam Veterans of America #324
PO Box 18631
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Correction Service Requested
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Sign Up Now With Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 324

Anyone can join! Membership Options:

Life Membership for all veterans \$50:

VVA is only offering LIFE memberships at \$50. If you have been getting a 1 year membership for \$20 you will need to pay \$50 at your next renew or be dropped from the VVA. If you paid \$50 at your last renewal you will become a LIFE member automatically without any further payment. NEW members will only have the \$50 LIFE membership when they join. (with a DD214 submitted).

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