

UP DATE May 3, 2010

On April 24, 2010 President Mike Walker and I went to the New York State Council Meeting in Owego, New York for the spring meeting. The attendance was pretty good for the meeting with all the officers and district directors present except for the eastern district director and 24 of the State Chapters in attendance.

The New York State officer and B. of D. members will be held at the June meeting. If any member of Chapter 77 is interested in running for office please contact me and I'll put you in touch with the proper individuals.

I got e-mail from Ned Foote about receiving an original proclamation from Gov. Patterson regarding the first Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day in history. I requested one and will present it to the Chapter at the general membership meeting on May 20th.

The new address for the VVA National HQ is 8719 Coesville Rd., Silver Springs, Md. 20910

The VVA has printed pamphlets titled "When A Veteran Passes Away" and will have copies available soon. They are also partnering with the NYS Funeral Directors Assoc. and they will send 25 copies to each of the members of the assoc.(over 1,200). There is a lot of information in the pamphlet about benefits available to the family of a veteran. This should make things a bit easier for everyone at this difficult time.

NYS has over 5,000 members in the VVA. The on Line "INTERCHANGE" for the last quarter only received 53 hits. Discussion was long and sometimes heated about bringing the paper back in printed form. The problem is financial. It costs over \$20,000 per year to print and sent the paper. Pat Galtari from the Manhattan Chapter is going to research the possibilities for less expensive means and will report back in June.

The Elmira Chapter #803 has opened its museum. The address is 1200 Davis St. in Elmira.

There are no 9 presumptive diseases for the Gulf War.

Dee Garcia reports that there are currently 400,000 pending claims at the VA.

There will be a seminar on Aging Veterans in June. It will be at ECC. Try to make it.

One of the fastest growing diseases in the Vietnam Veteran population is bladder cancer. It was reported well over a year ago that this is a growing concern for Vietnam Vets. Please be sure to have your prostate, colon and bladder checked regularly. Early detection is the only way to prevent your death.

The car donation project through VVA National grossed about \$1,000,000 and VVA received about \$200,000. The projected net for 2011 is expected too be in the neighborhood of \$900,000. The increase is due to more donations and all the start up costs were paid at the start of the project.

The National B. of D. has enacted a committee to do a study on the future of the VVA. As a "last man standing" organization our future is guaranteed. The committee will report to National before the National Convention in 2011 and this information will be passed on to all in attendance. If you have any thoughts or ideas please let me know and I'll get you in touch with a member of the Board.

The veteran homeless in America situation appears to be far worse than our elected representatives would like us to think. New York City area homeless veterans are estimated at approximately 120,000. This condition needs your attention. Please contact your State and federal representatives as well as The Secretary of the VA and let them know how wrong this is. A quick phone call or e-mail is all it takes. **DO YOU CARE ENOUGH TO LOOK OUT FOR YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?**

The VVA Veterans Initiative was just in Vietnam on a recovery dig. Grant Coats (NYS VP) was with them. No new remains were discovered. The total number of POW/MIAS to date stands at 1,720. Grant also reported that an offshore effort is now underway to try to find downed aircraft.

The NYS AVVA is having a food donation for the Owego food bank at the June meeting.

All NYS VVA chapters are being asked to send a short note to the President of NYS AVVA, Val Henrickson, with the name of the chapter AVVA representative.