

— THE POINT —

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

Chapter 172

17 N. Liberty Street

Cumberland, MD 21502-2316

Phone: 301-777-7001
1-800-482-VETS

Fax: 301-777-7001

Email: vva172@atlanticbvn.net

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"It's the most wonderful time of the year"

Or at least that's what I am told. Two weeks ago we got to watch Americans killing each other to be the first in line to buy the latest piece of crap from China. Which will probably be in the land fill before this newsletter? This week the poor box at a church was robbed while services were being conducted. Then we have groups of punks going around sucker punching older citizens in what they call the "knockout game," and you just have to wonder sometimes has the world gone down the tubes? But if you look there is some goodness out there. Recently an elder lady who was a victim of the "knockout game" withdrew her "illegal" handgun and shot two of her attackers dead. She said she had been robbed before and it wasn't happening again. I hope she gets a box of wad cutters in her stocking.

The Salvation Army reports that for the fourth year in a row somebody has put a diamond ring in one of their kettles in Florida..... The kids who got the latest must have crap from China are still happily playing with the box it came in.

So everything is not all bad, there's some goodness and blessings to be given and received. Most of us, me included have just become too cynical; it comes with the times we live in. But, it's still Christmas, that's right I said Christmas. If you want to say the holidays that's up to you, nobody is going to take Christmas away from you.

Speaking of that why is it that every time there is a complaint about a nativity scene you never hear who complained against it? It seems to always be a faceless nameless organization. How come they never complain about Christmas trees? Which Christmas tree is probably the wrong nomenclature. After all the tree is a pagan symbol from Northern Europe and was originally hung upside down, but don't tell anybody we don't need any more controversy.

Okay that's enough ramblings, from President Bobby Cook and all of the Officers and Board of Directors, MERRY CHRISTMAS, peace and "say a prayer for the common foot soldier."



Christmas Party



After action report

Saturday night Nov. 30 the annual Chapter Christmas party was held at the Cumberland Outdoor Club in Cumberland. The facility was clean and appropriately decorated, the weather was good. The staff was friendly and courteous. From there things seemed to slip a little bit. Now, don't get me wrong it was a decent party but we did hit a few ruts in the road. I mention this only because it has been mentioned to me. Most people were not pleased with the food, except for the green beans, which were pretty good. The mystery meats served on the buffet left a lot to be desired. The band was good the same band that played at my wedding in 1971. But I had fun the friendship and brotherhood was worth the trip. If you have any suggestions please bring this to a meeting.

S.O.S

Saturday the 14th the third annual Steve Parsons S.O.S. Christmas breakfast was held at the Chapter and despite the snow and cold about 25 members showed to enjoy sos, eggs, bacon, raw oysters etc... I would like to thank all the members who pitched in to help. God willing, we'll do it again next year.



New Year's Eve

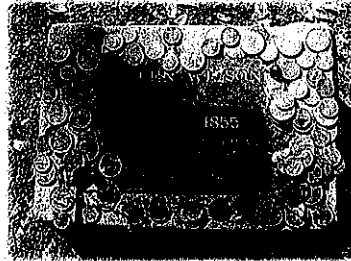
The answer is yes. It will start at 9:00pm no food before 9 unless you bring it yourself.

Plan to stay 'til midnight, don't be old people, live on the edge.

Doors will not open before 7



**Give Thanks for our Troops...
Our Veterans and their Families.
Symbolism Of Coins Left On Soldier's Tombstones**



While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave.

These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect.

Leaving a Penny at the grave means simply that you visited.

Leaving a Nickel indicated that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together.

Leaving a Dime means you served with the deceased soldier in some capacity.

Leaving a Quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial cost for indigent veterans.

In the United States, this practice became common during the Vietnam war era, due to the political divide in the country over the war. Leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war.

Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a drink or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire.

Author Unknown

DAV SERVICE OFFICE

A Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Service Officer will be at the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. Chapter 172, 17 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland, MD, the Second Thursday of each month. The date for this month's visit will be December 12, 2013 from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm. The Service Officer will be available to provide information and prepare VA claims for veterans, their spouse or family members to obtain VA benefits.

Please bring a copy of your Military Discharge, DD 214 or other service record, VA Claim Number if one was issued and any correspondence or rating decision information.

If you have questions or wish to schedule an appointment call VVA Chapter 172 (301) 777 7001. Appointments preferred, Walk-ins also welcomed in time available between appointments. This is a free service provided to all veterans by the DAV.



WHY



A mother asked President Bush... "why did my son have to die in Iraq?"

A mother asked President Clinton... "why did my son have to die in Saudi Arabia?"

Another mother asked President Bush, Sr... "why did my son have to die in Vietnam?"

Another mother asked President Eisenhower... "why did my son have to die in Korea?"

Another mother asked President Roosevelt... "why did my son have to die in Iwo Jima?"

Another mother asked President Wilson... "why did my son have to die on a battlefield in a field in France?"

Yet another mother asked President Lincoln... "why did my son have to die at Gettysburg?"

And yet another mother asked President Washington... "why did my son have to die on a frozen field near Valley Forge?"

Then, long, long ago, a mother asked... "Heavenly Father, why did my Son have to die on a cross outside of Jerusalem?"

The answer is the same... "So that others may have life and dwell in peace, happiness, and freedom."

BE WILLING TO STAND UP FOR OUR TROOPS OR PLEASE FEEL FREE TO STAND IN FRONT OF THEM!



FROM THE SKY PILOT

LET US KEEP CHRISTMAS BEAUTIFUL WITHOUT A THOUGHT OF GREED, THAT IT MIGHT LIVE FOREVERMORE TO FILL OUR EVERY NEED, THAT IT SHALL NOT BE JUST A DAY, BUT LAST A LIFETIME THROUGH, THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS TIME THAT BRINGS GOD CLOSE TO YOU. - ANN SCHULTZ

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

