

— THE POINT —

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

Chapter 172

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The First VVA Chapter in the State of Maryland - The Gold Standard

FEBRUARY 2011

Election News

Thursday, April 7th, 2011 is Election day at Chapter 172. If you have met the required number of meetings and plan to run for elected office, please put it in writing and submit it to the Chapter office or give it to a member of the Nomination Committee, prior to March 1st. As always, nominations will be taken from the floor during the general membership meeting. Those names taken at the meeting will have to be written onto the printed ballot.



Super Bowl

Of those who attended the Super Bowl party, half of them had a good time, the rest had their terrible towels to dry their eyes. Turnout was light this year with only about 40 people attending. The food was prepared by Philomena Zapppp! Traditional Italian fare was the feast of the day, and I am not talking about pizza or spaghetti. Phi did a great job and is to be congratulated and thanked.

Chaplain's Corner

This is from Our Daily Bread:

"Driving in the Dark"

I've always thought that I could get through just about anything if the Lord would tell me what the outcome would be. I believe that "all things work together for the good in the end" (Romans 8:28). But I'd do a little better in dark times if I knew exactly what the good looked like.

But God usually doesn't show us where he is taking us. He just asks us to trust him. It's like driving a car at night. Our headlights never shine all the way to our destination, they illuminate only about 160 ft ahead; but that doesn't deter us from moving forward. We trust our headlights. All we really need is enough light to keep moving forward.

God's word is like headlights in dark times. It is full of promises we need that we need to keep us from driving our lives into the ditch, by bitterness and despair. His word promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

His word assures us that He knows the plans. He has for us plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give us a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11). And he tells us that our trials are there to make us better not bitter (James 1: 23-24).

So the next time that you feel like as if you are driving in the dark, remember to trust your headlights - God's word will light your way.

You won't stumble in the dark if you walk in the light of God's word. (Psalms 119:105-112)

Chaplain Rodger L. V. Long

Home *Editorial Opinion.....*

When I was in Vietnam other than survive, the only thing that I wanted to do was to come home. I had been half way around the world, Japan, Australia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Mexico. But the most exotic place that I really wanted to see was Cumberland, MD. When I finally made it home, the only thing that had changed was me. But I was home and that's what was important and just like all of us, I started the job of putting my life back together. Two more years in the Marine Corps and I was a free man again. So I tried to settle in to the cocoon, but it just wasn't happening.

Eventually the friends I grew up with just seemed to drift away and I started making new friends, mainly people who had been to Vietnam. Then some where along the line, the VVA became a part of my life. As we grew and became prosperous, the Chapter home became a dream come true. Now we have a very comfortable place for us. I try to make every event we hold just to see the people I feel at home with.

Now that having been said, I was completely surprised at a motion made at the most recent Board of Directors meeting. A motion was made and seconded that the monthly Saturday Night Social be discontinued. I was shocked that anyone would want to do this. We had been discussing Chapter finances and this motion was made under the guise of saving a few dollars. When it came down to a vote, the Board was split five to five and President Bobby Cook did the right thing and cast the tie breaker to keep the Saturday Night Social. What I also noticed was that the Board members who voted to do away with the social very seldom if ever attend this event. There was no inquiry made to the membership as to how they feel, the attitude was "just let's do it".

If you remember when we made the third Friday TGIF a “members only” event, it was much discussed and a vote was taken by the membership before the Board acted. The backers of this motion will tell you it was purely an economic move, however as I have stated before the Chapter is *not* in money trouble. For sure the money is not coming in as it once did, but we are still healthy.

I am not sure why this motion came about but, I don't think it was a strictly an economic move. I think I detect some meanness here, or perhaps an agenda. When I come to a social event, I see people that I never see anyplace else. The Chapter home is to them as it is to most of us who attend a place to be with people that you have something in common with, a place where one can relax in peace. To some it has become their main social landscape.....do we really want to shut that down? I don't think so.

“I love this bar. It's my kind of place. Just walking through the front door puts a big smile on my face.

Steve Parsons
February 2011

CHAPTER NEWS

Check out our all NEW
website at
www.vietnamreflections.com

Find out what is going on in the
Chapter by clicking on
“Calendar of Events”

Clicking on *“Galleries”* will bring
up pictures of Chapter events

New Item
Bistro Size Coffee Mugs
for each Military Branch
Click on the branch you need.

The Point can be also read on
our sight as well as a Discussion
Board for members

Renew you membership or
become a life member
Click on
“Membership Application”

Happy Browsing!

**CHAPTER 172 OFFICERS AND BOARD
FOR
2010-2011**

**President, Bob Cook
First Vice-Pres., Steve Parsons
Second Vice-Pres., Roger Krueger
Secretary, Bill Lange
Treasurer, Stanley Kline**

**Board of Directors
Chip Bosley, Joe Brennan
Rodger Long, Bob Peck,
Chip Sours, Jim Williams**

**State Council Delegates
Rodger Long, Chip Sours,
Harold Stallings, Jim Williams**

**Alternate State Council Delegates
Bob Cook, Steve Fryer,
David Shaulis, Howard Stitche**

**Nominating Committee
Charlie Fisher, Ken Hausman,
Howard Stitche, Gary Valentine**

**Agent Orange.....Bob Cook
Chaplain.....Rodger Long
Color Guard.....Joe Brennan
Comm. Service.....Chip Bosley
Constitution.....Steve Parsons
ETABO.....Stan Kline**

**Finance.....Bill Lange
Govt. Affairs.....Jim Williams
Grunt Shirt.....Chip Bosley
Health & Care.....Bob Cook
House Committee.....Chip Sours
Membership.....Bill Lange
Minority Affairs.....Bob Peck
Museum.....Ray Everly
Newsletter.....Steve Parsons
POW/MIA.....Bob Peck
Reflections.....Roger Krueger
Scholarship Comm.....Rusty Dennison
Social Committee.....Bill Lange
Veterans Benefits.....Bob Cook
Veterans Affairs.....Jim Williams
Veterans Assistance.....Bill Lange
Web Site.....Nelson Lindeman
Women Veterans.....Harlan Smith**

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Disclaimer

The newsletter The Point is a monthly publication of chapter 172. The viewpoints or opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the writer and are meant only for informational and entertainment purposes. These opinions do not represent the official policy of VVA National or Chapter 172. All unsigned articles are by the editor; All other submissions will have the contributor's name as a byline.

Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 2000 hours at the Chapter Home 17 North Liberty Street, Cumberland, Maryland. Boards of Directors meetings are the first Thursday beginning at 1800 hours. All members are encouraged to attend both the membership and Board of Directors meetings.

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