

— 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

JANUARY 2012

TAPS

Friday, January 20th, the Chapter lost one of our most recognizable members. Gary Valentine passed away after a prolonged illness. When you came to a Chapter social event Gary was usually the first person you saw when you stepped off the elevator. He tried to welcome everybody coming into the Chapter. Even when he was feeling poorly he always had a smile for you. As my partner at the fundraising table he made my nights just a little more entertaining, he put the fun back into fundraising. I would also like to thank the color guard and the membership for a fine turnout and a great job. You provided comfort to Gary's family. So long pal.



A WORD OF THANKS

Chapter member Bill Zapf has asked me to extend a "thank you" to the Chapter for the support provided during his time of grief over the death of his wife Philomena. A special thanks to Allen Lewis for his comforting music at the gravesite. Philomena has prepared the food for the Chapter Super Bowl Party for the last several years and it just won't be the same this year. We will miss that never ending smile.

Thank you

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

At the February BOD meeting the president will charge the Nomination Committee to gather a slate of members to run for the various Chapter elective offices. Any member in good standing that has met the requirements (3 BOD and 3 Chapter meetings) who would like to run for office contact Ken Hausman or Charles Fisher prior to the March 1st meeting.

Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 5th starting at 5pm until the game is over. If you are in the mood bring some food.



The following letter was gleaned from the "DAV Magazine Jan-Feb."

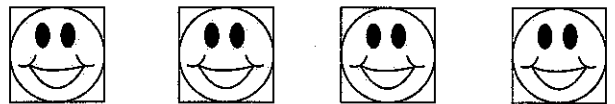
Marine Salutes Vietnam Vets

A guy gets time to think things over here in Iraq and I was thinking about all the support we get from home. We get care packages at times faster than we can use them. There are boxes and boxes of toiletries lining the center of every tent: the generosity has been amazing. So, I was pondering the question: "Why do we have so much"? In my opinion it all comes down to one thing: Vietnam Veterans. We treated them so poorly back then. The stories are nightmarish of what our returning warriors were subjected to. It is a national scar, a blemish on our country, an embarrassment to all of us. After Vietnam it had time to sink in. The guilt in our collective consciousness

grew. It shamed us. Starting with the Gulf War, when the first opportunity arose to stand up and support the troops, we did. We did it to support our friends and family going off to war. But we also did it to right some wrongs from the Vietnam era. We treat our troops today like the heroes they are, acknowledge and celebrate their sacrifice and rejoice at their homecoming, instead of spitting on them. The lesson was learned in Vietnam and we are all better because of it. Everyone who has gone before is a hero. They are celebrated in my heart. When I get back home I'm going to make it a personal mission to thank every Vietnam Vet I encounter for their sacrifice. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one thing did. It was the lesson learned on how to treat our warriors. I am the beneficiary of their sacrifice. Not only for the freedom they, like veterans from other wars, ensured, but for how well our country now treats my fellow Marines and me.

Maj. Brian P. Bresnahan USMC Iraq

Thank you Major, kind words that are appreciated.



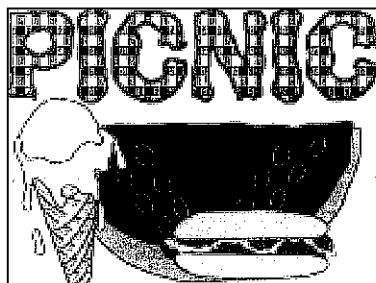
ATTA-BOY

If you have been to a Chapter Social function lately you may have noticed the quality of the food offered. It has been in my opinion, top notch, for what it is. I would like to say "thank you" to everyone on the kitchen committee. Their effort has been generous and demanding. Atta-Boy.

FAMILY PICNIC CHANGE OF DATE

Family Picnic, Saturday, June 23, 2012

Please make note the Family Picnic at the Ali Ghan Shrine Picnic Grounds will be on the fourth Saturday of June not the third Saturday. There will be no Saturday Social on the third Saturday.



AARP Free Tax Prep Sites Opening February 1, 2012

Mon/Thurs - Centre St. Methodist Church
Noon to 3:30pm - Walk-In

Monday - Frostburg Senior Center
10:00am to 2:30pm Call 301-689-5510

Tuesday - Lavale Methodist Church
11:30pm to 2:30pm - Walk-In

Wednesday - HRDC
Noon to 3:30pm - Call 301-724-8626

Maryland Tax Day - Saturday, February 25th
Appointments 10:00am - 2:00pm
YMCA 601 Kelly Road - Call 301-777-9622

Please take advantage of this worthwhile program and have your federal & state taxes prepared and e-filed by an IRS-Certified volunteer.

Debbie Harris - Volunteer Coordinator for the Allegany County Free Tax Sites Program

WORDS FROM THE SKY PILOT

Proverbs 15: 1 - 7

- (1) A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- (2) The tongue of wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.
- (3) The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
- (4) A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.
- (5) A fool despises his father's instructions, but he who receives correction is prudent.
- (6) In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.
- (7) The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so.

"INSIGHT"

These verses from Proverbs provide a good example of a Hebrew poetic device known as parallelism, in which two ideas are compared to one another. In one kind of parallelism, the ideas are contrasted negatively, and in another, they are contrasted positively. The key to identifying them is in the word that connects the two ideas. The negative contrast is made by the word *but*, as seen in verses 1 - 7 here. The positive comparison (seen else where in Proverbs) is made by connecting the phrases with the word *and*. Parallelism is a strategy in Hebrew poetry that can give us clear insight into the meaning of these wise sayings.

Lord, help us to control our tongues,
To clean up what we say,
To use words that will edify,
To honor You today.

Rodger Long, Chaplain

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FOR
2010-2011**

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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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