

— THE POINT —

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

Chapter 172

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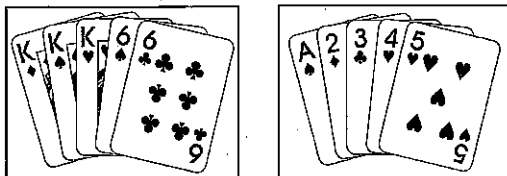
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The First VVA Chapter in the State of Maryland - The Gold Standard

JUNE 2012

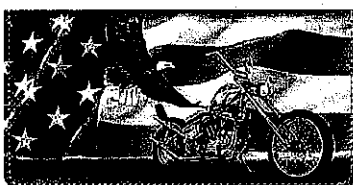
Summer Poker Tournament

The first annual *Gary Valentine Memorial Poker tournament and Fundraiser*, Saturday July 14th, \$35 buy in, members only allowed in poker game. \$5 donation each for non-players, refreshments will be served and other games for non-poker players, depending on the crowd. Tournament begins around 1500 hours, payouts for first three places, depending on number of players. Keep the date in mind and we will try to make this tournament something special.



911 Motorcycle Run

The annual 911 run will come through Cumberland Friday August 17 around 0900 from here they will go to Rocky Gap Park for a short rest stop. The Chapter will once again be handing out water to the riders, as we get more info we will pass it along. Volunteers will be needed contact Harlan Smith, or leave word at the Chapter.



Chapter Growth

As of our last meeting Chapter 172 continues to grow with 1035 members and we continue to be the largest Chapter in the Nation.

What Are You Doing Friday?

The Chapter still has a get together every Friday starting at 1700. It is open to all members in good standing and one guest each. The third Friday is for members only. The third Saturday is the regular social at 1900. We're still here and we need all of our members to come on down and make a fundraising donation and play some of the games.

Chapter Family Picnic

June 23rd at the Ali Ghan Shrine Picnic Grounds

The picnic begins around noon. And will last until 6 or 7. The food is being catered by *Marcelle's Catering Service*.

For those of you who do not eat dead animals there will also be some vegetarian fare. There will be stuff for the kids as always, music and lots of various forms of gaming and raffles. Come early stay late and help clean up.

The Drum Roll

It has a beat that makes a soldier remember for years.

The beat and the tempo rang loud into their ears.

The echo will ring in a time with no fear.

On a day on TV when it rolled out a date young boys became men and went to meet their fate.

Today the drum rolls to all who honor them, God bless them all as they enter at the pearly gates.

And the drums roll again for the Vietnam Vet was at luck. No one knows forever remember their birthdate.

Roger Cowgill



Observing Not really an Editorial

Sometimes I have problems with the simplest events and things that most people don't even notice. When I point these small things out to my wife she usually just looks at me and says something like, "Are you completely nuts?"

No, I don't think that I am just observant of details, for instance. When I was younger I read the funnies every day, never missed them. *Dick Tracy* and *Prince Valiant* being my favorites, as I matured I became a steady fan of the arrest notices. I wanted to see who got busted at a party that I wasn't invited to. Now, I am in my golden years (I think they call them golden years because of the amount of trips

you have to make to the bathroom) and what I read faithfully now is the obituaries. It seems like more and more people I know are making the newspaper, not in a good way. So here's a question. How come so many obituaries start out with John Doe (fake name) went to be with the Lord. How do they know that? How do they know he went "to his heavenly reward?" Or that he is with the angels? Where's the proof? I have known some miserable bastards that have died and I would bet some of them are at the other place.

How's come you never read "John Doe (fake name again) went to burn in the flames of Hell where he belongs, where he is sure to know everybody." No one mentions Hell anymore, well except for Rodger Long, but I think he's a Baptist and they worry about those kinds of things. Really, could Hell be much worse than Parris Island in July or the Great Lakes in February? Gives you pause to think doesn't it?

Or how about this one, they will have a picture of a man and woman posed together. The man always dies first, and the caption will be "Together again." Maybe they didn't want to be together again. Maybe death was the sweet relief from all of her nagging that caused him to drink himself to death. Maybe, just maybe the few years after his death were the happiest of her adult life and she finally got to go to Branson and nail Mr. Greenjeans (real name). And now in death she doesn't even get her own obituary she has to share space with the biggest mistake of her life. This could also go in the other direction. Maybe he's "up" there and has made a new life with the "Little Girl with the White Sox" and he is not interested in seeing her and she is going to start it all over again, and what happens when the kids get there?

"I'm not scared of dying but I can't really tell. I could swear there ain't no Heaven, but I pray there ain't no Hell....but I'll never know by living, only my dying will tell."

Steve Parsons (real name)
June 2012



Office News from Barb and Sue

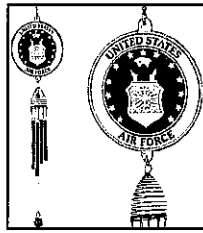
This past weekend was **Heritage Days** and we had a great Saturday and Sunday. We got in some new merchandise and it sold really well. Stop in the Chapter Office to see our new merchandise. Although you may want to wait for a week or so till we order more. We got new **Garden Flags** and for the first time we have **Wind Chimes** and **Garden Stones**. The new items will be on **20% off** through the month of June. So stop in, say Hi and see what else we have.



Garden Flags



Garden Stone



Wind Chimes

WORDS FROM THE SKY PILOT

"I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely." (John 17:13)

What would you pray for if you were facing a brutally painful, lingering death? Strength? Peace? The grace to endure it faithfully? Jesus prayed for his friends. He was concerned for what he had begun in their hearts. He wanted it to continue and bear fruit until the day they were reunited with him. And guess what? He included us in his prayer. Us! With love and compassion, he asked his Father: "Keep them in your name. Protect them. Consecrate them."

Keep them: Jesus asked his Father to hold you securely to himself. He will do it! Your heavenly Father will never turn his back on you. He will never abandon you to whatever may come. No one can take you out of his hand. So talk to him about your dreams and hopes and fears, your strengths and weaknesses. Spend time in his presence listening for his voice.

Protect them: Jesus knows what can threaten the good work he has begun in you. And so he prayed particularly that the Father would shield you from those things. Amid trials and illness, setbacks and disappointment, God will defend your faith. He takes the offense for you, too enabling your faith to grow and prosper, because it's not just "your" faith, it's his life in you. You can walk in freedom and confidence, because the Father does protect you. This evening, review today's events. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where he protected you and helped you grow.

Consecrate them: To his prayers for our welfare, Jesus added another request. He asked that we would be set apart as holy and dedicated for a specific purpose. That's for every one of us, not just the exceptionally talented, outgoing and naturally able ones. You are set apart! Your life here is not an accident. It is not pointless, useless, or meaningless. It is ordained, by God, for something only you can accomplish.

Chaplain, Rodger Long

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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 1900 hours. All members are encouraged to attend both the membership and Board of Directors meetings.



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