

— THE POINT —

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

Chapter 172

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Memorial Day

*And now every April I sit on me porch and I watch the parade pass before me
I see my old comrades how proudly they march renewing their dreams of past glory
I see the old men all tired, stiff and sore the weary old heroes of a forgotten war
And the young people ask what are they marching for? And I ask myself the same question.
...and the old men still answer, the call but year after year the old men still answer the call
But year after year the old men disappear one day no-one will march there at all...*

"And the band played waltzing Matilda"

So yet another Memorial Day is upon us and we the veterans will remember. There will be speeches at various veterans' sites and these well intended speakers will remind us that we must not forget our veterans. Every time I hear them say this I think, look around we are the veterans, we can't forget. You are preaching to the well scarred choir. We know why we remember, hell has nothing over war, and maybe the general public should be made more aware of this. War is not about parades and medals. When the public is cheering go "get 'em boys" consider what happens when they return. Armless, legless, blind, insane, many lives ruined all of them changed, none for the better. But still through all of this, there is pride and an inner strength that carries them on. It is a feeling inside that few people ever experience.

I had a friend who was a WWII vet. The 1960's drove him nuts. He had a tattoo on his forearm that was just a undecipherable black blotch. He smoked unfiltered *Chesterfields*, about three packs a day and hated hippies. When his son and several other boys from the neighborhood joined the service he came up with a plan. He wanted to volunteer for the military and go to war again. His theory was the best years of his life were behind him so if he got killed it was no big loss to him or the country and maybe that would save a young person. Now you are probably smiling about this, but trust me he was deadly serious, that's how much he hated war. Think about it. If wars were fought by old men, it would make young men much wiser. If they knew that they were going to be sending their parents and grandparents and eventually themselves, they would be better diplomats.

Will there be an end to war? Socrates said "... as long as there are men there will be wars..." He also said "... all wars are about money..."

Maybe we should let the mothers of the world decide. Do they really want their son to kill some other mother's child? But, the drums keep beating, but on Memorial Day there will be lots of sales and bar-b-ques..

Steve Parsons May 2014

Chapter Memorial Observance

The annual Chapter 172 memorial service will be held at the Chapter home, Friday, May 16th at 3:00pm. This solemn event is open to all members of the chapter only to give a final goodbye to those members we lost this past year. All members should make an attempt to attend.



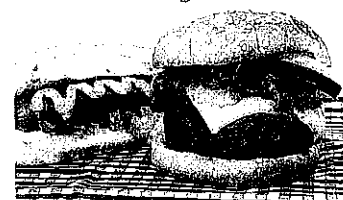
**With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember**



***FAMILY PICNIC
SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST
NOON TO 6PM
ALI GHAN SHRINE PICNIC GROUND***

Come join in on the fun at the Family Picnic. Bring your immediately family only (parents, children and grandchildren). There is a \$5.00 charge for the member. This year there will be a Chinese Silent Auction. The tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The following baskets will be auctioned:

- Basket 1 - Picnic basket includes pop-up cooler, drink thermos tablecloth, plates, cups, napkins, utensils
- Basket 2 - POW basket includes POW apron, and oven mitts + Martins Gift card
- Basket 3 - BBQ basket includes grilling utensils, BBQ sauce, etc.
- Basket 4 - Spaghetti & Wine basket includes Spaghetti fixings and wine
- Basket 5 - Gift cards for restaurants
- Basket 6 - Red, White & Blue Wreath with scratch-off tickets.



CHAPTER NEWS FROM BARB AND SUE

Don't forget about the sales we are running the whole month of May on our hats, flags, tee shirts and mugs. Stop in and check it out. While you're here sign up to help out at the booth for Heritage Days on Saturday or Sunday, June 14th and 15th. Also, on Friday June 20th the Chapter Office will be open till 8pm. There will be over 500 motorcycles in town for the Maryland / Delaware State Motorcycle Rally.

From the Sky Pilot

As we get together on Memorial Day some of us take time to remember our loved ones who have passed away serving our nation. Even back before the Civil War. We thank them by putting flowers on their graves. Some get three days off to play, but not to join in the remembering.

I can remember back in the days I'd go on Thursday after work to my loved ones grave so we could leave Friday night after work to go camping, fishing and have a fun time for three days. But, I finally seen the light. It's the day to "Thank our service men and women for our Freedom". "Thank You, Thank You."

Will you please remember them all on Memorial Day!

The Price of Freedom isn't Free!

Chaplain, Rodger L.V. Long



DAV SERVICE OFFICER

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These benefits are legislated in Title 38 of the United States Code. To apply for VA Benefits veterans are required to complete certain VA Forms providing information relative to the benefit applied for, to assist in this application process:

A Disabled American Veterans (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 June 12, 2014 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.

Appointments preferred, Walk-ins also welcomed in time available between appointments. If you have questions or wish to schedule an appointment call VVA Chapter 172, (301) 777 7001.

This is a free service provided by the DAV to all Veterans, their Spouse and Dependents.



**Rocky Gap Memorial Day Service,
Monday, May 26th at 2:00 pm.**





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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.