

# — 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*

MARCH 2011

**Just because it's the Law,  
doesn't mean its right,  
And because its right  
doesn't mean it's the law.**

The Supreme Court ruled last week that the Westboro "Baptist Church" has the right to demonstrate at the funerals of service members KIA. The court said that these are activities protected under the first amendment of the constitution, freedom of speech. I will very reluctantly agree with that. But, that doesn't make it right! Where is the humanity, the consideration for the families who have lost a loved one who was serving their country? Have we become so jaded that there is no outrage left in us? It's like burning the flag. I think you have the right to burn the flag. As a veteran, I think that I have the right to kick you in the ass. I am not advocating violence and neither is the VVA or Chapter 172. But words can hurt, anybody who has ever been to a bar can testify that words have gotten a lot of people punched in the mouth. Need I say more? When you go

out of your way to hurt someone be prepared to reap the whirlwind.

I don't know if I am right, but it feels right. Or maybe I just wanted to express my outrage that a group of people living in America could be this heartless to a family who has to bury a loved one.

Steve Parsons

March 2011



**Chapter Elections**

**April 7, 2011**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**1800 hours**

**Election Meeting**

**2000 hours**

It has been determined that the doors for the election meeting will be secured at 2000 hours and there will be no admissions after that. So please come early and be prepared to stay awhile.

## Passages

*Front page on the Cumberland "Times-News" yesterday was a picture of the remains of the gym at the old Saints Peter & Paul's grade school on Fayette Street in Cumberland. I attended SPPS grades one through eight for nine years. This was back in the days when you got an education through intimidation. If you are one of those people who never enjoyed the luxury of being schooled by Catholic Nuns, believe me all the stories you have heard are true, at least the ones about discipline. I think that the model for "Darth Vader" in "Star Wars" was modeled after the habits that the Ursuline Nuns wore. Same way with the light saber that Lord Vader carried it was copied from the ever present rulers, pointers and yardsticks that the nuns wielded with the precision of a "Jedi Warrior."*

*But I digress; the gym which was built in 1931 was the best of its kind for the day. My sainted mother who also attended school at SPPS the gym with its Beautiful maple floor was referred to in her day as the "Great Wooden Way." For sure it was a thing of beauty, not nearly as big as the basketball courts of today but real wood. To walk on the basketball court with street shoes on was a mortal sin and would bring down the wrath of Father John Lipinski the athletic director and self-appointed guardian of the boards. Saint Pete's as it was known was I believe the first gym to have glass backboards allowing you to see all the action from the cheap seats. I saw the Harlem Globetrotters, Pittsburgh Steelers All-stars the great Hot Rod Hunley of WVU fame and the very first ACIT basketball tournament. Along with those greats, I played CYO basketball there before the bastardization of the game when it was a non-contact sport. But, time has caught up with this palace and the wrecking ball will have claimed her before you read this and just like so many things we have had in Cumberland it will fall into the pages of 'remember when.'*

## Here's Another Reason Why

In the fifth decade of my life I became unemployed. I was not terribly worried about it since I had been out of work several times in my adult life and I always landed on my feet. What was different this time I was no longer considered a young man. Although nobody ever said it just that way, the meaning was very clear. "We don't want to hire someone your age. You might fall down and break a hip, would you mind working with younger people? And so on and so forth. You know, most of us have heard the same line; it just comes at us from different angles and sources. But, for all of these various forms of cattle droppings there is one sanctuary, or at least my favorite sanctuary that is the Chapter home. People in my age group are there. I don't feel young or old, I just feel like I belong. Just watch the people getting off the elevator, when the door opens they usually break into a smile – they know they belong and so do you.

## From the Chaplain

How is God clearly seen in this world?

Romans 1:19-20

Creation offers proof (for those willing to accept it) of a powerful "Someone" behind it all. The astronomical odds against this world happening merely by chance provide insurmountable evidence for a Creator. The intricate beauty and complex design of a creation – from subatomic particles and molecular building blocks of life to galaxies and the expanses of the universe – demonstrate that a "Designer" planned it all.

However, sin has damaged creation in such a way that people cannot find their way back to the Creator without God's special revelation of himself and his plan.

Romans 1:19-20

19: Since God has made it plain to them.

20: For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made so that men are without excuse.

May God Bless These Words  
Chaplain  
Rodger LV Long

### Museum

If you or someone you know has one or more photos of service members who were killed during the Vietnam War the chapter would like to borrow them and put them on display in the museum during the Memorial Day period.

Photos can be of a relative or a friend, anyone you think should be remembered and honored. This is a chance for you to tell them "Thanks" and "Welcome Home." Please include the service member's name, hometown, rank, branch of service and unit or any other information available. If possible, include where and when the photos were taken.

Also, include your own name, address and phone number so we can return the photos to you. We'd like to have them by May 16<sup>th</sup> so they can be properly arranged and displayed. If you wish to donate them to the museum we will be glad to accept them. If you do not want to send the original you can always send a copy. Please let us know if this is a copy and if you would like it back.

Ray Everly

Museum Committee Chairman

### CBOC

April Corley from CBOC is looking for volunteers to go to Oakland with her on Tuesday from 9am to 4pm and Thursday 9am to noon. She is willing to change times to accommodate patients and volunteers.

### CHAPTER OFFICE NEWS FROM BARB AND SUSAN

March Madness is here. Come into the office and check out the sales.

Tee shirts 20% off Regular Price



Hats \$10.00, Regular \$15.00



All Flags 20% off



Clearance Mugs \$8.00 now  
\$6.00

Don't miss out on these great savings. Sale ends March 31st.

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

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First Vice-Pres., Steve Parsons  
Second Vice-Pres., Roger Krueger  
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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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