

— 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

NOVEMBER 2011

Yippee, Another Veteran's Day

So another Veterans' Day has come and gone. Did you celebrate in any special way? Did you go to the Mall and scoop up some great discounts, maybe get some of the good stuff from China? I know that many of us attended ceremonies held by the various VSO's. I am not sure how that helps veterans, but it seems like a right thing to do, especially since it is the only thing there is to do. I think where we went wrong with Veterans' Day when it was created nobody laid down any rules as to what the purpose of the day was or how to celebrate it. Yes, I know that it was originally known as "Armistice Day" celebrating the end of WWI. You remember that don't you, "The War To End All Wars." Okay so that didn't work out so well. I believe that there have been a few scuffles since then, maybe that's why they changed the name. Well then that hasn't worked because we have sure made one hell of a lot of veterans with no end in sight. Maybe if all the so-called world leaders had to fight in a war, just maybe it would not be so prevalent. Then when a war does break out they should have their capitols up on the front line and from time to time walk a patrol and hump a gun. Yeah I know fat chance, actually something of a stupid dream.

But, I have been doing a lot of reading on WWII lately and I came across this outstanding piece or prose in a book titled "With The Old Bred At Peleliu" by E.B. Sledge. He being a combat vet put his experience in a combination of words that few can match.

Perhaps, if more people would read words such as these they would know why we have things such as "Veterans' Day."

"...To the noncombatants and those on the periphery of action, the war meant only boredom or occasional excitement; but to those who entered the meat grinder itself, the war was a nether world of horror from which escape seemed less and less likely as casualties mounted and the fighting dragged on and on. Time had no meaning; life had no meaning. The fierce struggle for survival in the abyss of Peleliu eroded the veneer of civilization and made savages of us all. We existed in an environment totally incompressible to the men behind the lines..."

And, yet it still goes on and we learn nothing.

"Say a prayer for the common foot soldier." "The Rolling Stones."

TAPS

Several Chapter members have passed away lately. Some I knew, some I didn't but they were brothers everyone. One that passed away, a man that only a few of us knew or knew about John Worsham.

John was an incarcerated veteran having spent the greater part of his adult life behind bars, a guest of the State or Maryland. John was instrumental in getting the veteran memorial built inside Roxbury State Prison. It is the only memorial of its type in the country. John brought his own demons home from Vietnam and could not shake them. As strange as it sounds he found a life in prison and now hopefully he is in a better place. Adios Brother

Words from the Sky Pilot.....

Meditation: Luke 12:49-53

"Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." (Luke 12:51)

Wait a minute. Isn't Jesus the Prince of Peace? Didn't he come to bring reconciliation and not division? Then why is he telling his disciples something that sounds altogether different?

Jesus wasn't saying that he was on a mission of division and disintegration. Rather, he was describing a natural consequence of his coming. He knew that not everyone would accept the good news and that this rejection could cause conflicts. So he wanted to warn his disciples ahead of time, so that they would not become disillusioned or frustrated when the inevitable divisions did occur.

Jesus also wanted to make it clear that the coming of the Messiah did not mean instant and universal peace. A new age has dawned to be sure, but it isn't the final age of harmony and tranquility that we all long for. No, we live in the age of the church, and era marked by the ongoing struggle between light and darkness that we all know so well.

It's important for us to know that divisions over issues of faith and morality will happen on their own. God isn't asking us to become confrontational zealots. He doesn't want us preaching a gospel of harsh condemnation to those who disagree with us. Rather, he wants us to try our best to respond to his call in our lives. And if our words or our witness causes conflicts, he wants us to learn how to lighten up, refine our approach, and look for another opportunity to share the gospel in a less argumentative way. In bad times as well as good, we need to be open-hearted to everyone we meet, sowing seeds of the love that God has poured into our hearts.

Remember: Not all divisions have to be permanent. St. Paul tells us that the kingdom of God is a matter of "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Roman 14:17). If we can keep this promise in the forefront of our minds, we just might be able to help bridge whatever divisions occur and help someone else invite the Lord into his or her life.

"Father, fill me with the joy and peace today. Help me to be an agent of unity and reconciliation in a world of isolation and division."

Romans 6:19-23; Psalm 1:1-4,6

If you have anything inspiration to share please send it to the Chapter Office attention Chaplain Rodger Long.



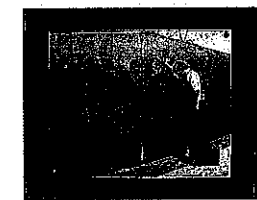
**CHAPTER OFFICE
OPEN HOUSE**

**T'was the day before the VVA
Christmas Party
and all through the Chapter Office
Barb and Sue are preparing
for the big open house.
Marking things down here and there
for great stocking stuffers
cause Christmas is near.
Light refreshments will be served
and prizes will be given away.
All you need to do is come down
and visit that day.**

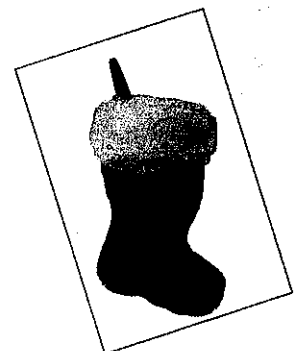
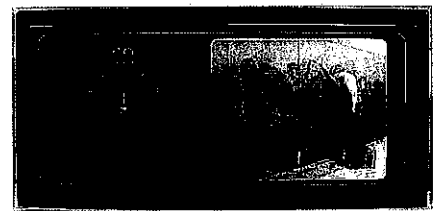
**Please join us for a day of fun.
On Friday, December 2nd, special
office hours from 9:00am to 6:00pm.**

**Drawing for prizes will held at
6:00pm during the TGIF.**

**Chapter museum open from
10:00am till 6:00pm**



Win one of these 3
Reflections plaque,
Reflections wall clock or
a stocking stuffed with
patriotic items



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT**

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Email the editor Steve Parsons s-eparsons@atlanticbb.net

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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