

# — 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*

JULY 2011

## First Things First

As you should know the Chapter Family Picnic was held Saturday, June 18th at the Ali-Ghan Shrine club. Everything seemed to go very well. We had 400+ people attend and it was apparent that we had more children than usual in attendance. The only real complaint I received was about the heat and humidity but, what can I say, that was Bob Cook's committee. You will be pleased to know that the raffle's and various other drawings have managed to pay for the affair so those of you who participated give yourself a pat on the scone. I would also be remiss if I did not mention the volunteers who did the grunt work, God bless 'em everyone. A lot of people put in a lot of work to make this event a success .



## Now Back To Our Mystery Already In Progress

Last month I had a picture of a medal that I found while playing baseball at Allegany field. I have carried this thing

around for some 55 years and now I know where it came from. Donna Judy was the first to find the answer. This medal was awarded to members of the 371<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment (colored), 93<sup>rd</sup> Division during WWI. They were assigned to the French Army and distinguished themselves in combat. Each member of the unit was awarded the French, Croix de Guerre for their gallantry. So now that I know what I have I would like to find an appropriate home for it.



## It's Almost Convention Time Again

Several officers and chapter members will be headed for Reno, Nevada, August 15 - 21 for the VVA National Convention at the Silver Legacy Hotel, I know they will come back all educated up. The rest of us have the summer off nothing special until the steak feed in September. But remember we have a get together every Friday with the third Friday for members only.

## New Knee News

I have to admit that I was somewhat amazed at the picnic about the number of people who approached me to display their knee surgery scars. This was in response to a little blurb I put in the last newsletter about my being scheduled for knee surgery and having been postponed at the last minute. Maybe we should start a club inside the Chapter.

We could have the diabetes club and the by-pass club and the stint club and the knee club. The symbol for the knee club could be a knee going into somebody's crouch. Janet Davidson got her knee last week and she was dancing around like "Tinkerbell" Friday night, all she needed was a tutu. Anyhow, to make my point I am back in the surgery rotation for July 27<sup>th</sup>. We'll see what happens.

## Chow Time

VFW Post 1411 will host a spaghetti dinner July 30<sup>th</sup> from noon to six. The dinner is free to all Vietnam and Vietnam era vets all others pay just \$5. With money as tight as it is right now sounds like a bargain worth looking into.

## Summertime and the Livin' is Easy

Not really an editorial

For the time being it looks like smooth sailing in Chapter 172 (knock on wood). Schools out and summer is here, the deck at the Chapter is up and running. For awhile at least things have seemed to be pleasant. I know it won't last long but for the time being it's nice. The chapter is now producing it's own t-shirts and product sales has all the latest hats and tote bags etc. so stop by and say Hi to Barb and Susan and support your chapter. Our next big event is the steak feed in Mt. Savage which is a few months away.

Nothing else to say enjoy life. As Jimmy Dean used to say "Grin once in awhile, it's good for you."



*Happy 4th of July*

## Words from the Sky Pilot

The righteous cry out and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

## Does God help us out of all our troubles?

Not exactly - as Life's sorrows and heartaches easily demonstrate. But the Lord does not promise so much to remove our difficulties as to see us through them. God can use even trouble to accomplish his purposes; Jesus was made perfect through suffering (Heb. 2:10). With God's help, troubles can mature us. The bottom line is that God changes something if it's not our trouble, then he changes us.

May God add His blessing to His words.

Chaplain  
Rodger Long



This is a plea to all veterans no matter what branch, service and veterans friends. The 2011 Institute of Medicine Report on Agent Orange and the Blue Water Navy Veterans states that it can't be determined that the Blue Water Navy Sailors were or were not subjected to Agent Orange.

In the same statement they said they can't determine as to whether the ground troops or mobile ravine forces were or were not subjected to Agent Orange. Putting the Blue Water Navy in the same category as the ground troops and the mobile ravine forces.

There is a bill before congress right now. It is HR 812 the Agent Orange Act of 2011. Restoring the Blue Water Navy Benefit to them that were taken away like a thief in the night in 2002. Please contact your congressman right now and ask him or her to co-sponsor. It is important you ask them to co-sponsor. HR 812 the Agent Orange Act of 2011. We have veterans out here dying from these diseases. The best way to contact your congressman is by writing a short letter and faxing it, or by mail. Don't call his office, or E-mail them; this has been found to be ineffective. Be sure to include your name, address, date and phone number where you can be reached. Please contact your congressman now and make sure you ask them to cosponsor this bill NOW! If you don't know who your congressman is he or she is usually listed in the phone directory under U.S. government listings and you can call and get their fax number or address. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me for any help. Also ask your friends to do this whether veterans or not.

Thank you,  
Carl Garlitz

Phone Number: 301-759-3323  
Sailors, Marines and Airman need you  
to do this.

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**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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