

# — 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*

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2010

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## On The Elections

Editorial Opinion

Well the mid-term elections are over so we don't have to hear so much about the liberals, conservatives, democrats, republicans, the tea party and all the other so called saviors of the republic. During the campaigns we heard about unemployment, health care and taxes and that's just about it. What we didn't hear about is the war that all of these saviors of the republic seem to have forgotten or have elected to ignore. There was no peace movement in the political process this year. Nobody seemed to be worried about those on the front line who deal with the misery on a day to day basis.

We heard about how much in debt we are to China; how much universal health care is going to cost us, but not how much the war is costing us; either in money or destroyed lives. On an average, 650 veterans commit suicide every year; and none of our elected officials seem to be appalled by this figure. The war is breaking us financially and morally. Way back when troops were first sent to the middle east we were insured by Washington that this was not going to be another Vietnam they promised us everything except "The boys will be home for Christmas." If they had just said that we would have known we were in for a screwin'.

But, we were too worried about whose a liberal and whose a conservative to give a damn about the issues of whose going to do the dying in this third world shit-hole of a country.

The common answer is if we pull out now that all of those who have been killed have died for nothing. I love and respect everyone who has gone over there to serve but, truth is truth and my opinion is that they did die for nothing.

The president of Afghanistan who we put in office and have supported is now threatening to join the Taliban if the US doesn't kiss his butt. Pakistan is complaining about American incursions into their country and nobody knows what the hell is going on in Iraq and Iran is starting to sound like a moderate.

Anyhow that's the way I see it, I may be wrong but it feels good to get it off my chest. Meanwhile another generation of Americans has their war to fight.

"Say a prayer for the common foot soldier..."

Steve Parsons

Happy Thanksgiving



## Some Things Upcoming

It's that time of the year when we shift into party mode. As we do this, let's not forget our troops, both those in harms way and those preparing to go or those in a support role. Thanksgiving and Christmas away from home when you are young and in the service can as we all know be a lonely experience. There are several "Adopt a Troop" sites and sites where you can send a message to someone in the service. If nothing else say a prayer and keep a good thought.



### Social News

The Chapter is decorated and ready for the season. When you stop by, please notice the front window. Barb and Susan have done an outstanding job decorating for the season with a veteran's perspective.

Once again I remind everybody that every Wednesday is game night at the Chapter featuring poker and pool which starts about 6:00PM and goes until it's over, you decide. Friday night we have our TGIF. It starts around 6:00 so come on in and meet the membership. Each member is permitted to bring one guest. Remember, every third TGIF is members only. And as usual the third Saturday of each month is our monthly social. We will have a New Years Eve party, which will be on New Years Eve as usual. Come on down to the Chapter and watch the ball drop and kiss a stranger. Don't forget the Super Bowl: more on that later. Last but not least the moment we've all been waiting for Prince William and Kate Middleton will be getting married April 29, can't wait for that.

## Color Guard

The Color Guard has wrapped up another successful marching season and will just do plantings for the rest of the year. Joe Brennan was recently re-elected for yet another term as Color Guard Commander. As is always the story, volunteers are needed. On the subject of volunteers I would like to thank everyone who pitched in this year in one way or the other. I was going to mention a few names but, I know that I would miss half the people who did the "Grunt" work this past year. However I will mention Ken (Mother) Hausman who has been tireless this year with his food coordination and logistics. Helen Forbeck and her crew of elves decorated the Chapter for the Christmas Season and they also deserve a holiday tip of the helmet for such a creative and festive effort, it's worth coming in to see.

By the time you read this the Chapter Christmas party at Rocky Gap will be history. While it is still fresh in your mind let us know how you liked it, or what you didn't like about it. *But*, suggestions for improvement should come with each complaint.



Stuck for some last minute Christmas gifts? Check out the Chapter Store open 8 – 5 Monday thru Friday. Just about everything is on sale and you can help the Chapter also. If you are interested in a Chapter Jacket talk to Barb or Susan about the arrangements and design.



## Mobile Vet Center

A reminder to all veterans that there is a Mobile Vet Center Bus located on the downtown Cumberland Mall. It is there Mondays, 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. and Tuesdays, 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. with a counselor available to discuss combat related concerns with veterans and their families.

*The following is one mans opinion and is offered without comment*

The harassment and discrimination I have encountered by some officers and Board members, over the last few months has to stop here and now. The fact that information from my DD-214 became the topic of conversation on the smoking deck among non-members is unacceptable. There is no leadership among you who took part in this or ignored it. Being a decorated combat veteran and career military man has left me feeling like it's the worst accomplishment of my life. For those of you who have caused me to feel this way (you know who you are). I don't want apologies or friendship from you, I just want to be left alone. I've done my best to serve the membership of Chapter 172, because they're what is most important, and I will continue to do so. I've never downplayed what other vets have experienced and don't expect that from people who call themselves my friends.

Semper Fi  
Chip Sours

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM  
PRESIDENT BOB COOK  
ALL OF THE OFFICERS  
AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
VVA CHAPTER 172**

**PEACE**



*Chapter Office News from Barb and Susan*  
*We would like to wish you all a wonderful*  
*Christmas season . May it be filled with*  
*joy and blessings for you and yours .*  
*Thanks for your patronage in the store.*  
*Se ya next year!!*



**CHAPTER 172 OFFICERS AND BOARD  
FOR  
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### **Disclaimer**

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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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