



VIETNAM VETERANS

ADVANCE

<http://www.vva11.org>



Official Publication of Chapter #11, Vietnam Veterans of America, Farmingville, New York



EVENTS

January, February, March 2024

Jan. 11th	Board Meeting	6:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach
Jan. 26th	General Meeting	8:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach
Feb. 4th	Chapel of the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award	11:30 am	Little White Chapel VAMC, Northport, NY
Feb 8th	Board Meeting	6:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach
Feb. 23th	General Meeting	8:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach
March 3 rd	St. Patrick's Day Parade	12:30 pm Line-up	East Islip Library, Montauk Hwy
March 14th	Board Meeting	6:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach
March 22nd	General Meeting	8:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach

***2nd Wednesday of every month at Calverton National Cemetery 9:45 am NOA Service.**



Welcome Home!

2015 - 2016 OFFICERS

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Clarence Simpson **Vice President**
Home: 631-447-1271

Tom Wharton **Treasurer**
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James O'Donnell **Assistant Secretary**
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Rich Toth
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631-243-9148

From the President's Desk . . .



Dear Chapter Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Erdody and Tom Wharton for their involvement in making the Wall that Heals at Tanner Park a great success. Charles Spencer of Boyd-Spencer Funeral Home arranged for the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 11 to be the lead VSO for this event that took place October 5th through October 8th. The three-quarter replica of the Washington Vietnam Memorial was beautiful, and many members attended in their green jackets. This is just another example of VVA Chapter 11 participation in the community. Thanks to all who attended.

Our next main event will be the Saint Patrick's Day parade in East Islip. This will take place on March 3rd, line-up is at 12:30pm the East Islip Public Library on Montauk Highway. If you have never been to this parade, you are missing a great day out. It's very special, and we lead the parade each year, and are very warmly received by the crowd. Come on out and enjoy the day with your green jackets.

Some exciting things are in the making for our chapter this year. We are planning a golf outing in the fall to raise funds that will go to needy vets. Another way for us to live up to our motto of *Vets Helping Vets*, Tom Wharton will coordinate our involvement in this endeavor. Clarence Simpson is working on a documentary of PFC Garfield M. Langhorn that will be professionally done this year. If all goes well, you just might see the finished product on PBS. Tom is the originator of the PFC Garfield M. Langhorn scholarship fund. Thanks to both Tom and Clarence for their time and efforts.

Each member of our Board of Directors and officers deserves a thank you publicly but it's impossible to do that on a one-page message. That having been said, both Nacola Wilson, Rose D'Aversa and Cathy Kuroly deserve a big thank you from Vietnam Veterans of America along with other wives who lend their support with the general meaning food setup, newsletter, and the product sales. Thank you so much for your help!

Jim O'Donnell will be leading us with his color guard at the parade. He's always looking for a new member to join his team. If you're so inclined give Jim a call. Our color guard is second to none on Long Island among Vietnam vets. Other VSOs are losing members and we gain members each meeting thanks to the efforts and outreach of our membership Chair, Frank D'Aversa. Frank does a wonderful job with his team of mentors in the courts and his visits to the jail. Frank's work along with his team is the epitome of *Vets Helping Vets*.

In closing I would like to say after all these years of serving this chapter I find renewed energy to continue because I have such good men and women assisting us in helping veterans. If you are so inclined to want to get involved just call any member of the board or committee chairs and you will be welcome with open arms. See you all at our next meeting.

Semper Fi.....Rich

PS. A BIG congratulations to Tom Wharton and Joe Cognitore for being inducted to The Legion of Four Chaplains on February 4th.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the VAMC Northport. All Volunteer Opportunities are Monday – Friday.

The following are areas of placement where we need assistance at this time:

Ambulatory Surgery Unit (ASU) – Check patients in and assist families with questions. Looking for early birds 7:30/8am – noon or later.

Red Coat Ambassador Program – Meet and greet in building 200 at front desk – Patient assistance/directions. Schedule is currently being filled. You must commit to a day/time to fill schedule.

Escort – Wheelchair assistance – Flexible hours between 7:30am – 4:00pm.

Units 33/34 – Checking in visitors – Later in the day 2pm – 5pm.

Friendly Companion Program – Visit a patient (or more) on a regular basis. You will be matched with a patient through Social Work Service – minimum 1 hour per week, 1 year commitment.

General Office Duties – Clerical, phones, filing, etc.

Prosthetics Services – Receive deliveries, package items, stock shelves, assisting with paperwork.

DAV Call Center – Schedule DAV Transportation for patient medical appointments.

DAV Driver – Transport patient to/from the VAMC Northport for medical appointments utilizing our DAV Vans.

If you have an interest in one or more of these areas, feel free to reach out to me anytime.

Jennifer Pohl

Voluntary Services Specialist

VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE)

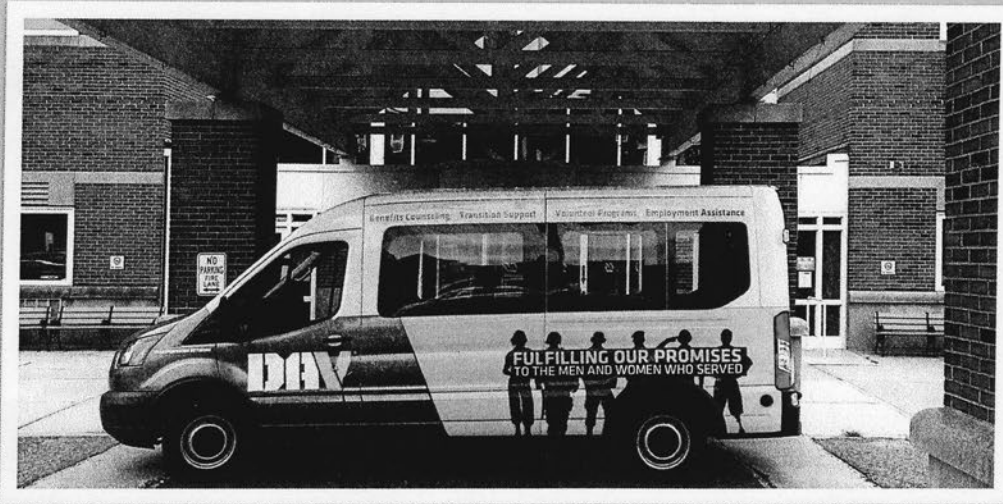
Department of Veterans Affairs

79 Middleville Road

Northport, NY 11768

Building 9, Room 116

Phone (631) 261-4400 ext. 7182



**Volunteer drivers are needed
to help America's veterans get to
VA medical appointments!**

**Join the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Volunteer Transportation Network today.**

If you have a valid NYS driver's license and a little time,
you can make a positive difference in the lives of local veterans.

To learn about becoming a volunteer driver, please contact:

Robert.Erdody@va.gov / 631-235-8220

For a Volunteer Application contact:

Jennifer.Pohl2@VA.gov / 631-261-4400, ext. 7182



*Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 11
Annual Thanksgiving Turkey and Ham Donation*



*2023 Veterans Day at
Long Island State Veterans Nursing Home*



*Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter #11
2023 Holiday Celebration*



***VAMC Director /VSO meeting and
Tour of the Patchogue CBOC***



CHRISTMAS TREE DONATED TO THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



CHAPEL OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS
LEGION OF HONOR AWARD
JOSEPH COGNITORE AND THOMAS WHARTON



Wall of Wars

Over the years, the veterans of this country, along with their families have protected us time and again so that we may live as free people in this country we love. The veterans alive today understand the sacrifices they have made – and they understand, honor, and respect the sacrifices of those that served before them. There, in Northport, at the Medical Center, exists a place of tranquility and safety for our veterans - and for all visitors – to reflect on these sacrifices and our nation’s great history. In 2009, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden was constructed. Building upon this Memorial Garden and a stage and patio was added in 2011...and now it is time to add the third and final phase of this project:

“The Wall of Wars”.

Spanning from the American Revolution, to today’s global War on Terror, the Wall will include twelve granite monuments that each depict a period of history in America

Veterans, their families and friends, and visitors of all ages will be able to walk among the monuments and reflect on the history of this country and those that have served, sacrificed, and died for the protection of our freedom.

Imagine the veterans visiting, healing, and living at the Medical Center having a place to sit and quietly reflect on what they and those before them have achieved. Imagine the therapeutic effects of sharing these reflections with their fellow service members, or their children and grandchildren. The Wall of Wars will become a place to honor, remember, and educate. In time, we plan to add features such as audio narratives and smart phone applications to enhance the visitors experience and highlight the contributions of brave Americans.

Wall of Wars Memorial
(631) 651-8006 - www.WallofWars.com



My healthvet

My Health, My Care: 24/7 Online Access to VA

VA Allergies and Adverse Reactions

Information for Patients

Contact: Valerie Drautz, 631-261-4400 - Ext. 5358

- *Empowering Veterans*
- *Improving Health Outcomes*
- *24/7 Access to VA Information*

How to find VA Allergies and Adverse Reactions on My HealtheVet

Log on to: www.myhealth.va.gov

Select: Go to My HealtheVet and press Enter

Other Important Features:

VA Prescription Refills, VA Appointments, Medical Libraries, Wellness Reminders

Agent Orange Overview

Many Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange continue to experience health problems related to their exposure, but not all of them are able to claim disability benefits through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). Although a recent VA ruling is making compensation more accessible for those with Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease and hairy cell leukemia, there are still thousands whose illnesses are not considered service-connected by VA.

For many Navy and Coast Guard vets, the problem in proving their health problems are related to their military service begins with their off-shore duty. Because Agent Orange (AO), a blend of toxic herbicides used to remove leaves from trees that provided cover for enemy forces, was predominantly sprayed over jungles, the VA presumes services connection only for those who can prove they had "boots on the ground" or served on inland rivers. Many veterans who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam, so called "blue water" veterans, were exposed to the chemical when planes over-sprayed their ships or shifting winds blew the toxins seaward, but their service does not automatically provide presumptive status for AO-related illnesses.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Have you forgotten to renew your membership?

If so, below is a sample of the letter that you will receive requesting your renewal.



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Suffolk Chapter #11
Vietnam Memorial Lane
Post Office Box 518
Farmingville, New York 11738-0518
www.vva11.org



Date

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN TO RENEW YOUR VVA CHAPTER 11 MEMBERSHIP

Dear

A review of our records indicates that you have not renewed your VVA Chapter 11 membership.

Usually, membership renewal notices are sent from the VVA National Headquarters in Silver Springs, Maryland. This has been confusing to some of our members because they think it is the usual "Please send us a donation" request. Many people do not even open the envelope when they see the return address.

We do not want to lose you as a member. The more members we have the stronger VVA becomes. I have enclosed a renewal form for your convenience.

Our meetings are still held the fourth Friday of the month at our new location the Brookhaven Town Recreation Building, 286 Hawkins Road, Centereach, NY 11720. Please note: there are No General Meetings in July and December unless otherwise notified.

Remember ... We are Vets Helping Vets !

Sincerely,

Frank D'Aversa

Frank D'Aversa
Membership Chairperson
VVA Chapter 11



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc

Application for Membership

Welcome to all Veterans who served during the Vietnam Era

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between **February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975**, or in any duty location between **August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975**.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Gender: _____

(OPTIONAL) Chapter Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

VVA has only one category of membership:

Life Membership: \$50

ATTENTION New members:

You must submit a copy of your DD- 214 form along with this application and dues payment.

Please make your check or money order payable to: Vietnam Veterans of America

Mail to: VVA Chapter 11, PO Box 518, Farmingville, NY 11738-0518

Questions Call: Frank D'Aversa

(631) 265-7525 or (631) 972-5708 (cell phone)

O.B. Davis Funeral Homes
 Port Jefferson Station, Miller Place, Centereach
 (631) 473-0360

Gregory C. Muller
 NYS Licensed Funeral Director
 Advanced Planning Counselor

Services & Information Available:

- Price Guaranteed Prearranged Funerals
 - VVA Chapter 11 Affinity Relationship 10% Discount
 - Planning Ahead Workshops
 - Veterans Burial Benefits
-
- Irrevocable Medicaid Trusts
 - Grief Management Library
 - Homeless Veterans Burial Program



Dignity Memorial hosts ten locations in Suffolk County and seven locations in Nassau County.

Greg is a Lifetime Associate Member of Chapter 11
Call him today at 631.664.4625

**New York State law mandates that all contracts for prearranged funeral agreements executed by applicants for or recipients of supplemental social security income or medical assistance be irrevocable.*

Edward T. McIntyre
 Partner

Direct: (631) 240-0785
 (212) 257-4250
Cell: (631) 921-5499
Fax: (631) 665-7409

Web: www.nycomplaw.co

HEILIG BRANIGAN, LLP

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Meeting Place

**Brookhaven Town
Parks &
Recreation Bldg.**

**New Village
Recreation Center
20 Wireless Rd.
Centereach, NY**

**Day & Time
4th Friday of each
Month
8:00 PM**

If you were in Vietnam or served during the Vietnam years, you know what it was like. You also know what it's been like since you got home, right? The problems, the hassles, trying to explain to people who didn't understand or care. We know. That's why the **Vet Center** was set up.
**116 W. Main Street
Babylon, NY 11702
(631) 661-3930**

**MEETING
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Next General Meeting
will be held on the**

**4th Friday
of each Month**

**VVA Meetings are open to the public: Spouse, friends and supporters of
Vietnam and Vietnam-Era Veterans. We urge all to attend.**