

VIETNAM VETERANS ADVANCE

<http://www.vva11.org>

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

EVENTS

January, February, March 2023

Feb. 24	General Meeting	8:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY
Mar. 5	St. Patricks Day Parade	1:00 pm – Line-up	East Islip Library, Montauk Hwy.
Mar. 9	Board Meeting	6:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY
Mar. 24	General Meeting	8:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY

April Elections (2 Year Term)

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



Welcome Home!

2022 - 2024 OFFICERS

Rich Kitson **President**
Cell: 631-942-0105

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

Tom Wharton **Treasurer**
Home: 631-521-0094

Dave Higgins **Secretary**
Home: 631-736-0737

James O'Donnell **Assistant Secretary**
Home: 516-752-2915

2020 – 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRANK D'AVERSA
631-265-7525

RAY GWYDIR
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BILL HOLOP
631-243-9148

RICH TOTH
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BOB MOORE
631-277-8105

RICH O'BRIEN
631-521-0094

Mel Cohen
631-278-9325

Randy Schnittger
516-731-4465

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Ray Gwydir
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Homeless Veterans
Clarence Simpson
631-447-1271

Nominating
Ralph Zanchelli
631-665-5323

POW / MIA
James O'Donnell
516-752-2915

Patient Welfare / PTSD
Clarence Simpson
631-447-1271
Mel Cohen
631-278-9325

VETERANS BENEFITS
Jessie James DAV/VVA
631-261-4400 x 7191
Joe Butera/DAV
Service Offices
631-261-4400 x 7191

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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631-265-7525
Clarence Simpson
Dave Higgins

MINORITY AFFAIRS
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Grace Mehl
631-724-5053

Constitution
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631-447-1271

AVVA Liaison
Nacola Wilson
631-849-2825
Rose D'Aversa
631-265-7525
Sue Stoll
631-567-8651

**Veterans Incarcerated
& in the Justice System**
Ralph Zanchelli
631-665-5323
Frank D'Aversa
631-265-7525
Clarence Simpson
631-447-1271

Community Services
Clarence Simpson
631-447-1271
Randy Schnittger
516-731-4465

Agent Orange

Keith Cronin
631-560-0364
Ed Stoll
631-567-8651

Employment & Business

Randy Schnittger
516-731-4465
Clarence Simpson
631-447-1271

Chaplain

Monsignor
Charles R. Fink
Rabbi Paul Swerdlow
VA Hospital Chaplain

State Delegates

Bob Moore 631-277-8105
Rich Toth 631-226-6927
Clarence Simpson 631-447-1271

AD-HOC COMMITTEES**VA Hospital**

Rich Kitson
631-942-0105

Pinelawn

Rich Toth
631-226-6927

Merchandise Sales

Frank D'Aversa/
Rose D'Aversa
631-265-7525

Newsletter & Photography

Clarence Simpson/Nicola Wilson
631-447-1271 631-849-2825

COLOR GUARD

James O'Donnell
516-752-2915

BALD HILL

Bill Holop
631-243-9148
James O'Donnell
516-752-2915
Rich O'Brien
631-521-0094
Mel Cohen
631-278-9325

BENEVOLENT

Frank D'Aversa
631-265-7525

VETS COURT

Ralph Zanchelli
631-665-5323
Frank D'Aversa
631-265-7525
Clarence Simpson
631-447-1271

CALVERTON

Mel Cohen 631-278-9325
Dave Higgins 631-736-0737

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Bill Holop
631-243-9148

From the President's Desk . . .



Dear Chapter Members:

The hiatus caused by the COVID-19 has been a great challenge for all of us. After two years we are finally able to meet face to face with little risk of infection. It has been wonderful to see each other once again face to face, but at the same time it is sad to realize all those Chapter members, family and friends who are no longer with us as a result of the COVID pandemic. I will not list all the names of those who have gone on before us during this time, but they will be missed and not forgotten by us all. May they rest in peace.

Tony Raiona and his wife Peggy have decided to move to the Carolinas to be closer to their family. Tony served this Chapter faithfully for 12 years as our Treasurer. Tony stood for all that is great about Chapter 11 and projected a positive image that the “green jackets” have displayed for decades in Suffolk County. I wish he and Peggy all the happiness in the world and thank them for all the service that they have given us. Come and see us anytime you're back up in New York. Tom Wharton has been gracious enough to assume the duties as Treasurer, Tom is a highly qualified CPA and his partner Ray Gwydir has volunteered to assist him as needed. Ray is also a CPA and an attorney and the newest member of our board. I'm so grateful to have these men who are now a part of our team.

Congratulations to Vice President Clarence Simpson to be named a member of the Board of Directors for the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook. This is the most prestigious appointment, and one that I am very proud to say was given to the right person the best of the best when it comes to green jackets. Congratulations my dear friend Clarence and thank you so much for your service for all of our veterans. I also want to thank Nacola Wilson who is the editor and chief of this newsletter. Thank you and all the VVA members for all you do for the Chapter.

I could thank each and every board member and officer individually for what an incredible job they've done throughout this time of crisis, but it would be too lengthy. Suffice it to say, that these are the most honorable and dedicated men one could ask for it to serve all veterans in Chapter 11. Thanks to you one and all for getting us through the difficult times. The better times lie ahead and we will bring our chapter back to the way it was prior to COVID. Please look at the upcoming events and make the ones you can. See you all at the next meeting.

Semper Fi.....Rich

IN MEMORY OF



JOSEPH J. INGINO, SR.
12/18/47 – 12/3/22

IN MEMORY OF



MARY GRACE SCHNITTGER
JULY 7, 1945 – DECEMBER 7, 2022

IN MEMORY OF

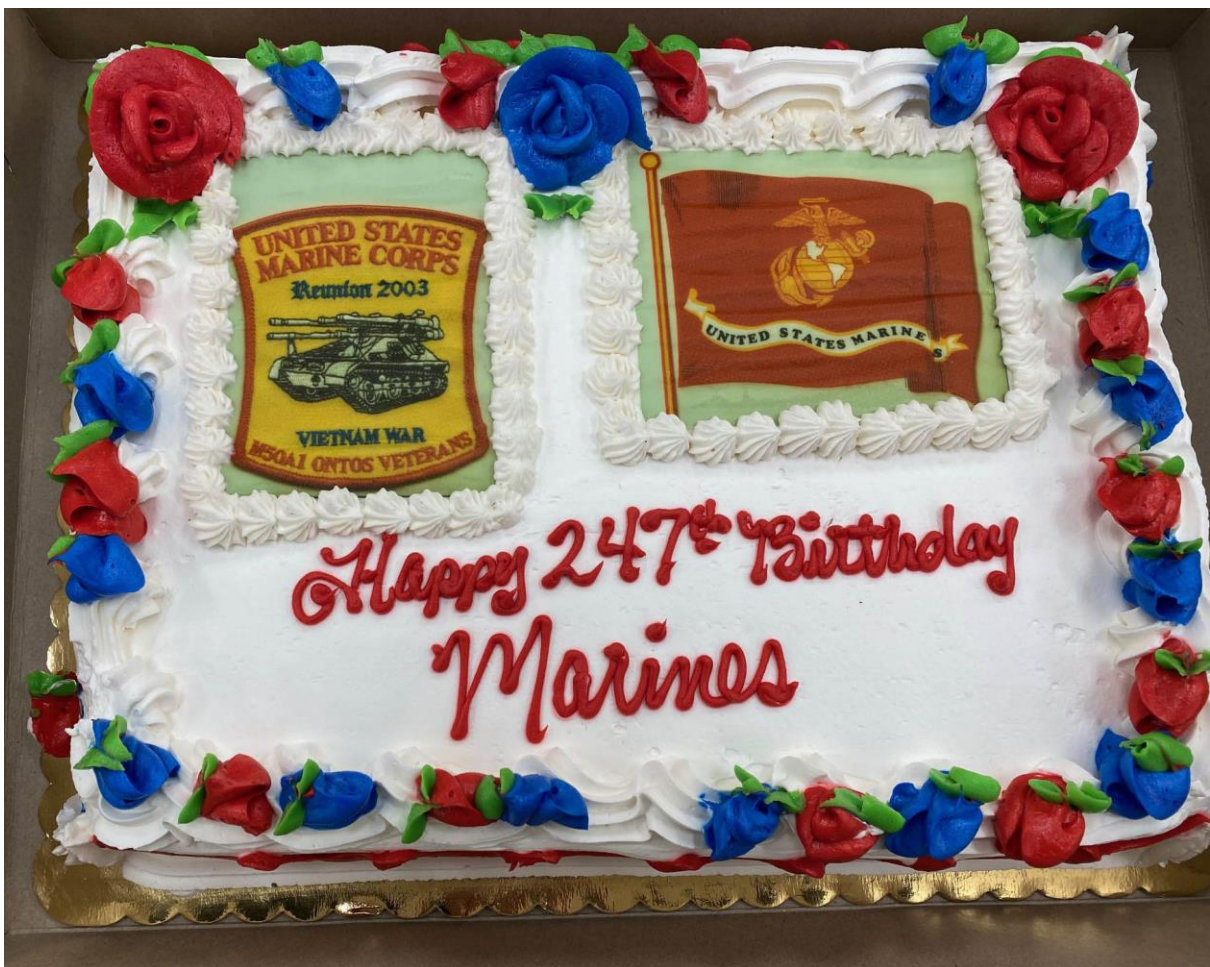


STEVEN STEINBAUM
MARCH 10, 1949 – FEBRUARY 5, 2023

PFC GARFIELD M. LANGHORN
DAY PROCLAMATION
THE 2ND FRIDAY OF EACH OCTOBER
RIVERHEAD TOWN



**November 10th
USMC 247th
Birthday Celebration**



WOUNDED WARRIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SOFTBALL GAME



*Jim O'Donnell Receives Award
For VVA #11 Color Guard of the Year
July 4th Southampton Parade*



**VVA CHAPTER #11
COLOR GUARDS
IN WASHINGTON D.C
FOR VETERANS DAY**

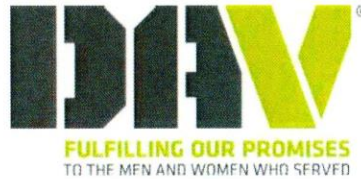


Thomas Wilson

James Soper

John Kuroly

Jim O'Donnell



DAV VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!!!

Many veterans are unable to access the Department of Veterans Affairs VA Medical Center (VAMC) due to transportation difficulties.

Some veterans who live too far from the Northport VAMC simply do not have the means to get to their medical appointments.

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Transportation Network tries to fill that gap by providing veterans with free transportation.

This service, staffed by volunteers, is now in critical need of more DAV Drivers.

If you are available 1 day per week (M-F approx. 6am - 2pm) and have a valid NY State Driver's License we need you on our team.

Email: JENNIFER.POHL2@VA.GOV

or call (631) 261-4400 ext. 7182

Please Include Your Full Name and Contact Phone Number

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

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





NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

- Yes, I want to support the Wall of Wars Project and honor our veterans with a contribution of \$ _____.
- I do not wish to be recognized with a donor category.
- I am pleased to select the following donor category/naming opportunity:

Friends of the Wall of Wars

(Five Star and Four Star donors will be recognized on Commemorative Monument)

- | | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Five Star ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Granite Benches* (6 available) | \$ 5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Four Star ★ ★ ★ ★ | \$ 5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Benches* | \$ 3,500 |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorative Lamps* (9 available) | \$ 2,500 |
- *Engraved

Engraved Bricks

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23" x 23" | 4 lines, 15 characters per line | \$ 1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23" x 17" | 4 lines, 15 characters per line | \$ 750 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 23" x 11" | 4 lines, 15 characters per line | \$ 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17" x 17" | 4 lines, 15 characters per line | \$ 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 17" x 11" | 4 lines, 15 characters per line | \$ 250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11" x 11" | 3 lines, 15 characters per line | \$ 150 |

Engraved Brick Memorial Acknowledgment

Please print inscription clearly. It will be inscribed exactly as entered. One character per box (spaces count as one character).

LINE 1:

LINE 2:

LINE 3:

LINE 4:

(LINE 4 NOT INCLUDED FOR 11" x 11" BRICK)

Donated By

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please make checks payable to Vietnam Veterans/Wall of Wars and mail to:
Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 518, Farmingville, NY 11738

To donate online, visit: www.WallofWars.com

100% of all donations are going to the Wall of Wars Memorial

For more information, please contact: (631) 651-8006 • www.WallofWars.com



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)

MEMBERSHIP

All Are Welcome

Membership is open to both men and women.
Friends, supporters, and families.
We encourage associate membership.

If you served in the U.S. Armed Forces anytime from February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975, you are eligible for membership in Vietnam Veterans of America.

Dues are \$ 20.00 per year.



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 11 SERVICES & PROGRAMS

TIMOTHY DUFFY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Annual scholarship for dependents of Vietnam veterans.

SSGT. ALAN F. SCHAEFER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Annual scholarship for Vietnam era veterans.

POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Annual scholarship for Vietnam era veterans, their dependents and Chapter 11 members.

AGENT ORANGE INFORMATION

POW/MIA INFORMATION

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

QUARTERLY "Interchange" NYS PUBLICATION

MONTHLY "Veteran" NATIONAL PUBLICATION

QUARTERLY "Vietnam Veterans Advance" NEWSLETTER



Web Site Addresses

Veterans Employment & Training Services

www.dol.gov/vets

Governor's Program to Hire Disabled Vets

www.cs.state.ny.us

N.Y.S. Dept. of Labor Workforce NY

www.labor.state.ny.us

Helping Young Vets In Employment (Senator Craig)

<http://veterans.senate.gov>

Public Law 107-288 – Jobs for Veterans Act

www.hirevetsfirst.org

Helmets to Hard Hats

www.helmetstohardhats.org

Center for Minority Affairs

www.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans

Gravesite Locator

<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>

New York State Council Web Site

www.NYVietnamVets.org

Vietnam Vets Donation Pickup

www.WePickUp.com

Community Directory

VA Regional Office	(212) 620-6901
VA Medical Center-Northport	(631) 261-4400
Suffolk County Dept. of Labor	
Hauppauge	(631) 853-6775
Babylon	(631) 661-8600
Riverhead	(631) 284-6100
NYS Dept. of Labor – OVOPs	
Hicksville	(516) 934-8516
Hauppauge	(631) 952-6630
Patchogue	(631) 758-7712
Riverhead	(631) 727-4870
Small Business Administration	(631) 454-8080
Woman's Coalition – 24 Hrs.	(631) 566-8833
Suffolk Cty. Veterans Service Agency	
Hauppauge	(631) 853-8387
Riverhead	(631) 852-1410
NYS Div. of Veterans Affairs	(631) 952-6432
Northport VA Medical Center	(631) 261-4400
Response (24 Hours)	(631) 751-7500
Alcoholics Anonymous	(631) 654-1124
Al-Anon / Al-Ateen	(631) 654-2827
Gamblers Anonymous	(631) 586-7171
Parents Anonymous	(800) 462-6406
Narcotics Anonymous	(718) 805-9835
Pot / Pills Anonymous	(631) 422-6245
Child Abuse	(800) 342-3720
Domestic Violence	(800) 942-6906
Newsletter Fax	(631) 395-3319
	(631) 244-7423
Vietnam Vets Donation Pick Up	(631) 582-0242

V A TOLL FREE NUMBERS

V A Benefits	1-800-827-1000
Education (GI Bill)	1-888-442-4551
Health Care Benefits	1-877-222-8387
Income Verification & Means Test	1-800-929-8387
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
Mammography Helpline	1-888-492-7844
Special Issues	1-800-749-8387
Status of Headstones & Markers	1-800-697-6947
TDD for the Deaf	1-800-829-4833



HAVE A FEW ITEMS

YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE?

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Would greatly appreciate your tax deductible donation of used items. This is our primary source of support for helping veterans. Your support makes it possible for us to continue funding V.A. service offices, providing services to homeless veterans and other necessary programs.

Kitchenware	Lamps	Toys
Bric-A-Brac	Jewelry	Furniture
Dishes	Area Rugs	T.V.'s
Radios	Books	Housewares
Small Appliances		Other Items

CLOTHING ESPECIALLY NEEDED

FREE PICK UP

(631) 582-0242

www.WePickUp.org

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

Ralph G. Ferrara
Gary P. Miller

Services & Information Available:

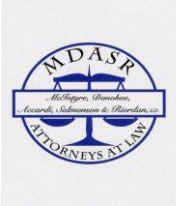
- Price Guaranteed Prearranged Funerals
 - VVA Chapter 11 Affinity Relationship 10% Discount
 - Planning Ahead Workshops
 - Veterans Burial Benefits
-
- Irrevocable Medicaid Trusts
 - Grief Management Library
 - Homeless Veterans Burial Program



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


Gary is a Lifetime Associate Member of
VVA Chapter 11
Call him today at 631.473.0360

**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

Attorneys at Law

4250 Veterans Memorial Highway – Suite 111E
 Holbrook, NY 11741

HBMLAW@OPTIMUM.NET

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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

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**

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



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Chapter # 11
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 FARMINGVILLE, NY 11738-0518

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“We Served Our Country when it was Popular To Say No”