



VIETNAM VETERANS

ADVANCE



<http://www.vva11.org>

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



EVENTS

October, November, December 2023

Sept. 14	Board Meeting	6:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY
Sept. 22	General Meeting	8:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY
Oct. 5 th – 8 th	<i>“The Wall That Heals”</i>	24 Hour Access	Tanner Park Kerrigan Road, Copaugue, NY
Oct. 12	Board Meeting	6:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY
Oct. 13	PFC Garfield M. Langhorn Assembly Program	8:30 am	Pulaski Street Elementary School Pulaski Street, Riverhead, NY
Oct. 27	General Meeting	8:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY
Nov. 5	St Patricks Church Mass	10:30 am	St. Patrick’s R.C. Church, Smithtown, NY
Nov. 5	Veterans Day Ceremony	1:30 pm	Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn NY
Nov. 9	Board Meeting	6:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Ceremony	12:30 pm – Line-up	Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY
Nov. 30	General Meeting	8:00 pm	New Village Recreation Center 20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY



Welcome Home!

EVENTS

October, November, December 2023

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Dec. 14 Board Meeting 6:00 pm New Village Recreation Center
20 Wireless Road, Centereach, NY

No General Meeting in December. Next General Meeting will be January 20, 2024.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

***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: 631-698-8014

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

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

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631-261-4400 x 7191
Joe Butera/DAV
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631-849-2825
Rose D'Aversa
631-265-7525
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& in the Justice System**
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631-665-5323
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Clarence Simpson
631-447-1271

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Randy Schnittger
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Ed Stoll
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516-731-4465
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631-447-1271

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Monsignor
Charles R. Fink
Rabbi Paul Swerdlow
VA Hospital Chaplain

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

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631-942-0105

Pinelawn

Rich Toth
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Rose D'Aversa
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Dave Higgins 631-736-0737

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Bill Holop
631-243-9148

From the President's Desk . . .



Dear Chapter Members:

This time of the year brings our chapter together for numerous events. They are listed on the front cover of this publication and if there are any additions, we will inform you via phone message. One of the highlights of the fall will be the ¾ replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall which will be viewed in Tanner Park in the Town of Babylon from October 5th through October 8th. It should be noted that Joe Ingino will be remembered in a special way at the Wall since he worked for the Town of Babylon. For those whom did not know Joe, he was a very special guy and the Southern Director of VVA. Joe was a kind and dear friend to all of us; He passed in December and he will never be forgotten. Please note that our general meeting in November is on a different date due to the availability of our meeting place as it relates to Thanksgiving.

A special thanks to Jimmy O'Donnell for winning second place at the Southampton Parade on the 4th of July. The color guard looked outstanding and we had at least 35 members marching behind them. It was a great time had by all who attended and for those members who missed this year; please don't miss next year, because it is a special day out! Thank you to all of our board members and officers. During this post Covid recovery period, they have brought this chapter back to where our meetings are full and we are back on the calendar doing important things in our quest to live up to our motto "*Vets Helping Vets*". Thank you to Nacola Wilson for getting this newsletter out to all of us. Thank you to Rose D'Aversa for being so diligent in selling our product. Lastly, thanks to all VVA spouses who come to our meetings and help out with the food and the cleanup. You are all greatly appreciated.

The Memorial Day services in both cemeteries were greatly attended by all members. The color guard looked great, and in Calverton we had more members than all the VSO's combined. I'm sure the Veterans Day ceremonies will be as well attended by all chapter members. There are many other events that we participated in and I want to thank Dave Higgins for getting the message out by robo calls to all members. If you haven't given Dave your phone number, please do so as soon as possible. Dave is also responsible for all the good food at our meetings. Thanks Dave!! I would be remiss if I didn't mention Clarence Simpson, my dear friend and Vice President who once again picked up the pieces and assisted Tom Wharton with the treasury and our mail. Frank D'Aversa continues to lead our chapter with defending incarcerated veterans in Vets Court and supports them in jail. This is one of the most significant things we do and it certainly highlights "*Vets Helping Vets*".

This chapter is the finest chapter in the United States. Take a look at the members of our board and our officers and ask anyone of them if you would like to help in our mission of "*Vets Helping Vets*". Bob Erdody heads the DAV transportation at the VA hospital and serves on our board and is always looking for help to drive our veterans to their appointments. Our chapter board and officers are the finest group of men I've yet to meet being associated with VVA after all these years. Come on out to meet us all at our next meeting.

I wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season. God bless you all and God bless America.

Semper Fi.....Rich

Poem

Submitted by Rabbi Swerdlow

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast.

And he sat around the Legion

Telling stories of the past

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes o his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little pooer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his childen and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
"Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,

Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our county now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A VETERAN DIED TODAY"

PFC GARFIELD M. LANGHORN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Annual \$1,000 scholarship and numerous \$100 scholarships will be awarded to descendants of Vietnam Veterans and/or Vietnam Era Veterans

Garfield was a true American hero who sacrificed his life by protecting wounded platoon from enemy attack by throwing himself on a live grenade on January 15, 1969 in Pleiku Province, Vietnam.

Garfield was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously on April 7 1970 by President Richard M. Nixon to Mr. and Mrs. Garfield M. Langhorn Sr. and siblings at the White House.

Please submit an essay of 250 words with the students name and contact information on the topic ***“Why I am proud of Garfield M. Langhorn and to be an American” no later than December 31, 2023.***

Awards will be announced the week of January 15, 2024.

Eligibility:

- The applicant must be a descendent of a Vietnam Veteran or Vietnam Era Veteran.
- A Vietnam Veteran or Vietnam Era Veteran who has no descendants is authorized to sponsor one family member as an applicant
- The applicant must be enrolled in an accredited college, university or trade school
- Essays must be mailed by December 31, 2023 to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #11
PO Box 518
Farmingville, NY 11738



THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

OCTOBER 5th - 8th
2023



TANNER PARK

Kerrigan Road • Copiague, NY 11726 • 24 hr Access • Closing 2 p.m. Sunday

Hosted by:
Town of Babylon & Babylon IDA
Claude R. Boyd-Spencer Funeral Home
VVA Chapter 11

For more information:
Call: 631-957-3127
Visit: townofbabylon.com

VVMF ANNOUNCES 2023 THE WALL THAT HEALS TOUR SCHEDULE

11-17-22



Photo courtesy of Maverick Transportation, LLC in Cabot, Arkansas

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall and Mobile Education Center spreads healing legacy of The Wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War

Washington, D.C. – As the nation begins the yearlong recognition of the 50th anniversary of the close of the Vietnam War, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has announced *The Wall That Heals* national tour schedule for 2023. *The Wall That Heals* exhibit includes a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center. The 28th season of *The Wall That Heals* will begin on March 16th, 2023, in San Luis Obispo, California and visit 32 communities during the year. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Kerrigan Road Copiague, NY 11726 United States + Google Map



Note: The Wall That Heals is on display around the clock from October 5-8, 2023 providing the opportunity to visit during early morning and overnight hours when there will be fewer visitors.

Tuesday, October 3

Escort Meetup Location: 255 Hempstead Tpke, Uniondale, NY 11553

- 10:00 am Meetup
- 10:45 am Ride Briefing
- 11:00 am Depart
- 11:45 am Arrive at Tanner Park

Wednesday, October 4

- 8:30 am Setup the Wall That Heals
- 6:00 pm Volunteer training

Thursday, October 5

- The Wall That Heals Open 24 hours for visitors
- 4:00 pm Opening Ceremony
- Sunset Taps

Friday, October 6

- The Wall That Heals Open 24 hours for visitors
- 6:00 pm Purple Heart & Candlelight Vigil
- Sunset Taps

Saturday, October 7

- The Wall That Heals Open 24 hours for visitors
- Sunset Taps

Sunday, October 8

- The Wall That Heals is open till 2:00 pm
- 1:45 pm Closing ceremony
- 2:00 pm The Wall That Heals closes and breakdown



**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:

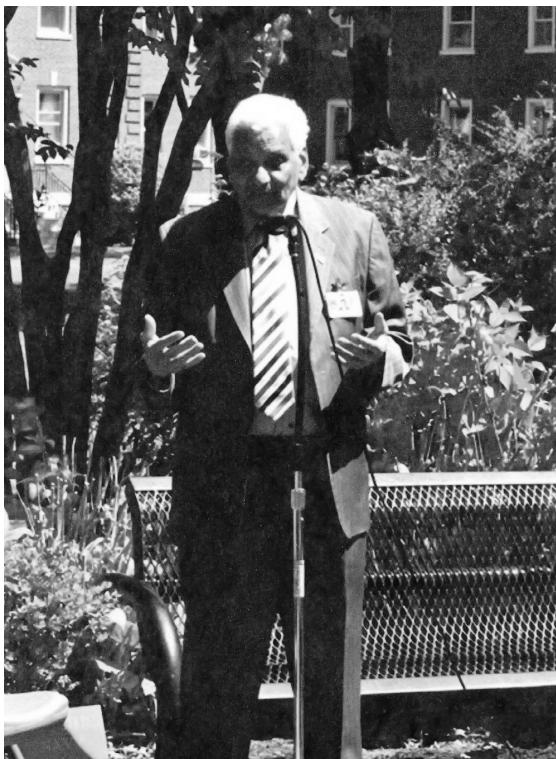
Jennifer.Pohl2@VA.gov / 631-261-4400, ext. 7182



2023 ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE



Memorial Service for Walter Stobe At Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden



Dr. Krish



Mrs. W. Stobe

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) 6542827
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

Edward G Heilig
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Chapter # 11
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FARMINGVILLE, NY 11738-0518

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Farmingville, NY 11738
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*Forwarding and Return
Postage Guaranteed*



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



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.**