

# — 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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## Chapter Election Results

The moment you have all been waiting for. 69 members showed up for the elections Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup>. The air was charged with excitement, you could cut the tension with a knife, cigar smoke hung heavy in the back room where secret deals were made and manipulated. Maybe that is an exaggeration it really wasn't anything like that. Everything remained peaceful and friendly, but you can always hope. There were no big shockers; in fact there were no shockers at all. The Board of Directors and officers remained the same.

Pres. Bobby Cook (unopposed), First VP Steve Parsons (unopposed), Second VP Bob Peck (unopposed), Secretary Bill Lange (unopposed).

Treasurer Stan Kline (47 votes), Marty Kolb 17

Board of Directors

David Shaulis (57), Chip Bosley (50), Rodger Long (48), Joe Brennan (46), Mike Saunders (42), Ike Meade (36).....Ray Everly (35). Rich Mellott (34) and James Meade (14).

Steve Pryor and Ed Long were both elected unopposed to the Nomination Committee.

I have always been told that a poor election turnout means the voters are satisfied with the way things are being run. You tell me.

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## Chapter Memorial Service

Friday May 17 at 1600 the annual Chapter Memorial Service for deceased Chapter members will be held at the Chapter home. This event is open to members in good standing only. This is also members only Friday.

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## Gary Valentine Memorial Fundraiser

The second annual Gary Valentine Memorial Fundraiser and Poker Tournament will be held at the Chapter home Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1900. Members only poker tournament begins at 1930 buy in is \$35 --- spectators \$10.00 each (members and their guest only). The time on the tournament has been back by popular request. This is a no limit three raise, no re-buys event. Ante only no blinds, ante goes up every 20 minutes. Pay-off depends on number of players. Light snacks and beverages etc.

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## National Website

If you haven't checked out the VVA National website there is an excellent short video concerning Agent Orange which is full of good information, worth watching.

## Some Sad News

An old friend of Chapter 172 passed away this week, Tom Minke, known to the poker club as "Old Tom." Tom was a Merchant Marine veteran of WWII and a US Navy veteran of the Korean War where he managed to earn a Purple Heart. For years Tom was a regular at the Wednesday night poker game. Every time Tom won a hand as he raked the pot in he would say. "The main thing is not to get excited." If you grew up in Cumberland you may remember him as the enforcer at Minke's Swimming Pool. As he got older Tom approached death with a very cavalier attitude. He was a lifelong smoker who refused to see the need to quit. When we told him he could no longer smoke in the Chapter home he called us a bunch of pussies. During the poker game when somebody coughed Tom would very unceremoniously say. "I had an uncle who coughed just like that before he died." He was one of the old breed and we're going to miss him. *So long pal.*

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## Help Wanted

If you are one of those people who are always asking "What can I do for the Chapter?" We may have a job for you; If you have the necessary qualifications. We need somebody with a great personality. You must be able to add and subtract, you may use your fingers. Are you capable of being friendly as well as loud? Are you gregarious? Do you like to have fun and see others have fun? Then this may be the job for you! We need an able body or two to spin the chuck-o-luck wheel, the wheel, the wheel of fortune.

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## Here We Go Again

### Editorial Opinion

We've made it through the never ending winter and spring has sprung, at least here in pleasant valley. As we get ready for summer that means Memorial Day is also close. What with all the great sales and picnics and parties. Unfortunately that is what Memorial Day has come to mean for a majority of Americans. Recently the country of Israel observed "Holocaust Remembrance Day". At two pm the entire country came to a stop. I saw a picture of a major highway in that country where traffic had stopped and the people got out of their cars and stood there with their hand over their heart and heads bowed. I thought that it was inspiring. I wish we could do something like that in this country. I know we can't do that on our highways there just too dam big. But what we as veterans can do is educate our neighbors. Explain to our young citizens the meaning of Memorial Day and why we should be humbled for a few minutes each year.

It has always been a wonder to me how this country fights its wars. Professional soldiers lead the way but the rank and file, the majority, are just everyday people who stood up and said something like "I can help, count me in." People who were school teachers one week and ground pounders the next. I remember reading about a man who listed his occupation as "farm hand." He was from New Creek, WV. Now you can imagine how small New Creek was in 1942. But he enlisted went to Florida for anti-aircraft gunners school and was then sent to Burma, perhaps the most remote place in the world, but he did his duty. When it was all over he came home in 1945 and went back to being a farm hand. It was just an inconvenience to him he was yanked off the farm sent to the other side of the world that he in all probability had never heard of and did his duty, because that is where he was needed.

This is why people like him and people like us need to be remembered, they (we) went where we were needed and a "thank you" to the fallen doesn't seem like too much to do.

Steve Parsons

May 2013

**Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 172**  
**Upcoming Events - 2013**

*TGIF Every Friday - Member and one guest except for  
the third Friday of each month which is MEMBERS ONLY*

**SATURDAY SOCIALS - 3rd Saturday of every month - Member and one guest**

Memorial Service - Friday - May 17th - 4:00pm at the Chapter Home -  
Members Only - No one will be permitted upstairs  
once the service begins

Family Picnic - Saturday - June 15th - Ali Ghan Shrine Picnic Ground

Adult Steak Feed - Saturday - September 21st - Mt. Savage Fire Hall

Christmas Dinner & Dance - Saturday - November 30th - Cumberland  
Outdoor Club

New Years Eve Party - Tuesday - December 31st - Chapter Home

**Board of Directors Meeting and Membership Meetings**

Board of Director meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm  
Membership meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm

**Chapter Office Hours**

The Chapter Office is open Monday thru Friday 8:00am till 5pm  
Closed on Saturday and Sunday

**Holidays and Closings**

Good Friday - Friday, March 29, 2013

Memorial Day - Monday, May 27, 2013

4th of July - Thursday, July 4, 2013

Labor Day - Monday, September 2, 2013

Veterans Day - Monday, November 11, 2013

Thanksgiving - Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29, 2013

Christmas - Wednesday & Thursday, December 25 & 26, 2013

New Years - Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Monday, January 20, 2014

## Prayer For Religious Liberty

O God Our Creator,  
from your provident hand we have received  
our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit happiness.  
You have called us as your people and given us  
the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God,  
and your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,  
you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,  
bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel  
to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us  
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.  
Give us the strength of mind and heart  
to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;  
give us courage in making our voices heard  
on behalf of the rights of your Church  
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,  
a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters  
gathered in your Church  
in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,  
so that, with every trial withstood  
and every danger overcome —  
for the sake of our children, our grand children,  
and all who come after us —  
this great land will always be “one nation, under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

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### *Namaste!*

Yoga Classes will begin again on Wednesday, May 1st at  
1:00pm, for six weeks. Due to the limited class size, you  
must call the chapter to reserve a space (301) 777-7001.

It will be on a first come basis with 18 openings.



## COMING SOON....Adopt a Highway

For those who are interested in cleaning up our stretch of Route 36 from Motor City to Cash Valley , please stop by the Chapter and sign up as well as fill out a Participant's Agreement with the State Highway. Chip Bosley will contact you with the exact date and time which should be sometime in June.

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## First Annual Disabled Veterans Fishing Outing

The Cumberland outdoor club has agreed to sanction the following event for disabled veterans. It is called the first annual Disabled Veterans Fishing Outing on Saturday, May 4, 2013 from noon till 4pm. Organizations supporting this event are as follows Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinsburg, Viet Nam vets/Legacy Vet MC club, South Cumberland Rod and Gun Club. This event will be held at the outdoor club facility in Oldtown Maryland disabled veterans attending will receive a going fishing T-shirt all food and beverages fishing equipment and bait will be free for the disabled veterans.

Martinsburg VA Hospital will be coordinating in-house patients to be bused from the hospital to the outdoor clubs picnic area just below Oldtown Maryland. Some clinic outpatient's will also be attending this event. There will be additional local disabled veterans who will be invited to the fishing outing as well. If you are a disabled veteran in Chapter 172 please try to come and join us for a good time. No matter what your percentage or whether you are wheelchair-bound or not you are welcome. Chapter 172 Vietnam Veterans of America has donated \$150 toward supporting this activity. There will be veterans from Mineral County Allegany County, Hampshire County, Garrett County, Washington County and Bedford County, so please try as a disabled veteran to attend.

As we erect monuments and numerous dedicated stones which remind us of those who have given their lives for this nation, at the same time we should help those veterans who are still with us that have both physical and mental wounds. Local disabled veterans are encouraged to join their brothers and sisters in arms by being a participant in this day set aside just for your enjoyment. You can do this by calling Bubba at 301-722-8009.

These veterans will suffer every day for the rest of their lives and will remember their injuries not only on those days set aside to honor the fallen.

Ronald W Lewis  
Viet Nam Vets  
Legacy MC. Chapter X

