

# — 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*

JULY 2012

## **But I thought it was a Nice Picnic**

So there were a few glitches in the picnic format this year. I was working with my fundraising committee and didn't have time to notice, but others did.

At the July 5th membership meeting, the chief topic of conversation, other than where is Bob Cook were complaints about various little problems that may have arisen.

### **#1. *There were too many people at the picnic.***

We booked for 400 and approx. 600 people showed up. Don't know what to tell you. Apparently, some families have grown over the past year, or some members invited their neighbors.

Solution: Here are some of the solutions suggested at the meeting by the membership

1. Charge \$ 5.00 a car to enter the grounds.
2. Charge \$5.00 a head to enter the grounds.
3. Print a RSVP in the "Point" and have them mail in the answer with the number of guests that they are bringing.
4. Make it member and wives (or significant others) only.
5. Define what a family is.
6. Tell the people who packed their coolers with our food to stop it.
7. Cancel the whole damn thing.

### **#2 *We ran out of food.***

Solution. No we did not. There was plenty of Food. We brought it back to the Chapter and had a snack as we cleaned up then sent the rest to the Union Rescue Mission.

### **#3 *We ran out of beer.***

Solution. No, we did not. We did have to make a beer run, but you'll have that on a hot day.

1. Just don't have beer anymore.
2. Turn the picnic into a prayer meeting.
3. Cancel the whole damn thing.

### **#4. *We ran out of wine coolers.***

Solution. Yes we did. Once again tell the people who were so worried that they may not get their fill to quit packing their coolers.

### **#5. *It was too hot.***

Solution. Talk to God

It seems as long as we have had a Chapter, we have problems with people taking food and beverages from the picnic or the Chapter social Room. For the most part we are all in our sixties and older, you think that you could stop talking about behavior, but it just won't go away. Tell you what, the planning for next year's picnic is already underway. If you have a suggestion, and not a complaint, bring it to a meeting, and volunteer to help. So there the challenge has been issued.

## I GOTTAPEE

*A Verbal Head Slap*

There was a time when Englishmen were proud to say. "The sun never sets on the British Empire". This was true for about 1000 years then the wheels came off. Here in America we kicked them in the pants and threw their tea in the river and said "see yah." Every time Great Britain would lose another colony the saying changed to. "Another burden for Britain to bear."

I think the same can be said for the great State of Maryland. Look I'm in my Ford F-150 (the leading selling truck in America for the last 31 years) making my way to Martinsburg. Just before I left home in Cumberland I took my morning meds. One of my meds is Lasix, a little white pill which will make you pee like a cow on a flat rock. So as I get to Sideling Hill I get a warning from the water department, it's time to drain the swamp. This is no big deal there is a rest stop just past the cut always clean and safe open 7-24-365 so I can rest easy there will be no stains on my tan *Dockers* today. But as I top the hill I notice a sign, "REST STOP CLOSED = PEE IN YOUR PANTS." But that is beneath me, I was in the Marines, and I won't do it in that empty beer can in the back seat, what a dilemma. What to do, what to do???? It's too far to invade a rest room in a store, not that that is beneath me I just don't have the time.

So I pull over down the road a little, walk to the right front of the truck to supposedly check the air pressure, leaning tight to the truck I let it fly, oh sweet heavenly relief. Just then some safety first trucker for Smith Transfer comes by at about 150 mph and a fine warm spray fills the air. I give him the appropriate salute and question his parentage aloud. As I secure the equipment and turn around there are about 25 women from the "Women's Christian Temperance Movement" standing about 50 feet away having a prayer meeting in a field with the most confused look on their faces. I don't think the spray went that far, but they didn't look happy. I put my hand up and yelled "Praise the Lord" and laid rubber getting out of there. I know that some of you will doubt this story, but you are wrong, my F-150 will lay rubber especially in the gravel,

So now all I have to do is make it to the WV state line, they never close their rest stops, never. Now this may seem like a small thing, but is this the beginning of the end for the empire of Maryland? As the Limey's say "another burden to bear." And how about the Vietnam Memorial on the west bound side of I-68 is it simply to be ignored and fall into disrepair. The last time I went by they didn't even have the flags up.

Now I have been informed by "*Happy*" that this favorite rest stop is once again open, but just for the summer months. When it returns to brass monkey cold and the wind blows through "the cut" like the cold hand of Satan we will be once again out checking the air in the right front. What else will they cancel? The bus doesn't come through Cumberland,

the Amtrak doesn't stop here and the air service is gone. If you do manage to get out of town you better not have to use the facilities because they'll be closed. And incidentally it is also against the law to relieve yourself at the side of the road. If the law catches you, you will be cited and you can bet your sweet relief that it will be a female officer that nails you. So like your Dad used to tell you, go before you get in the car, then drive like your nuts for the WV border.

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**THE WORST THING ABOUT GETTING OLD IS  
PEOPLE NO LONGER PERCEIVE YOU AS  
BEING DANGEROUS.**

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## **The Next Big Thing**

Take the rest of the summer off. The next big thing won't happen until Saturday, Sept. 15th when we have the steak feed at Mt. Savage fire hall, an event that is always in need of volunteers.



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## **From the Sky Pilot.....**

Reading: II Corinthians 12: 7-10

*'To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was give me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". There fore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong' .....*

*What was Paul's thorn in the flesh?*

Some suggest it was a spiritual problem (anxiety, temptations, or perhaps guilt). Others see it as a physical ailment (headaches, epilepsy, malaria, a speech impediment, or even eye problems). Whatever it was, it was referred to as Paul's frequent persecutions. What is yours?

*Was the Lord insensitive?*

In the midst of trial and suffering, we may feel that God is not working things out like he should. Paul realized that often the Lord does not fix situations because through our pain we may see Him work a better plan. Not only can He sustain us, but His power can be more clearly demonstrated in our weakness. If we are willing to submit to His plans, then we can see the Lord accomplish even greater things than we could do on our own strength.

Chaplain Rodger Long

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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 1900 hours. All members are encouraged to attend both the membership and Board of Directors meetings.



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