

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY NOVEMBER ISSUE 5 -2013

More Guns, Less Guns, No Guns, Gun Laws, Gun Control

Editorial Opinion

Feel like getting an argument started just have the audacity to mention one of these groups of harmless words. It will not be a discussion it will be an argument, you can't talk about these things and remain civil. This is a subject that drives people on both sides' nuts. Which in the state of Maryland if you are nuts you can't own a gun that seems like a good idea to me. But, I guess that nuts have their rights also.

If you live in or near the state of Maryland you are surely aware of the October 1st onslaught of gun laws hopefully this will keep the guns out of the hands of criminals. However, if you would like to feel like a criminal without the jail time and such, just go to a gun store and try to purchase any kind of a firearm, god forbid if you are looking for a handgun. Take a lunch along with you because you are going to be there a while. If you are not an honorably discharged veteran you will also have to sign up for the "Maryland Gun Safety" course; which you can take on line. Then you've got to be fingerprinted which will cost you a few more bucks, I hear between \$75 and a hundred, not really sure about the amount. Also do not under any circumstances go into the gun shop wearing a "hoodie" and dark glasses. This will get you "special" attention.

If you are a female and are wearing a N.R.A. tee shirt make sure you don't have it on backwards. This will greatly prolong your permit period. For people who don't live in the big city guns have a different meaning. If I see my neighbor leaving his house with a gun in his hand I just figure he's going hunting or just shooting, maybe he has an appointment at the V.A. (I jest). But it was never any big deal.

Genuine good guy Gene Autry sang "*riding the range once more tottin' my old .44 where you sleep out every night and the only law is right...*" But, then semi-good guy Johnny Cash sang "...I shot a man in Reno just to watch him die..." This does not help our cause. Then somebody else sang "... I got a .45 to keep me alive and seven bullets on my side..." So no help is coming from the music industry.

Is the "only way to stop a bad man with a gun, a good man with a gun?" Or, is that just a way to get more bystanders shot? You can't legislate common sense or morality and that is what's missing in this argument. So what's the answer? I don't know and neither do you.

Steve Parsons

October 2013, in a bunker somewhere in MD.

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Service Officers at Chapter

Disabled Service Officers will be at the Chapter Thursday, November 14th from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Please bring a copy of your Military Discharge, DD214 or other service record, VA claim number if one was issued and any correspondence or rating decision information. Due to the number of veterans coming, it is necessary to call the chapter and set up an appointment time at 301-777-7001.

At a glance

- VA wants all Veterans to get care that improves their health and well being.
- If you are enrolled in VA health care, you don't need to take additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards.
- The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans' out-of-pocket costs.
- If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time.

Some Upcoming Events

Halloween Party

Friday, November 1st is a regular TGIF and since it is so close to Halloween, dress up for the occasion.

Poker Tournament

Members only Saturday November 9th starting promptly at 1500 hours \$35 buy in no limit betting progressive ante. Spectators \$10 each.

Gobble Gobble

If you have no place to go on Thanksgiving day, the Chapter is having a Turkey Dinner with all the fixings starting at 1:00p.m. until 5:00p.m. for members and one guest only.



The Annual Chapter 172 Christmas Party

Saturday, November 30th with doors opening at 5:00p.m. (Happy Hour from 5-7) at the Cumberland Outdoor Club. The dinner starts at 7:00p.m., and the dance begins around 8:00p.m. For those who would like to stay at a hotel, the Fairfield Inn in Cumberland has given us a special rate of \$99.00 for the night. You have to reserve your room BEFORE NOV. 8TH to get that rate (which includes a deluxe continental breakfast with your stay). We will also have a special shuttle service leaving the Fairfield starting at 5:00, 5:30, and 6:00 then picking up at 10:00 and running every half an hour until midnight. Fairfield Inn's phone number is 301-722-0340. Don't forget to get your dinner reservation ticket at the Chapter by NOVEMBER 22ND. The cost is \$25.00 per person (you may bring one guest), \$50.00 for a couple. Come and enjoy this festive event!

New Year's Eve party

I would give you a starting time but most of you will show up like you are going to the "early bird special" and then be home in bed before mid-night...bring a dish and I mean food not a babe. All of these events are fundraisers.....



Some Good News

Nelson Lindeman is off the sick list and back with the chapter although just a shadow of his former self. It's good to have him back.

Shotgun Tickets

We still have some raffle tickets left on the Mossberg Flex 12 gauge we can always use more ticket sellers. The gun goes off at the Christmas party (figuratively speaking).

Shut 'Em Down.

Just in case you've been in outer space, you already know that the government of the people has been shut down by politics as usual. Two more weeks of this hissy fit and veterans pensions and disability will be affected. Give 'em a call or email, tell them to do their job.

R--dskins

According to an article in the paper 90% of people who claim to be American Indians don't care if the Redskins change their name or not. Out of about 500 Indian schools in America, a significant number call their teams the Redskins. I don't think the "Skins need a name change. I think they need an offensive line to protect RGLII who is apparently made of glass.

Namaste

Yoga is being offered at the chapter again starting Wednesday, October 23rd from 1:30-2:30 for five weeks. Please call the chapter to sign up if you already haven't.

OFFICE NEWS FROM BARB AND SUE

The Holidays are almost here and Christmas is right around the corner. Along with our Christmas Sales we will be having a raffle, Santa's surprise Christmas stocking stuffed full of goodies from our store. Starting the first week of November we will be running a different sale each week. So stop by the chapter to see the sale that is going on and fill out a raffle ticket. You do not have to buy anything to enter the raffle and you can enter as many times as you would like (but only once a day). The raffle will be drawn on Friday, December 20th. Hope to see you all soon.

Soldier Story

There is discipline in a soldier, you can see it when he walks
There is honor in a soldier, you hear it when he talks
There is courage in a soldier, you can see it in his eyes
There is loyalty in a soldier that he will not compromise
There is something in a soldier that makes him stand apart
There is strength in a soldier that beats from his heart
A soldier isn't a title any man can be hired to do
A soldier is the soul of that man buried deep inside of you
A soldier's job isn't finished after an 8 hour day or a 40 hour week
A soldier is always a soldier even while he sleeps
A soldier serves his country first and his life is left behind
A soldier has to sacrifice what comes first in a civilian's mind
If you see a soldier remember what they do
A soldier is the reason our land is "Home of the free"
A soldier is the one that is brave protection you and me
Thank God for every soldier..... thank God for what you do

By Angela Goodwin

Submitted by Bob Peck, POW/MIA Chair



Design online at
www.hardheart.com/studies/gods

Veterans Day at Rocky Gap

On Monday, November 11th at 2:00 p.m. Rocky Gap will hold their annual Veterans Day Program. The keynote speaker will be Dan Taylor, pastor of Melvin/Fairview Ave. Charge of the United Methodist Church and Director of the Union Rescue Mission. Dan is a retired commissioned US Army Chief Warrant Officer who served in Viet Nam on River Patrol boats, and then as a Military Policeman and Special Agent for the Army CID. The Vietnam Veterans Color Guard will be presenting the colors and patriotic music will be played by the Ali Ghan Shrine Band. Please bring lawn chairs for your seating comfort during the program. What a wonderful way to spend your Veterans Day afternoon.

From the Sky Pilotand his angels...

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

So why are a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? It's because our past is not as important as our future. So look ahead and move on.

Friendship is like a book. It takes a long time to write, but it only takes a few seconds to burn.

All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.

Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says "Relax, it's just a bend, not the end!"

A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing your eye sight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision".

When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

The blessing of forgiveness comes as a complete package: Sins forgiven, Guilt eliminated, Shame removed, peace restored. This amazing gift comes wrapped in the red ribbon of Christ's Cross.

Rodger Long, Chaplain.



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Disclaimer

The newsletter The Point is a monthly publication of chapter 172. The viewpoints or opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the writer and are meant only for informational and entertainment purposes. These opinions do not represent the official policy of VVA National or Chapter 172. All unsigned articles are by the editor; All other submissions will have the contributor's name as a byline.

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.