



The First VVA
Chapter in the
State of Maryland
The Gold Standard

THE POINT

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
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Never Again Will
One Generation
of Veterans
Abandon Another

Published Monthly

FEBRUARY

Issue 1 - 2016

It's Finally Finished

The long four month nightmare of Christmas music is over for at least eight months...can I get an amen? It's not that I hate Christmas, quite the contrary, I'm not a "Scrooge" I just hate Christmas music. There's nothing new there, they are all oldies but goodies. Think about it the last new Christmas song was probably "Grandma got run over by a reindeer," and even it makes more sense than "Jingle Bells" which isn't even about Christmas.

Now let's talk about this other thing that bugs many of us. The so called war on Christmas, I know a lot of people have their panties in a bunch over this, but I didn't witness this war during the recent yuletide season. I wished many people some strangers a "Merry Christmas" and did not receive one snotty reply, I did have some folks greet me with "Happy Holidays" and I thought that was nice. In the few stores I entered there were both Christmas and holiday signs adorning the establishment. I think the only veterans of this war are the talking heads on the radio and television. So to all of you that I missed this year "Merry Xmas."

Christmas Party AAR

For those of you who were unable to attend, the Christmas party went off without a hitch. The "Cumberland Outdoor Club" went out of their way to make us feel welcome and as always geriatric "Chinese Bandits" gave that old rock "n roll. Frostburg State did the food and it was some of the best banquet food you can get around here, everybody involved get's an "attaboy."

Our next event will be the Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 7th starting one hour prior to kick off and the Daytona 500 Party on Sunday, February 21st. Both of these events are fund raisers so plan to attend and as always we need help and ideas.

Board of Directors News

For the last few years there have been constant arguments as to who can attend the Chapter 172 Summer Picnic and who has to pay to get in. So here it is. You and your "special someone, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend your children and grandchildren, MEMBERS AND 6 & UNDER WILL BE ADMITTED FREE OF CHARGE, ALL OTHER GUEST WILL BE CHARGED \$5.00. The Board took this action in response to comments made by the membership and approved by the BOD and members at the January membership meeting, God bless us all.

Chapter Elections *April 7th*

The first Thursday of April are the annual elections for Chapter 172 Officers and Board of Directors. All elected positions are up for grabs. If you are interested in running for any of these positions starting February 5th you can drop a letter off at the Chapter Office stating that you would like to run and for what position. The Ballot will be announced at the Thursday, March 3rd Chapter meeting. After this date all nominations must come from the floor on election night.

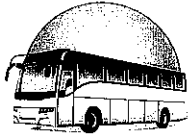
OUTRAGE

An injustice, an insult, an outrage has been committed against one of our most distinguished wounded Vietnam Veterans and it is time for all veterans to throw down the gauntlet and take up the battle for one of our veteran brothers who the establishment has wronged. I am of course talking about none other than the great running back for the "Pittsburgh Steelers" Rocky Bleier who has been ignored by the NFL and the "Football Hall of Fame.

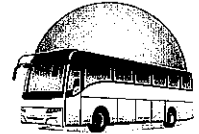
Rocky was drafted by the "Steelers" in 1968 and after his rookie year by the U.S. Army. Rocky suffered severe wounds to his legs and was told that he would be fortunate to walk, but his NFL career was definitely over. He had been shot through the thigh and later hit with grenade fragments, over 100 pieces of shrapnel were removed from his foot and legs. Rocky knew that it would be a long recovery and the rehab started immediately. Fighting his way through pain and frustration he was determined to get back to the gridiron and be as good if not better than he was before. His recovery took four years. In his career he carried the ball 922 times for 3286 yards with 23 touchdowns. He caught 133 passes for 1226 yards and 2 touchdowns. He started in 150 regular season games. Four, Super Bowl rings later he had proven his point.

Call it courage, determination or just plain guts and pride but Rocky Bleier is an example of a man who deserves to be in the "Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Here's all we have to do, write the Professional Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio and tell them you want to nominate Rocky Bleier for induction. Enough of us write in and who knows what might happen. Let's get the ball rolling.



CHAPTER 172 BUS TRIP



MPT SALUTES VIETNAM VETERANS LZ MARYLAND - JUNE 18- 19, 2016 MARYLAND STATE FAIRGROUNDS, TIMONIUM

Already three years in the making, MPT's salute to Maryland service members of the Vietnam era culminates in 2016 as a long-overdue thank you to those who worked and fought in an unpopular war. We will be taking two buses on Saturday, June 18th to this event. It is open to members and their families. The cost is \$20.00 a person, this includes the \$5.00 fee to get into the events. This is a first come basis. Call the Chapter Office at 301-777-7001 to reserve your seat. You must pay for your trip at this time.

MPT's salute comprises....

- A stirring, three hour documentary film told by and about Maryland' Vietnam-era veterans
- A major weekend event to honor those who answered the call to serve
- A motorcycle Honor Ride saluting fallen and missing service members
- An educators guide to foster Vietnam study in the high school curriculum and middle school

CHAPTER NEWS FROM BARB AND SUE

Stop by the Chapter Office and help us get rid of the old merchandise and buy, buy, buy, so we can bring in the new for March Madness. Hats 1/2 off (excludes chapter hats), tee shirts 30% off (excludes Reflections) and many more savings.

DAV Service Officers

Veterans of the United States Armed Forces may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These benefits are legislated in Title 38 of the United States Code. To apply for VA Benefits veterans are required to complete certain VA Forms providing information relative to the benefit applied for, to assist in this application process:

A Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Service Officer will be at the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA) Chapter 172, 17 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland, MD, the Second Thursday of each month. The next two dates they will be here is Thursday February 11, 2016 and Thursday, March 10th from 9:30 am until 3:00 pm The Service Officer will be available to provide information and prepare VA claims for veterans, their spouse or family members to obtain VA benefits.

Please bring a copy of your Military Discharge, DD 214 or other service record, VA Claim Number if one was issued and any correspondence or rating decision information.

Appointments preferred, Walk-ins also welcomed in time available between appointments. If you have questions or wish to schedule an appointment call VVA Chapter 172, (301) 777 7001.

This is a free service provided by the DAV to all Veterans, their Spouse and Dependents.

AARP Free Tax Prep Sites Opening 1st Week in February

Please take advantage of this worthwhile program and have your federal/state taxes prepared and e-filed by an IRS-Certified volunteer.

Mon/Thurs - Centre St. Methodist Church - 11:00 to 2:30 - Walk-In - Site closed 2/11, 2/18, 3/10, 3/14 and 3/17

Mon - Frostburg Senior Center - 10:00 – 2:30 - Call 301-689-5510 - Call for appointment Mon – Fri 1:30 -3:30

Tues - Lavale Methodist Church - 11:00 – 2:30 - Walk-In

Wed - HRDC - 12:00 – 3:30 - Call 301-724-8626

Maryland Tax Day – Saturday, February 27th, Appointments 10:00 – 2:00
YMCA at 601 Kelly Rd call 301-777-9622 for an appointment

4th ANNUAL DISABLED VETERANS FISHING OUTING

The Cumberland Outdoor Club has agreed to sanction the following event for disabled veterans once again. It is called the Annual Disabled Veterans Fishing Outing. On Saturday, April 30, 2016 (Rain Date Saturday, May 7th). Organizations supporting this event are as follows: Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinsburg, Cumberland Outdoor Club, Viet Nam Vets/Legacy Vet MC. This event will be held at the Outdoor Club facility near 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. 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 if you can a good time is had by all. No matter what your percentage or whether you are wheelchair-bound or not you are welcome. There will be veterans from Mineral County, Allegany County, Hampshire County, Garrett County, Washington County and Bedford County.

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 for more information.

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

From the Sky Pilot

The greatest sermons I have ever heard were not preached from pulpits but from sickbeds. The greatest deepest truths of God's Word have often been revealed, not by those who preached as a result of their seminary preparation and education, but by those humble souls who have gone through the seminary of affliction and have learned experientially the deep things of the ways of God.

The most cheerful people I have met, with few exceptions, have been those who had the least sunshine and the most pain and suffering in the lives. The most grateful people I have met were not those who had traveled a pathway of roses all their lives through, but those who were confined, because of circumstances, to their homes - often to their beds. They had learned to depend upon God as only such Christian's know how to do.

The "griper" on the other hand, are usually those who enjoy excellent health. The complainers are those who have the least to complain about. But those dear saints of God who have refreshed my heart again and again as they preached from sickbed-pulpits have been the men and women who have been most cheerful and the most grateful for the blessings of almighty God.

The Bible tells us distinctly that there is a special reward and a special crown which the Lord has prepared and laid up for those who suffer patiently. This principle is suggested by the incident recorded in 1 Samael 30.

David, along with four hundred strong, healthy men, had gone out to seek the enemy. Two hundred, however, had remained behind because they were weary and faint, probably because of some physical infirmity.

Those of you who remain by the stuff are not over looked or forgotten by God: this is a very definite and special reward laid up for God's patient sufferers.

If you, child of God, are upon a bed of illness, if you are troubled by pain or discouragement, remember that God will always use our suffering for His purposes. Our suffering silences Satan, our suffering enables us to glorify God, our suffering makes us more like Christ, our suffering makes us appreciative, and ultimately, our suffering teaches us to depend on God.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Blessed one. I wish you a Happy New Year and all the way to New Year 2017!

MAY GOD BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU * CHAPLAIN RODGER LONG