

# — THE POINT —

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Chapter 172

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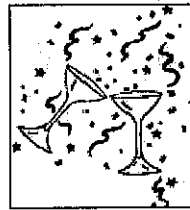
*The First VVA Chapter in the State of Maryland - The Gold Standard*

DECEMBER 2011

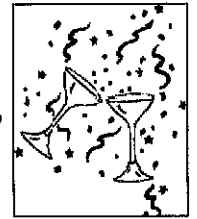
## *And a Good Time Was Had By All.....*

December 3rd was as you should know the date for the annual Chapter Christmas Party at Rocky Gap Lodge and it just gets better every year. As the men get older they are more distinguished looking and the ladies are aging like a fine wine getting sweeter and tastier, but I digress. Much gratitude goes to several of our officers, board and members for making this Christmas Dinner a memorable event. You are never too mature to have fun, eat well, and enjoy life. We have one \$100.00 Walmart gift card that has not been redeemed. The winning number is 682199. Please call the Chapter Office if you are the winner.

And on that note we will take the time to wish all of our members and friends a very *Merry Christmas and Holiday Season* to you and yours.



## *News Years Eve*



Yep, we're going to be here! The party will get started around 8PM and go on until it's over. Bring your party hats and noise makers. There will be great food, fun and fellowship. Around midnight we'll go out on the mall and watch the ball drop, have a sip of champagne and bring the new year in with a kiss.

And somewhere in the distance is the Super Bowl party where the Ravens will face the Packers (predictions) Ravens 37, Packers 31.

## *Jo Pa*

Now that the stuff has hit the fan up on Nittany Mountain, everybody seems to have a Joe Paterno story. So why should I be any different? It was the summer of 1972 and I was working at Bedford Springs Hotel as a front desk clerk. If you are from that neck of the woods, you'll remember that the area flooded that summer.

It was a Friday afternoon about 2:30, when two Pennsylvania State Police cars pulled into the driveway with their red lights flashing. I just assumed that there was trouble in the hotel that I had not been alerted to. A state Trooper got out of each car along with a smaller gentleman in plain clothes. One trooper carried a suitcase and the other, a golf bag. This odd threesome came into the lobby and one of the troopers approached me at the front desk and asked if I had a reservation for Coach Paterno. I looked through my reservation rack and there was in fact no reservation there. Now me being from Maryland and rather bright, I knew enough that Joe was treated like a king in Pennsylvania. I produced a room register form and handed it to the trooper who did all of the paper work. I buzzed the front bellman and told him to take Coach Paterno to the Wannamaker Suite.

The Wannamaker was the nicest suite in the hotel. As I went to hand him the key the trooper snatched it up and grabbed the bags and told the bellman to lead the way. Meanwhile, Coach was talking to the other trooper telling him he was going to play nine holes in the morning and to pick him up a 3:00 p.m. Saturday. Both then got into their respective cars and drove off.

There was some conference being hosted in the hotel and Coach was the keynote speaker. As soon as they left the area, the manager came very swiftly around the corner grabbed up the registration form and in a somewhat excited state asked me "You didn't charge him for anything did you?" I hadn't and everything was right with the world.

The next day exactly at 3:00 p.m., the same two police cars with the same two troopers pulled up and out came Joe. The flashing lights come on and the Coach was whisked away and everybody at the hotel could breathe once again and bask in the afterglow.

## *Words from the Sky Pilot.....*

In Western culture, the Christmas season is a time for a revelry of gift-giving. A world famous department store annually issues a catalog of gifts of value beyond extravagance. One of them was a \$10 million zeppelin (a 230 foot long, 50 foot wide ) airship capable of flying for 24 hours.

A gift like that seems unbelievable extravagant, especially when we consider the lowly manger to which God sent the gift of His Son.. All too often in the midst of our exchange of presents God's gift gets forgotten. We can avoid this by remembering to give from our heart. We can be inspired by love and gratitude not only for our loved ones but also supremely for the Giver of all good gifts, our heavenly Father.

Even the smallest, least expensive of gifts can take our memories back to Bethlehem where God gave to the world His love-gift of infinite value, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. With each present we give and receive, we can say from our heart, "Thanks be to God".

*What can I give Him, poor as I am  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part  
Yet what can I give Him, Give him my Heart*

*Have a wonderful Christ filled Christmas  
Rodger Long, Chaplain*

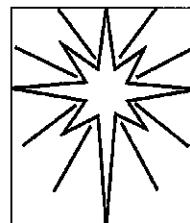
## *Chapter Office News From Barb and Sue*

*We would like to thank everyone who came to our Open House in December. It was a great success and we are looking forward to continuing this tradition each year. Christmas is upon us and we are going to have one more sale before the end of the year. Starting Monday December 19<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> take 20% off everything including clearance (excludes special orders).*

*The Chapter office will be closed Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Holiday. We will also be closed on Monday, January 2, 2012 for New Years. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see you soon.*

## *And one more thing.....*

As we once were, we now have young men and women serving in harm's way all around the globe. Keep them in mind as we celebrate this festive season. Take time to say a prayer and keep good thoughts for them. Here's hoping that they will soon be back among us and their families' safe at home.  
**God bless them.**



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FOR  
2010-2011**

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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 1800 hours. All members are encouraged to attend both the membership and Board of Directors meetings.



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