

— 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

MAY 2011

HMMMM

As some of you may have heard I was supposed to have surgery for a total knee replacement, May 11th. The VA hospital called me May 9th and cancelled the surgery for the fourth time. This time it was because my bones are too big and I have to have a special knee made just for me. Must have been all that milk I drank as a kid. So anyhow I got my trip to O.C. for the Memorial Day weekend back and did not lose my deposit. Believe it or not the Surgeon who was to do the procedure called me himself (yes, on the phone). It was like a call from God, except disappointing. Which is exactly why "The Point" is late this month. I was expected to be taken up in the "rapture" on the 24th and you sinners would have to put "The Point" out without me. Although no one has seen the Chapter Chaplain for a week????

Chapter Family Picnic-Saturday June 18

Ali Ghan Shrine picnic grounds starting at noon and ending around 1800 hours. Bring the kids, bring mom, and dad bring a good attitude and a few bucks to help out with costs. We will have plenty of raffles and neat stuff for you to win or buy. The Iron Mountain Roller Girlz have promised to send a few bodies to help with the gamming so more members and guests can enjoy the festivities.

*"The Lord gives and the Lord takes- - -
Get prepared before he takes you"
.....From the Sky Pilot*

Another one bites the dust

Cumberland loses another one of those things that made it so unique. In 1966, the last class graduated from *LaSalle High School* on Centre St. Several chapter members graduated or flunk out of the "exclusive boys" school.

LaSalle was operated and taught by a religious group known as the Christian Brothers most of whom came of duty in a reformatory school known as Saint Gabriel's Hall. Cumberland was supposed to be an easy duty station after that. Just like Vietnam after a few years at "The Hall" some of the Brothers had a small adjustment problem. Ask anybody who attended school there if you had a problem with one of your teachers they were more than willing to give you special counseling in the football locker room. There was also the annual bloodletting, euphuistically known as the "Faculty, Seniors Flag Football Game". This game was held in the spring so no varsity players would miss the game due to injuries.

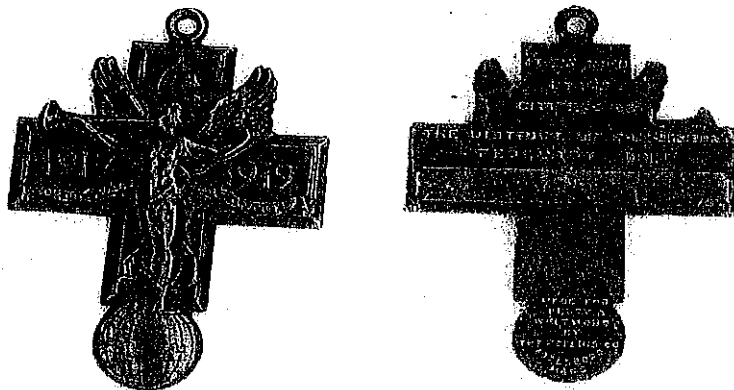
Every student who attended *LaSalle* can tell you stories of the manner in which discipline was handed out and everybody got a serving of it even the "good" kids. I am told that there is a "Men of *LaSalle* Night" planned for this summer. And yes one of our mantra's was "Boys will be boys, but *LaSalle* boys will be gentlemen". After 106 years the Christian Brothers are leaving Cumberland, but left behind is a rich legacy.

News I never got

Last Wednesday, a large camper floated down the Potomac and went over the damn in Cumberland. Go to *You Tube* and punch in trailer over the damn in Cumberland. It didn't seem to make the local news, at least I didn't see it.

How About This

When I was a fair haired lad of tender years, my father decided that I needed some character development and the perfect thing for me was to join the Little League, with no consideration of the fact that I hated baseball. So in my first game I was condemned to center field. so amuse myself, I sat down in the dirt and pulled out my pocket knife and started digging. What happened next is somewhat interesting. I dug up this bronze medal pictured here. It is my oldest possession and has been with me since that fateful day when I was kicked off my little league for carrying a knife. So as the years have gone by, I have tried to research what's the deal with this bronze medal. So I put it to you my faithful readers, can you identify it. One thing that has remained in my mind we were playing in the old Allegany H.S. field which was and is directly adjacent to Rose Hill Cemetery. At the edge of the cemetery were several old World War I grave sites which were badly eroded and uncared for. I have always wondered if it had washed from one of those graves. The medal will be in the Chapter if you care to see it in person, you will not be allowed to remove it from the office. So how about "a little help" from my friends.



The front of the cross has the dates of WWI with "World War I Service" inscribed across the ribbon.

The back of the cross has inscribed:

Preserved by the Citizens of the District of Columbia, February and an unreadable date.

On the Bottom it says: Made for Perry & Whitmore by the Robbins Co. Attleboro, Mass.

One Veteran's View of a Time Gone By

....Normandy on D-Day.... "Then the morning twilight was stabbed by the flashes of ship's guns pounding the invasion coast, and the air was rocked by the explosions of shells from guns and bombs from the planes. Rockets traced fiery arcs across the sky. The choppy waters of the channel made many of the troops seasick in the assault boats. German artillery plowed into the water, into assault boats and larger vessels, blowing them to destruction. Mines exploded with tremendous shock. Beach and boats drew closer. Fear gripped the men but courage welled from within them. The ramps were let down, the men waded through obstacle strewn water, they reached the beaches. The invasion had begun".... Major George H. Nicholson U.S. Army Air Forces, 1945 from a letter to his wife the day before his death:

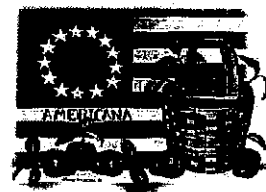
Memorial Day will come and go as it does every year and we veterans will be touted by just about every VSO newsletter and magazine to remember Memorial Day and to honor our dead brothers and sisters. We are the veterans, we don't have to be told that, it is the vast majority of Americans who will celebrate nothing but a day off. Tell them, not us, we know the price in one way or another. We have paid a small amount of the fee. As oft stated, "freedom is not free". On Sept. 11th, 2001 there was a dramatic price increase. On May 11th, 2011, SEAL Team Six issued a price rollback.

I may be prejudiced, I hope you are too; America is the greatest country on this planet....

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Honoring our Fallen Female Veterans

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 172 will be honoring women veterans who lost their lives in Vietnam on Friday, July 1st, 1700 at the Chapter. Please come and help in our remembrance of these women who paid the ultimate price for freedom. TGIF will be after the service. Everybody is welcome to the service, but chapter policy of member and one guest only takes effect for TGIF.



ALL NEW TRANSFERS

Stop by the Chapter office and pick a military or patriotic transfer and have it put on a shirt.

We also have transfers for the ladies. We also have denim and khaki totes to put transfers on.

Many to choose from so stop in and check it out.

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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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