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Boo Coo News

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154

VVA154.com

Mount Clemens, Michigan

MAY 2015

WELCOME HOME!

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

7 P.M. SECOND WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH

AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 4,
401 N. GROESBECK HIGHWAY
SOUTH OF ELIZABETH ROAD

BOO COO NEWS DEADLINE:
PREVIOUS MONTH'S MEETING
TO SUBMIT ITEMS, PHOTOS, AD COPY:
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VETERANS SUPPORT CENTER



1,627
AMERICANS
STILL MISSING IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA
49 FROM
MICHIGAN

Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting a Success

On April 18, the long-awaited Agent Orange Town Hall meeting took place at the American House East 1 facility on Common Road. Several members began showing up at 10 a.m. to start getting things arranged for the presentations. American House provided us with their main dining room, capable of holding around 200 people, along with some of the necessary sound and visual equipment that we needed.

The meeting was scheduled to begin at noon, and at about 11:30 the turnout was pretty sparse. However, as the magic hour approached, people began flooding in at a good clip. We had a signup sheet by the entry door, and the final tally was 130 people, including 84 veterans. We know that several people got by the entrance without signing in, so it's safe to assume we had about 150 people show up. It is encouraging to note that a lot of the people were not veterans, meaning that the advertisement we ran in *The Macomb Daily* attracted more folks than just the veteran community.

Steve Bago put together an excellent panel of speakers, all of whom brought a slightly different twist to the event. The focus, of course, was the lasting effects of Agent Orange on our offspring. As you know, the predictions are that the toxins we were exposed to during our days of the war are, and will continue affecting our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, possibly for as many as seven generations. The Agent Orange problems will not go away when the last Vietnam vet dies. Our speakers consisted of our own Linda May, who spoke of the health issues of her son Steven who passed away many years ago, Keith King who talked about his daughter Amy and her long struggle with various diseases that are now continuing with his grandchildren, Phil Smith from the Detroit Regional VA Office who gave a brief primer on Agent Orange and what it's all about, and finally Gary Moore, one of the pioneers of the Agent Orange awareness program. The audience seemed to be enthralled with the discussions.

Following the presentations, we opened the floor to questions from the audience. Many people had the opportunity to ask questions about their own family health concerns that might be attributed to Agent Orange. Having the VA service officers there allowed these folks to realize that the doors of opportunity were still open if they had adequate information to file claims. Our State Council President, John Riling, was also in attendance, bringing along an unwanted guest, Agent Orange. The entry of Agent Orange is always a spectacle to behold, and lends a very dramatic air to the entire event.

More than one member said "we really ought to do more of these kind of things." While I agree with the statement, everyone must realize that these things don't just happen. It takes a lot of work on the part of a few people to make sure these things are well planned and come off in the style that Chapter 154 is known for. All it takes is for YOU to step up to the plate and say "I'll do that." I can promise you we'll stand alongside you to make it happen.

Thanks again to Steve Bago for taking on this most worthwhile task and ensuring that it came off without a hitch. All the comments from the attendees reinforce that it was a great meeting. (MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8)



President's Message ~ *Brian Bobek ~ 20th Engineering Brigade (Combat) Vietnam, 1967-68*

Well, the elections are over and in the history books. The membership turned out in good numbers to elect the 2015-16 officers and board of directors. The results are shown elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who turned out to vote, but I was concerned by comments overheard during the voting process. Several members came in to vote and said "I don't know who any of these guys are" and yet cast a ballot. I realize it's inevitable that this kind of thing happens, but it certainly points to a problem with the entire process. Many members are voting based on a "familiar name," voting for the incumbent, or taking someone else's word for how they should vote. I wish that more members would get to know the candidates, and what they stand for, before casually making a mark on a ballot. Perhaps we should investigate following the process that national uses, where each candidate addresses the membership at the preliminary meetings about what they bring to the table, and what their goals and objectives are for the chapter for the coming year.

A big thank you goes out to those of you who ran for office and didn't get the brass ring this time around. Don't be disheartened, there's always next year. Your willingness to volunteer your services says that you have an interest in the future of this chapter. With the number of members we have, there is an untapped reservoir of "human capital" that will set the future course of action for this chapter.

I applaud the board members, whether outgoing or continuing on, for their support this past year. This has been a truly unique year for us, with a lot of stuff coming at us that is not our usual course of business. There were some heated times but, at the end of the process, we continued moving the chapter forward. That is what we're charged to do. Thank you to the membership who supported the board in making the tough decisions that had to be made.

By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, two of the important events of spring will be over. The Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting was a huge success, with chairman Steve Bago receiving high praise from national for the panelists he assembled to talk about the fate of our offspring. It was suggested by national that we professionally videotape the entire presentation to use as a teaching aid in the future, and we did that. We will receive copies of the presentation that we can show at the vet center, and also can make available to members who may wish to view it.

The building dedication ceremony took place on April 25, with a large crowd of members and local political figures in attendance. Gary Purcell, along with some chapter members and the Associates, put together a very nice program, and made sure that all the bases were covered to ensure a first-class impression of our chapter was left with everyone. Thanks also to our friends at American House who provided shuttle service between the parking lot and the vet center. They're the best!

Facing us now is "The Wall That Heals," the scaled down replica of the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial that is coming in over **Memorial Day**. Meetings are ongoing and details are being finalized. We are asking for volunteers to work over this holiday to make sure the event goes off without a hitch. Help will be needed for setup/teardown, overnight security of both the memorial and the vehicle display, as well as escorts to assist people in finding names on the memorial. We have been asked to read the 2,654 names of the Michigan KIA/MIAs at the opening ceremony. We will be looking for approximately 35 readers, each reading about 80 names. We are also going to be presented with a flag that was flown over our National Capitol building by Congressman Sander Levin. It is important that we turn out in large numbers to let people know that the Vietnam vets haven't shriveled up and blown away quite yet.

Our memorial is back on the road now, and has a busy summer planned. Consider volunteering some time at one of the stops, not only to help out but to learn what the memorial is all about and see, first hand, the joy that comes from being part of the "wallflowers." I warn you, it becomes addictive.

The annual golf outing is on the calendar – **Saturday, August 29** at Hickory Hollow Golf Course. Dave Schoenherr and Mike Schneider are busily trying to locate sponsors and raffle items, so please get on board early to make sure things don't always have to come down to the wire before the event. Everyone can rest easier if you get aboard early. Unfortunately, my Vietnam reunion has been scheduled in Memphis, Tennessee that same weekend, but that's good news for the outing. People will not be held up while I'm in the woods looking for my ball, so play should go faster. Be proud and stand tall!

VVA CHAPTER 154 OFFICERS

President Brian Bobek	586-524-3806
1 st VP Gary Purcell	586-243-7375
2 nd VP Woody Horne	248-379-1086
Secretary Mike Schneider	586-567-0731
Treasurer Mike Jacobi	586-504-0781

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greg Bowman (2016)	586-850-1800
Gil Claunch (2016)	586-854-7842
Ron Drdul (2016)	586-899-7112
Dave Schoenherr (2016)	586-940-2568
Jim Watts (2016)	586-524-9705
Leo Lalonde (2017)	
Larry May (2017)	586-790-0008
Donn Sinclair (2017)	586-243-0222
Gary Stephens (2017)	586-747-8149
Robert Steward (2017)	586-321-9847

2011-2012 STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Community Service	Leo Lalonde
Constitution/By-Laws	Donn Sinclair
ETABO	Robert Steward
Finance	Mike Jacobi
Government Affairs	Ron Drdul
Membership	Larry May
Minority Affairs	Chris Franklin
Nominating Committee	Gary Sox, Mike Bilyk, TBD
Public Affairs	Brian Bobek
Veterans Affairs	Gary Stephens
Veterans Benefits	Brian Bobek
Women Veterans	Jim Watts
POW/MIA	Tom Duff
Agent Orange/Dioxin	George Sawyer
Incarcerated Veterans	Dave Schoenherr
Veteran's Health Care	Gil Claunch
State Delegates	Brian Bobek, Mike Schneider, Chris Franklin

SPECIAL & AD HOC COMMITTEES

AVVA Rep	Phyllis Claunch
Color Guard	Jim Watts
Food Pantry	Gil Claunch
Hospitalized Vets	Tom Duff
Lottery	Jim Auito
Merchandise	Tim Ignash
Michigan Memorial	Dave Schoenherr
Scholarship	Woody Horne
Speakers Bureau	Ed Zysk
Webmaster	Larry Sauger
Welcome Home	Mitch Argyris
Operation Christmas	TBD

Boo Coo News Publisher

The Board of Directors

Boo Coo News Editor Brian Bobek

Typesetting ~ Linda May

Thank you! to all of our sponsors.

TRUSTEES

Mike Gardner (2016), Gary Sox (2017), Tim Ignash (2018)

■ HONOR GUARD REPORT– Jim Watts, Commander

Since my last report out on March 11, 2015 the honor guard has conducted the following: This has been a very slow month for us but comes as a welcome, well-deserved break.

Total of three funerals:

2 Army, 1 USMC
2 WWII, 1 Korea

Steven Bollerud	USMC	WWII
Gordon Stolter	Army	Korea
Doris Brown	Army	WWII



Jim Watts	Commander
Steve Bago	Vice Commander
John Mohan	Treasurer
Gary Stephens	Armorer
Ted Szymanski	Armorer/Property Officer
Ron Drdul	Chaplain
Glen Cash	Assistant Chaplain

Other Details & Functions

Honor guard also participated in:

- Clinton Township Police Honor Guard fundraiser



Chapter Recognizes Autumn Woods Care Facility ~ On March 18, several members of Chapter 154 traveled to Autumn Woods Health Care Facility to present a plaque in appreciation for the recent bowling fundraiser that was held for the benefit of our chapter. 1st Vice President Gary Purcell presented the plaque to Moses Coleman, the director of the facility, and several of his staff members. They raised a significant amount of money as a result of the event which was very well appreciated by our chapter. Thank you to Autumn Woods for their generosity.



Thoughts on Stolen Valor

Donn Sinclair ~ Constitution/Bylaws

For those of you who don't know, we had an unpleasant episode recently at the new vet center. A Purple Heart, awarded to chapter member Robert Steward, was stolen from our display area by person or persons unknown. It's hard to believe a visitor, or worse, a chapter brother, would stoop so low, but those are the facts. The chapter has made arrangements with Congressman Sander Levin's office to obtain a replacement for Robert, but I think we can all agree that doesn't make things right.

On the subject of awards, we encourage our brothers to wear them, whether on their shirts, jackets or caps. You earned them, display them proudly, on one condition – wear only what's documented on your DD-214. If you feel something's been omitted, it's up to you to do the legwork to get it verified. It's not all that hard, and could save some embarrassment and hard feelings.



Chapter Car Show

Donn Sinclair ~ Car Show Chairman

It would be much easier to talk about the chapter car show if the weather would start cooperating, but here goes anyway. Saturday, August 22, Gibraltar Trade Center, Mount Clemens. Donations for the box raffle are needed and greatly appreciated. Same with trophy sponsors. Last but not least, a better showing of chapter members' cars would be icing on the cake. Give it some thought. Entry forms and trophy sponsor forms are available at the vet center, or ask me. I usually have a few on hand.

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CAROL ANN TURNER ~ THURSDAYS ~ APPOINTMENTS ONLY

HELP WANTED: VOLUNTEERS TO STAFF THE VET CENTER AND WORK ON THE FOOD PANTRY.

SICK CALL & CONDOLENCES

**Contact Ron Drdul
ropa30@att.net or 586-899-7112**

If you know of a death or illness of a chapter member or their family, please notify Ron Drdul so that we may get the information in the Boo Coo News in a timely manner. All of the kind thoughts and prayers offered up by our membership are truly appreciated by these folks, and apparently are working to help them through their tough times. Keep 'em coming.

Sick Call

- I received some updated information from Mike Sauger, son of Larry Sauger, a longtime chapter member and our website administrator. "My dad is doing much better. He is home now and is improving every day and hopefully will be able to make it to the open house at the new facility."
- Ron Drdul's daughter, Laurie, recently underwent surgery for cancer. Follow up tests have shown that she is now cancer-free.
- Roger Krzeminski received his third installment of chemo treatments on the 23rd of March. He received a shot on the 24th to rejuvenate his red and white blood cells. This installment of chemo really took the wind out of him. His next cycle of treatments were on the 6th, 13th and 20th of April. The doctor will decide the next course of action.
- Chapter member and past President Pat Daniels spent some time in the hospital with breathing difficulties. While in the hospital, they diagnosed Pat with MRSA and put him in isolation. MRSA is extremely serious and highly contagious, so visitations were limited. Pat is now home and on the mend, which is expected to take awhile.
- Tom Duff's 13-year-old granddaughter was admitted to the hospital with kidney failure. Tom said that both kidneys are "shot" and her only option will be for a transplant down the road. In the meantime, she is on dialysis, but Tom said her attitude remains optimistic.

Taps

Terry Kovac's mother passed away on April 14.

Many other members are still struggling with their ailments, and your continued prayers and words of encouragement are greatly appreciated by all of them.

The next visit to the John D. Dingell Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Detroit is on May 13.



Here is a link to the Clinton Township website that you can use to sign up for volunteer positions for The Wall That Heals, coming to Clinton Township over the Memorial Day weekend.

<https://twthclintontwp.wordpress.com/>



The Mission and Vision of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is to advance the work of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. through cooperative projects and/or programs, to facilitate, enhance and improve communication with our members and the general public and to continue legislative efforts to ensure the rights of and benefits for all veterans and their families. Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., are dedicated to the aggressive advancement of realistic goals with integrity and in the spirit of unity that reflects our commitment of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., all veterans, their families and communities.

JOIN THE ASSOCIATES! We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. AT THE VET CENTER

AVVA Meeting notes from April 15, 2015

Phyllis Claunch called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. We had four new members that were in attendance. They were introduced to the group and the members individually introduced themselves to them.

OPEN HOUSE: The date will be April 25, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. AVVA members are asked to park at Salk school and either catch the shuttle to the center or walk over. They need to be at the center between 9:30 and 10. There will be a few people that will be needed to work inside the center before the ceremony begins. If that is your desire, please let someone know when you arrive. AVVA members were asked to sign up to bring cookies and/or brownies to the function. They may be delivered Friday 4/24 or no later than 9:30 a.m. 4/25. They will be stored in the hospital room and used as needed. Phyllis has bought enough trays for the cookies. The menu for that day will be: veggie tray, fruit tray, two different kinds of wings, lavash sandwiches, cookies and brownies. The food will be in the conference room with the drinks being in the kitchen. The plans are to have a few tables in the open room and possibly the kitchen. It was requested that all members who have shirts wear them on that day.

The agenda for the day will be: smudging (NOTE: no pictures or recording of this Native American ritual are permitted), honor guard presenting colors and lowering to half staff, invocation, national anthem sung, pledge and moment of silence, Brian's remarks, keynote speakers remarks, Mr. Cannon's remarks, ribbon cutting ceremony, raising of the flag, benediction.

THE WALL THAT HEALS: Wall will arrive Wednesday, May 20 at about 2 p.m. Patriot Guard will escort it in. Thursday, May 21 at 9 a.m. The Wall will be set up. The opening ceremony will be that evening at 6 p.m. From that point till closing Monday, May 25, The Wall will be open for visitation, 24 hours a day.

MEMORIAL DAY: It is currently unclear whether or not we will have a barbecue. There will be more information available at the May meeting.

AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL MEETING: The event is this Saturday, April 18 at the American House on Common Road. It will probably last a couple of hours. They will be discussing the effects of Agent Orange not only on the vets but on their

children and grandchildren. Linda May discussed it in *The Macomb Daily*. Brian Bobek said that she usually gets 30-35 responses to her articles. However, this article had over 1,300 responses. This town hall meeting may prove to be well attended.

PATRIOT GUARD: Boz invited the members to a burial this Saturday at the Michigan War Dog Cemetery in South Lyons (11 Mile and Milford Road) The Patriot Guard will be in attendance. They view military service dogs as veterans as does the government. Two dogs will be buried on Saturday. He said that the ceremony is very moving. Other military dogs and their handlers will also be there. The handlers will make the dogs howl during the ceremony as a sign of respect. Boz said that it is a very moving ceremony. The dogs will also have a 21 gun salute.

ELECTIONS: They were held. The new officers are Phyllis Claunch, President; Carole Johnson, Vice President; and Karen Mack, Secretary/Treasurer. Members voted and Cathy Cook and Pat Drdul counted the ballots and verified the results.

It was reported that Pat Daniels is home and doing well. We all wished him well.

The Native American Veterans in Center Line will be having a Karaoke night, April 24. The fun starts at 6 p.m. and all are invited.

Phyllis stated that help is needed with folding bags for the U.S. Post Office food drive on May 9. Come to the vet center when you can and help. There is no set time for this.

A motion from Carole was made to adjourn the meeting. Linda and Jennifer second the motion.

*Respectfully submitted,
Karen Mack*

Below please see the message to volunteer for Memorial weekend: Volunteers are desperately needed. To volunteer, go to: <http://clintontownship.com/> and under "The Wall That Heals", volunteers may sign up on line. You may sign up now. They are hoping that AVVA members are generous with their time. They are also in need of people to read the names on Friday at 7 p.m. You will read about 80 names. If you're interested please sign up for this moving ceremony.

Minutes of General Membership Meeting 4/8/15 ~ Submitted by Mike Schneider

Meeting called to order by President Brian Bobek at 1900 hours. Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of silence observed. Reading of motions passed at the last board meeting were read and approved by membership. Reading of motions passed at last board meeting were read and accepted by the chapter. New members: Joe Abbate, Army, Vietnam '67 and Ron Mexicott, Navy, Vietnam '67 introduced. Welcome home men and welcome to the chapter. Introduction of officers. Motion made by Mitch A, seconded by Jim W to suspend regular business to conduct voting for chapter offices. Motion to return to regular business made by Ben E, seconded by Dave S. Motion made by Leo L, seconded by Ed Z to accept minutes as published in the Boo Coo News. Treasurer's report given by Mike Jacobi stated that all funds are in good shape and audit was performed. The building fund will now become the building maintenance fund from now on. Motion was made by Bob B, seconded by Jim W to accept the report.

COMMITTEES:

No POW or State Council report. Hospital and honor guard to follow.

Food Pantry

58 families were taken care of in March, total of 98 people.

Speakers Bureau

Schools are on spring break. Letters going to principals. Calls from senior citizens groups about speakers. We may go to Rochester and Troy to speak. Any calls should be directed to Ed Zysk.

Scholarship

Nine applications have been turned in. Four (4) \$1,000.00 awards to be presented at June meeting.

Monthly Raffle

April was a selling month. Please return tickets before the 1st of the month.

Merchandise

We are back on the road with the memorial. Most merchandise is on the trailer and if you need something, please give us a few days notice to help you with your needs.

Agent Orange Town Hall meeting was on April 18. More to follow.

Traveling Memorial

We were at the VFW Bruce Post and Laingsburg American Legion for Welcome Home Vietnam Vets celebrations and John Glenn High School in Westland. Just the beginning of travels.

Associates

Elections held on the third Wednesday. Helped at the open house with goodies and decorations.

Car Show

Saturday, Aug. 22 at Gibraltar. Trophy and entry forms at the vet center.

Membership

647 members, 441 life members, seven new sent in. Associates 64 members, 25 life, five new sent in.

Golf Outing

Scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 29 at Hickory Hollow. Forms for teams and hole sponsors at the vet center. We are limited to 30 teams, so get your entries in early.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thanks to the tree trimmers, Joe S and Bob S. You can see the building from the street now.

Agent Orange Town Hall meeting on April 18, report will follow next month. There was an ad in the Macomb Daily and A-1 Video Productions filmed the proceedings.

Thanks to Donn S, Marge S and Phyllis C for their help on the open house and dedication ceremonies.

The Wall That Heals will be in Clinton Twp. Memorial Day weekend. We will need volunteers to assist, check your emails.

Brian had a meeting with Home Depot to sponsor another veteran and we will apply for a grant to update the lighting at the vet center.

Please fill out the questionnaire about the stop smoking program for the Native American veteran group. They are confidential and no one will contact you.

NEW BUSINESS:

PBS showed the "Fall of Saigon" on Apr. 28. Greg B stated that bags and postcards were dropped off at the vet center to be stapled together so the postal workers in Shelby Twp. can put them in mailboxes to help with their annual food drive. Help will be needed at the Shelby Post Office on that day to sort food. If you can help and bring some young people along, it would be appreciated. Mike Jacobi asked everyone to please turn in a proper receipt if you need to be reimbursed. A little effort goes a long way for all. Steve B went to Washington, D.C. for his unit reunion and it was his first visit to the Wall. The email about the medal missing from the display area brought no return. That was earned the hard way and had great significance. Thanks go out to Gary Purcell and Dave Porter for getting a replacement. Thank you both for your accomplishment and helping your BROTHER. We are still looking to have a lawn service take care of the grounds. The Native Americans had another Karaoke night at their center. Advertisers in the Boo Coo News are considered sponsors, not advertisers. We are investigating the legalities involved with taking advertising money under our tax-exempt mailing status. Jerry Clara was at the meeting and his recent health issues were brought up, be well young man. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all ailing members and their families.

50/50 ticket #884656 won by Ben E. Motion made by Steve B, seconded by Gary S to destroy last year's election ballots and place new ones in the safe. Motion to adjourn by Ben E, seconded by Ron D.



POW/MIA Reports Submitted by Tom Duff

REMEMBER THE MICHIGAN POW/MIAS
FOR MAY
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN!

*

POW/MIA
Welcome Home!

1,627 Missing
49 Michigan

- "I was prepared to be wounded --- prepared to be captured --- even prepared to be killed. I was not prepared to be abandoned by my country." Former POW U.S. Navy Captain Eugene "Red" McDaniel
- A man is not dead until he is forgotten. We will never forget. Welcome Home!
- "When one member of the armed forces is not worth the effort to be found, then we have lost our honor." ~ VVNW

Support your POW/MIAs. Fly your POW/MIA flag. Display a POW/MIA decal. If you need a POW/MIA decal for your car, truck or bike, or certificate of appreciation for flying a flag, see Tom Duff. If a company or homeowner is flying a POW/MIA flag, let Tom Duff know so we can give them a certificate.

Native American Indians of Michigan Host a Barbecue Rib Roast



On March 20, our friends hosted a barbecue rib dinner for the veterans of Chapter 154 as well as their members. All the ribs were provided by the two organizations, and attendees were asked to bring a dish to pass as well as their own non-alcoholic beverage. Chris Franklin, Gil Claunch and another chef from Native American Indians of Michigan slaved over the hot grill for several hours and cooked enough ribs to satisfy an army of eaters.



Following the dinner, a DJ came in and spun some karaoke tunes for everyone. I'm thrilled to announce that several chapter members broke their "karaoke-cherry" that night, and found out it's not that big of a deal to get up there and have some fun. Check out the pictures and see if you can figure out who the newbies were.



NAIOMI held another karaoke night April 24, with people stopping in and dusting off their pipes and dazzling everyone with their signing ability. It's really a lot of fun and totally non-judgmental. Associate member Guy Kaercher entertained everyone with his spirited performances, and his moves behind the mike must be seen to be appreciated.





2015 NEWLY ELECTED CHAPTER LEADERS

AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL



Brian Bobek, Steve Bago



Gary D. Moore



Linda May



Phil Smith



Keith King

Member Spotlight

Submitted by feature writer Leo Lalonde

Visit the vet center during the week and chances are you are going to see Joe Spencer performing a variety of jobs. He spends at least three days a week there, working with fellow chapter members like Tom Duff with the hospital committee and Gil Claunch with the food pantry. He also is a dedicated worker, throwing in his hat to assist wherever we need help. Joe recently took on the assignment of clearing all the overhanging brush along the privacy fences at the new vet center. He also did a significant amount of tree trimming in front of the building so that our facility and sign was more visible from the street.

Spencer, who lives in Fraser, grew up in Detroit and attended Denby High School. He is divorced and has one son, Jeff, and two grandchildren, Kegan and Logan.

Upon leaving high school, Spencer volunteered for the Army in 1964. He did his basic training at Fort Knox, KY and transferred to Fort Ord, CA, where he worked as a clerk/typist (MOS 71B). After four months, he was stationed at Fort Dix, NJ for two months before being sent to Korea for 14 months. He worked there as an Ordnance Supply Sergeant (MOS 76D40). He discharged from Fort Polk, LA in 1967.

Spencer worked in the engineering field during his working career. He started at Koltanbar Engineering, then worked for Solar Engineering, before being assigned to APDA (Atomic Power & Development Association). He retired in 2000.

When asked what he gets out of being a chapter member, he answers "comradeship. I feel very comfortable being around fellow veterans. I find it mentally relaxing."



Taps

Day is done,
gone the sun,
From the hills,
from the lake,
From the skies.
All is well,
safely rest,
God is nigh.
Go to sleep,
peaceful sleep,
May the soldier
or sailor,

God keep.
On the land
or the deep,
Safe in sleep.
Love, good night,
Must thou go,
When the day,
And the night
Need thee so?
All is well.
Speedeth all
To their rest.

Fades the light;
And afar
Goeth day,
And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well;
Day has gone,
Night is on.
Thanks and praise,
For our days,
'Neath the sun,
Neath the stars,

'Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh.



To FUTURES LOST... AND FUTURES WON



Chapter Members Host Visitors

Submitted by

Carlene Cremin, Associate Member

Our niece Niki, her husband Jeramy Taylor, along with their three children; Josh 18, Zack 16 and Alyssa 13, came to visit us from North Carolina at the end of March. Zack is in his high school's ROTC program, focusing on the Air Force. They had all heard us talk about the vet center so much, so they asked if they could have a tour of the facility. John Willey gave the grand tour, which ended at the memorabilia display area where Bobby Steward and Jim Watts explained its significance. Everyone treated our family with love and respect, spending their time to tell stories and explain our mission of bringing awareness to all generations of veterans.




Chapter Donates to Young Marines

Gary Purcell, Dave Schoenherr, Mike Bilyk and Mike Schneider took a short ride out to Selfridge ANGB to present a check to the Young Marines group for their support during the last Operation Christmas. These young men and women come to our assistance several times throughout the year, providing that little extra measure of muscle that is needed to make events successful. Their support is greatly appreciated.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2015</h1> 					<i>Looking ahead:</i> Aug. 22 car show Aug. 29 golf outing	<i>Looking ahead</i> Memorial at Ferndale Historical Society June 5-7
<i>Looking ahead</i> Memorial at Lansing June 13	<i>Looking ahead</i> Memorial at Manistee June 19-21	<i>Looking ahead</i> Memorial at Stars & Stripes Festival Freedom Hill June 25-28			1	2
3	4 Pointman Ministries	5 Service Officer	6 Board Meeting	7 Service Officer Al Anon	8 United Military Families Memorial at South Haven May 8-10	9
10 	11	12 Service officer Honor guard meeting	13 Hospital visit Chapter meeting	14 Service Officer Al Anon	15	16 ARMED FORCES DAY Memorial at Oakmont Senior Living
17 Memorial Day service at Cadillac East	18	19 Service Officer	20 Associates Meeting 7pm The Wall That Heals Clinton Township May 20-26	21 Service Officer Al Anon Memorial at Mackinac City May 21-23	22	23
24	25 MEMORIAL DAY Vet Center closed Memorial at Detroit Yacht Club	26 Service Officer	27	28 Service Officer Al Anon	29	30/31





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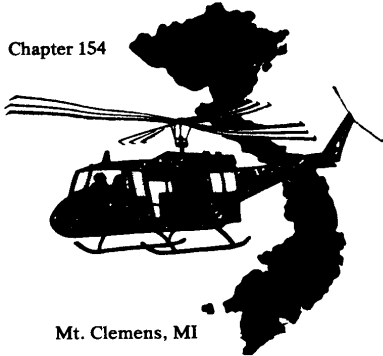
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