

VETERANS OF VIETNAM WAR

PO Box 2113
Middletown, CT 06457-2113

May 2005 Volume XX-VII
www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org

"People Who Care"

20th ANNIVERSARY YEAR,

Oct. 1985 to Oct. 2005

Meetings are to be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Put these items on your "TO DO" in 2005 list.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR MAY MEETING

This Months Meeting is on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the American Legion Hall in Middletown. (Bernie O'Rourke Drive).

This is the regular Monthly Meeting (Members and potential members welcome.

To do: DON'T FORGET !! CONNECTICUT VETERANS CEMETERY,

BOW LANE, MIDDLETOWN
The Vietnam Veterans will be placing flags on the headstones at the Veteran's Cemetery for Memorial Day.
Friday May 27, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. Please plan on helping.

To do: DON'T FORGET !! FLAG Removal in 2005

Tuesday May 31, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.
Please plan on helping.

Mother's Day Sunday, May 8, 2005 Don't forget Mom!

2005 Memorial Day Parade
conducted by the United Veterans Council of

Middletown.

MONDAY, MAY 30, 2005.

Staging at 09:00 a.m. Steps off at 10:00

All members and Veterans are requested to gather on the Washington Street GREEN at the Vietnam/Korea Monument at **9:00 a.m. for the traditional brief ceremony, wreath laying and short walk to the parade staging area.**

Keynote Speaker is a **surprise**

To do: 9th Annual (2005) Golf Tournament 06/02/2005

The Thomas Fritsch Golf Tournament is set for Thursday, June 2nd 2005 at the Portland Golf Course. We're looking for a good turnout again this year. We'll be looking for TEE Sponsors, Volunteers, prizes, raffle items; Bottles of Cheer, Gift Certificates, Dinner for 2, etc.)
Tee sponsors, prizes and donations are everyone's responsibility.

This IS a group effort!

Volunteers are needed for the "Hole in One" holes and manning the prizes/raffle items, selling tickets and cheering on the players as they golf.

To HELP with the Golf Tournament, CONTACT:
Jack Mayoros 860-347-8843
Rich Couture 203-238-8979

GOLF COMMITTEE:

Next Meeting: Monday

May 1, 2005, 6:00 p.m. at Jack's.

Scholarship 2005

Scholarship applications for 2005 can be obtained from Past Comm. Jack Mayoros. Call him at (860) 347-8843. Applications must be returned postmarked by May 15th to the Chapter.

To do:

Dues Reminder

Dues are payable at the beginning of the year. \$12.00 per year or \$100.00 for life membership.

We're always Looking for NEW MEMBERS

If you know anyone who would like to join the chapter let me know and the Commander will forward an application. Membership is open to any Vietnam-era vet. \$15.00 initially, includes first year's dues and then just \$12.00 per year. **One last time! We are doing a "Welcome Back" program for former**

members. Pay \$12.00 dues for 2005 and you will become active again. Over the next couple of NEWSLETTER, we will attempt to get everyone paid up to date. If you look at the Address label on the back page, you will see your name with some dates associated with your membership. The first year showing is the year date that you joined the group and the second date is the year date that you are currently paid up for. If it's anything but 2005, then you are in arrears. To become legitimate again, we are asking that you pay up for 2005 and then you are up to date and a member in good standing. There, that wasn't too painful. Write the check and mail it to the address on the letterhead or better yet, bring it to a meeting.

For the Good of the Chapter:

We are asking members to come forward with suggestions for fundraisers or ideas for events that may be of interest for the chapter. Come to a meeting & share.

2005 marks the 20th anniversary of the chapter. Party anyone?

VETERAN'S CORNER
Invitation: Ron Organic has requested VVW members to appear on his TV show "Veterans Corner" to talk about the 20th anniversary of the chapter. How we got started, what we do etc. Anyone interested in appearing on the show please contact Commander Joe Labbadia at 344-3287

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Middletown Inc. have a WEBSITE: Tell your friends! www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org Please take a few minutes of your time to "ADD IT TO YOUR FAVORITES", become familiar with its content and related links. The wife of Life Member Bob Natrass, Julie, is our webmaster. We want your E-mail: The chapter would like all members who have a computer and consequently an email address to forward their address to the committee through the WEBMASTER@[vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org](mailto:www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org)

Chapter Jackets; Jackets are still available at "ANYTHING GOES" in Durham, CT Call Rose Marie at 860-349-3315 GET one for the TRIP To 'THE WALL' this November

2005 Washington D.C. Trip to "THE WALL" , See flyer on next pages.

Members Ill or in Distress: Bill and Mary Fritsch are going through some trying times. Keep them in your prayers. There are lots of stressful situations when dealing with aging. (We are going to be there sooner or later). Keep the entire Fritsch family in your thoughts as they keep their mom and dad on an even keel. Bill will be turning 88 in June and Mary will be rounding 39 again a couple of weeks later.

To do:

June 2005 meeting will be on Tuesday 6/07/2005. Regular business meeting. 7:00 p.m.

Members and potential members welcome!

NOTE: Come to a meeting!

This years Golf Tournament is: **Thursday, June 2, 2005.** SAVE THIS DATE!

True Story: From nightclub to galley with Johnny and Ed.

The *USS Steinaker* (DD863) made a port call in Fort Lauderdale, FL in 1968, shortly before commencing its pre-deployment tender availability in Norfolk, VA.

My XO, then Lt. Cmdr Les Palmer, and I went ashore to visit a well-known tourist attraction, a Polynesian restaurant known as the Makai. Seated at the bar, I glanced over my shoulder and noted Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon enjoying a drink in a nearby booth. Knowing Johnny and Ed to have served in the Navy, I sent my card with compliments to them. They immediately asked us to join them and we spent an enjoyable evening swapping sea stories (Johnny had warm memories of his service and asked serious questions about the "new" Navy while dining. We stayed to watch the floor show, which, it turned out, was the reason Carson was there. He wanted to show support for a somewhat down-and-out comedian he knew from the "old" days.

I invited Johnny and Ed to visit the ship, assuming they would politely decline. But no, Johnny said "Let's go" and so at 0200 hours, the four of us greeted a surprised OOD and headed for the wardroom. Johnny said he was hungry and Les offered to wake the duty steward. I intervened, went into wardroom galley with Ed and together we rustled up coffee, scrambled eggs and toast.

More Navy talk ensued until about 0400 when I offered to drive them to their hotel. Johnny wouldn't have it, but insisted on calling a taxi. We piped him off at 0430.hrs.

GOOD GOLF

A man comes home from work and is greeted by his wife dressed in a sexy little nightie. "Tie me up," she purrs, "and you can do anything you want." So he ties her up and goes out for a round of golf.

A golfer asked his friend, "Why are you so late?"

The friend replied, "It's Sunday. I had to toss a coin between going to church or playing golf and it took 25 tosses to get it right!"

A gushy reporter told Jack Nicklaus, "You are spectacular, and your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?"

Nicklaus replied, "The holes are numbered."

A young man and a priest are playing together. At a short par-3 the priest asks, "What are you going to use on this hole, my son?"

The young man says, "An 8-iron, father. How about you?"

The priest says, "I'm going to hit a soft seven and pray."

The young man hits his 8-iron and puts the ball on the green. The priest tops his 7-iron and dribbles the ball out a few yards.

The young man says, "I don't know about you father, but in my church when we pray, we keep our head down."

FYI for all members

4/30/05 Rally for Vet's Benefits

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Press Release April 15, 2005

Contact: Mokie Porter

(301) 585-4000 Ext. 146

(301) 996-0901

VVA President Corey to Congress: Act Now to Insure Health Care Funding

(Washington, D.C.) – Funding for veterans' health care has 'failed to keep pace not only with medical inflation but with the increased demand for services by veterans," Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) President Thomas H. Corey told a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. Corey called for 'a free, open, and intense debate and dialogue" on the budget and the attempt by some in Congress to bar 'certain" veterans to accessing that care.

'If it is the will of the American people to constrict the benefits to which veterans are statutorily eligible, then VVA challenges the Congress here and now: Propose, introduce, hold public hearings and debate whether America wants to limit access for 'certain' veterans who are now deemed unworthy to receive VA health care," Corey said.

Providing funds that are 'sufficient and sustainable" to care for veterans 'must be considered part of the continuing cost of the national defense," the VVA President said. 'We believe that caring for veterans is not a Democratic cause. It is not a Republican effort. It is an American issue, one that cuts across all party affiliations."

On Saturday, April 30, VVA will hold a 'Leave No Veteran Behind" rally that will focus on the need for Congress to craft 'a mechanism that will insure, in every budget cycle, a sufficient, sustainable funding stream to enable the VA to properly care for the veterans who depend upon it to meet their health care needs," Corey said. For more information on the rally, go to <http://www.vva.org/>.

Corey also called on Congress to pass legislation that would grant Gold Star mothers an annuity, and asked that legislators to enact into law the bill introduced this week by Congressman Lane Evans, Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, that would recognize and deal with the human toll taken by post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health disorders.

'Rather than cut back and give less," Corey said, 'it is time to do more. We call on Congress to take the first steps toward crafting a real national plan to meet the needs of the men and women serving in the military." Corey called for 'a convocation of public officials, veterans' organizations, recent returnees, and leaders from the private sector to fashion a comprehensive, coordinated plan akin to what America did for World War II veterans."

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Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is 'Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

Join the Veterans of the Vietnam War-Middletown



On their annual Veterans Day trip to "THE WALL"

Middletown Vietnam Veterans Celebrating 20 years of service.

November 10, 11, 12, 2005

Deluxe motor coach from Middletown to Washington, DC
Depart Middletown 0600 Thursday, Return approximately 2200 Saturday

Two night's accommodations at a full service Holiday Inn in downtown DC

Thursday Marine Corps Birthday Celebration ----- Friday VETERANS DAY PROGRAM AT "THE WALL"
after Dark motor coach tour of key monuments in DC --- (all programs are optional)

Single \$ 295.00

Double \$ 375.00

Triple \$ 525.00

Special rates for children accompanying adult in same room

We expect a good turn out because it is the 20th Anniversary of our Vietnam Veterans Chapter

Please reserve early

A \$100.00 deposit per person will hold your space

All payments are due in full by October 1, 2005

For additional information call Jack @ 860-347-8843 evenings or 860-714-5025 during normal business hours

Itinerary to follow with pick up/drop off instructions when details are finalized.

An American went to Scotland and played golf with a newly acquainted Scottish golfer. After a bad tee shot, he played a "Mulligan" which was an extremely good one. He then asked the Scot, "What do you call a Mulligan in Scotland?"

"We call it hitting 3."

Police are called to an apartment and find a woman holding a bloody 5-iron standing over a lifeless man. The detective asks, "Ma'am, is that your husband?"

"Yes," says the woman.

"Did you hit him with that golf club?"

"Yes, yes, I did." The woman begins to sob, drops the club, and puts her hands on her face.

"How many times did you hit him?"

"I don't know, five, six, maybe seven times... just put me down for a five."

This years Golf Tournament is: **Thursday, June 2, 2005.**

Did you send the application in?

Did you take out a Tee Sponsorship?

VETERANS of the VIETNAM WAR, Middletown

Box 2113

Middletown, CT 06457-2113

www.vietnavetsmiddletownct.org

MAIL TO:
