

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 1071 - Denver

Location: Elk's Lodge #1777

1455 Newland Street

Lakewood, CO

Date: Saturday Jan. 21, 2017

Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by: Stan Paprocki at 10:05 am

Prayer & Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S— John Altfeltis, Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance – Stan Paprocki

Posting of POW/MIA Colors on POW Honor Chair— Jose Gonzales

Roll Call: Present: Stan Paprocki, Terry Ritenour, Leonard Smith, Jose Gonzales, Ray Holtz, and Marty Chavez

VVA Members Present: John Altfeltis, Bill Bleau, Bob Burnham, Bobby Campoy, Wes Chapman, Marty Chavez, Steve Connolly, Dan Dietz, Robert Doriss, Cliff Fejfar, William Ferguson, Jeffery Fossum, Jose Gonzales, Ron Gorman, Bruce Gottschalk, Lynn Herbert, Phillip Post, Ray Holtz, Kevin Hurst, Jim Miles, Steve Newton, Owen Oliver, Stan Paprocki, Robert Primeaux, Terry Ritenour, Lew Roman, Al Roettger, Joe Romero, Larry Sourbeer, Tom Simpson, Leonard Smith, Daniel Sorensen, David Steiner, Wally Struble, John Thompson, Jim Topkoff, Phil Waters, Rick Winfrey, Bob Wyatt, George Zervos, (40)

AVVA Members Present: Scott Hefty, Mary Ann Whitehead (2)

Guests – Linda Olson, Janet Beiner (DAR), Sandy Quintrall (DAR), John H. Kennedy, Robert Coleman, Evelyn Coleman, David A. Dryburch, Don Barand.(8)

President – Stan Paprocki: Welcomed Members & Guests

1. 1071 received a card from our past president's widow, Kathy Cox. Kathy donated \$1000. In honor of Richard's birthday on January 25th. He would have been 76. The words written by Kathy were very heartfelt and honoring of a man who dedicated his life, up to his final hours on this earth helping and caring about all veterans, especially Vietnam veterans brothers and sisters.
2. Attended a suicide prevention meeting Friday. Dr. Nat Manatt, a VA doctor held the class. Topics covered were Prevention, Mental Health & other issues. Suicides are listed at 20 per day. Six of those include veterans who were currently under VA care. Studies show that most suicides of veterans are by guns and happen within 30 seconds. Such a sad thing that this is happening, but the VA is trying very hard to prevent this.
3. Newsletter from National VVA President (John Rowan) to all members stating that National fully endorses President Trump's nomination of Dr. David Shelton as Sec of Veterans Affairs.
4. United Veterans event is scheduled for Jan.27th at State Capitol from 7:45am until about 3pm.
5. Agent Orange workshop is scheduled for April 29th at the American Legion Post 161 in Arvada. Chapters 1071 & 1106 will be hosting this important event.

6. Introduced Bill Bleau as the chapter's own VSO and Robert Primeaux as new bod member and part of Outreach Committee who will also be answering phone calls to our chapter phone.

Vice President: Terry Ritenour

- 1 Terry & member Bruce Gottchalk attended the Metro Denver Resources Network meeting at RRCC last week. This network works with Veterans in need. The next meeting is Feb. 9th at the JeffCo Action Center on west 14th ave. This is open to any member who might want to help other veterans. One of the veterans attending is asking for our help with assistance as he is attending classes but the VA has not compensated him yet. A motion was made to provide assistance to veteran Saavage with a check or gift card. After discussion to make sure Mr. Saavage was vetted, (he is) motion was seconded and passed by members in attendance to issue either a \$150 check or gift card to him.
- 2 Ron Gorman (member) will be including an article about Chapter 1071 in his Post Office newsletter next month. We are hoping to inform veterans who have worked or are still working for the Post Office about Vietnam Veterans of America, especially our chapter.
- 3 Mentioned the Veterans History Project spearheaded by member Phil Waters. Phil mentioned that he has the sign up sheet and to see him after the meeting. His first interviewee was David Steiner which went well. This is a great project to participate in so as to preserve your own personal military history. See Phil if you are interested or contact any board member to get his phone number.

Secretary Report: Marty Chavez

1. Introduction of guests attending our meeting

2. Encouraged all members and guests to invite any veteran to attend the Agent Orange Event as outlined by President Paprocki earlier.

3. Spoke about trying to set up a chapter library with books of Vietnam for members to checkout if they desire. Also encouraged members to donate any Vietnam era books not needed to the chapter for our outgoing Donate Books to Schools project.

Webmaster: Ray Holtz,

WEBSITE

1. December website visits were 2,805.
2. Posted Toxic Exposure Research Act becomes law.
3. Posted 2017 Chapter calendar.
4. Ron Gorman has been added to our Photo Gallery along with a Bio.
5. Revised, updated and deleted broken links on the Veterans Benefits and Resources page.
6. I Met with Craig Caldwell owner of White Fence Farm and he donated 12 months of gift certificates for our drawings.
7. Received 53 Veterans Day letters from Shannon Van Scotter's third grade class of Foothill Elementary School in Boulder. She stated the class would get a real kick out of receiving letters in return. I will bring them to our members meeting. The class also wrote a short composition about What is a Hero?
8. The last 4 week period for the King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards we had total of \$2,875.00. The next 4 week period will end on today January 21st.
9. The King Sooper store at 136th & Colo Blvd and Green Mtn has been reserved on Saturday May 27th between 9AM and Noon for Poppy Donations for Memorial Day, which is Monday May 29th
10. Mentioned 1071 Facebook link on website. John Altfeltis also covered some information regarding the Facebook link.

MEMBERSHIP

1. We added 1 new member: Dan Sorensen
2. AVVA report for December has no change.
3. We have 139 members, and 17 AVVA members giving us a total of 156 members.

Treasurer Report: Leonard Smith

**VVA Denver Chapter 1071
Treasurer's Report
December 31st, 2016**

As of December 1st 2016 General Acct. Balance (General Fund and Emergency Fund)	\$24,561.47
State Household Goods Allocation	579.00
Donations	848.03
Expenditures	(1,241.02)
Balance General Acct. 11/30/2016 (General Fund and Emergency Fund)	<u>\$24,747.48</u>
Balance Emergency Fund 11/30//2016	\$5,000.00
Balance Scholarship Account 11/30/2016	\$5,245.70

Outreach Committee: Robert Primeaux

Robert has just become on board as a member of 1071 Board of directors and will on dealing with VA issues for time being. Welcome aboard Robert.

Guest Speakers: Janet Beiner (DAR): Janet & Sandy have attended several 1071 member meetings to explain their mission and desire. DAR (Daughters of American Revolution) in partnership with the Dept. of Defense are here to collect names of 1071 members who would like to be recognized and receive a certificate and pin to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. These awards will be presented at the next members meeting on Feb. 18th, 2017

Don Barand: (Linda Olson's Son) Don is a Marine war veteran (Iraq) who is a financial planner in partnership with a Vietnam veteran (Purple Heart) and is offering their services to Vietnam veterans and seniors. They are offering honest & low cost services. You may contact Don through Linda Olson during 1071 meetings.

Honors Burial: Jim Topkoff:

Jim updated all in attendance regarding the events of the Honors Burial. This is a very special and touching project that 1071 has become involved with. It means an awful lot to Jim to be heading this project as he and 1071 truly believes that all veterans deserve a proper burial. It looks like we might have the second Honors Burial event in late spring or early summer. More information will be passed on to members as meetings between Mr. Jankanish of Dignity Memorial, Ft. Logan and 1071 committee are concluded.

Marketing: Jim Topkoff:

1. Thanked Janet & Sandy from DAR for their donations these past few months meetings.
2. Thanked member Jeff Fossum for his donations of 10 pocket knives with the Vietnam logos on them . These are very beautiful knives and we will be asking for a \$10. donation per knife at this time.
3. Dan Dietz donated one of his Rifle / Bullet pens for Auction to benefit our chapter. High Bid of \$55. went to Phil Waters. Thanks to both Dan & Phil for their continued support of 1071.

Drawings Door Prizes: Jim Topkoff

1. White Fence Farm (gift card) : Larry Sourbeer
2. Pocket Knife (Vietnam logo) : Bob Wyatt
3. Lanyard (1071 logo) :Don Barand
4. 1071 large patch : David Steiner

Up Coming Events: DAR Vietnam Veterans Commemorative event February 18, 2017.

Old Business:**New Business:**

Jose Gonzales: Informed all 1071 members about the Brighton City Council meeting coming up Jan.24th. Council members will decide hopefully approve Jose's last years request for a Vietnam Memorial in Brighton. This memorial is to honor those Vietnam veterans from Brighton who died and also those who served and survived. Brighton alone sent 200+ young men to fight in Vietnam.

Jose asked all those that can attend to please do so, as the more present the better.

Owen Oliver: Wish of a Lifetime Foundation, This project is still ongoing, so please let any deserving veteran or anybody in need of their services know of this project. Contact Owen for cards or information.

Robert Primeaux: Letter from 1071 to National VVA requesting input on allowing veterans who quit the NFL to serve in military during war to be allowed into the NFL Hall of Fame. This was tabled and will be brought up at next board meeting for consideration, then to members.

Retiring of POW/MIA Colors: Jose Gonzales

****Benediction: Chaplain John Altfeltis:** Prior to the Benediction John read out loud a very special letter that visitor Robert Coleman wrote, from his heart to our chapter. Robert is a retired Navy veteran who served in Korea & Vietnam. Robert recently heard of the Honors Burial 1071 had from the DAR and was so moved by what this chapter is doing for unclaimed veterans. Robert donated \$1000. for use in the Honors Burial Project to honor his wife (also a veteran ,Air Force) who is buried at Ft. Logan Cemetery. Robert & his wife had been married 53 years. Thank you so much Robert for your generous gift. 1071 truly appreciates it.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM MDT

Next Chapter Meeting will be on Feb. 18th, 2017

Marty Chavez, Secretary

VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver