

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 1071 - Denver

Location: Elk's Lodge #1777

1455 Newland Street

Lakewood, CO

Date: Saturday June 20th, 2016

Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by: Stan Paprocki at 10:00 am

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

Pledge of Allegiance – John Altfeltis

Posting of POW/MIA Colors on POW Honor Chair— Ray Holtz

VVA Members Present: John Altfeltis, Dewayne Bomar, Craig Buchard, Chuck Chavez, Marty Chavez, Hal Coffman, Steve Connolly, Richard Cox, Robert Doriss, James Emerson, Cliff Fejfar, William Ferguson, Bob Garcia, Jose Gonzales, Dave Hennig, Lynn D. Herbert, Bill Hilliard, Ray Holtz, Rusty Morse, Steve Newton, Owen Oliver, Stan Paprocki, John Pascente, Phillip Post, Terry Ritenour, Al Roettger, Joe Romero, Lance Rommerdahl, Tom Simpson, Larry Sourbeer, Leonard Smith, Tom Stepleton, David Steiner, Jim Topkoff, Terry Young (35)

AVVA Members Present: Judy Atencio, Mary Ann Whitehead, Ashley Vogl (3)

Guests –Claudia E. Hennig, Linda Olson Ferguson, Daniel Sorensen, Walter Gallegos, Bob Burnham, John Johnson, George Zervos, Ms Vogl, Terek Meyer, John Stoltz, Don Opeka,(11)

President – Stan Paprocki: First order of business:

Roll Call: Present: Stan Paprocki, Lance Rommerdahl, Leonard Smith & Ray Holtz, Marty Chavez

Welcomed members of 1071 & guests.

Angel Fire: Had good weather, a little chilly at top of mountain, Vietnam memorial event was attended by VVA chapters 1071, 1106, Santa Fe chapter and Rolling Thunder chapter #1. Angel Fire Memorial is now a New Mexico State Park. Stan encouraged members to visit Angel Fire if they never have.

Stan has been very busy working on the Honor's Burial and Bill Hilliard will cover more about that shortly.

Bill Bleau has just completed two weeks of VSO training with Diana from state of Colorado VA office. Bill is excited to be a part of this chapter and especially to be able to help our members with any VA issue that may come up.

Secretary Report: Marty Chavez,

Recognized and welcomed guests. Encouraged members to get involved with the Chapter's projects and volunteer.

Vice President: Lance Rommerdahl,

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1071 Scholarship Fund (Tony Lopez Scholarship Fund)

PURPOSE: These \$500 scholarships are intended to provide financial assistance to deserving Students. You should not assume that a scholarship has been awarded until you are officially notified by the scholarship committee. We expect decisions to be made and notifications sent out by XXXXXXXX

AWARD: These scholarships are intended to assist in obtaining an undergraduate degree from a university or college, or training in other VA accredited schools of higher education Scholarships are awarded without reference to race, religion, sex, national origin or VVA relationship.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

CHECKLIST: (Please arrange your packet in this order)

1. Complete the application form.
2. Write a personal letter including the following:
 - a. Your goals and objectives for the future;
 - b. Why you require financial assistance; and,
 - c. Why you feel you should be selected.
3. A grade transcript covering your entire high school career, including GPA and class rank.
4. A letter of acceptance from the university, college, or other institution of higher learning listed on the
5. A copy of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Student Aid Report (SAR).
6. Four (4) Letters of Recommendation should accompany the application. Letters should be from personal acquaintances, employers, clergy or teachers. It is best not to have all the letters from teachers. They should be from people who have known your family over a period of time. L
7. You must arrange for a personal interview with one of the members of VVA Chapter 1071 Scholarship Committee. Please make contact soon as possible, as interview dates may be preselected.

You should complete checklist items 1 thru 6 prior to the interview and have them available at the interview.

The complete application form with all accompanying materials must be submitted together in order no later than March 1, 2016 to be considered. Please do not submit any photos. Any photos received will be destroyed before your application is considered.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. Applicants will be advised if they were selected or not, no later than May 31st, 2016.
2. Your application packet will not be returned to you; in the event that you are not a selected recipient all documents are destroyed at the conclusion of our committee's selection process. Please refer any questions regarding the preparation of the application material to your high school counselor or feel free to contact us.

Lance Rommerdahl VP

LanceR@Realtor.com

3032503448

****Note:** A lot of questions were raised by members regarding the Chapter Scholarship and hopefully the members have a better understanding why we are doing this and where the money is coming from. Money for scholarship awards come strictly from donations and sales of merchandise within our chapter.

A letter of acceptance is needed.

Bill Hilliard suggested that we make an exception to allow AVVA members from Mead H.S. to apply for scholarship funds even if they are not related to any veterans.

Webmaster: Ray Holtz, WEBSITE

May website visits were 3,320.

Updates to our Honors Burial program are posted to include the press release with background supplemental and marked up map of Fort Logan.

Posted H.R. 1769 and S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act bills are placed on the House and Senate Calendar for floor votes.

Posted link to Bernie Townsend video "Just Won't Touch Me Now". All royalties from this will be donated to the VVA.

On our King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards program it took us two 4 week periods to reach \$6,625.00. We received a check for \$331.25 for our Chapter. The next 4 week period will end on July 9, 2016.

Our Poppy Fundraiser at both King Soopers and Buckley Air base was a great success with a total of \$2,098.99 for our chapter.

MEMBERSHIP

We added 4 members: Robert Gerle Sr. (Life), Bruce Gottschalk (Life), Thomas Moermond (Life), and Larry Sourbeer (IND1).

We added 4 AVVA members: Scott Hefty, June Smigel, Ashley Vogl and Mary Ann Whitehead

We have 127 members, and 17 AVVA members giving us a total of 144 members. David Steiner emailed me saying "And to think we started with 12 in 2012".

Treasurer Report: Leonard Smith

VVA Denver Chapter 1071 Treasurer Report May 31st, 2016

As of April 30, 2016 General Acct. Balance \$ 11,497.79

Donations

Donation	-0-
Electronic Equip Donation Sold	28.83

State HG	582.00
Grant Reimbursement	3423.04
Telephone Reimbursement	637.00
Transfer to Wells Fargo Savings Acct.	(150.00)
Transfer to Wells Fargo Grant Acct.	(1,000.00)
Expenditures	(858.31)
Poppy Sale Green Mountain	1150.60
Poppy Sale Westminster	607.50
Poppy Sale Buckley	330.89

Balance General Acct. 5/31/2016	\$ 16,249.34
Balance Savings Acct. 5/31/2016	\$ 4,344.74
Balance Grant Account 5/31/2016	\$ 1,188.41

Balance April.30, 2016 Grant Account Balance	\$ 1,871.67
Transfer from Wells Fargo General Acct.	1,000.00
Grant disbursements	(1,683.26)
Balance Grant Account May 31, 2016	\$ 1,188.41

Note: The poppy sales at the three locations this Memorial weekend brought in a little over \$2000, this is a huge event for our donation fund. Thank you to all the volunteers that manned the stations.

We have over \$4,200 in the Tony Lopez scholarship fund presently and when we award the four \$500. scholarships we will still be in great shape.

If anyone has any questions regarding the financial report please feel free to contact me with any question.

Leonard Smith, Treasurer 1071

Outreach Committee: Bill Hilliard

Outreach Notes – Membership Meeting

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Saturday June 18, 2016

Veterans Assist

The State Grant Account is closed. Final reimbursement was received, and remaining funds in the grant checking account have been returned to the chapter operating account, with a deposit of \$4143.60 on 6/14/16.

****Note:** A member objected that the chapter has closed the State Grant Acct. due to the fact that veterans still need financial help. After several minutes of discussions it was explained why the grant was stopped and that there are several organizations that can take over the responsibility now that new state grant money has been made available. Bill Hilliard gave excellent examples of scammers (circuit riders) plus out of pocket expenses to BOD members assigned to vet out these applicants requesting financial help.

President Paprocki invited anyone with more questions regarding this to see him or Bill after the meeting.

Honors Burial

Our first committal ceremony is set for next Saturday, June 25th at 10:30 am. Long range weather is forecasting 0% chance of precipitation from 9 am to 5 pm, with the temperature in the high 80's during the ceremony. Bring sunglasses and water.

We will be committing 30 veterans that day at Fort Logan. There is a practical limit of three tables in the columbarium plaza with ten urns per table. As a result we dialed back from our allowed 50 count, which we have far more approvals for than that anyway. In addition to the 30 we will inter next Saturday, 41 more are approved currently approved.

Since we began submissions in February:

- Total names submitted: 108
- Total approved for committal: 71
- Total barred from burial: 3
- Total denied burial: 19
- Total found, already approved: 4
- Total pending decision: 10
- Total Incomplete: 1

Of the 71 approved veterans, the war period served:

- WW I – 4
- WW II – 43
- WW II + Korea – 5
- Korea – 7
- Korea + Vietnam – 2
- Vietnam – 4
- Peacetime – 6

Of the 71 approved veterans, Service Branches represented:

- Air Force – 5
- Army – 43
- Navy – 18
- Marines – 3
- USAAF + USAF – 1
- Unknown - 1

We currently have 30 urns ready for use next Saturday:

- Air Force – 1
- Army – 17
- Navy – 10
- Marines – 2

Our guest speaker will be Maj. Gen. Michael Edwards, the Colorado Adjutant General. A flyover is not yet approved, but Gen. Edwards' staff is now involved and we expect an answer soon. The Air Force has committed to providing the rifle squad and Mark Stallins will play taps.

The press release was widely distributed last Saturday; all members should have received a copy. Please feel free to further distribute as needed. The program handout has been finalized and sent to the printers, it may be ready today (Ray?). The sound system has been tested and will be ready on Saturday.

Fort Logan will position one Porta-Potty on the Shelter A looped parking area. We expect a substantial turnout, which will make parking challenging with street-side parking being the only solution available near the columbarium. Because of this, we will be encouraging drivers to drop off passengers at the columbarium and move their vehicles to the vicinity of any of the three shelter areas or the visitor's center. Mullen High School has most generously offered their 14 passenger van to run a circular shuttle that will pick up drivers from these distant locations to bring them back to the ceremony. We will need one volunteer to drive this van, and he must be available to get keys and instructions a day or two ahead of time. We will need two volunteers to act as greeters at the two Sheridan Blvd. gates, so they can alert arriving drivers.

We will need two or three ushers to hand out programs to arriving guests, and possibly assist handicapped people to their seats. The Patriot Guard will be positioned along the short walkway from the street, and elsewhere as their numbers allow. They will participate in the roll call by dipping their respective branch flag as the veteran's branch is called out. The Colorado Joint Color Guard will provide the presentation of colors as well as bearing the four representative urns from the hearse and again at the placing of urns. They will further assist by identifying and responding "present" as the various names are called. Al Roettger will do the calling and report back to Stan Paprocki who will act as Master of Ceremonies. Chaplain John Altfeltis will solemnize the service.

Lloyd will set a date this week for transfer of cremains to our urns. We will need four or five volunteers to assist out at Eastlawn Cemetery. It should be straight forward and only take an hour or two. He will retain the urns until the day of the ceremony, when he will transport them to Ft. Logan, arriving at 9:00 am, so we can set them up on the tables well ahead of the ceremony and allow Ft. Logan staff to do their paperwork. It's all coming together very nicely, and with the weather cooperating we should expect a memorable committal ceremony.

Bill Hilliard

Marketing: Jim Topkoff,

I have been working with the Honor Burial Project since the beginning and we need your help. I've always worked with organizations for several years and 20% seem to always be the same volunteers and 80% are always in the background. We need the 80% to step up to the plate now. Thank You for allowing me to speak.

Drawings Door Prizes: Winners

\$30 gift card donated by White Fence Farm: **Lynn D. Herbert**

1071 hat: **Al Roettger**

1071 Lanyard: **Lance Rammerdahl**

Up Coming Events:

Honors Burial @ Ft. Logan Cemetery June 25th at 10:30 am.

Veteran's Festival at Heritage Center on June 25th. City of Lakewood will be holding a 50th Anniversary celebration.

Old Business:

New Business: **Judy Atencio** spoke about her change of location to Montrose but still will be involved with veterans in that part of Colorado. Judy was presented a 1071 Certificate of Appreciation, A VVA 1071 Challenge Coin and a Gift Card to the Red Barn in Montrose. Judy will be missed and we as a chapter do appreciate everything she has done to help all veterans. **Thank You Judy & God Bless**

Sgt-at-Arms Retired POW/MIA Colors: Ray Holtz

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM MDT

Next Chapter Meeting will be on July 16, 2016

Marty Chavez, Secretary

VVA Chapter 1071 - Denver