

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1071 - Denver  
Location: Elk's Lodge #1777  
1455 Newland Street  
Lakewood, CO  
Date: Saturday June 16th, 2018  
Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT**

## **CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting called to order by:** Stan Paprocki, 1071 President

**Opening Prayer** – John Altfeltis,

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Stan Paprocki

**Posting of POW/MIA Colors on POW Honor Chair** – Jose Gonzales

**Reading of POW/MIA Names & Dates:** Chaplain John Altfeltis

**Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S-** Stan Paprocki

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

**VVA Members Present: (53)** John Altfeltis, Bill Bleau, DeWayne Bomar, Tim Bradley, Sam Bunge, Bob Burnham, Bobby Campoy, Fred Ceconi, Wes Chapman, Chuck Chavez, Marty Chavez, Steve Connolly, Michael Craig, John Currie, Robert Doriss, John Durant, Cliff Fejfar, Bill Ferguson, Jeffrey Fossum, Jose Gonzales, Ron Gorman, Bruce Gottschalk, David Hennig, Lynn Herbert, Ted Hildebrand, Ray Holtz, Jan Housey, Ron Kurtz, Lonnie L. Leech, Bob Lopez, Tom Moermond, Rusty Morse, Steve Newton, Stan Paprocki, Trini Rael, Steve Randolph, Frank Riddle, Terry Ritenour, Lew Roman, Joe Romero, George Santos, Joe Sleevi, A. Leonard Smith, Otto Smolik, David Steiner, Wally Struble, John Thompson, Jim Topkoff, Gary Uyeda, Phil Waters, Don Wood, Bob Wyatt, George Zervos

**AVVA Members Present: (3)** Mary Ann Whitehead, Scott Hefty, Dennis Meader,

**Guests: (7)** Jeanne Oliver, Maria Secret, Carol Bleau, Fran Housley, Linda Olson, Joe C. Null, Jerry Cupps,

**President Report:** Stan Paprocki,  
Welcomed Members and Guests,

1. Introduced Maria Secret, Regional Director for Senator Gardner, Maria spoke about all of the services Senator Gardner's office has done for veterans especially making sure that benefits and awards due to veterans and their families are awarded.
2. Jeanne Oliver spoke and thanked all for the wonderful military funeral that was provided for her step father at Ft. Logan.
3. VP Terry spoke the words that come with the presentation of a folded casket flag, then presented Jeanne Oliver with a Military Flag in honor of her step father. The original flag was presented to her step brother at the funeral and Chapter 1071 wanted to make sure Ms. Oliver received one too.
4. Stan Brought the members up to date on several issues, Mead HS event, May 24<sup>th</sup>, Poppies Donations, Brighton Vietnam Memorial.
5. Stan also spoke about upcoming events,
6. a. June 30<sup>th</sup>, JeffCo Platoon Reunion,  
b. July 21<sup>st</sup> MRVA Medical Center ribbon cutting ceremony at 10am, c. July 23<sup>rd</sup> VVA Leadership Conference

in Palm Springs,

d. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> is the Arvada Festival Parade at 9am.

e. Dan Dietz 's name plate is on the 1071 Memorial Plaque.

f. Attended meeting at the UNC, VA will continue to use the " Choice Program" The toll free number is 1-877-881-7618 if members have issues with Choice Program.

### **Vice President Report: Terry Ritenour**

Terry wished all a very Happy Father's Day.

Terry updated members on the VVA State Council meeting, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

State elections were held. Listed below are the officers elected. Regional Director, Dick Southern was on hand to swear these men into office.

- a. Lee White, President
- b. Stan Paprocki, 1<sup>st</sup> VP
- c. David Lion, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP
- d. Milt Omato, Secretary
- e. David Ramsey, Treasurer

Terry also covered the Veterans court at Jefferson County, still looking and needing additional mentors. Please see Terry, Bruce or Phil if you are interested in being a part of these wonderful program. Court is every Tuesday, 10am, Room 4D.

Terry presented Lew Roman a check for \$500 as a 1071 donation to be used at the Broomfield Veterans Memorial Museum. 1071 member Lew accepted and thanked all members of 1071 for this much needed donation. It will be put to good use. Lew also reminded all to take time and visit the museum.

### **Secretary Report: Marty Chavez,**

Welcomed guests and had them introduce themselves.

### **Financial Report: Leonard Smith**

Leonard reported on the Chapters financial. As always, if anyone has any questions, please come see me after the meeting.

### **Webmaster Report: Ray Holtz**

1. May website visits were 3,064.
2. Posted Honors Burial update July 18, 2018, 2:00 PM Shelter A
3. Posted Press Releases: VVA Applauds Nomination of Robert Wilkie as Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Senate Passes VA Mission Act; VVA calls on President to Sign bill now.
5. Posted photos VN Veterans Memorial dedication in Brighton along with two 9 News videos.
6. Posted New VA Hospital Celebration and ribbon cutting event information on July 21<sup>st</sup>.
7. Mark your calendar notification of West Metro Veterans Fair Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to 3 PM at the Elks Lodge is posted.
8. The last 4 week period for the King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards ending May 19th we had total of \$5,212.50. When added to the previous period of \$4,714.36 the total is \$9,926.86 that will give us a check for \$493.34. The next period that will end on June 16th.
9. Posted photos of poppy donations at the four King Soopers stores.
10. Memorial Day Poppy donations:

Green Mtn	\$1,454
Thornton	\$1,395
Arvada	\$1,043
Littleton	<u>\$1,030</u>
Total	\$4,922

### **Membership Report: Ray Holtz**

1. We added 3 new members: Jan Housley, Richard Lewis and Gerald Vargo.
2. We added 1 new member to our AVVA roster: Carol Cordova.
3. We have 172 members, and 26 AVVA members giving us a total of 198 members.

## **Outreach Liaison: Position Vacant**

## **Outreach Committee: Chaplain John Altfeltis:**

### **Board of Directors:**

**Ray Holtz:** Reminder to members about their BIO on website. Please sent it electronically or see him if you don't have access to computer or unable to send pictures, Ray can scan and post them.

**Jose Gonzales:** Jose thanked all who helped and attended the Brighton Vietnam Memorial, He mentioned that an estimated 800+ people attended. He will post drone picture as soon as he gets it. Jose also mentioned a request from fellow member, Andy Romero. Andy just lost an older brother, he too was a Vietnam veteran but not a 1071 member. It would be great to see several members attend the funeral and support Andy during this time. The funeral is at Ft. Logan Monday June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1pm Shelter A

**VP Terry** presented Jose with a 1071 plaque for his work and dedication with the Brighton Vietnam Memorial. He also directed Jose to deliver a similar plaque to the Brighton City Council for their willingness to Honor all the Brighton area veterans who served and died in the Vietnam war.

**Phil Waters** also had another funeral request from a fellow Vietnam veteran who had been the caregiver of a Marine Veteran, Daniel Van Roth who recently passed away. Daniel's daughter, the only known relative requested that members of our chapter attend Daniel's funeral at Ft. Logan June 20<sup>th</sup>, 11am, Shelter C. Phil met the requesting veteran, John Kennedy, at the Jeffco Veteran's Treatment Court.

## **Guest Speaker: Terry Ritenour, 1071 Vice President.**

David Steiner introduced Terry as the guest speaker.

(Note: This is just bits and pieces of Terry's story. This is the first the time Terry has shared his story, however he has shared some small bits at school assemblies.)

Terry started out by telling members about his background. Born in Iowa, 1949, family moved to Loveland at 4 years of age, family then moved to Minnesota during senior year, Graduated from HS then got letter from Uncle Sam. Was drafted into Army, however Marine recruiters showed up with clipboard needing three volunteers to fill their quota, Terry's name and two others names were read off the list so off to Marine boot camp he went. Terry was destined to be a Marine as his father, step father and step brother were all Marines. Boot camp was a great experience as Terry loved being part of a uniformed one unit. After boot camp, ITR, and base leave he was off to ( Da Nang) Vietnam. He became a point man and tunnel rat for his company. Later during his tour Terry was selected / asked to a Regimental driver in Da Nang, however on the day before reporting he went on routine patrol and as point during a fire fight he stepped on a booby trap, severely damaging his right ankle, and that was the end of his tour. On May 1970 Terry was medically discharged from the Marine Corps. Later in 1970 Terry got married, moved back to Colorado, raised two daughters. Terry was married for 40 years and lost his wife to cancer in 2010. Terry is currently the VP of 1071 and his goal is to make 1071 the best chapter possible and we all agree. Thank you Terry for such an emotional story.

## **Honors Burial: Jim Topkoff,**

Honors Burial Update: Ft. Logan, July 18<sup>th</sup> 2018, Shelter A, 2pm.

The cremains are all Army so it would only be appropriate to ask for 4 or 5 Army veterans to carry the remains. Please see me after meeting to volunteer. These cremains are the last from East Lawn Cemetery.

We are still working on the Crown Hill cremains.

## **1071 Schools Outreach Program: Phil Waters & Jim Higgins:**

.Mead HS students created several artifacts in class as assignment to be placed at the Wall in DC. Bob Wyatt will be delivering these artifacts to the Wall.

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

### **General Discussion:**

**Bob Wyatt:** Bob spoke of his mission to deliver and the placing of artifacts to the Wall in DC. He explained what is required by those wishing to send artifacts. Bob has done these deliveries 12 to 15 times in the past and it still gets very emotional. Thank you for doing this Bob.

**John Thompson:** John mentioned the Bill Daniel's program for homeless veterans and the much need for volunteers. Holly Hall had attended one of our meetings and explained the program's purpose, however volunteers have been very scarce. John provided several flyers that explain the need for this program and volunteers.

**Joe Sleevei:** Joe explained what the JeffCo Veteran's Reunion is all about, the upcoming reunion at the Lakewood Culture Center and the need for volunteers to help at the event, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 to 12 noon and the following BBQ at the American Legion Post on Morrison Rd.

**Sam Bunge:** 1071 member spoke about the Vietnam Restoration project in Vietnam. Sam showed slides of what has been done by Vietnam veteran volunteers to help restore Vietnam after the war. Sam spoke about meeting soldiers from the other side, who were very courteous. Very interesting pictures, Thanks for sharing.

### **Scholarship Committee: David Steiner,**

### **Marketing: Jim Topkoff**

### **Drawings Door Prizes: Jim Topkoff**

\$10 Subway gift card: Frank

White Fence Farm \$30 gift card: Wes Chapman

King Soopers \$25 reloadable card: Joe Sleevei

### **Up Coming Events:**

June 30<sup>th</sup>, JeffCo Platoon Reunion

Honors Burial update July 18, 2018, 2:00 PM Shelter A

July 21<sup>st</sup> MRVA Medical Center ribbon cutting ceremony at 10am,

July 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, VVA National Leadership Conference, Palm Springs, Calif

Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> is the Arvada Festival Parade at 9am.

West Metro Veterans Fair Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to 3 PM at the Elks Lodge

### **Retiring of POW/MIA Colors: Jose Gonzales**

### **Benediction: John Altfeltis**

**Meeting adjourned at 12.00 pm MDT**

**Next Chapter Meeting will be on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

**Marty Chavez – Secretary, VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver**