

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1071 - Denver
Location: Elk's Lodge #1777
1455 Newland Street
Lakewood, CO
Date: Saturday May 20th, 2017
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, 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: Al Roettger, Leonard Smith, Marty Chavez, Ray Holt, Joe Romero, Ron Gorman, George Zervos, Gary Uyeda, Glenn Rountree, Jim Miles, Hal Coffman, Jim Topkoff, Dave Hennig, Bob Hartman, Steve Connolly, Chuck Chavez, Frank Tobani, Owen Oliver, David Steiner, Lew Roman, Lindsay Smith, Jeff Fossum, Bob Wyatt, John Altfeltis, Dewayne Bomar, Jose Gonzales, Wally Struble, Terry Ritenour, Bob Lopez, Larry Sourbeer, Rusty Morse, Bob Coleman, Kevin Hurst, Cliff Fejfar, Lynn Herbert, Ed Shreeve, Tom Simpson, John Thompson, Robert Primeaux, Stan Paprocki, Jim Higgins, Robert Doriss, Bob Burnham, John Currie, Steve Newton. (45)

AVVA Members Present: Janet Beiner, Scott Hefty, Mary Ann Whitehead (3)

Guests – Charles Wilson, Dominic Black, Logan Barren, Miles Schwartz, Madison Kuebler, Joe Sena, Sandra Quinhall, Ken Pesicka, Morgana Meader, Claudia Hennig, Don Bates, Susan Bates, Trinidad Rael, Walter Gallegos, Dennis Meader, (15)

President – Stan Paprocki:

Welcome members and guest of VVA Chapter 1071, and let us acknowledge this 2017 Armed Forces Day.

This Chapter and Chapter 1106 co-sponsored an Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting last month.

Even with the spring snow storm, we had 75 participants. The professional panel did a great job! Subjects covered were A/O, Hep “C”, PTSD and Suicide Prevention. Also, Camp Lejeune Toxins and VA benefits. We had good feed back from all attendees, and the Hep C test given that day was helpful.

Thanks for all the from our chapter members.

Next Saturday is our V/N Poppy event.

June 23 will be our Chapter's third “Honors Burial” Ft. Logan

June 24th is the Region 8&9 Conference, Aurora, CO

Stan acknowledged and thanked Eddie Shreeve for the use of Post 161 during the Agent Orange town hall meeting

Vice President: Terry Ritenour,

There are extra pieces of Agent Orange literature left over from the Town hall meeting last week. Feel free to take what you need.

Secretary Report: Marty Chavez

Welcomed guests and new members

Webmaster: Ray Holtz,

WEBSITE

1. April website visits were 3,309.
2. Posted photos of Members visit to Green Mtn HS and Dakota Ridge HS.
3. Posted link to list of 35 Vietnam Movies and 35 Vietnam Songs on 35th Anniversary of the Wall and a link to their website.
4. Posted West Metro Vets Fair save the date flyer. It will be Sept 26th from 1-4pm at the Elks Lodge. More information will be posted later.
5. Veterans Choice Program Telephone number scam is posted. Correct number is 866-606-8198 not 800.
6. Posted John Thompson's speech on being proud to be a Vietnam Veteran.
7. The last 4 week period for the King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards we had total of \$4,930.00. The closest we ever got to \$5,000. The next period will end on June 10th.
8. Next Saturday May 27th will be our chapters Poppy Donations for Memorial Day weekend. We will be at the King Soopers stores at 136th & Colo Blvd, and the Green Mtn. store at Union and Alameda between 9AM and Noon.

MEMBERSHIP

1. We added 4 new members: Ralph Bozella, John Currie, Nelson Hendrickson and Don Wood.
2. Two members transferred to our chapter Richard Hogue and Frank Riddle.
3. AVVA report for April has no change.
4. We have 151 members, and 17 AVVA members giving us a total of 168 members.

Treasurer Report: Leonard Smith

**VVA Denver Chapter 1071
Treasurer's Report
April 30th, 2017**

As of April 1st 2017 General Acct. Balance (General Fund and Emergency Fund)	\$27,327.98
State Household Goods Allocation	0
Donations & Merchandise Sales	1,053.00

Expenditures	(1,285.66)
Balance General Acct. 4/30/2017 (General Fund and Emergency Fund)	<u>\$27,095.32</u>
Balance Emergency Fund 3/31/2017	\$5,000.00
Balance Scholarship Account 3/31/2017	\$5,846.25

Outreach Liaison: Robert Primeaux,

Robert shared an email that he received from the editor of Veterans Magazine. The Chapter 1071 Honors Burial article has been moved from the May-June time frame to the July-August issue, which will be better since the article will be viewed by those attending the National Convention in August.

Guest Speakers: Madison Kuebler, Pre-planning Advisor, Olinger / Dignity.

Madison comes from a long family list of veterans, she herself served in the National Guard. Her job at Olinger consists of working close with veterans, which she loves to do. Madison was invited to speak by Pres. Stan after meeting Madison at the United Veterans Committee meeting. She had some very important information to share with members regarding protection of veterans and families during funeral proceedings. Flyers and question were available after the meeting.

Miles Schwartz: Great introduction of Miles by Al Roettger. Miles is the faculty coordinator for GMHS. Miles has been very instrumental in working with 1071 regarding veterans participating in school functions and as speakers to students who are studying the Vietnam war. Miles spoke about what it means to have veterans speak to the students at GMHS. He read out loud very touching and moving letters that students wrote after Chapter 1071 veterans spoke to them. Miles introduced two students, **Dominic & Logan**, who started the Veterans Appreciation Club at GMHS. As sophomores they were very impressed by the Vietnam veteran's stories they heard and by talking to veterans that they and several students decided to start this club.

Honors Burial: Jim Topkoff: Jim spoke about the upcoming Honors Burial in June. Meeting at Shelter A at 12-12:30 if you are participating with the honors. Services start promptly at 1:30pm. Uniform for those carrying the urns will be Black pants and shoes, White shirt and vest if you have one, Proper hat or head cover that signifies military service. Very important that we honor these departed veterans in a proper way.

Marketing: Jim Topkoff: Jeff Fossum donated a Vietnam theme Zippo Lighter and Pocket Watch. Would like to sell them for a little more than what Jeff paid for them. This will be a profit for the chapter. Thank you Jeff.

Drawings Door Prizes: Jim Topkoff

1. 1071 Vietnam Hat: John
2. Key Chain Lanyard donated by Mary Ann: Frank C.
3. POW/MIA Bumper Sticker: Miles S.
4. White Fence Farm gift card: Rusty M.

Up Coming Events: June 23rd Honors Burial at Ft. Logan Cemetery.

June 24th Pre-convention conference in Aurora.

Sept. 20th GMHS to honor veterans at their football game.

Old Business: Out going DAR president and AVVA member, Janet Beiner presented Dwayne Bomar with his Certificate of Appreciation from DAR for his military service during Vietnam.

- Al Roettger:**
1. Al covered on the school's responses about Veteran presentations at their schools.
 2. Talked about Mead HS students creating their own hand made artifacts that will be placed at the Wall in DC.
 3. Invited members to participate in GMHS's Sept 20th football game where Veterans will be honored for their service to our country.
 4. Passed out packets with thank you notes from Dakota Ridge Students to members that attended their school and spoke about their Vietnam experiences.
 5. Invited members to try and attend Mead HS's assembly on May 24th where students will talk about the artifacts the have made which will be taken to the wall in DC.
 6. Reminded members that June 24th Pre-Conference fees will be reimbursed if you plan on going. This will be a great opportunity to see what VVA is about visiting with members from other chapters in Regions 8 & 9. Stan has several applications available.

Jim Miles: Jim spoke about all books collected for three the HS libraries. The feedback from the schools have been very positive. To Members, keep those books coming if you have no use for them. We will use them for the next school that come aboard with our programs.

New Business: Rusty Morse: Rusty spoke about the Military Postal (Stamp) History for stamp collectors. He also invited members to attend a huge show at the Crown Plaza, 170 and Chambers Rd. This event will be for 4 days and is free to all veterans.

Cliff Fejfar: Invited all members to attend the Annual Veteran's Day Patio BBQ being held by the Elks Sunday May 21st. at 5pm. Cliff also mention the unfortunately closing of the Veterans Home on Colo Blvd here recently. The remaining veterans were farmed out through out the state pulling these veterans away from the only families they knew in the home.. The Elks Veterans Committee used to hold annual Christmas Parties for them. Guess we won't be doing that anymore.. Understand that home is going to be turned into a mental health center.

John Thompson: John started out by telling members that everyone here should have their favorite charity. His favorite is Project Sanctuary, which helps families of veterans suffering from PTSD, Suicide and different types of issues that affect the families. There are several things that Project Sanctuary does including events that encourages families to participate as a family group. These sessions / events are of no cost to participants. John provided fliers and donation forms at the meeting.

Congratulations to **Chaplin John Altfeltis** for being elected to serve as the new Chaplin for American Legion Post 161.. Way to go John.

Retiring of POW/MIA Colors: Jose Gonzales

Benediction: Chaplain John Altfeltis:

Meeting adjourned at 11:57PM MDT

Next Chapter Meeting will be on June 17, 2017

Marty Chavez, Secretary

VVA Chapter 1071 - Denver