

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1071 - Denver**

Location: Elk's Lodge #1777
1455 Newland Street
Lakewood, CO

Date: Saturday July 18th, 2015

Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order: President Richard Cox at 10:05 AM

Members Present: John Altfeltis, Judy Atencio, Ed Baker, Dewayne Bomar, Marty Chavez, Steve Connolly, Richard Cox, Dan Dietz, Cliff Fejfar, Bill Ferguson, Linda Olsen Ferguson, Jeffery Fossum, Jim Hernandez, Bob Garcia, Dennis Van Gelder, Karen Hand, David Hennig, Claudia Hennig, Lynn Herbert, Bill Hilliard, Ray Holtz, Russell "Rusty" Morse, Steve Newton, Owen Oliver, Stan Paprocki, Joe Romero, Leonard Smith, David Steiner, Tom Stapleton, Jim Topkoff, Gary Uyeda, Rick Winfrey (32)

Board Members Excused: John Pascente, Jim Miles

Guests –John Kurowski, Frank Tobani (transferring member)

Pledge of Allegiance – Richard Cox

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

A special prayer was said for John Pascente's wife and Jim Miles for a speedy recovery regarding health wellness.

Posting of POW/MIA Colors on POW Honor Chair—Dan Dietz

President - Richard Cox

Last month's meeting minutes were read and approved by Board of Directors and officers.

Veterans Stand Down: Colo Springs Chapter 1075 is having a Veteran Stand Down July 24th, 2015, They are expecting to feed between 35-40 homeless veterans. DAV #50 and VVA 1075 each donated \$300. Richard will call Chapter 1075 to see if more donations are needed.

Veteran Help (rent): Our Chapter was able to help a veteran (Ricky Williams) with his back rent. We used Chapter money. He is in good shape now.

Congressional Ceremony Lapel Pin: Everyone who is a Vietnam Veteran will be receiving this pin. Only a few have been made but mass production is in near future. We will notify members on updates regarding pins.

Veterans Fair: Sept 15th, 2015, 2pm at Elks Lodge. We encourage all members to attend. Free hot dogs & refreshments will be provided.

Received a call the from Robert S. of Grand Junction regarding a deceased Vietnam Veteran, John Michael White. His wishes are that part of his cremated remains be buried in Grand Junction, another part buried in his birth place, and last wish, that some of his ashes be buried in Vietnam. Richard will try to find a way to retrieve his ashes to be sent to Vietnam. Richard is working with a group regarding sending his ashes to Vietnam. After all was said and done, Robert informed Richard that Mr. White also left a \$5000.00 donation and an electric scooter to Chapter 1071.

Presented Karen Hand with the Agent Orange Caregivers Recognition Pin regarding her late husband & past member, Jay Hand.

Informed Members of Chapter's hot dog stand that we need to use at Chapter events.

BOD Member Bill Hillard nominated, seconded and accepted:

New Member: Welcomed Leonard Smith & Ron Gorman as a new members

Vice President—David Steiner: The Harvest Festival will be held Sept. 11th, 12th, & 13th. Our Chapter's booth will have a free and better location this year due to a bad location with very little traffic last year.

David also mentioned that if you have a Bronze Star in your DD214, you are entitled to a free license plate as long as you own your vehicle. However there are still some issues and backlogs regarding receiving the plates. Please see David if you have any questions.

Treasurer—John Pascente. Absent Excused. Richard read financial report

.Webmaster Report: Ray Holtz, Had 3754 hits on website in June. Ray also send out a members email regarding a Congressional Commemorating video of the 50th Vietnam War anniversary. Ray also added a link to press release regarding all chemicals used in Vietnam. Chapter has received \$353.00 from the King Soopers gift card (reward) program. Want to remind members to load and use their cards. This is a great way for our chapter to raise funds.

Out Reach Report— Bill Hillard,

Guest Speakers: Ft. Carson's Public Information Officer, Tony Mayne called advising Ft Carson's willingness to send speaker for either August or Sept. meetings.

Honors Committee

Owen and I attended Chapter 1106 meeting last Saturday, where they were awarding a certificate of appreciation to Olinger Mortuaries for their contributions of money and equipment for the startup of the chapter. Lloyd Swint, General Manager accepted the

award, and I had an opportunity to chat with him about our efforts to identify veterans in the unclaimed bodies list from Denver ME and other coroners.

Lloyd said he has about 3000 cremated remains of unclaimed persons from the Olinger family of mortuaries, and would be delighted to have our assistance in identifying any vets in the group. He has a couple of weeks' vacation that he's on right now, but when he gets back he'll give us a tour of the facility and go over the details of the identification procedures.

Once we establish a protocol I will be putting out an all-members email asking for volunteers to work in the Honors Burial Committee. The email will list the skills and time effort that will be useful. Any thoughts now would be just a guess, so I'd like to defer specifics until we can see the task up close.

A national organization, www.miap.us has been somewhat successful back east in doing just this function, after searching through 11,635 cremated remains, they identified 2,666 veterans among them. If our hit rate will be approximately the same 23%, we would expect to find 690 vets just in the Olinger chain. Other mortuary chains will undoubtedly hold similar numbers of unclaimed remains.

Secretary Report – Marty Chavez. Thanked everyone for attending meeting.

Board Member – Dan Dietz: Hats, working on that, Challenge pins are available, have plenty of them along with patches.

Old Business--- None

New Business— Food Drive for next meeting requested and accepted

Guest speakers: John Kurowski spoke on a program for vets called Cruise With A Vet. This event is scheduled for August 8th, 2015 at the Colorado Freedom Memorial. Flyers to the event were handed out.

Rick Winfrey also spoke regarding his reassignment to Gilpin County as their new VSO

Other Business: Judy Atencio spoke regarding VOA's new building at 1247 Santa Fe Drive that is for Veterans use.

Joe Romero informed members of a website where one can request Dog Tags, wwlldogtags.com

Monthly Door Prizes--- Winners were: Jim Hernandez, Safety wrist rope, Joe Romero, Hat, Bill Fergurson, \$50 Outback gift card, Bob Garcia, \$30 White Fence Farm gift card. The Chapter thanks all the vendors who donate to our VVA.

Next Chapter Meeting will be on August 15th, 2015

Sgt-at-Arms Retired POW/MIA Colors

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM MDT

Marty Chavez, Secretary
VVA Chapter 1071 - Denver