

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1071 - Denver
Location: Elk's Lodge #1777
1455 Newland Street
Lakewood, CO
Date: Saturday April 21st, 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: (50)) John Altfeltis, Donald Bates, Tim Bradley, Bob Burnham, Bobby Campoy, Chuck Chavez, Marty Chavez, Steve Connolly, David L. Dean, Robert Doriss, Joe Dural, John Durant, Bill Ferguson, Jeffrey Fossum, Cliff Feifar, Jose Gonzales, Bruce Gottschalk, David Hennig, Bob Hartman, Nelson Hendrickson, Lynn Herbert, Jim Higgins, Ted Hildebrand, Ray Holtz, Ron Kurtz, Lonnie L. Leech, Jim Miles, Rusty Morse, Steve Newton, Owen Oliver, Stan Paprocki, Trinidad Rael, Steve Randolph, Terry Ritenour, Bill Robbins, Joe Romero, Don Saiz, Eddie Shreeve, Tom Simpson, A. Leonard Smith, Lindsay Smith, Otto Smolik, Larry Sourbeer, David Steiner, Tom Stepleton, John Thompson, Jim Topkoff, , Phil Waters, Rick Winfrey, George Zervos

AVVA Members Present: (1) Mary Ann Whitehead,

Guests: (14) Susan Bates, Linda Olson, Janet Beiner, Sandy Quinbrall, Bob Schofield, Carol Cordova, Renee Ambrose, Marie Winfrey, Michael Sullivan, Richard L. Lewis, Joe C. Null, Jerry Cupps, Jerry Vargo, Jim Hiltenbrand,

President Report: Stan Paprocki,
Welcomed Members and Guests,

1. The chapter election of officers and directors will be held today. This elections have to be done every two (2) years according to the National VVA by-laws. We will conduct the election later under New Business.
2. Four board members attended the annual United Veterans Committee banquet on April 8th. Very informative, and great exposure for our chapter.
3. The new VA hospital is still scheduled for grand opening on August 11th, 2018
4. New bill on the senate floor, 18-1361 which should pass without a problem later this summer. It will allow them to change the Vietnam War specialty license plate dates from Aug. 7th, 1964 to Jan. 1975 from 1973.
5. Received email from a Carol Singer requesting our chapter members to attend the funeral of her brother Donald Stalter who was a Navy veteran. Very nice letter which has been posted on our website by Ray Holtz. Her request is to allow her brothers children and grandchildren to see that Vietnam veterans really cared about each other. If you have the time, please help us pay our respects to this veteran even though he was not a chapter member. The funeral services will be May 11th, Shelter A at 10am.

6. VVA National Leadership Conference will be held on July 24th to 28th in Palm Springs Calif. The President, Vice President Treasurer and Secretary will be attending.
7. Memorial weekend is coming up shortly. Lots of activities coming into place. Please continue to check the website for updates and more information that Ray will be posting.

Vice President Report: Terry Ritenour

1. Congressman Ed Perlmutter will be at the Natural Grocers store, 77th & Wadsworth today (April 21st) from noon to 2pm. I am going to personally thank him for his support with the JeffCo Veterans court. He always sends a congratulatory letter to each veteran that completes their class. I also want to talk to him about the Vietnam War license plates.

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. March website visits were 2,447.
2. VN Veterans Memorial dedication flyer at Brighton on May 28th.
3. Posted Colorado MIA/POW binder and plaque that Mary Ann & Dan created.
4. Crown Hill Cemetery logging cremains photos posted.
5. Vietnam 50 year Commemoration DAR presentation photos posted.
6. Vietnam War Commemoration Event at Ft Logan photos posted.
7. Posted Erie HS visit photos on 3/20/18 and 4/2/18.
8. Posted Mead High School visit photos from 4/5/18.
9. Posted Columbine High School visit photos from 4/9/18.
10. Posted Dakota Ridge High School visit photos from 4/11/18.
11. Member Vern Hume's Funeral at Ft Logan photos from 4/12/18.
12. Posted request for member attendance to Ft Logan funeral May 11, 2018 for Donald Staiter.
13. The last 4 week period for the King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards ending March 24th we had total of \$6,792.50. We will get a check for the last period for \$339.63. The next period that will end on today April 21st.
14. Poppy fundraising stores for Memorial weekend Sat. May 26th are: Thornton, W. Arvada , Green Mtn and Ken Cayrl. Will have a signup sheets at our next meeting on May 19th.

Membership Report: Ray Holtz

1. We added 1 new member: Ken Bowen.
2. We added 1 new member to our AVVA roster: Robert Gordanier.
3. We have 169 members, and 23 AVVA members giving us a total of 192 members.

Outreach Liaison: Position Vacant

Outreach Committee: Chaplain John Altfeltis:

Continue to keep Dan, AL and Robert Primeaux in your prayers.

Board of Directors:

Jose Gonzales, Jose is looking for two volunteers to help man the POW/MIA table that will be set up at the Brighton Vietnam Memorial. Their purpose will be to explain to visitors what the settings on the table represent. Jose went on to explain to new members what the Brighton Vietnam Memorial is all about and how it came to be. The unveiling will be Memorial Day May 28th at 11am in Brighton Colo.

Guest Speaker: David Steiner introduced Leonard Smith, 1071 Treasurer, US Army Vietnam veteran. Leonard served in the Army from 1969 to 1972. Basic training was at Ft. Ord, May 1969, then onto advanced training as a company clerk, Main duty there was to avoid the Sgt. Major. After that, next duty station was Ft. Sam Houston at a burn center for soldiers who couldn't be treated for their burns in Vietnam, Japan or the west coast. In 1970 he received orders for duty in Bangkok with the 1st Signal Brigade, 29th Signal Group. His duties consisted of working very closely with the Pentagon during the Vietnam war. His duties also took him between Bangkok and Vietnam as a courier with coded communication cards. Leonard says he learned a lot during his time in the military. He left the Army in January, 1972.

Honors Burial: Jim Topkoff, Jim reported the status of the Honors Burial. We had 22 members show up at Crown Hill Mortuary last month to help move and identify unclaimed cremains. We were able to log in approximately 340 cremains. We have submitted the names to the state for social security numbers and then we will submit the names with proper information to the VA. The VA will then approve the cremains for burial at Ft Logan. Jim explained what the Honors Burial program is about to all new members and visitors.

1071 Schools Outreach Program: Phil Waters & Jim Higgins,

Phil spoke about the plaque and book that Mary Ann and Dan made. He explained the positive impact that it has had at school presentations. He also shared about a name on the plaque. The MIA veteran is from Longmont and there is a park named in his honor there. Phil thanked Mary Ann and Dan Dietz for making the plaque, book and dog tags.

At this time Mary Ann was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a quilted afghan blanket donated by the chapter. Stan and Terry made the presentations.

Phil recognized all the members who have signed up for these school presentations.

Jim Higgins talked about the school events and how impressed he was with the way our veterans handled themselves. The Students and teachers are very appreciative and honored to have these veterans share their experiences during their military service. Jim also shared his personal interaction with his son's teacher at Columbine. His son graduated from Columbine, went to collage and then the military where he served in Afghanistan. Jim said that it shows that teachers care what happens to their students after high school.

Stan shared about the event at GMHS and having a Gold Medal student come down from the stage after her speech to shake all the veterans hands. Stan also presented her with our chapter Challenge Coin.

Old Business:

Member Larry Carrol spoke about the United Veterans Committee and their service to help veterans. One example is through the Colorado Legislative in passing bills that help veterans. Larry thanked 1071 for the support we give the UVC yearly. The UVC breaks for the summer simply because the Legislative also breaks for the summer, however Larry asks the members to provide the 1071 board with any veterans issues (state and national) needed that UVC might be able to take to the Legislative in the fall when they reconvene. Larry spoke about a bill presented to the legislative regarding lowering the retirement age for military benefits especially for those who served in recent wars like Afghanistan.

New Business:

Carol Cordova spoke about home ownership for veterans. Home Ownership is one of the most under utilized benefits used by veterans because it is so misrepresented and misunderstood. Carol and Renee shared about the myths floating around regarding these benefits.

Linda Olsen reminded all veterans about the free dental cleaning which is provided by the Inner City Health Clinic. This is the veterans last chance to register for free dental cleaning.

Elections of Officers and Directors: David Steiner started out by telling the members about how the chapter was reorganized for the third time in 2012 by twelve Vietnam veterans who wanted to do more than be a social club. David said the amazing thing about Chapter 1071 is that in six short years membership has increased to over 190 members. One of the most important things of the VVA is the election or reelection of officers and board of directors for the chapter. These Directors work very hard in this chapter and also with the National VVA officers.

David asked if there were any members on the floor who would like to be nominated for office in chapter 1071. No one applied so David entertained a motion from the floor. Nelson Hendrickson made a motion that we reelect the current 1071 board of directors by acclamation. Motion was seconded by Don Wilson. Motion to reelect current Officers and Board passed unanimously by all. Motion carried.

General Discussion:

John Thompson and John Durant gave an update on Member Jeff Birdwell who has been having some health issues and has since moved to Massachusetts where he will be living close to his son. Jeff was a great participant in our chapter and also a member of the 101st Chapter.

Jim Hiltenbrand quoted from the Flag pamphlet regarding the posting of our Colors. It appears that we have been sitting on the wrong side of the flag stands. That issue will be corrected. Thanks Jim.

Scholarship Committee: David Steiner,

Marketing: Jim Topkoff

Drawings Door Prizes: Jim Topkoff

White Fence Farms Gift Card: Tom Simpson

Big Daddy's \$25 Card: Joe Romero

KS \$25 Gift Card: Joe Null

Up Coming Events:

1. May 26th scheduled poppies donation at King Soopers locations.
2. May 28th, Memorial Day Dedication and unveiling of the Brighton Vietnam Memorial.
3. July 24th to 28th, VVA National Leadership Conference, Palm Springs, Calif

Retiring of POW/MIA Colors: Jose Gonzales

Benediction: John Altfeltis

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am MDT

Next Chapter Meeting will be on May 19th, 2018

Marty Chavez - Secretary

VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver