

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1071 - Denver  
Location: Elk's Lodge #1777  
1455 Newland Street  
Lakewood, CO  
Date: Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT**

**CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting called to order by:** Terry Ritenour, 1071 Vice President

**Opening Prayer:** John Altfeltis,

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Terry Ritenour

**Posting of POW/MIA Colors**– Jose Gonzales

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

**Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S-** Terry Ritenour

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

**VVA Members Present: (55)** John Altfeltis, Don Bates, Sam Bunge, Claude Burke, Bob Burnham, Bobby Campoy, Fred Ceconi, Chuck Chavez, Marty Chavez, Bob Coleman, Michael Craig, John Currie, Robert Doriss, John Durant, Bill Ferguson, Jeffrey Fossum, Jose Gonzales, Ron Gorman, Bruce Gottschalk, Bob Hartman, Nelson Hendrickson, David Hennig, Lynn Herbert, Jim Higgins, Ted Hildebrand, Ray Holtz, Jan Housey, Bob Lopez, Jim Miles, Rusty Morse, Steve Newton, Owen Oliver, Trinidad Rael, Steve Randolph, Frank Riddle, Terry Ritenour, Lew Roman, Joe Romero, Don Saiz, George Santos, Bob Schofield, Ed Shreeve, Tom Simpson, A. Leonard Smith, Lindsay Smith, Otto Smolik, Daniel Sorenson, David Steiner, Tom Stepleton, Wally Struble, Jim Topkoff, Phil Waters, Don Wood, Bob Wyatt, George Zervos

**AVVA Members Present: (2)** Scott Hefty, Carol Cordova

**Guests: (13)** Kathy Zoroya, Susan Bates, Jessica Castellano, Krista Mortensen, Matthew Burchette, Fran Housey, Tom Gallinger, Claudia Hennig, Ray Fouts, Morgana Meader, Glenn Fishel, Linda Fishel, Jerry Cupps

**President Report:** Stan Paprocki, (Excused Absence)

**Vice President Report:** Terry Ritenour

1. Terry welcomed everyone and explained Stan's absence from this meeting
2. Covered topics and classes attended by himself, Stan, Leonard and Marty at the National Leadership Conference in July
3. Terry covered the Arvada Harvest Festival coming up Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Very important as it is a Welcome Home Parade for Vietnam Veterans. We will be the Grand Marshalls of the parade and we will be riding in back of a military duc & a half truck. Sign up sheet is available for those wishing to participate in the parade.
4. Informed members about the parking policy and parking lot stickers needed to park at the new hospital.

**Secretary Report:** Marty Chavez,  
Welcomed guests and had them introduce themselves.

1. Marty read out loud the monthly VVA status report from Region 9 on membership nationwide & statewide.

2. Covered topics on classes he attended at the Leadership Conference.
3. Spoke briefly on PTSD, Agent Orange and Camp Lejeune's contaminated water supply.

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

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

1. Leonard also reported that the chapter received a \$1500 donation from Cathy Cox, widow of Richard Cox, past 1071 President. This is something that Richard has set up for the chapter. He loved this chapter and what we stand for.
2. Leonard also reported on classes that he attended at the Leadership Conference.

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

1. July website visits were 1,338.
2. Posted Press Release of Justice and Science Demand Passage of the Blue Water Navy Act, and Passage of the Dental Care Eligibility Act, VVA Tells Senate Veterans Committee
3. Terry Ritenour has been added to our Photo Galleries Member page.
4. The last 4 week period for the King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards ending Aug 11th we had total of \$6,697.50, and that gave us a check for \$334.88. The next period that will end on Sept 8th.

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

1. We added 3 new members: Frank Adams, Claude Burke and Rick Cody.
2. We have 176 members, and 26 AVVA members giving us a total of 202 members.

### **Outreach Liaison: Position Vacant**

**Outreach Committee: Chaplain John Altfeltis:** John received a note from Bob Coleman regarding Phillip Post who had a heart attack and is recuperating at home. We do not want to overwhelm him with calls but it would be nice to check up on him as he recuperates. 303-465-4574

Also another member who would appreciate visits or phone calls is Al Roettger. 303-619-7187

**Board of Directors:** Jose Gonzales reported on the You Tube the Brighton City Council has released about the Vietnam Memorial in Brighton.

**Honors Burial: Jim Topkoff,** Honors Burial will be October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Leonard and Jim T. met with the general manager of Crown Hill yesterday. We have submitted the last names from Crown Hill to the VA. Just waiting for approval now. Still working on trying to get veteran Willis Francis buried at Ft. Logan. Jim stated that he will be out of town next meeting but will keep the board advised on any new information regarding the Honors Burial.

**Guest Speaker:** David Steiner introduced 1071 Director / Member Owen Oliver as guest speaker. Owen was an Army Staff Sgt with the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in Vietnam.

Owen spoke about his time before joining the Army and what it took to become a Green Beret soldier. He spoke about his time in Vietnam, his younger brother following him to Vietnam, serving in same unit and his work with the Montagnards in the central highlands of Vietnam.

Owen is especially proud to wear a bracelet placed on his wrist by the Montagnards. This is for serving with them, proving yourself to them in battle. They then regard you as a member of their tribe.

Another great experience shared by one of our brothers from this chapter

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

Phil reached out to members for correct information for the Speakers Bureau for next school season.

Phil and Jim Higgins spoke about school reading material that they would like to get input from anyone who has read Tim O'Brien's "The Things We Carried". Most specifically they are seeking what they

thought / think of the book's contents and if it represents the true versions of the Vietnam War as taught to high school students.

### **Old Business:**

**New Business:** Wings Over The Rockies Museum: Terry informed the members that we had held our last board meeting at WOTR to get input and discuss the donated helicopter project that will be done at the museum this year. Terry invited museum members Mathew Burchette, Krista Mortensen and Jessica Castellano to the front and tell the members about the project.

Matthew spoke about how he was after about 10 years finally able to convince Col. McPherson to donate his Huey to the museum. Mathew spoke about what the plans to display are.

Terry spoke about how important the Huey was during the Vietnam war. He said it saved his life after he was wounded by a booby trap mine. Terry reached out to members to donate if they could. Terry and Leonard presented Matthew with a check for \$3000. (\$2000 from 1071 plus another \$1000 that was matched by a 1071 member). This donor has agreed to donate another \$500 if the members are willing to raise \$1000 among themselves. All in all it was a very good presentation by Matthew and his staff.

**General Discussion:** Scott Hefty AVVA member and one of the coordinators of the West Metro Veterans fair spoke to members about the fair to be held Sept 25<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 3pm at the Elks. 1071 will have a table set up along with about 40 other vendors.

Steve and Marty spoke about the upcoming funeral services for Vietnam veteran Lt Black from Aurora who was killed during a home invasion. Lt Black will be buried out of state but Post 22 in Northglenn want to have a memorial service for him.

Lou Roman spoke about the Broomfield Veterans Museum, work that has been done and the need for a speaker at their next meeting.

Bob Lopez spoke about the outpouring of support and requests for the Ribbon Pins of Support a Soldier program. Several thousand ribbons were handed out by the Young Marines at the new veterans hospital. Bob went on to explain how he saw a need for this program and pursued it.

**Scholarship Committee: David Steiner,**

**Marketing: Jim Topkoff**

**Drawings Door Prizes: Jim Topkoff**

White Fence Farm \$30 gift card: # 5122

King Soopers \$25 reloadable card: Ed Shreeve

Cold Stone \$10 gift card, #5145

VVA shoulder bag, Bob Hartman

**Up Coming Events:**

Arvada Festival Parade at 9am, Sept.08-2018

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 11:45 am MDT**

**Next Chapter Meeting will be on Sept.15th, 2018**

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

**Signed\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_**