



Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1071 - Denver

Location: Elks Lodge, 1455 Nelson St. Lakewood Co

Date: Saturday: December 16th, 2023

Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by President Stan Paprocki

- **Opening Prayer: Trini Rael**
- **Pledge of Allegiance Stan Paprocki**
- **Posting of POW/MIA Colors– Jose Gonzales**
- **Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S- Stan Paprocki**
- **Roll Call: President Stan Paprocki, VP Trini Rael, Secretary Marty Chavez, Treasurer Doug Nunes, Sgt. at Arms Jose Gonzales.**
- **VVA Members present: (55) Steve Newton, Wally Struble, Vern Moore, Cliff Fejfar, Jim Topkoff, Alan Fear, John Thompson, Jose Gonzales, Stanley Panfil, Terry Ritenour, Sam Goldman, Joe Dural, Erv Krueger, John Abeita, Marty Chavez, Bill Bleau, Charles Mallicoat, Stan Paprocki, Bill Bridges, Mike Markham, Ron Gorman, Jim Higgins, Rod Keiscome, Miller Hudson, Joe Romero, Marty Hixon, Doug Scheer, Trini Rael, Steve Whitman, Nelson Hendrickson, Dan Semborski, Jeff Fossum, Clayton Sandt, Ron Parr, John Currie, Doug Nunes, Frank Riddle, Wilton Webb, Mike McDonald, Bill Robbins, George Zervos, Don Bates, Joe Trujillo, Vicente Roldan, Darrell Chapman, Owen Oliver, E G Covington, Robert Dorris, David Henning, Larry Carroll, Frank Adams, Tom Moermond, Ted Hildebrand, Phil Waters, Michael Holland,**
- **AVVA Members Present: (9), Carol Cordova, Renee Ambrose, Mary Ann Rhode, Bernadette Abeyta Koenig, Bernice Bertolli, Archbishop Alexander, Brian Topkoff, Robert Gordanier, Scott Hefty,**
- **Guests: (15) Bob Mitchell, Grady Birdsong, Seija Nelson, Larry Frank, Judy Hobles, Ernie Herschel, Susan Bates, Rich Crawford, Bill Purcell, Katie Purcell, Joyce Saitta, Claudia Henning, Michelle Hanks, Harlan Olson, Steve Wilson,**
- **Welcomed New Members: Stan. Clayton Sandt, Richard Crawford, Rob Mitchell, Steve Wilson**
- **Members Birthdays or Anniversaries: Stan: Anniversaries, Jim & Linda Topkoff, (59); John & Marie Abeita (55) and one birthday, 80 years old.**

Welcomed Guests: Katie Purcell, wife of guest speaker Bill Purcell.

- **Announcement: Once again AVVA member Renee Ambrose brought free pumpkin pie and whipped cream for everyone. Merry Christmas Veterans, we are thankful for all Veterans. Thank you, Renee, it was very much appreciated and enjoyed.**
- **General Meeting Guest Speaker: (Doug Nunes) Grady Thane Birdsong, and co-speaker Marine veteran Bill Purcell**

Grady was raised in Kansas and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1966. Grady served two combat tours in the I Corps Region of Vietnam during the Tet Offensive in 1968 and along the DMZ in 1969. He is a Veteran Advocate and Author, (To the Sound of the Guns: 1st Bn, 27th Marines from Hawaii to Vietnam 1966-1968 Bird Quill 2018). Co-Author with Colonel Bob Fischer, The Miracle Workers of South Boulder Road: Healing the Signature Wounds of War, Book crafters 2016).

- Report: Stan Paprocki, In my report today, I've got a couple of awards. Cliff, would you step forward? And Steve, come please.

Certificates of Appreciation presented to Cliff Fejfar on December 16th, 2023. In recognition of your exceptional support to Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1071, Denver, Co, we express our greatest attitude for your commitment and support of this mission. Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.

Certificate of Appreciation presented to Steve Newton, December 16, 2023. In recognition of your exceptional support to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1071, Denver, Co. In expression and increase of gratitude to your commitment and support of the mission, never again will one generation of veterans abundant another. Thank you both for all you do to make this a great Chapter as we continue to help all Veterans.

- Vice-president: Trini Rael; By the way, Army took the game over Navy. It was a good, good game. Navy did a great job. Thank you. Well, next year, right?

- ✚ Secretary Report: Marty Chavez; The Quilts of Valor Foundation ladies will be honoring nominated veterans with handmade quilts at the February meeting. To nominate a living veteran or yourself (if you are a Veteran) you can do it on-line by using their website 'qovf.org'. The foundation will notify nominated veterans prior to the February members meeting.

- Financial Report: Treasurer Doug Nunes presented the monthly Treasurer's report for the month.

- Membership Report: Ray Holtz / Stan Paprocki

*Membership Report: Ray Holtz

1. In November we had one new VVA member; Taelor Schnurduseh

2. In November we had no new AVVA member

3. We have 227 members, and 48 AVVA members giving us a total of 275 members.

Webmaster Report: Ray Holtz

1. November website visits were 1,049.

2. Posted photos of members at Quilts of Valor Presentation to 100-year-old Clyde Gullickson, an Army veteran of WWII.

3. Posted photos of members at Ponderosa H.S. event on Dec.7th, 2023

- Honors Burial Report: Bill Bridges;
December 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Honors Burial status report to the membership

I am very pleased to report that the CDPHE Vital Records check was returned to me on Thursday, December 7, 2023. Here are the results so far.

Records checked: 219 Veteran status: 30 No record found: 28

The manager of Vital Records will continue with some manual checking for the 28 that could not be located through computer searches.

Our current status

Persons previously identified as veteran, but not marked on Death Certificate: 5

Of which three were clearly marked as Veteran in the Ledger Book

Persons NEWLY found by the CDPHE: 7

Persons duplicated in the inventory: 1

Persons records to be sent to the VA Eligibility Office for certification: 34

The important number is 34 that we will send to the VA Eligibility Office. That process will be the deciding factor. On Thursday, December 14 we sent ten (10) to the VA Eligibility Office. On Friday, December 15 we sent ten (10) more. The remaining fourteen (14) will be sent on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

Service branches identified to date.

Army	8
Navy	3
Air Force	2
Marines	1

Wars identified; WWII (3) Korea (2)

Thanks to all the volunteers that assisted in the three (3) work details at the mortuary.

Bill Bridges, Director, Honors Burial

- **Tony Lopez / Ch.1071 Scholarship Program:** On hold until January Board meeting
- **Fund raising; Steve Newton;** Some changes coming about. We're going to add another store to our tour and so we're making preps for that. We'll need staff for that too. I'll have the necessary paperwork next month for the 25th of May to take to the different stores to get the spaces locked in on the 25th of May from 9:00 to 12:00. I want to thank everybody that participated at all the stores for Veteran's Day. It was a great success considering the economy.
- **Merchandise: Jim Topkoff; Shirts !!!,** We haven't made any decisions yet, but if you think you want a shirt or two or whatever you want. I have a little sheet over here. You can sign up. We won't request any money right now until we find out how many wants the shirt. It is the end of February or March before we actually have possession of them, but it would help if you'd like to have a shirt to get that done soon.
- **Director discussion:**
We are trying to think about how we can keep the speakers program going and keep it vitalized. We really had terrific speakers, Grady and Bill today, Truly Exceptional experience, but we are looking out for other resources and what we're planning on doing is that sometime maybe in January, we're going to send out an e-mail to the membership. And solicit people from the membership to give a presentation of maybe 15-20 minutes. Why go outside the chapter? We have vital experiences right here in this room, so please give it consideration. We'll look forward to your participation.
- **Discussion from the floor.**
 1. My name is Sarah and I work for Home Watch Caregivers and I'm here with my friend Steve. We have a VA contract, and we help veterans. My dad was a Vietnam vet. When he passed away, I found all his boxes of claims that had been denied and not processed. I feel like he gets to work with me while I work with you guys, so I really feel honored to be here. I have some cards here with me. There are also some pamphlets up at the front table there. Like I said, we serve veterans through the VA, so we don't bill veterans at all. We provide home care assistance and personal care assistance. It is an Honor to do this. I truly feel like my dad is helping carry his legacy with me. We provide care from Denver all the way up to Cheyenne. I have had the privilege to work with the veterans who were in the Korean War, World War Two and everything in between. If you are not aware whether you have home care benefits through the VA? Please take my card. Speak to me after. I will talk to case managers at the VA. We have helped several Korean War and World War II vets get covered so that they can get home care before they pass away. You have earned this. Please allow us to help serve you. Thank you for allowing me to be here.
 2. My name is Bill, I'm one of the Elks here. I was also part of the 91st Bomb Wing Sack. I got out of the service in 66. In October 66, my wing went to Guam and started some of the early bombings of Vietnam. I never got in- country. That was as close as I ever got, and mine was only a TTY.
I oversaw the food distribution here this morning. I asked Cliff Fejfar to get me some help from the VVA and you guys came through with flying colors. I want to thank you guys. We got the food delivered. We're going to be feeding 90 veterans in 40 West flats, at Two creeks and the new complex Robinson Place. Without the VVA's help, this would never have been possible. I thank you guys very much. We really appreciate it. Thank you.
- **Door Price Drawings: Jim Topkoff.**
- **1. Flower bouquet: Jose Gonzales**
- **2. \$25 Home Depot; Brian Topkoff**
- **3. \$50 Steak House; # 711, Sarah, Home Watch Caregivers**

4. \$25 I-Hop; # 703

5. \$25 Black Eye Peas; #701

6. \$25 Home Depot; Dan Semborski.

* A Big Thank You to all who donated items for today's door prizes.

- POW/MIA-Retiring ~ Jose Gonzales / Remembering our Veterans ~ Trini Rael
Today we honor and remember one of our own.

GERALD GREEN, U S NAVY, LTJG

DATE OF BIRTH: July 9th, 1939, **Home of Record:** Ft Morgan Colorado

CASUALTY PROVINCE: Offshore, South Vietnam

DATE OF CASUALTY: September 12th, 1965, Status MIA

Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Gerald Green entered the U.S. Navy from Colorado and served in Fighter Squadron 191, He embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS Bon Homme Richard (CV 31). On September 12, 1965, he took off in a single-seat F-8E Crusader, one in a flight of four aircraft on a strike mission. On the return flight, the aircraft entered an area of heavy rain and low visibility, and the flight leader radioed LTJG Green that he was low and needed to pull up. Shortly thereafter, LTJG Green's aircraft struck the water and sank in the vicinity of his ship. Search and rescue teams were at the crash site within minutes but found no sign of LTJG Green and only recovered small fragments of his aircraft. Today, Lieutenant Junior Grade Green is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and also has a military marker in his memory at Riverside Cemetery, Fort Morgan, CO.
May our brother Rest in Peace.

- Benediction; Trini Rael
- Meeting adjourned: Stan (Turn Cell Phones back on)
- Up Coming Events:
1 Christmas Day Dec.25th 2023

❖ Next VVA Members meeting~ January 20th, 2024

Marty Chavez – Secretary, VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver

People inspire you, or They drain you---Pick them wisely” Hans F. Hansen

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