



**Chapter 1071 Members Meeting**

**Location: Elks Lodge, 1455 Nelson St. Lakewood Co**

**Date: March 15th, 2025, Time: 10am**

- **Agenda**
- Call Meeting to Order / SILENCE CELL PHONES PLEASE. **Pres. Stan Paprocki;**
- Invocation ~ **Otto Smolik**
- Pledge of Allegiance ~ **Stan / All**
- POW/MIA: **Jose Gonzales, Sgt.at arm. / Otto Smolik**

Hand Salute-----Moment of Silence

Roll Call: President Stan Paprocki, VP Trini Rael, Secretary Marty Chavez, Treasurer Doug Nunes, Sgt. at Arms Jose Gonzales.

- VVA Members present: (49) Steve Newton, Jim Topkoff, Stan Paprocki, Bill Easton, Lynn Herbert, Jose Gonzales, Dale Caldwell, Bill Bridges, Stan Panfil, Doug Nunez, Otto Smolik, Darrell Stenzel, Nelson Hendrickson, Jose Leyba, Trini Rael, Jim Higgins, Martin Hixson, David Nila, Marty Chavez, Jerry Zimmer, Alan Jones, Dick Baress, Will Webb, Jeff Folsom, Vicente Roldan, Leonard Smith, Larry Carroll, Phil Waters, George Zervos, Alan Fear, Ron Parr, Doug Scherer, Mike Markham, Darrell Chapman, Owen Oliver, Joe Trujillo, Larry Hood, Lance Rommerdahl, Chuck Mallicoatt, Dan Semborski, Tom Sandquist, Bob Lopez, Bill Bleau, Jerry Vargo, Robert Doriss, Bill Robbins, Rick Winfrey, J D Unrein, Miller Hudson,

- AVVA Members Present: (7), Renee Ambrose, Mary Ann Rhode, Jerry Ford, Carol Cordova, Marie Winfrey, William Patterson, Jacqueline Bissett,

- Guests: ( 10 ) Jake Boyd, Leora Hartman, Mike Patterson, Linda Patterson, Catherine Gillett, Larry Forrest, Eugene Erickson, Rich Crawford, Chris stencil, Paul Ortiz,.
- Opening comments: Stan  
Welcome New Members: **Stan**  
Welcome Guests: **Stan; Paul Ortiz, Buckley Space Force Space Public Affairs section. Larry Forrest. 3. Bill Patterson**  
Members birthdays or Anniversaries: **Stan; Jim Topkoff, #82 coming up and still on this side of the grass. Jeff Fossum Anniversary, 41 years March 3rd , Alan Fair, #80 on March 21.**

Guest / Member Speaker; **Jim Higgins; Four or five years ago there was an additional branch added to the Armed Services in the United States. And that new force was the Space Force, something which I doubt any of us know anything about. And so we asked the Space Force. They sent somebody out here to talk to us a little bit about the organization, its mission formulation. Today we have Specialist 4 Jake Boyd who's going to talk to us about what the Space Force is, what his experience has been and will answer some questions.**

- **Jake explained the mission of the Space Force, It's beginning and purpose, some of its history and the future of the Space Force. Very interesting information.**
- **Bill Bridges has created a YouTube video of this presentation for members to view.**

### **March 15. Members Meeting**

Spc3 Jake Boyd, USAF,  
US Space Force Guardian, Buckley SFB, Colorado



The mission of the United States Space Force is to protect American interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the military.

Commanding and controlling DoD satellites

### **Officer Reports:**

- President: **Stan Paprocki;**
- Vice-president: **Trini Rael;** State Council Report. The last meeting was March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Secretary Report: **Marty Chavez;** Marty reported on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Symposium which will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Broomfield Civic Auditorium.  
Free admission, several guest speakers will be there
- Treasurer / Financial report: **Doug Nunes presented the monthly Treasurers Report**
- Social Activities Committee: Jerry Zimmer

- Department Reports;
- Webmaster Report by **Ray Holtz**;

#### Membership Report: Ray Holtz

1. In January we had no new VVA members.
2. In January we had no new AVVA members.
3. We have 245 members, and 50 AVVA members giving us a total of 295 members.

#### Webmaster Report: Ray Holtz

1. February website visits were 986.
  2. Posted video from Rick Claggett about a dog handler in Iraq.
  3. Posted VVA Press Release about Vietnam Veterans of America Resolute in Protecting Veterans Access Amid VA Proposed Reduction in Force.
  4. Posted photos and video of members Bill Bridges, Doug Nunes, Dick Hogue, Stan Paprocki and Otto Smolik at Oberon Middle School.
- Fund Raising: **Steve Newton**; Seven stores are set up for poppies donations for March 29<sup>th</sup>, Vietnam Veterans Day.
  - Honors Burial: **Bill Bridges** \* Update on Honors Burial.

March 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Update on Honors Burial to the BOD

On Tuesday, March 11, 2025, Doug Nunes and I attended the University of Denver to listen to a readout of the findings of Professor Carol Helstosky's class on Veteran Biographies. Her class of 29 students we assigned two veterans each to investigate and develop biographies for.

Over the course of two hours, the students provided their investigative findings. All documentation, after review and grading by Professor Helstosky will be transmitted to me in electronic format. All of this data will be entered into the following databases; Find-A-Grave, Veteran's Legacy Memorial, and More than a Headstone.

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Of the 160 names on our veteran listing (those investigated and approved for burial), 280 had already been investigated by Professor Helstosky's previous classes. Her class worked on 58 of the remaining veterans to develop their biographies.

My intent is to find a way to publish this information in a booklet form as a reference of our commitment and work to honor those that have gone before us.

Our current group of veterans will be honored in mid to late May of this year

Respectfully submitted by, Bill Bridges, Director, Honors Burial VVA 1071

- Education & Speakers Program: **Doug Nunes, Jim Higgins**
- Scholarship Program; **Jerry Zimmer; Applications must be in by end of March 2025 for this year's scholarships.**
- Director discussion:
  1. Jim Higgins explained the "Vettix" program to members, regarding veterans getting free tickets to several events.
  2. Marty informed members of the need for more members to attend funerals of our veteran brothers and sisters when possible.
  3. David Nila thanked the member for donating all the Mac N Cheese, Etc and clothing to the veterans at 40 West. Books on table are free to take, Speakers Bureau at schools are great events.
- Member Discussion / Input;
  1. Renee Ambrose: Veterans Benefits luncheon at the Elks Lodge on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10am.
  2. Dick Bares shared that on April 12th at 11am Ft Logan (Shelter A) will have honor burial celebrations for veterans buried at Ft. Logan and did not receive military honors. Ceremonies are held every other month. All are welcome to attend and honor these veterans.
  3. Information on the passing of VVA member Tom Moermond was shared by another veteran. Tom will be buried at Ft Logan Shelter B at 12:30 on March 21st.

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4. Bill Easton Elks / VVA member shared with members that the Elks Lodge will be providing the free breakfast at the May 17th Members Meeting in honor of Armed Forces Day to all VVA and Elks veterans.

- Reminder: Sign in Reminder
- Door Price Drawings: Jim Topkoff;
  1. \$25. Home Depot card; # 310
  2. Granny Smith pie; # 337 Joe Trujillo
  3. Bouquet of flowers; Jim Topkoff
  4. \$50 Golden Corral; #356 Rick Winfrey
  5. \$50 Noodles gift card; #338 George Zervos
- **POW/MIA ~ Jose Gonzales / Otto Smolik, Remembering our Veterans:**

**Today we Honor one of our own:**

**TIMOTHY M TUCKER    BRANCH OF SERVICE: U S AIR FORCE    RANK: CAPT,  
STATUS: MIA**

**DATE OF BIRTH: March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1946,    DATE OF CASUALTY: December 24<sup>th</sup> 1971**

**HOME OF RECORD: LAS ANIMAS, Colo**

**1LT Timothy M. Tucker was the pilot and 1LT William R. Finn the co-pilot of a North American Rockwell OV-10A Bronco (#67-14667) assigned a mission over Laos on Christmas Eve, 1971. Their mission took them over Attapeu Province in the extreme southeast of Laos. At a point about twelve miles south of the city of Attapeu, the Bronco was lost, and Tucker and Finn became Missing in Action. Upon subsequent evaluation of their cases, it was thought doubtful that the enemy knew either of their fates. In 1973, the prisoners of war held in Vietnam were released. Laos was not part of the Paris agreement which ended American involvement in Indochina. No prisoners held by the Lao were ever released.**

**1LT Tucker was an OV-10 Forward Air Controller stationed at Pleiku AB, RVN. Lt Tucker and his friend, Lt Finn, were scheduled to fly the next to last sortie Christmas Eve, 1971. Lt Tucker requested that he and Bill fly the last sortie and watch the Christmas Eve fireworks over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. They did not come back. All the FACs at Pleiku flew max hours for the next 6 days searching for them, all to no avail. It is believed that they may have found the crash site at one of the heaviest defended sites in our area, but photos analyzed by 7th AF did not seem to support the crash site theory. Both men are still considered MIA's**

**\*\*YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN NOR SHALL YOU EVER BE.**

**May they all Rest in Pease, Thank you for your service, Hand Salute.**

- **Benediction; Otto Smolik**
- **Meeting adjourned: (Turn Cell Phones back on) Stan**

- ☐ **Next VVA Members meeting April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- ☐ **Marty Chavez – Secretary, VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver**