



Nam Express

The Official Newsletter of
VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA CHAPTER 377
2272 Dryden Road, Dryden, New York 13053
(607)539-7696 pthollingsworth@aol.com



March 2009



VETERANS SUPPORTING VETERANS

LOCAL NEWS

SFC HAROLD VORHEIS HONORED

The DeWitt Park Restoration Committee has learned that a name they previously thought had been inadvertently omitted from the Vietnam Monument in Tompkins County had, instead, been correctly added to the Schuyler County Memorial. Thanks to Bob Parlett for helping set the record straight.

SFC Harold Voorheis' home of record was Trumansburg, but he lived in Reynoldsville which is in Schuyler County. The cause of the confusion was that Reynoldsville has a Trumansburg address.



So we are happy to report that SFC Voorheis' name is on the Schuyler County Memorial. The focal point of the memorial is a bronze eagle which is mounted on a base approximately 4' tall. The memorial was completed in the summer of 2006 and is located at the American Legion Memorial Park near Odessa, New York, on NYS Route 228.

FUND-RAISER SUCCESSFUL

Saturday, February 21 found a lot of hungry folks enjoying breakfast at the Moose Club on Elmira Road. The kind people at the Moose Club volunteered their time, provided all of the food, and did all of the cooking –all of it without charging the DeWitt Park Restoration Committee 1 red cent. All of the proceeds, a total of \$528, will go toward the work of restoring and updating DeWitt Park and the monuments in it.

Many thanks to Mike Moran, Lyman Baker, Paul and Nancy Pagliaro, Ron Pluck, Dan Rose, Rene Sylvester, and Denny Grange for helping serve and clean up. And thanks to the Chapter members and public at large for stopping by. The food and friendship cannot be beat! THANKS, AGAIN!

--Restoration Committee Members are George Pierro, Ray Wheaton, Danny Wheeler, Bill Brown, Lyman Baker, and Holly Hollingsworth.

FUNDS FOR CHAPTER 377

We have tried many ways to raise funds for the Chapter over the years. We NOW HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY to raise funds by selling some products that have recently been donated to our Chapter. Spring is coming, and it will soon be the time to get outside and do landscaping. Tell your friends about the deals!

So help out the Chapter and save money at the same time! All sales will be final. **ALL MONEY COLLECTED WILL GO DIRECTLY TO CHAPTER 377.**

Here is a list of items: ALL AT SALE PRICES

- ▶ 9 1-gallon Simple Green Cleaner (List \$10.58/gallon) **\$3 Each**
- ▶ 17 1-gallon Simple Green Concrete Cleaner **\$3 Each**
- ▶ 5 1-gallon Simple Green House/Siding Cleaner **\$3 Each**
- 20-foot rolls of Suncast Pro Gardner Edge This is black PVC plastic edge material to edge driveways, flower gardens, or to go around trees. (List \$9.99) **\$4 Each**
- 7 boxes of Suncast Quick Edge Lawn Edging This is a press-in interlocking black PVC plastic edging to edge lawns, driveways, flower gardens. **\$4 Each**
- 40-foot rolls of Suncast Pro Garden Edge This is a black PVC plastic material to edge driveways, lawns, flower gardens. (List \$19.99) **\$9 Each**
- ◆ 1 Karcher 7-piece Power Washer Brush Kit (List \$21.95) **\$10**
- 7 8 x 10 heavy-duty Sunterra PVC pond liners or can be used as tarps 20 mil thickness. (List \$49.99) **\$20 Each**
- 5 10 x 12 heavy-duty Sunterra PVC pond liners or can be used as tarps 20 mil thickness. (List \$79.99) **\$25 Each**
- 3 15 x 20 heavy-duty Sunterra PVC pond liners or can be used as tarps 20 mil thickness. (List \$139.99) **\$50 Each**
- 1 heavy-duty all-steel step-on Yard Butler bulb planter (List \$19.99) **\$9**

CONTACT HARVEY BAKER at 898-3507

CHAPTER INFORMATION

President	Tony Evangelista	749-7479
Vice-President	Fran Moore	756-4482
Treasurer	Harvey Baker	898-3507
Secretary	Ron Pluck	273-2806
Directors	Art Denman, Larry Housel, Mike Moran, Paul Pagliaro, George Pierro, Dan Rose, Rene Sylvester	
CHAPTER CALENDAR		
March 2	7:30	General Meeting
April 6	7:30	ELECTIONS
MEETINGS ARE HELD AT DVMH on DRYDEN RD.		

DRYDEN VETERANS' MEMORIAL HOME CALENDAR

March 3	7:00	American Legion
March 7	1:00	VFW Meeting
March 21	7 – 11:00	Auxiliary Dance
March 28		Boy Scout Lasagna Dinner

FROM CHAPTER 377 PRESIDENT

April is elections. Come to the meeting and help elect officers.

At the last meeting Harvey had 3 new barbeque sets that were donated to the Chapter for us to sell. All of them were taken. If you have something new that you'd like to donate for the Chapter to sell, bring it to a meeting. And don't forget to check the list of items on the first page of this newsletter.

See you the second of March.

---Tony Evangelista, President

FROM CHAPTER 377 SECRETARY

V.V. A. Chapter 377 meeting, February 2, 2009 was called to order at 7:32 pm with the pledge to the flag.

The meeting was dedicated to Larry W. Brown, USMC; Franklin P. Cism, US Air Force; William H. Clapp, US Navy; John Wakeman Grove, US Air Force; John Kent Humphreys, US Navy; and Donald W. Mayers, Sr., USMC.

Harvey gave the treasurer's report which was approved. Holly talked about the new names going on the memorial in Dewitt Park and about the breakfast at the Moose. Harvey talked about the re-gifting fund-raising idea using silent auction in the newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

--Ron Pluck, Secretary



THIS 'N' THAT

Greetings from the Balmy South After receiving the newsletter about the all-you-can-eat breakfast held on Feb. 21, Joe Kristek sent along this note:

Good morning! I got rid of my snow tires and chains, so I will not be able to help at the breakfast. I hope everything is going well and everyone is doing OK. Say "Hi" to the Chapter for me. My Marine and his family are in Okinawa for three years. My Navy Seabee is in Afghanistan and due home at the end of March or mid April. Take care and good luck with the breakfast.

--Joe Kristek

We offered him a set of rusty chains, but he still declined!

How Smart Is Your Right Foot? This is silly, but I had to share. You have to try. It takes 2 seconds. If you try it once, I can almost guarantee that you'll try it twice. See if you can outsmart your right foot!



1. While you're sitting somewhere, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.
2. Now, while doing this, draw the number 6 in the air with your right hand. Your foot will change direction. OK. Try it again.... ☺ ---From Myrth Guest

►► **COST - CUTTING IDEA:** IF YOU'D RATHER READ THE **NEWSLETTER ONLINE**, LET ME KNOW AT pthollingsworth@aol.com.
THANKS! --Pat



QUOTES OF THE MONTH

- "A thief believes everybody steals." ---E. W. Howe
- "Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves." ---Carl Jung
- "Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify. Simplify." --Henry David Thoreau
- "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." ---General Colin Powell

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TO YOUR HEALTH

Keep it simple in 2009.

“Less money. Sparser furnishings. Limited obligations. Revolutionary goals? In these money-driven, computer-controlled, high-pressure times, you bet!

But if you want peace of mind and greater fulfillment, they may well be worth striving for. To start the year off by focusing on your health and well-being, consider these tips:

“Pare down your schedule. Or at least, plan on one to two totally unscheduled days a week. Stay home and look through photo albums. Relax with some music. Or just do nothing at all.

“Buy yourself a plant. Watching a plant grow will instill patience and remind you of nature’s power.

“Acknowledge that you’re not indispensable. Even the most important leaders can be replaced. So don’t postpone a vacation because you’re afraid things won’t get done without you.

“Be grateful. Instead of struggling toward status and control, reflect on that which brings you real happiness. Be thankful for what you have---including friends and loved ones.

“Clean out clutter. Donate clothes you no longer wear. Sell dust-collecting knickknacks at a garage sale. Consider giving books to your library. Paring down your physical surroundings can rid you of distractions and let you direct your attention toward more important things --- like your health!” --Copied from Veterans’ Wellness, 2009 Calendar

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NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 2

TRANSITIONS

Condolences to the families and friends of...



David “Bushie” Bush, 54. Navy Corpsman, 1974-78
Jim Connor, 66. US Army during Vietnam War
David John Gross, 60, US Army 1969-1971.
Richard V. Holmes, 67. USMC. 1959-65.
Donald W. Mayes, Sr. 64. USMC during Vietnam War
Kenneth J. Smith, 67, US Army 1960-63

Happy Birthday to...

Mike Thuesen	March 5
Ralph Moss	March 5
Jeannie Pluck	March 7
Mimi Thuesen	March 9
Christina Glass	March 18
Jennifer Glass	March 18
Sid Melton	March 20
John Gentz	March 27

Happy Anniversary to

Ron and Jeannie Pluck	March 20
Don and Sue Gilbert	March 21

Sick call: **Marilyn Bieler**, wife of Steve Bieler, is improving after a recent stay in the hospital.

Wil Kone is much improved after a bout with heart problems.

John Simson has had 3 heart attacks. Due to his need to be close to the Syracuse VA, he has moved to Fayetteville. He would enjoy receiving mail at his new address: East Side Manor, #84, 7164 E. Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY, 13066.



ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS COMING SOON: APRIL 6

It’s time to think about the coming election of Chapter 377 officers and directors.

Do you have some ideas for moving the chapter forward? Now’s the time to step up to the plate.



ELECTION NIGHT ►► April 6TH MEETING
xxxxx

-- NEXT MEETING is MONDAY, MARCH 2 ---

WRITERS' FORUM

Squawking Section "On a recent flight, I was seated behind two small children who were not happy about being on a plane. Their cries of complaint filled the cabin. Just before takeoff, a flight attendant stopped next to them and said with a big smile, 'What is all this squawking up here?' After charming the fussy three-year-old and his younger sister for a few minutes, the flight attendant bent down and whispered very seriously, 'I must remind you. This is a non-squawking flight.' The little ones became unbelievably quiet. That made everyone feel better. It's a long journey when you have to sit in the squawking section."

--From message@thisdaysthought.org

Our Window "A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they're eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. 'That laundry isn't very clean,' she said. 'She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Maybe she needs better laundry soap.' Her husband looked on but remained silent.

"Every time her neighbor hung her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments. About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, 'Look! She's finally learned how to wash clothes. I wonder who taught her this.'

"The husband said, 'I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.'

"And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look."
--From Harvey Baker

If you've read or written *something you'd like to share* in the Nam Express, please send it to pthollingsworth@aol or to 245 Burns Road, Brooktondale, NY, 14817.



HELP CHAPTER 377

- Attend a meeting
- Purchase OR sell an item from the list on page 1
- Contact your Officers and Directors
- Become a member
- Get involved in one of the chapter's activities
- Suggest items for the newsletter

Diana Blodgett

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NATIONAL NEWS “They rise before dawn to pay a special tribute to the fallen. Men and women, some Veterans and their families, gather at the Vietnam and Korean War Veterans Memorials to show their respect by washing and cleaning the marble, bronze and stone. It is a labor of love and remembrance.

“‘This is an honor without exception,’ explained William DeBlander of Rolling Thunder, the men and women who publicize POW-MIA issues. DeBlander has been cleaning the memorials for eight years. He also organizes the cleaning among his fellow Rolling Thunder members.

“Nine different groups take turns showing up at the memorials before sunrise. The cleaning goes on from April through October, from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Sundays. A U.S. Park Ranger rolls up in a golf cart to whichever memorial is scheduled for cleaning and hands out hoses, brushes and soap. At both memorials, volunteers safely move artifacts, such as letters, flowers and pictures, before cleaning the walls and statues.



“As the sun breaks over the U.S. Capitol, the volunteers toil away. The scrubbing of the wall seems like a seamless coordinated movement and the hoses sometimes catch a rainbow in their spray. Early-rising tourists take pictures of the endeavor. At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial one morning, a volunteer brought the Park Ranger the ashes of a Vietnam Veteran that had been left at the wall. At the Korean War Veterans Memorial, a Korean man stopped taking pictures of the cleaners and picked up a brush to help....”

“‘I just got off work and this means a lot to me,’ said SFC Jose Rodriguez as he worked a brush in his Army Combat Uniform at the Vietnam Memorial. To Rodriguez, who is stationed at the Pentagon, cleaning the memorials connects wars past and present. ‘My Dad was a Vietnam Veteran, and I am a Veteran of the war in Afghanistan.’ At the Korean War Memorial, Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ed Bredbenner walked around with a cup, picking up cigarette butts and other small pieces of debris. ‘It’s the least you can do,’ he explained about his cleaning duties. ‘It’s what’s right.’

“The volunteers are dedicated to their cause. One dark morning at the Korean War Memorial, nine people showed up despite a rainstorm. At the Vietnam Memorial, the National Anthem was sung nearby to start a local triathlon. Everyone stopped and put their hands over their hearts, caps were removed. No one moved until the anthem was finished. And then it was back to work.”

---Copied from The Salute, Winter 2009, pp. 1 and 5

LIGHTER SIDE

More Contest Winners from the Washington Post’s Mensa Invitational which asks readers to alter any word in the dictionary by adding or subtracting 1 letter and providing a new definition--

1. Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
2. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
3. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
4. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn’t get it.
5. Karmageddon: It’s like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the earth explodes and it’s, like, a serious bummer.
6. Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
7. Beelzebug: Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

--From Barb D’Alleva

THE FUTURE OF THE NAM EXPRESS

How many of you enjoyed the last Nam Express? Both Ron and I did. Do you look forward to it being in your mailbox each month? How would you feel if the newsletter was not in the mailbox each month? Economic times have been hard on all of us. They have also been hard on our newsletter. This newsletter has, in the past, been a link from us to other vets who did not know about **Chapter 377**. Some have become members. Some have come to events they wouldn’t have known about otherwise.

We have been told it costs the chapter approximately \$100 a month to put out the newsletter. The newsletter needs help to continue. One idea might be donations from those who are able. Another could be a yearly amount to support the cost of the newsletter.

We don’t want this wonderful and very important part of **Chapter 377** to go away because of lack of funds. So we need your help and ideas to keep this newsletter alive.

Contact Pat or Holly Hollingsworth, Jeannie or Ron Pluck, one of the officers, or one of directors.

Very proud wife of a Vietnam vet and 21-year member of **Chapter 377**,

--Jeannie Pluck

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE – FOR VIETNAM VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS

Will Streeter, one of Chapter 377's founding members, has reminded us that this scholarship is available. Over the past couple of years, applications for the scholarship have been non-existent. If you have any questions, contact Will at wstreeter@verizon.net.

Vietnam Veterans and Dependent Scholarship Application Form

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number () _____

High School _____

Veteran's Name _____ Veteran's Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Applicant's Relationship to Veteran _____

College _____

Semester (Circle): Fall Spring Summer 20_____

Signature _____ Date _____

Eligibility and Rules

1. Applicant must be a Vietnam Era veteran, dependent, or descendant of a Vietnam Era Veteran.
2. Veteran must be a resident of Cortland County or be a member of the following veterans organizations: VVA Chapter 377, VFW Post 2354, VFW (Homer), DAV Chapter 153, Marine Corps League, DADS, and Cortland, Cincinnatus, Marathon, Truxton, Homer American Legions and Auxiliaries.
3. The certificate of award will be presented in June of the year. The recipient must show proof of registration for any semester within one year of the award notice. The cash award will be presented upon proof of registration.
4. Any recipient who withdraws before completion of the semester will be required to repay the award.
5. Full-time (12 credit hours or more) awardees will receive full scholarships. Those registered part-time will receive pro-rated portion of the full-time award.
6. The award will be given based upon financial need first and academic achievement second. A copy of the family's previous year's New York State Tax Statement and a copy of the veteran's DD-214 must accompany the application.

**7. Completed applications must be returned to Willis Streeter, 9 Helen Ave., Cortland, NY 13045
by May 15th.**

