



Nam Express

The Official Newsletter of
VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA CHAPTER 377
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NOVEMBER 2008



VETERANS SUPPORTING VETERANS



The time is coming for all registered voters to make their choices for various offices---local, state, and national.

VOTE: NOVEMBER 4



--- NEW YORK STATE VOTERS to decide measure to help vets--- "Disabled veterans who served in wartime could receive new advantages in trying to get

government jobs under a constitutional amendment that will be on the ballot for voters to decide on November 4.

"While there is no organized opposition to the amendment, some fear many voters won't bother to vote on it, which could imperil its passage." --Copied from Ithaca Journal, Sept. 27, 2008

Don't forget to vote on this proposition which will be printed at the top of the ballot.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:



"A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote in a national election."

--Bill Vaughan

TWO IMPORTANT LOCAL VETERANS' DAY EVENTS in NOVEMBER



SEE YOU THERE!



--Veterans' Day Parade--

In Downtown Ithaca
On Sunday, November 9

Form-Up near Pritchard Dodge
At 1:15

► PARADE BEGINS AT 2:00 PM



Chapter 377 members in 2007 Vets' Day Parade



--Veterans' Day Ceremony--

In DeWitt Park, Ithaca

On Tuesday, November 11
Form-up at the park at 10:30

► CEREMONY BEGINS AT 11:00 AM

THANK YOU, VETERANS!

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, Rene Sylvester	

CHAPTER CALENDAR

November 2		Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 3	7:30	● <u>General Meeting</u>
November 4		ELECTION DAY
November 9	2:00 PM	● <u>Veterans' Day Parade</u> Ithaca, NY Form-up at 1:15 Near Pritchard Dodge
November 11	11:00 AM	● <u>Veterans' Day Ceremony</u> DeWitt Park, Ithaca Form-up at 10:30
November 27		THANKSGIVING DAY

▶▶▶ **NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT DVMH on DRYDEN RD.

DVMH CALENDAR

November 1	7-11	Square Dance
November 4	7	American Legion Meeting
November 5	1-6	Blood drive
November 15	8-3	Snowmobile Safety Course
November 21	5-'til	Soup and Salad Dinner
November 25	7	Board Meeting

Starting November 15, breakfast will be served on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7 to 11:00.

FROM CHAPTER 377 PRESIDENT

The chapter's going to take part in the Veterans' Day parade in Ithaca. It's on the 9th, that'd be on a Sunday. And the chapter will be at the DeWitt Park ceremony on the 11th.

See you the third of November at the meeting. We'll discuss more on the parade and the ceremony.

Be sure to vote on November 4.

Happy Thanksgiving!

---Tony Evangelista, President



**Happy
Thanksgiving!**

FROM CHAPTER 377 SECRETARY

The meeting on October 6 was called to order at 7:30 PM. It was dedicated to Gary Leonhardt, US Navy and Cliff Jesmen, US Air Force. Harvey gave the treasurer's report. We talked about Operation We Care and the fact that money is needed to continue it. Art talked about ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 13, from 12-9 at TOPS in Ithaca. We voted to donate an American flag for Myers' Park in appreciation of their having the Watch Fire there. Members present chipped in. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38.

---Ron Pluck, Secretary



THIS 'N' THAT

RING-A-DING-DING!

TOPS downtown will be the place **Chapter 377** members and friends will ring bells for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive this year. The date is Saturday, December 13. Chapter 377 will be on duty from noon to 9 PM.

Give me a call at 272-2161 to volunteer for an hour or so. Or email me at adenman@twcny.rr.com.

---Art Denman

TWENTY ONE YEARS IN BUSINESS

Chapter member Mike Thuesen CPF owner of MasterCraft Custom Framing and Fine Art has been plying his trade for more than 20 years. He was the second person in Central New York to become a Certified Professional Framer.

MasterCraft's specialty is museum-quality mounting. Their customer list is long and includes Presidents of Guatemala, Brazil, Russia, Costa Rica, and Taiwan. Other repeat clients have been West Point and Annapolis. Mike has framed original portraits of George Washington and Abe Lincoln. And as Mike has said, they also frame "my kids' art projects."

Check out the shop at 502 West State Street in Ithaca. Or visit www.BestFramer.com. Mike also welcomes your calls at 272-6637.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

◆"Elections are often won by men and women chiefly because people vote against somebody rather than for somebody." --Franklin P. Adams

◆"People who complain that they don't get all they deserve should congratulate themselves." --Unknown

◆"Two hikers who wake up from their campsite see a grizzly bear approaching. One camper dives into his knapsack and pulls out a pair of sneakers. As he takes off his boots to put on the sneakers, his companion says, 'You know you can't outrun a grizzly.' His companion replies, 'I know. I just have to outrun you.'" --Ronald Reagan

NATIONAL NEWS

National President John Rowan – Brief Biography

“John Rowan was elected National President of Vietnam Veterans of America at VVA’s Twelfth National Convention in Reno, Nevada in August 2005.



“John enlisted in the U. S. Air Force in 1965, two years after graduating from high school in Queens, New York. He went to language school where he learned Indonesian and Vietnamese. He served with the Air Force’s 6990 Security Squadron in Vietnam and at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, providing the Strategic Air Command with intelligence on North Vietnam’s SAM sites to protect their bombing missions.

“After his honorable discharge from the Air Force, John began college in 1969. He received a BA in political science from Queens College and an MA in urban affairs at Hunter College....He recently retired from his job as an investigator with the New York City Comptroller’s office. Prior to his election as Vietnam Veterans of America’s National President, John served as a V.V.A. veterans’ service representative in New York City.

“John has been one of the most active and influential members of Vietnam Veterans of America since the organization was founded in 1978. He was a founding member and the first president of V.V.A. Chapter 32 in Queens... He lives in Middle Village, New York, with his wife Mariann.”

--Copied from The Badger Veteran, Fall 2008, p.9

LOCAL NEWS

National League of Families and 2008 Watch Fire

Following is part of note received in late October:

“Thank you for sending us the wonderful information regarding Meyers Park’s Watch Fire as well as the photographs documenting this event. We were very happy that you got significant detailed coverage in The Lansing Star online. Congratulations to you, the Vietnam Veterans of America and everyone else involved. The photos and coverage indicate that this year’s Watch Fire was a great success. (They will be shared) with the board members during their meeting in early November....

“Again, congratulations on the success of the Watch Fire and best of luck with the Veterans’ Memorials restoration project. We truly appreciate and respect your constant thoughtfulness and dedication.”

--Selina Eadie, Foreign Policy Intern

PREFER TO GET THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE?

PLEASE EMAIL ME AT pthollingsworth@aol.com. RECENT REMAINS IDENTIFIED:

- SERGEANT TIMOTHY J. JACOBSEN, US ARMY
- CAPTAIN JAMES E. CROSS, US AIR FORCE
- CAPTAIN GOMER D. REESE, III, US AIR FORCE, NEW YORK
- CAPTAIN LORENZA CONNER, US AIR FORCE
- COLONEL DAVID ZOOK, US AIR FORCE
- CORPSMAN 3RD MANUEL R. DENTON, US NAVY
- WO1 ARTHUR F. CHANEY, US ARMY



WO2 BOBBY L. MCKAIN, US ARMY RESERVE

AS OF OCTOBER, 1750 ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. 112 OF THESE ARE FROM NEW YORK STATE.

NO CHAPTER MEETING in DECEMBER



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COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS! HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING! OPERATION WE CARE

If you'd like to help bring smiles to the faces of our service men and women who are far from home at Christmas time, here are some things you can do.

1. Bring some of these items to the next meeting: Paperback books, puzzle books, pocket-size games and puzzles, sewing kits, Slim Jims, small calendars, CD's, gum, Frisbee, jerky, wiffle balls, international phone cards.
2. Sign several cards and include a note of appreciation. Bring the cards to the next meeting.
3. Make a donation to help defray shipping costs.
4. Provide names and addresses of people you know who are in Iraq and Afghanistan. This information is never shared.

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30

The following letter was received from long-time, faithful Chapter 377 supporter, Debbie Meeker.

Dear VVA 377 Members,

I am once again proud to support your dedicated concern and actions for the men and women serving in the military abroad.

My son Patrick is again serving in Iraq at the present time in the Assault Helicopter Battalion. He is well taken care of in this group.

Blessings to you all and your WE CARE program.

--Sincerely, Deb Meeker

Many thanks for your support, Deb.

DON'T FORGET:

- **VETERANS' DAY PARADE: NOV. 9**
- **CEREMONY in DEWITT PARK: NOV. 11**

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING
MONDAY, November 3
DVMH in DRYDEN, NY 7:30**

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER



COSIMO'S is at 3 HUNTINGTON STREET.

TO YOUR HEALTH

Federal Veteran MH Improvement Act Expands Services

On October 10, President Bush signed the Veterans Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008, into law. The Act makes improvements to veterans' mental health care and general health care services. Improvements include setting a new minimum level of care for substance use disorder and enabling VA to provide mental health services to veteran's families. In addition, the Act expands services that may assist local commissioners when seeking to refer poor and homeless veterans to care and community services, including:

- Rural Veterans: More than doubles the beneficiary travel mileage reimbursement (from 11 to 28.5 cents per mile) eligible veterans can receive for travel to receive VA care, permanently sets the deductible to \$3 each way for such travel, creates a pilot program on the use of peers to enhance outreach to rural veterans;
- Emergency Care for Veterans: Corrects current procedures used by VA to reimburse community hospitals for emergency care provided to eligible veterans.
- Veterans' Caregivers: Extends authority for VA to provide institutional and non-institutional long-term care and caregiver assistance services.
- Homelessness: Creates targeted programs to assist low-income veterans, and increases funding capacity for the successful VA Grant and Per Diem program, which assists community-based organizations that serve homeless veterans.
- Rehabilitating Veterans: Expands a program to help formerly incarcerated veterans reintegrate into society by offering employment counseling.

--Provided by Fran Moore

(One website for more information is govtrack.us/congress/bill)

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Wed. 8:00 AM -- 7:00PM

Sat. 8:00 AM-12:00PM

****DON'T FORGET TO VOTE on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4****

TRANSITIONS

Condolences to the family and friends of...

Clifford Grant Jesmer, 61. Clifford was a Sergeant with the Air Force and was discharged in 1969.

Happy Birthday to...

Dave Juers	November 3
Rich Flaville	November 6
Bob Myles	November 7
Rene Sylvester	November 7
Nancy Pagliaro	November 9
Dave Putnam	November 10
Dave Stein	November 15
Sue Gilbert	November 21
Pat Apgar	November 22
Robert Christopher	November 24
Vern Collins	November 28
Happy 233RD Birthday to USMC	November 10

Happy Anniversary to...

Holly and Pat Hollingsworth	November 27
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WRITERS' FORUM

DUST IF YOU MUST

Dust if you must, but there's not much time
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,
With art and music and books to read,
Friends to cherish and a life to lead!

Dust if you must, but the world's out there—
The sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain---
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but hear the sounds.
Children are romping and playing around.
You watch the seeds of laughter they sow,
But soon comes a day when they will be grown.

Dust if you must, but look all around.
God gave us this life not to be bound,
To enjoy the happiness this old earth can give,
To love your brother as long as you live.

So, dust if you must, but bear in mind
Old age will come, and it's not always kind.
And when you go, and go you must,
You, yourself, will make more dust.

--Provided by Denny Grange

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

FLAG FACTS

When you fly several State flags, they should be in the order they were admitted to the Union. If Old Glory is in the display, it should be placed to the far left as the group is observed "head on." Then state flags would be lined up, left to right, according to the date they were admitted to the Union.



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**CHAPTER 377
WILL NOT MEET**

IN DECEMBER.**LIGHTER SIDE**

'Nough Said? A man was placed in a monastery and was given the opportunity to say only two words every five years. After the first five passed, he was called in and allowed to say two words. He said, "Food bad." Five years later, his two words were, "Bed hard." After a total of fifteen years, he said, "I quit." The bishops responded, "We're not surprised. You've been complaining every since you got here."
 --From "This Day's Thought," October 13, 2008

Head-Scratchin' Headlines "Alton Attorney Accidentally Sues Himself;" "County to Pay \$250,000 to Advertise Lack of Funds;" "Volunteers Search for Old Civil War Planes;" "Australian Army Vehicle Disappears After Being Painted with Camouflage;" "Caskets Found as Workers Demolish Mausoleum;" "Utah Poison Control Center Reminds Every Not to Take Poison;" "Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons;" "Statistics Show that Teen Pregnancy Drops Off After Age 25."
 --Provided by Paul Pagliaro

Good Question "One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church, staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning, Alex.' 'Good morning,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?' The pastor said, 'Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.' Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, 'Which service? The 8:30 or the 10:30?' "
 --Provided by Harvey Baker

To Those Born Between 1930-1979 "To all the kids who survived the 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's, and 70's-- First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored, lead-base paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had baseball caps, not helmets, on our heads. As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, booster seats, seat belts, or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat. We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter, and bacon. We drank Kook-aid made with real white sugar. And we weren't overweight. Why? Because we were always outside, playing. That's why! We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were OK. We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem. We did not have Playstations, Nintendo, and X-boxes. There were no video games, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVD's, no surround-sound or CD's, no cell phones, no personal computers, no internet, and no chat rooms. We had friends, and we went outside and found them! We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and, although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes. We rode bikes or walked to our friends' house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them. Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that! The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law! These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem-solvers, and inventors ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success, and responsibility. And we learned how to deal with it all.... Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?"
 --Provided by Anne Bantavanis

HOLIDAY MAIL DEADLINES

To make sure your service member gets your cards and packages by Dec. 25, the U.S. Postal Service recommends you mail them by the following deadlines. Subtract four days to ensure delivery in time for the beginning of Hanukkah on Dec. 21:



Military mail addressed to:	Sent Via:					
	Express Mail Military Service	First-Class Mail letters and cards	Priority Mail	Parcel Airlift Mail	Space- Available Mail	Parcel Post
Europe, Central and South America, and the Pacific (APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092, 094-098, 340, 962-966)	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	Nov. 28	Nov. 13
Contingency areas (APO/FPO AE ZIP 093)	N/A	Dec. 4	Dec. 4	Dec. 1	Nov. 21	Nov. 13

Source: U.S. Postal Service

MARCIA STAIMER/STAFF

