



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 750

LOCK AND LOAD



NOVEMBER 2010

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V.V.A. Chapter 750 Board Members: John H Howe, Mike Isbell, Rod Kutz, Marie Mayo, Bob Hart, Fred Collins and George White.

From the Presidents Desk:

Thanks to all who attended the October meeting. I personally think that we have the best chapter in the state, oh hell, in the region. And that is because of you, our members.

I can't name everyone but a big 'Thank You' goes out to all members that participated in the annual Veterans Day Parade. I don't know about the rest of you, but I had one helluva good time at the parade and the lunch afterwards at the American Legion Post. I was also happy to see that one of our own won the Rifle Raffle, Sylvia Johns. Congratulations Sylvia! Pictures of the parade will be on the website soon.

And while we are on the subject of the Rifle Raffle, Rod Kutz stated that the Rifle Raffle made the chapter approximately \$5,000. He is the chapter bean counter, so I have to take his word on that.

At our next meeting we will be discussing the Thanksgiving Food Baskets, the Christmas Food Baskets and our annual Christmas Party. Please plan to attend so you can have your voice heard.

Please support our advertisers because they support us.

Contact John at johnhhowe@me.com to be added to the email list. Being on the email list saves the chapter \$\$\$. And there is nothing I like more than saving \$\$. And don't forget our web site (<http://okvva750.org>). Check it out!

The next Chapter 750 business meeting: **November 18th, 1900** hours (7 p.m.), at the American Legion Post on South Street.

This newsletter was printed and distributed by **THE UPS STORE**, 14th St., Ponca City.

October 21st Minutes

Meeting called to order by President John Howe at 7 P.M.

Pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for all POW/MIA'S and active duty personnel.

Invocation by Larry Grantz.

Attendance: 15 members, 1 associate and 1 guest, Ken Hatton

Minutes were read and accepted with the following changes. Bill Sanders and Larry Grantz worked at the Poker Run stop in Shidler. John Howe assisted with the sign-in at the American Legion Hall.

Treasurer's Report:

Committee reports:

Monument: Bob Hart reported that the design for the 5 branches of the service has been completed. They are currently checking prices for installation.

Bricks: Mike Isbell reported that he is waiting for payment on one brick. When the payment is received, the engraving for several bricks will be ordered.

Membership: 100 with 6 associates.

Old Business:

Rifle Raffle: Sales are going great.

Poker Run: Chapter made a little over \$1400.00. Great job! President Howe thanked all who helped.

Chapter Picnic: The picnic will be held 23 October at Bill Sanders home. Please attend.

Watch Fire: Over 400 flags were brought to the watch fire. Fourteen members participated in the Watch Fire activities this year.

Membership: George White has given out several applications. George has spoken with several people who have promised to join.



New Business:

Veterans Day Parade: will be 6 November. President Howe read a letter from the Veterans Day Parade Committee asking for donations. Bob Hart made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Parade Committee. David Harris 2nd the motion. The motion carried. Discussion was held about putting an ad in newspaper about this year's Veterans Day being designated the Year of the Vietnam Veteran. Mike Isbell will write the ad and take it to the newspaper.

Thanksgiving Baskets: Motion was made to give out 4 baskets at \$50.00 each. The motion carried. John Wiles and President Howe will deliver the baskets.

Christmas family: George White made a motion for us to adopt one family this year. Marie Mayo 2nd the motion. She will try to find a family. If anyone knows of a military family in need, please let us know.

Our annual Christmas Party: will be held at the American Legion Hall. The date will be announced later.

President Howe read a letter from the David Westphall Veterans Foundation at Angel Fire, NM asking for an annual membership donation of \$30.00. Bob Hart made a motion. Second by John Wiles. The motion carried.

President Howe also read a letter from Relay for Life Cancer fund requesting a donation. A discussion followed. Marie Mayo made motion to donate \$100.00. Second by George White. The motion carried.

Jimmie Marston circulated a flyer about different clocks and watches to those in attendance. Our logo can be placed on the clocks and watches. He displayed a watch that he had purchased. President Howe will obtain an order form, if anyone in the chapter is interested in purchasing an item.

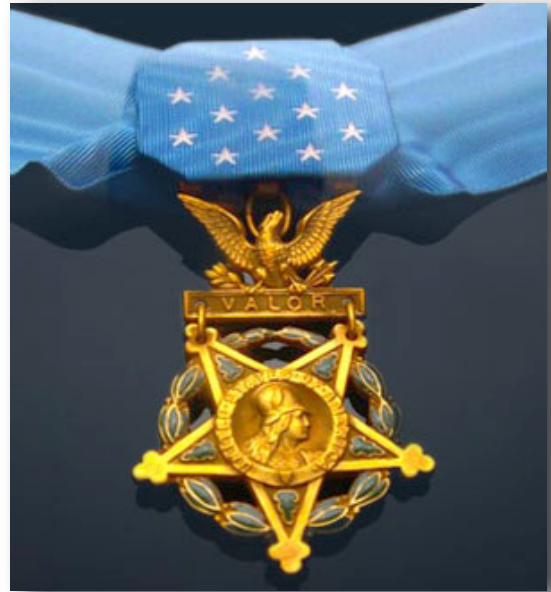
Mike Isbell gave a report on the State Council Meeting

Motion to adjourn by George White. Second by Bill Sanders. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P. M.

Next meeting will be 18 November 2010 at the American Legion Hall

Board Meeting followed the meeting.

"Five second fuses only
last three seconds."
- Infantry Journal



CAPODANNO, VINCENT R.

Rank and organization: Lieutenant, U.S. Navy, Chaplain Corps, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF.

Place and date: Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam, 4 September 1967.

Entered service at: Staten Island, N.Y. Born: 13 February 1929, Staten Island, N.Y.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Chaplain of the 3d Battalion, in connection with operations against enemy forces. In response to reports that the 2d Platoon of M Company was in danger of being overrun by a massed enemy assaulting force, Lt. Capodanno left the relative safety of the company command post and ran through an open area raked with fire, directly to the beleaguered platoon. Disregarding the intense enemy small-arms, automatic-weapons, and mortar fire, he moved about the battlefield administering last rites to the dying and giving medical aid to the wounded. When an exploding mortar round inflicted painful multiple wounds to his arms and legs, and severed a portion of his right hand, he steadfastly refused all medical aid. Instead, he directed the corpsmen to

help their wounded comrades and, with calm vigor, continued to move about the battlefield as he provided encouragement by voice and example to the valiant marines. Upon encountering a wounded corpsman in the direct line of fire of an enemy machine gunner positioned approximately 15 yards away, Lt. Capodanno rushed a daring attempt to aid and assist the mortally wounded corpsman. At that instant, only inches from his goal, he was struck down by a burst of machine gun fire. By his heroic conduct on the battlefield, and his inspiring example, Lt. Capodanno upheld the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the cause of freedom.



Military Pay Freeze

Presidential Commission on reducing the deficit has recommended freezing basic military pay and housing allowances for three years starting in 2011, according to a draft report of the commission's recommendations. The move would not affect combat pay, the report said. The recommendation is likely to get a cool reception in Congress.



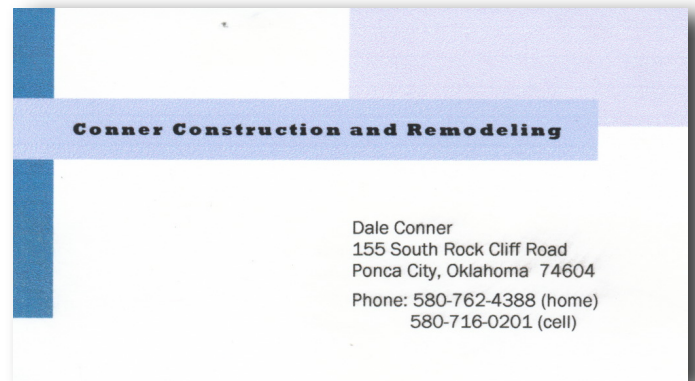
As the test pilot climbed out of the experimental aircraft, having torn off the wings and tail in the crash landing, the crash truck arrives; the rescuer sees a bloodied pilot and asks, "What happened?" The pilot's reply: "Beats the sh*t outta me, I just got here myself."



VA Expands Support for Families of Low-Income Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today an important program designed to provide enhanced services to low-income Veterans and their families who are at risk of being homeless. Under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program, VA will provide grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will help break the cycle of homelessness among America's Veterans at risk.

The program will deliver grants to community agencies for vocational and rehabilitation counseling, employment and training service, educational assistance; and health care services.



Agencies will also provide direct financial assistance for daily living, transportation, child care, rent and utilities and other expenses. Agencies may also propose funding for additional services in their supportive services grant application based on the specific needs of their communities and local Veterans.

"Ending homelessness for Veterans and their families will require all segments of our communities to work together," said First Lady Michelle Obama. "I am pleased this new program will help more local

organizations support them when they need it most.”

“This new program will provide valuable new tools in our campaign to end homelessness among Veterans and their families,” said Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. “Partnering with homeless agencies across this country, we will attack the problems that underlie homelessness and, for the first time, fund services for the spouses and children of homeless Veterans.”

By mid-December, VA officials will provide local agencies with the instructions necessary to apply for grants under the program.

Eligible Veteran families include those who are residing in permanent housing, are homeless and scheduled to become residents of permanent housing within a specified time period, or who have left permanent housing and are seeking other housing that is responsive to such very low-income Veteran family’s needs and preferences.



"Any ship can be a minesweeper...Once."



Win a Custom \$100K Motorcycle & Help Wounded Warriors

Custom built for [Iraq Star](#) by Paul Teutul and American Chopper, this one of a kind motorcycle will be part of a year-long campaign to raise awareness and donations so that Iraq Star can assist our Wounded Warriors. Your minimum \$100 donation will get you in the running, and the winning entry will be announced on September 11, 2011.

Iraq Star provides reconstructive surgery to American Soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.



New Medical Forms Will Streamline Veterans Claims



Process

Physician Questionnaires to Boost Disability Exam Efficiency

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released three new disability benefits questionnaires for physicians of Veterans applying for VA disability compensation benefits. This initiative marks the beginning of a major reform of the physicians’ guides and automated routines that will streamline the claims process for injured or ill Veterans.

“This is a major step in the transformation of VA’s business processes that is yielding improvements for Veterans as we move to eliminate the disability claims backlog by

2015,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

These new questionnaires are the first of 79 disability benefits questionnaires that will guide Veterans’ personal physicians, as well as VA physicians, in the evaluation of the most frequent medical conditions affecting Veterans.



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Accurate and timely medical evaluations are a critical element of VA’s continued commitment to high-quality and prompt decisions about the nature and degree of conditions afflicting Veterans.

Streamlining this process by directly involving Veterans’ treating physicians in providing specific information needed to evaluate their claims will lead to completeness in the examination and faster compensation decisions.

VA’s goal is to process all claims in fewer than 125 days with a decision quality rate no lower than 98 percent, a mark Secretary Shinseki has mandated by 2015. The physician questionnaire project is one of more than three dozen initiatives actively underway at VA, including a major technology modernization that will lead to paperless claims processing.

The disability benefits questionnaires are part of VA’s automated health records system which prompts VA physicians conducting disability examinations to include precise information in a standardized way to

assist claims adjudicators in ensuring Veterans receive the benefits they deserve as quickly as possible. These VA examination results are electronically available to claims adjudicators in VA regional offices.

For Veterans who receive their care from private physicians, VA has placed the disability benefits questionnaires on its Internet site (<http://www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams> (<http://www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams>)) with instructions for physicians to submit examination results on Veterans’ behalf.

The first three questionnaires cover B-cell leukemia (such as hairy-cell leukemia), Parkinson’s disease and ischemic heart disease. VA recently published a final regulation to be implemented Oct. 30 that will establish the presumption of eligibility to VA disability compensation benefits for Veterans with one of these three conditions who were exposed to Agent Orange, a herbicide agent used extensively in Vietnam.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war who have a “presumed” illness do not have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This “presumption” establishes eligibility to VA compensation if their condition is disabling to a compensable level.

For additional information on the VA disability compensation program or additional presumptive disabilities for Veterans exposed to herbicide agents, contact VA at 800-827-1000 or visit

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bIn/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm> (<http://www.vba.va.gov/bIn/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm>)



Arlington National Cemetery Announces Training Program for Employees and Selection of Superintendent

The United States Army and the Department Veterans Affairs (VA) have entered into a formal agreement that will allow Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) employees to enroll in VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Training Center, Secretary of the Army John McHugh announced today. VA has operated the center since 2004, providing training and professional development to employees who manage and operate national cemeteries.

"While Arlington National Cemetery's unique military mission sets us apart from other national cemeteries, we have been committed to learning from and partnering with experts in cemetery administration to improve overall operations," McHugh said. "With 131 cemeteries nationwide, VA has tremendous experience in day-to-day cemetery operations, and we believe this unique professional development opportunity will help our employees develop the skills needed to better meet their mission."

VA's NCA National Training Center emphasizes technical, supervisory and leadership training for employees ranging from supervisors and equipment operators, to grounds keepers and cemetery representatives. The NCA also offers training to state veteran cemetery employees to assist them in meeting national shrine standards at their local facilities.

"Both VA and the Army share an obligation to honor all who have served and sacrificed for their country," Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said. "VA will continue to assist

the Army and provide access to our expertise in cemetery operations and systems."



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McHugh also announced that Patrick Hallinan, the former Director of Field Programs for VA's NCA, has been selected as ANC's Superintendent. Hallinan was named Acting Superintendant on June 10, 2010. He was named permanently to the position on October 10, 2010.

"Pat Hallinan's unique experience in national cemetery management, combined with his proven leadership and ability, made him the only choice possible for this important job," McHugh said. "I have every confidence in Pat and Executive Director Kathryn Condon to strengthen management and oversight, and restore America's confidence in the operation of this most hallowed ground."

For more information, contact Gary Tallman or Dave Foster, Army Public Affairs,

703-614-1742/5344; Kaitlin Horst, Arlington National Cemetery Public Affairs, 703-607-8576; or Katie Roberts, U.S. Dept. of Veteran's Affairs, (202) 527-2332



Flu Shots for TRICARE Beneficiaries

Influenza vaccines are covered by Medicare at no cost to TRICARE for Life beneficiaries as long as they are administered by a Medicare provider who agrees to accept the

Medicare-approved amount as full payment. Flu shots also are covered by TRICARE if obtained at participating TRICARE network pharmacies in the U.S. Beneficiaries should call ahead to their pharmacy to determine if it participates in the TRICARE program and has vaccines available. To find a participating pharmacy, go to www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE or call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303. For more information about seasonal vaccines and TRICARE, visit the flu page at the [TRICARE website](http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE).



Former Marine up for Medal of Honor



A Kentucky man appears in line to become the first living Marine since Vietnam to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

The Marine Corps will not confirm that former Cpl. Dakota Meyer of Greensburg, Ky., has been nominated for the nation's highest award for valor, but the news network CNN, quoting a Defense Department official with knowledge of the award process, is reporting former Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Conway signed off on Meyer's nomination for the medal prior to retiring last month.

Meyer, who separated from the Marine Corps in June, told the network he has not been told anything officially.

Lt. Col. Joseph Plenzler, a spokesman for the new commandant, Gen. James Amos, said no one is authorized to talk about the process until it is completed.

The story was first reported by Marine Corps Times.

Next in the approval chain is Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, followed by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Before finally going to the President Obama for approval, the medal recommendation could be downgraded to the Navy Cross, the Silver Star or a Bronze Star for Valor.

Meyer's team was operating with Afghan security forces in Kunar province when three of his Marines and a Navy corpsman at the lead of the column became pinned down in an ambush, a McClatchy News Service reporter embedded with the unit reported at the time.

Without regard for his own safety, Meyer ran forward through continued enemy fire to reach the trapped Marines, who he found already dead. He continued to put himself under fire as he retrieved the bodies of the Marines and Sailor, according to the Marine Corps. Killed that day were Lt. Michael Johnson, of Virginia Beach, Va.; Staff Sgt. Aaron Kenefick, of Roswell, Ga.; Gunnery Sgt. Edwin Johnson Jr. of Columbus, Ga.; and Navy Corpsman 3rd Class James Layton of Riverback, Calif.

The McClatchy reporter revealed in his stories that the ambushed Marines' calls for artillery support was denied by Army commanders, who said new rules of engagement didn't permit them to open fire for fear of causing civilian casualties. The calls for support were rejected even though the Marines repeatedly radioed the Army that they were not near the village.

Following an investigation, three officers from the 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y., were given official reprimands. The officers were not identified.

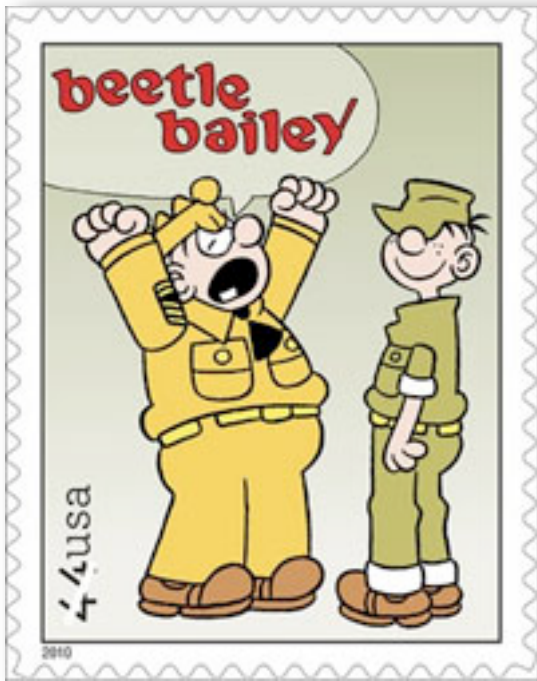
As for Meyer, where others see valor in what he did that day, he sees failure.

"I was a failure," he told CNN. "My guys died. That was my whole team." The combat is not something he wants to discuss, saying it is still too difficult.

"I sleep on it every night," he said.



Beetle Bailey Honored With Postage Stamp



After 60 lackadaisical years, Beetle Bailey is finally getting deployed.

The notoriously work-shy comic strip soldier appears on a new stamp, which was dedicated Wednesday at the Fort Bragg Post Office. One of the stamps was promptly stuck on a letter to a deployed soldier and mailed to the Middle East.

Col. Hector Lopez of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, who spoke at the dedication ceremony and grew up reading the strip, said it's the first time Bailey will see any combat.

"I wish I could get away with some of the stuff Beetle Bailey gets away with every day," Lopez said.

When Mort Walker created the strip in 1950, Beetle was a college student. The strip didn't sell well, and an editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer suggested he get drafted since so many readers like him were being drafted for the Korean War at the time.

"I was against it at the time," Walker said in a telephone interview from his home studio in Connecticut. "All the cartoon strips about war were dead."

Not this one. Beetle Bailey was immediately sold to 100 newspapers, then 500, then 1,000. Six decades later, it appears in 1,800 papers -- including The Fayetteville Observer -- that reach some 200 million people.



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The Season Professionals

Lopez said that along with its daily dose of laughter, the strip captures some of the relationship between soldiers and leaders and "the importance of maintaining a sense of humor even in trying times."

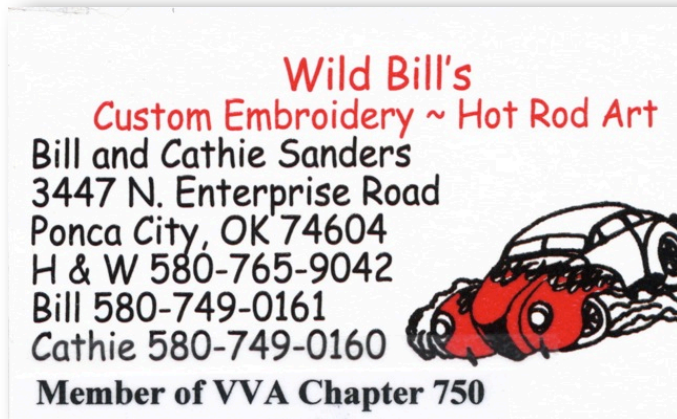
The 86-year-old Walker, who spent four years in the Army during World War II, said

some of his strips have had a profound effect on readers.

He said he is saving a bunch of heartfelt letters about last Sunday's strip. Timed for Veterans Day, it dashed through some of the hardships soldiers face after a life in the military.

"I just tried to capture that feeling that the soldiers have, especially the veterans," he said. "When you get home, you find everything has changed, people have moved, people have died. It's a whole new world you've come back to and you don't feel appreciated. It's quite a tough experience."

The stamp is one of a series being issued to honor classic comic strips, including Calvin and Hobbes, Dennis the Menace, Archie and Garfield.



"I love the idea of it," said Walker, who said he has hoarded about 400 of the stamps himself.

For a strip that passed the 60-year mark in September, interest in Beetle Bailey remains high. An exhibition of strips opens in Brazil this week, and Walker just returned from the opening of a campus restaurant at the University of Missouri, his alma mater, that features a bronze Beetle Bailey for guests to pose with.

"I can't keep up with it," Walker said. "I'm feeling famous."

After the dedication Wednesday, Naila Acevedo mailed a letter bearing the new stamp to her husband, Staff Sgt. Felipe Acevedo-Rodriguez, who is serving with the 7th Transportation Battalion in Kuwait.

"I told him, 'You're probably going to be the first one to get this stamp out here,' " she said. "We usually do e-mail, but it's fun to get a handwritten letter. It's a little more thoughtful."

"I'd love to see the look on their faces," said Brian Forte, Fort Bragg's acting postmaster, "when the bag gets opened at the other end."



Membership

Number	Status	Expires	Member Name	
295222	ACTV	201012	Barnes	Larry R
169633	ACTV	201011	Berens	Wayne J
336138	ACTV	201012	Berrian Jr.	Howard A
169695	ACTV	201009	Chatigny	Robert E
189208	ACTV	201012	Easley	Robert
363944	ACTV	201012	Hall	Frank A
316505	ACTV	201012	Harris	David L
280404	ACTV	201009	Henry	Winston
213765	ACTV	201010	Luttrell	Ken
382040	ACTV	201011	Marston	Jimmie L
106807	ACTV	201012	Mauntel Jr	William E
271935	ACTV	201101	Osborn	Sidney
274025	ACTV	201101	Zahn	Terry

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 Thanks Rod Kutz, Membership

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1 Year	\$20	Please mail checks to: V.V.A. Chapter 750 Attn: Membership P.O. Box 1625 Ponca City, OK 74602-1625
3 Years	\$50	
Life Membership Schedule		
Age <= 49	\$250	
50 - 55	\$225	
56 - 60	\$200	
61 - 65	\$175	
= or >	\$150	All Membership Applications must be accompanied with a DD-214.



NOVEMBER 2010 LOCK AND LOAD

Vietnam Veterans of America
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