NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER.

More than a mantra or catchy slogan, this is the founding principle of our National Organization of Vietnam Veterans of America. We all remember how people looked and treated us upon our return to the States. We recall the media confusing an unpopular war with the warrior. We were treated differently than those who returned from WW II & Korea. We didn’t like it, but we tried to understand. Most of us just wanted to be left alone. Many sought refuge with other Vets. They understood. So we went to our local VFW’s and American Legions only to be discouraged from joining or treated like pariahs. The broad brush painted us as druggies, baby killers, losers...we were not welcome to join “their club”. In our minds and in our hearts we resolved that we never treat a fellow Vet like we were being treated. We would help Any fellow Veteran where and when we could.

Now, after all these years, Chapter 299 stands of the precipice of taking a giant leap in that very direction, to help Fellow Veterans. We have the opportunity to not only talk the talk but walk the walk. We can help retuning Veterans. We can lighten the Veteran’s load. We can make a difference for Veterans not only today, but for a very long time into the future.

We have the assets and resources to set aside a portion of our capital and use it to invest in the future of the American Veteran of the Quad Cities Area. I am talking of course about a Chapter 299 Legacy Scholarship for area Veterans. The “Legacy Fund” would be administered and awarded by a fully bonded and vested third party that would follow our Chapter's guidelines. The goal is to award monetary scholarships to qualified area Vets who are enrolled in college, technical school or certified skilled labor apprenticeships. The awards would be allocated based on the the individual applicants and their field of work/study.

To make this happen we need first – to approve the amended by-law (see inside this issue);

Second – Allocate the needed capital to establish the funding. Both will be decided by a vote by the Chapter Membership.

That “Decision Letter” and postage paid ‘decision postcard’ was sent to Every Member in in good standing January 2016. Every Member was asked if they would rather establish a lasting scholarship legacy in the name of QC VVA 299 or continue to spend down the resources until the last man turns the light off.

The facts are the majority of Members returned their “ballot style post cards” and the results were staggering. 83% of the Membership voted to create a Chapter Scholarship Legacy that would be managed in perpetuity.

The path is clear; the choice is ours – let us not forget the Veterans of this or any future generation.

Your President – Bill Albracht
The stillness of the audience Saturday in Heritage Hall at Rock Island Arsenal honored 200 Quad-Citians who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. There also was a moment of silence in acknowledgment of the terrorist attacks in Brussels. It was part of the National Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Service presented by the Vietnam Veterans of America 299.

A brief video tribute to Vietnam Veterans and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War drew applause from those gathered. Emcee and Chapter 299 President Bill Albracht called the video one of the best tributes he has ever seen. He went on to say that “some men are born brothers and others become brothers.”

Other speakers during the program included: U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill.: “They put it all on the line, for us, our country. They made sacrifices we can never understand.”

Lt. Gen. Michael Tucker, commanding general, First Army, Rock Island Arsenal: “Today, we honor their lives, their courage, their sacrifice ... The fallen men and women we honor today are real people from our local communities.” Maj. Gen. Kevin O’Connell, commanding general, U.S. Army Sustainment Command: “It’s hard to imagine what it must have been like to come home from war and to have been treated so poorly.” O’Connell also gave his appreciation to families, saying, “Any soldier will tell you the support of their families is of utmost importance.”

Among other officials on hand were East Moline Mayor John Thodos, Moline Mayor Scott Raes and 2nd Ward Alderwoman Kathy Hall of Silvis.

Several participants took the podium to read the names of the fallen from the Quad-City area. During the reading, the room, which previously had erupted into applause and even laughter in reaction to different speakers, became hushed. “For every person who has been recognized, there are countless others who have not,” Albracht said.

Each year, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 299 Honor One Quad-City area Veteran who was Killed In Action in Vietnam. This year Army Specialist 4 Gale Kurk Vogler of East Moline was recognized. Vogler died March 11, 1967 while serving with the 9th Infantry Division at My Tho in the Mekong Delta.

Jim Hixson of Silvis gave a compelling eulogy about Vogler, mentioning the “hole in a mother’s heart, carried for so many years, that never heals.” “I know far too many men living with the war every day,” Hixson said.

Gale Vogler’s Mother, Marge Vogler, and gale’s daughter Ann Vogler – Hos, born 2 months after her Father’s death were among Family Members and Friends on hand during the ceremony. Illinois State Senator Neil Anderson, R-Ill., presented the Vogler Family with a “shadow box” containing Spec. 4 Vogler’s many Medals and Decorations earned for his service. The family also received an American Honor Flag.

Vietnam Veterans of America 299 and Bettendorf’s Chapter 776 Honor Guards performed presentation of The Colors. A 3 Rifle Volley Salute denoting Duty, Honor, Country was fired and the sounding of Live “Echo” Taps performed by 2 Buglers just outside the building concluded the ceremony.

Nationally, March 29th is accepted as the day the last Combat Troops left Vietnam in 1973, and is set aside for observance of National Vietnam Veterans Day. Saturday’s ceremony was part of the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

For The Record: National Vietnam Veterans of America took notice of Chapter 299’s Annual Memorial honoring one of our local War Dead and posted an article on their web site under the Heading – “Inside VVA Chapters / Quad Cities Chapter 299 Honors Fallen Veterans”. – B.A.
ANNUAL CHAPTER 299 ELECTION RECEPTION IS BACK!!!

After being AWOL for a year, the Chapter’s annual Election Reception is back! On 19 April 2016, Chapter 299 will hold its annual meeting and election at THE VIKING CLUB, 1450-41 Street, Moline, IL. The gavel will drop at 6 pm and the voting will take place as the first item on the agenda.

Please come early as all Chapter 299 Members in good standing Must Be Certified by our Chapter Secretary and Membership Chairman to receive an Election Ballot. Ballots will be passed out just prior to the actual voting.

An abbreviated meeting will be held and after, the Chapter will hold its annual ELECTION RECEPTION! There will be an open bar that will cover beer, wine, soft drinks & well drinks and Hot hors d’oeuvres will be served.

This is our Once A Year gathering and we want everyone to come, vote, and stay for a short meeting and then enjoy the camaraderie & friendship of your fellow Veterans. If you have a pal that is considering becoming a Member, bring him or her. There’s a vast pool of potential Members. Encourage them to be our Guests.

Bill Albracht - Chapter 299 President
VET 2 VET REPORT – MARCH 2016 – FROM CHAIRMAN FRENCHY EAVES

Vet 2 Vet’s next trip will be Wednesday, April 27th to the VA Medical Center in Iowa City. All Volunteers need meet at The Machine Shed at 7 AM for a Chapter 299 breakfast and we’ll leave for VAMC at 8 AM. Typically we return to the QCA by @ 1 – 1:30 PM.

We’ll also make application to take Jim Stanbary’s “Service Dog” with us on future trips. It is medical fact that ill / hospitalized people are much helped by interaction with friendly animals, especially Dogs. If need be, we might reach out to Member Norm Aguirre, a long time trainer, for specifics on making Jim’s Dog meet the criteria. – Paul “Frenchy” Eaves

ABC ’s HIT SHOW – “SHARK TANK” WANTS YOU !

My name is Caren Sachs and I work in the casting department for ABC’s “Shark Tank.” My job is to find the entrepreneurs that appear on the show, and I personally would really like to see veterans on at least one episode for this season, Season 8. If you or anyone you know is a veteran and an entrepreneur, and would be interested in applying for our show, I would love to talk to you or them! Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know! All interested applicants may either go to our website and apply there, or call/email me directly using this email = CMSCCASTING@GAIL.CON OR CALL 310-244-1336.

Thank you so much for your time and for your service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 16, 2016 – Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 9288 of NW Illinois – Welcome Home Dinner - Featured Speaker is Medal of Honor recipient Allen J. Lynch – Ramada Inn, Galena, Illinois – Cocktail Hour = 6 Pm – Dinner = 7 PM – Cost = $20 – To reserve telephone 1-563-580-2098 or e-mail – VVA.928@gmail.com

Tuesday April 19, 2016 – ELECTION NIGHT – VIKINGS CLUB – MOLINE – 6 PM

April 23, 2016 – Agent Orange Symposium – Des Moines – Details in this issue

Leather Jacket Sale with Logos – See In This Issue

May 14th Quad Cities Cruisers – Need Members to sell 50/50 Tickets at South Park Mall from 6 – 9 PM for a “Cruise In” and to “Fly Our Colors” Arrive at 5:30

May 14th – Ruff Neck Riders – See In This Issue

May 26th - RI Arsenal National Cemetery – Place Flags on Gravesites – 1045 AM

May 30th, 2016 – Memorial Day – See Honor Guard Events and Fly The Flag and visit National Cemetery

May 31st – RI Arsenal – National Cemetery – Retrieve Flags – 8 AM

June 11th – Quad Cities Cruisers – Need Members to “Fly The Colors at their Car Show from 4 – 9 PM – Arrive at 3:30 PM

September 10th – Quad Cities Cruisers – Need Members to participate from 6 – 9 PM and “Fly The Colors” – Arrive at 5:30 PM
Meeting was opened at 1900 hours by President Bill Albracht; with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence for our fallen Brothers & Sisters. Chaplain Jim Kerr followed with a prayer.

Attendance: 39 members

Treasurer’s Report – John Schneck reported for Mike Haney, Treasurer. John passed out the financial reports and reviewed with the membership.

Secretary’s Report – John Schneck reported that the 08 March 23, 2016 B.O.D. Meeting minutes had been submitted to STS and published. Ron Camper made the motion to accept the meeting minutes and the motion was seconded and passed.

Committee Reports: Membership – John reported 262 Life Members, 155 Individual (1-3 yr.) for a total of 417 members. AVVA has 19 Life Members, and 19 Ind. For at total of 38 - Vet 2 Vet - Frenchy reported that we have 4 events scheduled at the Iowa City VA. The next visit is scheduled for Wednesday 27 April. Meet at the Machine Shed at 0700 hours for Breakfast then live for Iowa City at 0800 hours. - Catering – No Report - Bob Jackson informed the membership about the new laws on food servers, which requires them to have certification. More research is needed and the Board will get back with the membership. - Golf – No Report - STS – No Report. - Web Site – No Report

Annual Election / Reception – Bill reminded the membership of our Annual Election and Reception April 19 at the Vikings club.

Honor Guard – Andy Andersen summarized the end of the fiscal year statistics: 103 funerals, 8 casket vigils, 12 parades, 10 firing details, 32 presenting colors, 2 flag foldings, 1 Springfield Illinois vigil. - Grants&Donations – No report

Agent Orange Legacy – Larry reported what symptoms have been upgraded to a likely status by the V.A. Larry also updated the membership on the status of the 2 bills in Congress and what Senators and Representatives our on board for the 2 bills in Congress.

Old Business - Legacy vs. Spend down – Bill reported that we had a 59% response from our mailing project. 204 would like to leave a legacy scholarship and 42 want to spend the monies down.

QC Cruisers – Our Chapter bought a table for the QC Cruisers Trivia Night please see Bill if you want to attend the event.

Vietnam Veteran’s Day Memorial – Bill reported that this event would happen at the R.I.A on Saturday 26 March at 1300 hours. Please attend.

Hep “C” forum – Bill announced that there would be a Hep “C” forum with a dinner being served after program. The event will be at the Plumbers/Pipefitters Local 25. Program will start at 1700 hours. Reservations needed.

Vietnam Vet Parade – Bill reported that this event will be happening May 21st and they are looking for volunteers. See Bill if interested in volunteering.

Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Ceremony – Bill announced that this event is to recognize the Vietnam Veterans for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. 50 yr. pins will be presented to all VN Vets. The event will be Saturday 2 April 16 at the R.I.A. National Cemetery at 1100 hours.

New Business - Flag Disposal – Bill brought up an idea of disposing of old Flags by draping Vet’s caskets with the old flags. Discussion resulted and we will not pursue this idea due to proper disposal will not allow this idea to be implemented.

Veterans - thank you for your service.

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ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH

As we draw near to another Chapter election and we pick our leadership for the next fiscal year, Ray Hamilton, Mike Haney, John Schneck and I have all decided to volunteer for one more tour of duty. Why? Because the stakes are too high to walk away before the job is done.

We four along with other outstanding Chapter leaders, have been working diligently to put our Chapter on a path to leave a legacy for the ages. If you, the Membership, concur, we will have established an enduring fund that will be a living reminder to the entire Quad Cities area that we were here, we served with honor and we left a legacy of trust and confidence in our Brother Veterans today and into the future.

The endowment we envision is in the form of a scholarship award to our local veterans, be it collegiate or trade school. The Scholarships will be awarded on merit and paid directly to the institution/organization on behalf of the veteran to help defray the spiraling costs of education.

If approved by our Membership, the next phase will be implementation.

Principled planning and investigation have already taken place, but the final trigger cannot be pulled until approved by our Chapter Membership; Our assets, Our Voices, Our decision.

So...we four stand at the ready to act on your behalf. You need only vote ‘yes’ to the legacy fund for the foundation has been laid, the azimuth taken and all that remains is to take that first bold definitive step.

Bill/Ray/Mike/John

President –
Bill Albracht [Incumbent]
Larry Tschappat

Vice President –
Ray Hamilton [Incumbent]
Bob Jackson

Secretary – John Schneck – Incumbent / Unopposed

Treasurer – Mike Haney – Incumbent / Unopposed

Board Of Directors - 10 Candidates –
Fred Hernandez, Gary Park, Steve Brenner, Dennis Laird, Frenchy Eaves, Len Spindel, Dennis Wohlford, Fred Weymouth, Jim Bell And Ron Camper

State Delegate Candidates – Steve Brenner, Dennis Laird, Larry Tschappat And John Schneck

Nominating Committee: Terry Lynch, Vic Endress And Tom Marxen
Dennis Wohlford – Candidate for Board of Directors

I served as an Army infantryman in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968. I have been a chapter 299 member since Nov. 2013. I won a partial life membership at the Nov. 2013 meeting. I joined the honor guard Jan. 2014. I volunteered with the catering part of 2014 and all of 2015. I have never missed a meeting or honor guard duty, except for when I had my back issue. I wish to serve as a board member; I feel I can bring a common sense approach to the chapter. Thank You for your consideration.

FRED WEYMOUTH – 1ST TIME CANDIDATE – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I have been a life member of Chapter 299 for three years. I lived in Chicago before and after my service with the Army in Vietnam from 1970-71. I moved to the QCA in 2006 to work for the Department of Veteran Affairs as a readjustment counselor at the Moline Vet Center. After so many years of heeding President Ford’s instruction that we would all be better off just forgetting about Vietnam, I began to identify myself as a veteran. And I had the opportunity to assist my Vietnam veteran brothers and the younger combat theater veterans of more recent wars in making the constructive adjustments from military to civilian life, until I retired in 2013.

I am seeking your vote to serve on the Board of Directors because I feel I am qualified and dedicated to helping the chapter navigate through a challenging period of continuing to support and advocate for our members and their families, while we add to the sterling legacy our chapter has earned with younger veterans and the community at large. I would like to remove some of the burden away from those members who have carried the bulk of the administrative chores of the chapter and do my fair share of the lifting as a director on the board. Thank you.

JIM BELL – CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My name is Jim Bell and I’m seeking position on Board of Directors - Chapter 299 VVA, March 2016. I’m a Rock Island native currently living in Sherrard, IL. Member of VVA 299 since 2007, Life Member since 2014. I Enlisted U.S. Army 1968 and am graduate of jump school (Airborne) & parachute rigger school, 1969. I was responsible for personnel & equipment drop operations and served as a rigger in Germany 1970. I’m bilingual in German & English. I worked at Deere and Co. leaving in 1999 after 26+ years, Fyre Lake Assn. grounds maintenance supervisor, and commercial truck driver last working for FedEx Ground hauling doubles retiring in 2014 employed me. I’ve also served on the Catering Crew and Honor Guard since 2014. Hobbies: golf, piano, woodworking, singing. Thank you for your consideration. Jim Bell

RON CAMPER – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I recently retired from the Illinois Department of Corrections and will have more time to devote to work that is required of a board member. I was active with the catering from precook prep work thru to the serving and clean up as much as my work schedule then would allow. I was a member of the Rapids City Fire Prevention District for about 5 years as a radio operator, fire fighter and EMT-B and put in over 300 hours on a yearly basis. I currently drive a school bus for Pinks Bus Service serving Hampton school district. I worked extensively with Rich Northland, Bobby Schilling and Bill Albracht when they ran for office. I will bring a fresh viewpoint to the Board but I will not be a rubber stamp but will discuss the proposals that are referred to the Board. My vision for the Vietnam Veterans chapter would be to enhance the current activities and to bring new ideas before the membership. - Respectfully yours: Ronald R. Camper
ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL -- Thousands of balloons, clustered like yellow grapes, strained and fretted against the hands of their keepers, ready to be set loose in Saturday’s April 2, 2016’s fearsome wind. The command came as a countdown shouted over the rush of the 35-45 MPH sustained winds with 60 MPH wind gusts. At “one!” everyone let go, and the balloons charged. At first held low by the gusts, they skimmed across the cemetery grounds toward Moline. These lifted up over the city skyline, a blooming, scattered cloud of yellow, speeding south.

The struggling people holding the balloons -- dozens of Veterans, their Families, and those who wished to pay respects -- grouped together in a thick, rough square near the Rock Island National Cemetery’s Main Flagpole Circle, waiting for the order to let loose 2,472 balloons representing the number of Vietnam Veterans buried at National Cemetery, Rock Island Arsenal. The last balloon represented those who were captured and held during the war.

The ceremony was part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. A large plaque named the Quad-Citians killed in the war. Chapter 299 records indicate nearly 200 local War Dead.

Lynn Lowder, a Marine Corps Veteran of the Vietnam War became an attorney and Veterans’ Advocate, was the keynote speaker for the event. He said his fellow Veterans served and fought well. They did their duty and continued to strive when their service was done. “Many quietly went on to productive lives upon their return,” he said. “But those returns were often rocky.” “Many Veterans of Vietnam were poorly treated by the public when they came home.” “Thankfully, this has changed for newer Veterans, the men and women who’ve been to Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in America’s post-9/11 conflicts”, he said. He credited the Vietnam Veterans with helping bring about that shift and also with playing a big role in supporting those younger Veterans.

Andy Ortiz, of Silvis, said he remembers the less welcoming attitude when he and his fellows returned home from their service. “All we were doing was our duty,” he said.

Saturday’s ceremony also included Bagpipes by Army Veteran Derek Grant, an invocation and the singing of the National Anthem. The Moline American Legion Post 246 gave a Rifle Salute, the reports of their weapons sounding in sharp, echoing snaps, followed by Live Taps Bugler / Veteran Tracey Hepner. The many Vietnam Veterans in the crowd received 50th Anniversary Commemorative Pins honoring their service, sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Illinois Senator Neil Anderson Veterans Affairs Officer, Member Ken Moffett, was able to secure 100 Pins for those who could not attend. You must bring your DD – 214 to verify Vietnam Service and take same to 1825 – Avenue of the Cities [23rd Ave.] Moline – [309] 736-7084 – First Come – 1st Served – when the 100 are gone, that’s all there are.
YOU JUST NEVER KNOW!

We as Honor Guard members perform the military rites at many Veterans’ funerals. There are getting to be waaaay too many of them. We are losing Veterans at an alarming rate. As I look back on these funerals, we do not know much about some of these folks even though they served honorably and sacrificed much. Take for example Edward H. “Ed” Meyer Jr.


Birthdates, Death Dates and the Branch of Service that these Veterans served in is usually about all we know about them. However, if we look closer, there is a story behind each and every one of them.

In Ed Meyer’s case, he graduated from Moline High School in 1942 and served in the U. S. Navy from 1942 until February 1946. Here’s where the story gets interesting. Ed was a Motor Machinist 1st Class. He served aboard the Minesweeper USS Revenge, AM 110. It was the Flagship Minesweeper into Tokyo Bay at the end of the war. It swept mines from the harbor so that the Battleship USS Missouri could get into the bay unharmed for the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan. “LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS” was the order of the day 71 years ago and “it” worked..

See, you just never know what a Veteran has done until you look a little closer. -- Submitted by Jim Loveless

Only Bi-State 50Th Anniversary
Commemoration Parade - May 21St

The United States of America is conducting a nationwide 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration. I am proud to chair the local committee coordinating a Bi-State Commemorative Parade to be held on May 21, 2016. This is the only parade to include two states. A Music Festival will be held on the Davenport Riverfront following the parade.

The purpose of this parade is to Honor Veterans of the Vietnam War including those Killed In Action (KIA), Prisoners Of War (POW), and our Missing In Action (MIA) for their service and sacrifice and to thank their families. Our parade will include Honor Guards from all services, military and school bands, military vehicles and floats carrying our Veterans and their families.

Please help us recognize their contributions and sacrifices made by our military for our great country. We would be honored to have your participation in the form of (band) (vehicle) (float) (volunteer) (monetary). If you are able to participate in this worthwhile celebration or for further information, please contact me. Thank you and God Bless America!

Ed Hildebrand - Chairman, Bi-State Commemorative Parade - FourPaws622@yahoo.com Ph: 563-322-0576

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“We Served With Honor,”
*Vietnam War Veteran Bill Albracht says*

- *Source Chicago Sun-Times*

Standing before a crowd of several hundred people at Soldier Field, Army Veteran Bill “Hawk” Albracht recalled a time when Soldiers were not so warmly regarded.

“When I came home in 1970 . . . it was a very tumultuous time to wear a uniform in the United States,” Albracht said. “It was not a good time to be a Veteran.”

Albracht, a retired Green Beret who was the youngest Captain to Command Combat Troops in the Vietnam War, was the keynote speaker at the Chicago’s Official Veterans Day Ceremony. He recalled coming home from Vietnam — a conflict that ended 40 years ago — feeling isolated from the rest of the nation.

“We all came home, and we kind of hunkered down. We got together with our own — and we moved on,” he said. “Little thought was given to being a Veteran. Little thought was given to our treatment.”

Albracht expressed calm satisfaction over how he and other Veterans have finally received recognition from society. “We went from no recognition and being treated like criminals for years to most Americans understanding that we served with distinction. We Served With Honor,” he said.

While Veterans are better received today, Illinois politicians touted various programs showing the need for ongoing support of American soldiers who return home.

Gov. Bruce Rauner pledged Illinois’ commitment to Veterans, including a bill signed last August that provides property tax breaks to Disabled Veterans. But Rauner said that supportive legislation is not enough. “The single most important thing we can do is make sure the Illinois economy is healthy and strong, creating great careers for everybody who wants to work — especially our Veterans,” he said.

The Republican governor, embroiled in a budget stalemate with Illinois Democrats, sat across the stage, divided by the podium from Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Emanuel announced Wednesday a plan to offer to Chicago Veterans an additional 450 housing choice vouchers, which would assist low-income Veterans to afford stable, private housing. The city will distribute 150 vouchers for housing support service annually through 2018. “We do not want to see a Veteran call Lower Wacker [Drive] a home ever again,” Emanuel said.

A count conducted by the city in January showed Veterans make up a disproportionate percentage of Chicago’s homeless. Military veterans make up 4.4 percent of Chicago’s population but account for about 15 percent of the city’s homeless population.

U.S. Sens. Mark Kirk and Richard Durbin called attention to the successful passage of a Veterans Affairs funding bill, introduced to the Senate by Kirk, a retired Navy reservist. The bill increases funding to the National Department of Veterans Affairs by about $6.2 billion compared to last fiscal year.

“We got everyone to stand behind Veterans’ health care,” Kirk said, “because without Veterans, we would not have this country.” - JH
Meeting was opened at 1800 hrs by Chapter President Bill Albracht with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for fallen Brothers and Sisters and those serving in harms way.


Treasurers Report – Mike Haney provided the Board members with the current balance sheet, and Job Profitability Summary, a Profit & Loss Summary comparing 2015-2016 YTD, and a copy of the check register for the month of February.

Secretary Report – John Schneck reported the BOD mtg. minutes for February was submitted to STS for publication. Terry Lynch made the motion to accept the EPG, motion seconded and motion passed.

STS – Bill Albracht submitted an EPG for $13,000.00 for 2016. Dennis Laird made the motion to accept the EPG, motion was seconded and motion passed.

Old Business - Legacy vs. Spend down survey – Bill Albracht reported on the results of the survey and the results where: 204 members where in favor of using 299 funds to provide a Scholarship for Veterans. 42 members favored a spend down of all funds. 83% of the members surveyed favored leaving a legacy.

QC Cruisers – Bill Albracht informed the Board that the QC Cruisers have chosen Chapter 299 to be one of their targeted charities for 2016.

New Business - PGA Golf Clinic for Veterans – Bill Albracht is working with a local PGA Professional and will update the Board as more information becomes available.

Meeting Adjourned 1906 hours- Respectfully Submitted, John Schneck, Chapter 299 Secretary
FACES OF AGENT ORANGE SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD IN DES MOINES

(Johnston, Iowa) Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs Executive Director Colonel Robert King (Ret) announces Vietnam Veterans of America will hold a symposium to address the birth defects, diseases, and learning disabilities affecting the children and grandchildren of our Nation’s Veterans. The Faces of Agent Orange Symposium will be held Saturday, 23rd April 2016, at Hy-Vee Hall, Iowa Events Center, 730 3rd Street, Des Moines, Iowa. There will be two sessions - the first from 9:00 am to noon, and the second from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Fred Hernandez will represent Chapter 299 at this Event.

“Our American soldiers returned from Vietnam and associated areas with a number of issues that they have had to contend with since their return years ago. Evidence is now connecting their battlefield exposures to Agent Orange with many diseases and birth defects that are afflicting their children and future generations. It is important that we make the families and communities more aware of the lingering effects of their exposure,” said Colonel King.

The goal of the symposium is to bring attention to the hidden cost of our service and to encourage the government to assist our doctors in finding ways to diagnose and treat these birth defects. Veterans of all wars are subjected to many contaminates, and most were not aware of what was being used or what effects these would have on their health. Veterans of all wars and conflicts who may have been exposed to hazardous substances are encouraged to attend the symposium.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is a national non-profit corporation founded in 1978 in the United States that is committed to serving the needs of all Veterans. It is funded without any contribution from any branch of government.

In keeping with Vietnam Veterans of America’s (VVA) founding principle, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another,” Vietnam veterans throughout the state of Iowa and across the nation continue to fight for the welfare of our nation’s veterans from all wars.

For more information on this event Contact Dan Gannon at 563-991-5252 or e-mail Dan at gannonobx@gmail.com

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**Lets Get Out and Ride!**

**Ruffneck Resistance Inaugural Fun Run For Jason’s Box.**

www.jasonsbox.com

| Date:   | May 14th 2016 |
| Time:   | 0900hrs-1700hrs |
| Cost:   | $10.00 per driver |
|         | $5.00 passenger |
| Sign up | 0900 to 1100hrs |
| Race Car Central (RCC) | 1727 W. 4th Street, Davenport, IA |
| Last Bike In By | 1700hrs |
| Raffle Items, 50/50 drawing. |

**STOPS**

1. Judys Barge Inn. Buffalo, IA
2. Tee’s Ice Cream and Burgers Muscatine, IA
3. Rhinos Bar and grill Tipton IA.
4. The Depot Donahue IA

**Last Stop. Scott’s ShovelHead shed.**

220 N Pine Dav. IA

Come out and help us support our Veterans in need. Monies raised through raffle and drawings will go directly to Jason’s Box. P.O. BOX 194, Moline, Illinois 61266-0194, 309-737-3054...
TAPS

Following is a list of funerals at which military honors were performed by the combined efforts of the VVA Chapter 299, VVA Chapter 776, and the MAVA (Mexican American Veterans Association) Honor Guards. Included in the list are the dates of the funerals, names, ages, and branches of service in which these veterans served. Any Chapter 299 Members are designated by bold letters and underlined.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of funeral</th>
<th>Name of veteran</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Branch of service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAR. 07, 2016</td>
<td>LEONARD OWENS</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAR. 08, 2016</td>
<td>WILLIAM “BILL” J. HELMEL</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)</td>
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<td>MAR. 17, 2016</td>
<td>PAUL E. FENN</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>U. S. ARMY (KOREAN WAR VETERAN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR. 18, 2016</td>
<td>JEFFERY P. LEONARD</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>U. S. ARMY (COLD WAR VETERAN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR. 23, 2016</td>
<td>EDWARD H. “ED” MEYER JR.</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>U. S. NAVY (WORLD WAR II )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR. 29, 2016</td>
<td>CHARLES HICKERSON</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR. 01, 2016</td>
<td>WALTER W. DOYLE</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>U. S. ARMY &amp; AIR FORCE (KOREAN WAR ERA VETERAN)</td>
</tr>
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VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA Chapter 299 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership open to U.S. armed forces Veterans who served on active duty (other than training purpose) in Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or any other duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975. ATTENTION: All new members must submit a copy of your DD Form-214 along with this application and dues payment.

Name:_________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________ State: _________________ ZIP: ___________________
Home Phone: ________________________ Cell Phone ________________________ Work Phone ________________
e-mail: _______________________________________________________________________________
Date of Birth: __________________________ Gender: Male / Female
Optional : SPONSOR__________________________ VVA Membership Number_____________________
I am already a VVA member and would like to become a life member. My current VVA Member number is: ___________

Type of Membership: (Please circle one)

___ Individual Member – 1 year: $20 (One year Membership Special $10.00)(Chapter 299 only), Individual Member – 3 years: $50, Life Member – Ages 56-60: $200, Ages 61-65: $175, Ages 66-71: $150., Ages 72+: $100, Life Member Time Payment Plan - $50 down, $25/month (until age bracket is paid in full) * (Please make checks payable to “VVA”)
Associate Membership available to anyone not covered by the requirements for VVA membership. This includes family, members, friends, and Veterans not eligible for VVA Membership. (One year VVA Membership Special - $10.00 - this is only offered by Chapter 299 & must be sent to Chapter address).

If there are any questions please call (309) 788-2729 (Membership Chairman) or (309) 788-VETS (8387)(Leave message)
Chapter 299 meets the third Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:00 pm at the R. I. Arsenal Cafeteria.
VISITORS WELCOME! COME CHECK US OUT BEFORE YOU JOIN! Return your completed application with payment and a copy of your DD Form-214 to:

“VVA” Chapter 299 * P O Box 6076 * Rock Island, IL. 61201-6076
Vietnam Veterans Of America Quad Cities Chapter 299 Bylaw Amendment For 2016:

It is being brought before the Membership that Chapter bylaw Section 5 – Finance - sub paragraph “D” be amended with an additional one time provision. The bylaw currently reads as follows:

No single chapter financial commitment shall exceed one third of the net financial resources, as determined by the opinion from the Treasurer.

Sub paragraph D will remain in its entirety but will include the following additional paragraph/amendment if approved by the Chapter Membership at the annual meeting in April.

The one time exception to the aforementioned is the establishment of the Chapter 299 Veteran Scholarship Program, hereafter referred to as the VSP. If the Chapter so votes, the financial cap will be lifted to provide for the establishment of the VSP in an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000.00) or two thirds of the Chapter’s net financial resources, as determined by the opinion of the Treasurer. The public may make further directed contributions to the VSP, but Chapter funds contributions must be approved by the Membership.

The amendment to Section 5 – Finance, was approved by the Chapter Constitution Committee, chaired by Jim Kirschbaum, on 5 January, 2016 and is being recommended to the Membership for approval.
VET 2 VET REPORT

VET 2 VET went to Country House Residence in February to spread good cheer to the people there. Taking part in handing out Patriotic Hats, lapel pins, Flags and playing card were, Jerry Lingard, Fred "Hammer" Swim, Dale Baker, Larry Tschappat, Steve Brenner and Frenchy Eaves. A Chapter 299 Charter member is living Country House – Jeff "Doc" Lance. "Doc" was so very pleased to see us, and his Mother, Eileen resides there too. Vet 2 Vet was very well received and all had a good time. Vet 2 Vet Chairman – Paul "Frenchy" Eaves

CATERING – HOG ROASTER UPDATE

As of the November 2013 the Catering Crew for Chapter 299 wrapped up the year with 4 Events that occurred after publication. On December 11th they met at the Viking Club to internally assess the year and make rough plans for going forward into Year 2015.

The Viking Club held their annual Open House Sunday December 21st and the Catering Crew provided a minimum 4 Volunteers to help with this event. The Viking Club provides a staging area for Chapter 299 to do all the prep and clean up work throughout the year.

The Roaster and its utensils were all stowed away and put "in mothballs" in December 2014. The Roaster and the Crew will take a respite from all Catering Activities until early Springtime 2015.

As always, your editors request more Member Volunteers for our Chapter’s largest fund raising vehicle. Whether you can pitch in to help stage an event at the Viking Club in Moline, assist with clean up there after an event or pitch in for any amount of time at an event, The Catering Crew needs help. If you can only spare an hour or two a few times during the Roasting Season, those hours will be greatly appreciated by the hard working – core group. Please consider Volunteering this year. JL, BA, JH

With Respect and Admiration To All Who Served.

SAM’S CLUB #8238
3845 ELMORE AVENUE
DAVENPORT, IA
563.355.3939

SAM’S CLUB #4061
6600-44 AVENUE
MOLINE, IL  61265
309.581.7128

SERVING OUR VETERANS & OUR COMMUNITY
Many Members have purchased and enjoyed their Made In America Varsity Jackets. Owner of Excelled Company, Dennis Carreau has a limited number of new Leather Jackets for the price of $150. Check out the photos of the Jackets in this issue and decide if you’d like to get moving on your autumn apparel. In addition, the Brothers Forever Patch [ $3.50 ] and / or Never Forgotten – Vietnam Wall Patch [ $22.00 ] can be purchased separately and added to your Varsity Jacket or other favorite Patriotic clothing you might have.

To purchase a jacket, patches or both call Jim Hixson at [309]792-0068 for this limited time offer. These items will not last long so consider making your purchases now. - jH

We proudly support Vietnam Veteran’s Chapter 299

Eriksen

309-756-2700