



Monthly Newsletter of VVA Chapter 193, 53 West Main Street, LeRoy, New York 14482
Together ThenTogether Now

September 2011 e-mail: vva193@frontiernet.net website: vva193.org Vol. 25 No. 9

This Issue is dedicated to: John Wesley Geary 28-Sep-66; David Fellows 10-Sep-69

President's Message

Well, the summer activities are winding down. Oakfield has invited us to their parade on Labor Day and we need volunteers for a ceremony at the VA in Batavia on Friday September 9. Thanks to all of our members who have represented the chapter at parades throughout the summer marching season. You represent the chapter and all Vietnam Veterans to the public and have done a terrific job!

We had a really good turnout at the picnic. The food was excellent and plentiful and everyone seemed to have a good time. It was good to see a mixture of old and new faces and families enjoying a summer afternoon together.

Monthly meetings are starting up again in September. We are moving some of the meetings out into other locations and the September meeting will be at the Wyoming County Vets Club. Hopefully we'll see a lot of you there.

September 9 is also the official 25th anniversary of VVA Chapter 193. That is the date we received our charter way back in 1986. A lot of things have changed since then but there some things that will always remain. The loyalty and commitment of our members to the chapter and to each other has been our strength and will carry us into the future. Thanks to all of you for keeping the faith.

God Bless America
 Together then, together now...

Paul

Calendar - Sept. 2011

Mon. Sept. 5 – 1000 hrs – Oakfield Parade

**Fri. Sept. 9 – 1000hrs – Rehearsal,
 1100hrs – 9/11 Ceremony, Batavia VA-PTSD Clinic**

Fri. Sept 16 – POW/MIA Remembrance Day

Sat. Sept. 17 – 1300hrs – Chapter 193 Monthly meeting at Wyoming County Vets Club

Alert! Alert! Alert!

The post cards from Vietnam Veterans of America offering to pick up clothes and other items are **NOT** the same as the VVA193 clothing box donations. All monies made go only to National. Just be aware and inform your friends and neighbors. The Chapter still needs your clothing, shoes and linens dropped off at the box in LeRoy.

I'm sure VVA National would appreciate any furniture, appliances, toys, housewares and tools and will pick them up.

Membership – Sent 08/2011

Ronald E. Stevens (new)

Lifetime Membership:

49 & under	\$250	61-65	\$175
50-55	\$225	66-up	\$150
56-60	\$200		

Chapter Contacts :

President.....Paul Damrau -768-2011
Vice President.....Sam Zanghi – 768-4410
Secretary.....Jim Calarco – 768-4410
Treasurer.....Bob Sovocool - 768-4410
BOD.....George West – 237-5545
Membership.....Linda Jo Calkins - 768-4410
Newsletter Ed.. Penny Robinson - 768-2011
Chaplain.....Gus Grossmann

Products – Penny Robinson
Donations – Paul Damrau

Veterans' Services:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center at Buffalo - (800) 532-8387
VVA NYS Council Hotline -
Walt Hendricks - 1 888-678-VETS
VVA accredited Service Officers -
Hal Kreter - (585) 344-2580 ex. 5944
Delores Garcia - NY State Council VVA
Chief Service Officer (716) 857-3344
Pat Pudetti - (585) 473-7983

County Service Reps

Genesee -Hal Kreter – 344-2580 ex 5944
Orleans - Paul Fulcomer - 589-3218
Livingston - Frank Hollister - 243-7960
Wyoming - Gary Cousins - 786-8860
Erie – Patrick Welch - 858-6349
Niagara - Donald J. Thompson - 439-7847
Monroe - James A. Carra - 274-6040

Incoming News is the monthly publication of Chapter 193. Opinions expressed in editorials and *Lines From Linda* are those of the authors.

Printed by: Batavia Legal Printing, Inc.,
7 Bank Street
LeRoy, New York 14482

**VVA Chapter 193 Announces
Scholarship Winners**

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 193 has selected the two \$500 winners of the Dana Fry Scholarship for 2011. They are Kasey E. Thompson from Oakfield and Laura Beth Yuhnke of Wyoming, a 2011 graduate of Pavilion Central School.

Kasey Thompson graduated from Oakfield in June of 2011 and will be pursuing a career in Criminal Justice at GCC. She is a 4H member, vice-president of the swine club and volunteers with the Alabama Fire Department.

Laura Beth was ranked third in her class at Pavilion, graduating in 2011, where she was a scholar athlete, SADD secretary, and member of the marching band. She will also continue her education at GCC.

“Both Kasey and Laura Beth exhibited a deep understanding of how the Vietnam War affected individuals and the country through their required essays. They took the extra steps to dig under the surface stories of that era. Those are the things we stress to all of the candidates,” stated Penny Robinson, Scholarship Committee chairman. “Hopefully they can carry that knowledge through their future studies and spread the information to their peers.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri. Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Ceremony – 0900hrs – Genesee County Park
Sat. Nov. 19 – Vets Honor Night 1800hrs, LeRoy Moose
Sat. Jan. 21 – VVA Chapter 193 Holiday Party, location TBA

An Invitation to all of our members-----

On behalf of the Residents and their Families,
the members of the New York State Veterans Home at Batavia's Board of Visitors
cordially invite representatives from your organization
to our Annual Open House on:

Sunday, September 18, 2011 2-4 p.m.
The New York State Veterans Home Liberty Lounge
220 Richmond Avenue Batavia, New York 14020

Please join us as we share some light refreshments
and informal conversation
with our resident family members
and allow us to personally express our appreciation for your
support and continued dedication to our Veterans and our Home.

VVA Praises Historic Settlement For Veterans Discharged with PTSD

Washington, D.C. Aug.3, 2011

“The National Veterans Legal Services Program and their pro bono co-counsel, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, hit a homerun with a historic class action lawsuit settlement for disabled veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a result, thousands of veterans who were medically discharged because of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) between 2003 and 2008 will finally receive the benefits to which they are legally entitled but had been denied,” said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). Rowan also praised Pfizer, the pharmaceutical firm, which provided free legal counseling to veterans who sought to opt into the lawsuit.

The legal action, filed in 2008, charged that the military services violated the law by failing to assign a 50 percent disability rating to more than a thousand troops discharged for PTSD, a rating that entitled the veteran to disability retirement benefits. Among the benefits these men and women will be entitled to lifetime military disability retirement payments retroactive to their date of discharge; lifetime health care for the veteran, his/her spouse and dependent children; and lifetime commissary and military post exchange privileges. The military also agreed to increase the PTSD disability rating of another thousand OIF/OEF veterans who, although they were given disability retirement benefits upon discharge, were wrongfully denied a 50 percent disability rating for PTSD.

“VVA echoes the sentiments expressed by Bart Stichman, co-director of NVLSP, who calls the settlement ‘a happy ending to a sad chapter of military mistreatment of those who served our country in time of war,’” Rowan said. “Too often, government is the adversary of, rather than an advocate for, those who have been wounded or injured while serving in uniform. VVA will continue to fight, in Congress, in the courts, and in meetings with the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits to which they are entitled by virtue of their service to our nation.

“Anyone who has served in a combat zone cannot but be affected by the experience,” Rowan said. “Often, these experiences mar them, or haunt them, for life. It is our obligation as a nation to do what we can to make them as whole as possible. Shame on us when we fail to do so.”

An important notice to all veterans from Hal Kreter, Genesee County Veterans Service officer –

PLEASE READ

GENESEE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY
5130 East Main Street Road, Suite #3 Batavia, New York 14020
Phone: (585) 344-2580, Ext. 5944 Fax: (585) 345-3085
Hal S. Kreter, Director of Veterans service Agency Email: hkreter@:co.genesee.ny.us

August 25, 2011

The Veterans Service Agency has moved to 5130 East Main Street, Batavia, NY. We are now co-located with the Department of Social Services. **Our new phone number is 585-344-2580, ext. 5944.**

There are different procedures that come with this new location. Due to the locked doors, no one can just walk into the Veterans Office as before. My policy, as always, is to have veterans/family members make appointments so we may assist them in a more efficient and effective manner, as any appointment may take up to one hour to complete the necessary paperwork.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays are for morning appointments only.

Tuesdays and Thursdays are for afternoon appointments only.

For all appointments made, all clients will be instructed to park on the east (left) side of the building where there are two (2) parking spaces which are labeled for veterans only. There also is a buzzer/speaker with which to contact myself to let the veteran into the building for their appointment. No other veterans will be let in without an appointment at this side door.

All other veterans/widows or family members who do not make an appointment in advance must go to the front entrance and proceed to the veterans line/window (which is identified by a sign "veterans only") at which time an appointment can be made for a future date. If a veteran/widow or family member is simply dropping off documentation for the Service Officer, no appointment is necessary. This can be accomplished by going to the front entrance, proceed to the veteran's line/window and leave the documentation with the receptionist. The receptionist in turn will see that the documents are given to the Service Officer that same date.

At this time there are no walk-in hours. For veterans who come into this building without an appointment asking to meet with the Service Officer, the receptionist at the window will make an appointment for them. At that time they will be given an appointment date/time and a sheet of what documents will be needed for their appointment. At this time we are looking into the possibility of having one morning a week for walk-ins. More information will follow.

I know this is a big change from what the veterans are used to having in the past. However, given this county's financial situation, we must try to utilize our resources as a team. I now have three (3) clerk-typists and they are all being trained on how this office does its business and how to best assist the veterans. This is a growing process and we must be patient and things will fall into place. I have submitted in the 2012 budget for an Assistant Service Officer to start in April, 2012, as I plan to retire on August 30, 2012. The new Service Officer will go to school in May, 2012, and will have five (5) months learning on the job, as well as becoming familiar with all the different Federal, State and Local laws that pertain to veterans.

I hope this explains the changes that are taking place with the Veterans Service Agency, and I am asking that you be patient as we work through these changes.

H.S. Kreter Director/Service Officer

This is the first of the 2011 Dana Fry Scholarship winner's essays. It is written by Kasey Thompson from Oakfield. Kasey graduated in June from Oakfield-Alabama Central School and she will be attending Genesee Community College to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice. Kasey is a volunteer with the Alabama Fire Department and a member of 4-H and vice-president of the swine club who shows and raises her own pigs.

I believe that the Vietnam War hits close to home. I interviewed Clayton Fry my great uncle. Clayton joined the army in 1964, at the age of 19; he wanted to serve the country that he so much loves. He made his final decision to join the army because of a friend who had also joined along with him.

Clayton attended basic training in Fort Dicks, New Jersey where he was trained to become the best in the world. Mr. Fry and the men in his group from basic training had been locked up in rooms, unsure of what had been going on or might be coming up right around the corner, this was a scary time. I asked him if his basic training prepared him for War, he told me he was not prepared at all for, had no idea what he was headed for or the War he was about to be right in the middle of.

Mr. Fry was part of the 173rd Airborne ranking at E4. When Mr. Fry arrived at Vietnam in May 1965, after a 20 mile bus ride from Saigon, he had no emotion, this was his job as well as the other men, Clayton said "we all had a purpose, do or die don't ask why". Vietnam, has flat terrain, scrub brush, was hot, tropical like. The conditions that Clayton Fry had the hardest to deal with was the heat, in July temperatures could reach up to 108 degrees. The men Clayton served with were the best trained in the world. His job was the driver of a small track vehicle which was manned with 99mm.

While in Vietnam, Mr. Fry got to know some of the Vietnamese people, he said that they were very nice; he got to learn their cultures and languages. He had also said how pretty the area around him had been.

After 11 months 4 days he returned home from Vietnam unable to believe the newspapers, as it seemed as the media did not support the troops once they returned. They were not allowed to wear their uniforms, worried because of reactions from people. I can't imagine how the soldiers felt not being welcomed or thanked as we do for our troops in the present time. Clayton Fry was so happy to be home he kissed the ground. I asked Clayton if he had to do it all over again he said "absolutely". I am proud to say that my Uncle Clayton Fry served for this country.

After my interview with my great Uncle Clayton I got a better understanding on what the War experience was like for someone who experienced it firsthand. This interview gave me the insight of what soldiers had to go through and the emotions it left. After hearing the details of War I do not believe I could go through it. I give the men and women a great amount of respect for serving our country. I believe that the U.S. becoming involved in the Vietnam War was of great help to other countries keeping up on the upper side of many. The Vietnam War was a time of hardship, and people in today's world should give the men and women who served a great amount of respect.



Lines From Linda

Hi everyone ... busy weekend, VVA picnic, JIM CALKINS (& LJ) are attending his BIG RED ONE ARMY REUNION in Buffalo ... summer is winding down, I am looking forward to winter ... ASSEMBLYMAN DAN BURLING has announced that he is running for re-election ... SEEN AROUND: DAVE & GINGER WEATHERBEE, J.D. HADE, STACY & JADAN CORCORAN, KURT, MARYLOU & TEDDY McCOWAN, ANDREW or ALEX KRUETTER, BILL BERKEMEIER FAMILY, BILL FRIEDAY, ALICE & BOB BUCKEL, BRANDON BUCKEL & RACHEL, SHERRITY, EMILY, JONATHON, JeVAN & KADY ANN DiSANTO, PAM BRODSKY, STAN MAY, JOHN CORRADO, FAITH FREGA, SCOTT DIETER, TED WILKINSON, PENNY ROBINSON, CINDY BUNCH, ED WEIS, JOHN BANNISTER ... SEEN at Erie County Fair: BILL & ELAINE FRIEDAY, grandson SETH BOUSE, who is a miniature BILL & PAUL, also MARY & WARD BERRY ... the rain held off, it did not help the Marine in the Color Guard who passed out during the ceremony honoring Veterans, the parade was marched in the mud ... CONGRATS TO: PHILLIP RICCI & FREDERICK ROLL, both making the Dean's List at GCC ... BEST WISHES to County Leg. JAY GRASSO as he gives up politics (for the time being) to concentrate on his studies in college, BEST WISHES ... Our thoughts and prayers are with the FAMILY OF FRANK SANFRATELLO, a NAM VET who passed away recently also to the FAMILY OF MICHAEL G. MOROZ, USA, who passed away 7-28-2011 ... HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO: HAL EXFORD, BRIAN POLLE, ROBERT OVERFIELD, JIM NEIDER, ELLYN HOTCHKISS, ELIZABETH LAPP, HEYDEN DIETER, CARMALINA & GRACE ALLEN, MICHAEL DIXON, MIRANDA KEATON, KYLE SMITH, SKYLAR BRODSKY (1st), SAM ZANGHI, MARSHALL MORGAN, STEVE KEATON, DOUG BRYANT, KATE LYN MARIE PLATH, MADELYN KEATON, GEORGE WILKINSON V, RICHARD W. HOWE, JACKSON LOCKE, KAREN ROESCH, GEORGE WEST, CARL HENDERSON, LYNN TEDFORD, JERRY HARTER, DICK STABLEWSKI, DEVIN MACALUSO, HAYDEN HOTCHKISS, ROBERT MAGEE, MICHAEL BENNETT, HARLEY BLISS, DESTINY BLISS, DIANE CLARK, HENRY HEDDEN, AVA MARIE ENDERLE, KADY ANN DiSANTO, SHANNON COOK, DILLON BRYANT & JACK DEMPSEY ... HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: DON & JOAN HALL, DICK & MICKIE BENNETT, DEAN & JEAN COOK, CHARLIE & MARANN O'GEEN, PHIL & LAURA RICCI, ROBERT & STEPHANIE TEDFORD and JEN & STEVE McCOWAN ... and to all I do not know about ... Was that ANN SCHERFF, Wife of DAVE, pictured in the Buffalo News recently??? ... JIM NEIDER, President, MARY ANN NEIDER, historian for their next family reunion ... It was the 50th CORTRIGHT family reunion that DAVE, ANNA, SARAH, GINGER, DEREK & CARLA & FAMILIES, and BILL & FAITH CORTRIGHT & FAMILIES attended, BILL CORTRIGHT was the treasurer and auctioneer, ANNA WEATHERBEE was historian ... BABY CONGRATS TO: JESSE & DANA CORTRIGHT on the birth of son ANDREW SCOTT ... Also to JIM & MARY ANN NEIDER on the birth of grandson, KILLIAN LaVERNE LAPP. 7/15, son of KEITH & DIANE and brother to ELIZABETH ... DEREK & CARLA took nephew BILLY back to Virginia for a brief vacation for doing well in school ... PAM BRODSKY had a great time at her 50th class reunion ... ELLYN HOTCHKISS is part of a committee planning our 40th class reunion 10/8 from KESHEQUA CENTRAL (NUNDA) ... STAN will or did attend his 55th grade school reunion ... Granddaughter KATIE is working at Southside Deli ... We welcome new member RONALD STEVENS, U.S. ARMY ... **STAR**: Our own TED WILKINSON, pictured in the latest Veteran Magazine ... he & SCOTT DIETER are in Reno at the National convention ... CONGRATS TO ; BRANDON BUCKEL & RACHEL, he proposed to her at the FEDORA Restaurant ... THE FEDORA is on facebook ... they have excellent REAL milkshakes ... *STARS*: ASSEMBLYMAN STEVE HAWLEY & SENATOR GEORGE MAZIARZ pictured in the Daily at a town hall meeting in Orleans County ... CONGRATS TO SARAH PLATH, daughter of AL & DEB, a student at the School of Arts & humanities at Buffalo State College, was named to the Dean's List ... DICK STABLEWSKI has a new puppy, he is keeping busy ... Pictured in the Daily, Genesee County American Legion Auxiliary 8th district officers, PRESIDENT: JOAN STAATS, REGINA DISKIN, SERGEANT at ARMS ... Nice sight: Brockport (saw them) & Spencerport have banner hanging of current servicemen & service women as you enter the village ... ALICE & BOB BUCKEL's granddaughter, DONNA recently returned from a whale watch in Boston, MA, also, grand daughter, EMILY DiSANTO was pictured in the Daily participating in summer fun ...

Lines From Linda - Continued from Page 6

...CONGRATS TO TED & NYLA WILKINSON on their surprise win at the Casino & to JIMBO on his win ... A get well to MARYLOU McCOWAN .. she & KURT are sporting new looks ...DEAN & JEAN COOK attended the DAV July 4th picnic in Waycross, GA., they were at Kings Bay handing out DAV forget me not flowers ... DEAN, AKA, JESTER, was JESTER at Camp Reville, a camp for under-privileged kids ...young JERRY REINHART & his DAD JERRY, grandson of CARM & JERRY were pictured in the Daily with the 11 year old youth baseball team, they advanced to the section 1 finals before losing ...MEMORIAL donation, UMMC donated \$50,000 to the future Genesee County War Memorial Fund ... pictured *STARS* ASSEMBLYMAN STEVE HAWLEY & his dad former ASSEMBLYMAN R. STEPHEN HAWLEY, CLAYTON FRY, HAL KRETER, PAUL SULLIVAN, PAUL GAYLORD, RON KONIECZNY, some had new names according to the Daily ...KUDOS TO students raising funds for the DAV van fund, KENNEDY KOLV, BELLA & JACK HOUSEKNECHT were pictured with PAUL JUDKINS, after the carwash fundraiser, which they donated \$200 ...Also seen hard at work: MICHELLE GAYLORD ...TED WILKINSON pictured with SENATOR PAT GALLIVAN in the County Courier ...VVA193 COLOR GUARD pictured in the Livingston County News marching in Nunda ...JIM CALARCO, R.T.HOWE, TERRY COLE, CHARLIE O'GEEN AND ?? ...Thank You JIMBO and whoever else for doing weed duty at the Memorial ...KYLE SMITH has started her studies at the University of Albany ...Brother DREW has been at Cranberry Lake taking outdoor biology classes for his studies at Syracuse ...KRISTIN keeps up with grandson NOLAN via video chat, she reports he is growing and always busy ...Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of WILLIAM D. BROMAN, USN during Vietnam, who passed away 8/17/2011 ...STEVE CROSS had a nice trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains ...Seen at picnic: PAUL, PENNY, JIMBO, LJ, STEVE CROSS, BRUCE CONNOLLY, SALLY MACALUSO, JIM & BECKY CALARCO, BOB POLLE, HEDY RYAN & TERRY (BOBS MOM) ...OOPS, SAM ZANGHI, GEORGE WEST, also attended the National Convention ...Also at the picnic: DAVE SULLIVAN, HEDY's daughter MARY and grandkids, BRIAN POLLE & EVAN, R.T.HOWE, JOHN CORRADO, AMY CONNOLLY (HAPPY BIRTHDAY), GUS GROSSMANN & nephew TREVOR, BELINDA, friend of AMY, BOB & DIANE CLARK...till next month...on our way to the BIG RED ONE reunion ...Love Ya All ...LJ



**Congratulations to VVA Chapter 193
25th Anniversary
September 9, 1986**

**Thanks to all of our members and friends who have kept it together
and made things happen for all these years**

5th Anniversary

Together Then ... Together Now



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Affix
Postage
Here

Vietnam Veterans of America - Chapter 193
53 West Main Street
LeRoy, New York 14482
(585) 768-4410
email: vva193@frontiernet.net
website: vva193.org



Vietnam Era Veterans And Veterans Supporters VVA Chapter 193 Needs You !



Application For Membership

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

I am a Vietnam Era Veteran and would like to become a VVA Member
Dues: 1 year \$20; 3years \$50 (new members must provide a copy of DD214)

I support Vietnam Veterans and would like to become a member
of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Dues: 1 year \$20

Signature _____ Date _____

Chapter 193 Authorizing Officer _____ New Renewal

Send completed form to: VVA Chapter 193, 53 West Main Street, LeRoy, NY 14482
Atten: Membership