



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Chapter 1061

Harrisonburg, Virginia 22803



Volume 9 Number 9

Chartered April 2012

September 2022

Within the chapter, we have some who need our prayers. The following members are either ill or recovering - Bill Henry, Ern Grover, Holley Watts, Robert Knight, Norm and Sharon Fifer, Bill Strang, Diana And Layton Payne, Steve McMullen, Bill Ludholtz and Mary Lowery (Linda Balsers's Mom). Prayers, cards and calls are always welcome for all.

Minutes 08/20/2022 meeting

Attendance: 67 members and guests attended.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by President Jerry O'Hara.

Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer by Roger Alger
Roll call of Officers – one absent.

Minutes presented by Tom Snook. Members approved.
Finance report presented by Sonny Clutteur. Approved by membership. Current balance is \$25,811.44.

Guest Speaker: Jeffrey Bolande presented a short biography of Col. James Rowe.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: 153 members.

Fund Raising: Destry Thomas presented a gun raffle to be held during the month of September. The Chapter voted to hold the gun raffle. Tickets will be available at the September Fall Festival in Broadway. 500 tickets will be available, and the winners will be drawn October 15. Destry will handle the arrangements.

Newsletter: If you have an article for the newsletter get it to Paul Clancey.

Scholarship: A thank you was read from Waverly Blackwell.

Honor Guard: If anyone is interested in serving as part of the honor guard, please see Fred Rhodes. The Honor Guard is available for any military veteran.

Web Site: The password is still VVA1061. Be sure to check the web site often for it is updated regularly.

Helping Hands: Anyone who is interested in helping please get your name to Bill Strang.

OLD BUSINESS:

Honor Flight is scheduled for September 24th leaving from the Rockingham County fairgrounds. Our Chapter has 8 members going.

Officer's board meeting is September 2nd at 11:00 at Wood Grill.

The Chapter is planning a fall trip to Pigeon Forge November 14-18. Room rate at the Motor Inn is \$55.00 per night. See Jerry if interested.

The Brookdale Veteran's breakfasts are on hold until further notice.

The next State meeting is October 21-23 in Strasburg. Jerry and Tom have more info if you are interested.

The Region 3 Meeting is being planned for March 2023 in Pigeon Forge. More information will be available at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Pact Act has passed and was signed into law. This bill adds hypertension and MGUS to the list of Agent Orange diseases. Agent Orange can now affect families of service men affected for 5 to 6 future generations. If you had applied for a VA disability claim in the past be sure to ask for a **re-evaluation** and not a new claim.

September 10th is the Broadway Fall festival. The Chapter will be selling Turner ham and roast beef sandwiches, drinks, donuts and muffins. There will be gun raffle tickets available at that time also. Set-up is at 6:30 with the festival starting at 8 and ending at 3.

The Chapter will have a fall picnic at the West Rockingham Ruritan Park on October 1st from 1:00 until 5:00 PM. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be the main course, and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share.

The Leadership Conference was held earlier. The life membership fund is decreasing. Two to three years is about the fund's lifetime. The National Board is looking into ways to continue the Chapter disbursements. Veteran's are warned to be wary of the lawyer pleas for settlement of the Camp Lejeune water contamination suits. If you are eligible go to your service officer or go through the pro bono lawyers from the VA.

Male veterans 75 years or older have the highest suicide rate. If you are contemplating suicide, please seek help from your fellow veterans or from the local CBOC.

Tom Pruitt has t-shirts and vests available after the meeting.

Roger Alger ended the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Dates to Remember

Board Meeting - Sept. 2, 11AM - Wood Grill

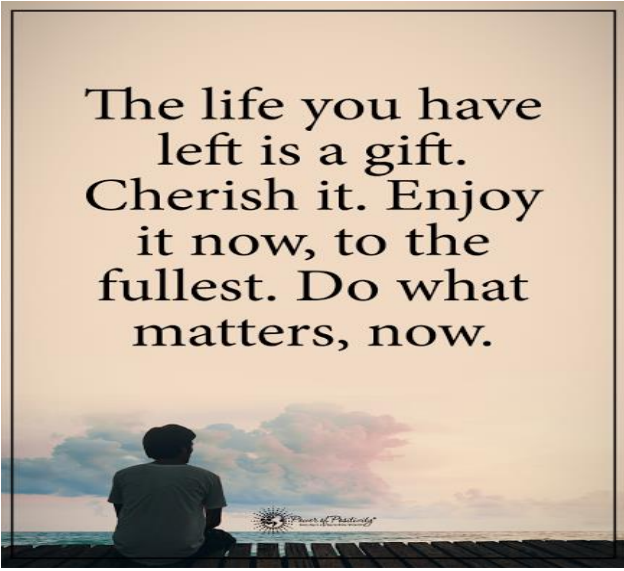
Broadway Fall Festival - Sept. 10th 8 AM - 3 PM

Next VVA Meeting - September 17, 2022 - Wood Grill
9:00 - Breakfast 10:00 - Meeting

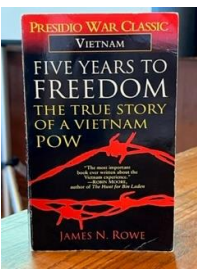
Chapter Picnic - October 1st Details on next page



Happy Birthday
To Everyone
with a
September
Birthday!



Happy Anniversary
To Those
Celebrating in
September!



Jeffrey Bolande presented a short biography of Col. James Rowe.

As a lieutenant Rowe was captured during a 1963 firefight while serving as an advisor in Southeast Asia. Rowe spent the next five years in small jungle camps in South Vietnam. He escaped in 1968. In 1981, Rowe used the lessons he had learned in captivity to form the Special Forces Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) course. The SERE school teaches soldiers to evade capture but, if caught, to survive and return home with honor.

VVA Chapter 1061 Fall Picnic
Saturday, October 1st - West Rockingham Ruritan Park
1:00 - 5:00 PM
Fellowship, Food and Fun & Games

The Chapter will provide the plates, cups, silverware, napkins & ice.
There will be a sign-up sheet at the September meeting so members can sign-up to bring burgers or hot dogs, and all the fixings, as well as a covered dish to share, and drinks.

 Raffles Lawn Darts 50/50 

Will all Veterans please bring a photo of yourself that was taken of you while you were in Vietnam to the September meeting. They will be returned at the picnic.

Hope to see everyone there!

“Chaplain’s Corner” by Roger Alger

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength ; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

In times of trials and tribulations, no matter how young, fit, or strong we may be, there is nothing of our own that will be able to keep us going. The enemy will always strive to wear us down. But if we wait on God, trust in Him completely, He will refresh us and give us the strength we need to carry on.

Prayer

Father God, there are many things we face in this world every day. When we try to handle things on our own, we end up discouraged and exhausted. Lord, I ask that you strengthen us when we are weak, and may you sustain us at all times. In Jesus name, I pray for all. Amen.

Article shared by Jerry O'Hara



Casualties tell the tale. Again, the US Army War College Library provides numbers. The former South Vietnam was made up of 44 provinces. The province that claimed the most Americans killed was Quang Tri, which bordered on both North Vietnam and Laos. 54% of the Americans killed in Vietnam were killed in the 4 northernmost provinces, which in addition to Quang tri were Thua Thien, Quang Nam and Quan Tin. All of them shared borders with Laos. An additional 6 provinces accounted for 25% of the Americans killed in action (KIA). Those 6 all shared borders with either Laos or Cambodia or had contiguous borders with provinces that did. The remaining 34 provinces accounted for just 21% of US KIA. These numbers should dispel the notion that South

Vietnam was some kind of flaming inferno of violent revolutionary dissent. The overwhelming majority of Americans killed, died in border battles against regular NVA units. The policies established by Johnson and McNamara prevented the American soldiers from crossing those borders and destroying their enemies. Expressed in WWII terms; this is the functional equivalent of having sent the American soldiers to fight in Europe during WWII, but restricting them to Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, etc. and not letting them cross the borders into Germany, the source of the problem. General Curtis LeMay aptly defined Johnson's policy in South Vietnam by saying that *"We are swatting flies in the South when we should be going after the manure pile in Hanoi."*

Joke shared by
Asa Talbot



[A man walks into a bar and asks the bartender, "If I show you a really good trick, will you give me a free drink?"](#)

The bartender considers it, then agrees.

The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out a tiny rat. He reaches into his other pocket and pulls out a tiny piano. The rat stretches, cracks his knuckles, and proceeds to play the blues.

After the man finished his drink, he asked the bartender, "If I show you an even better trick, will you give me free drinks for the rest of the night, the bartender thinks that nothing could possibly top the first trick, so he agrees.

The man reaches into another pocket and pulls out a small bullfrog, who begins to sing along with the rat's music. While the man is enjoying his beverages, a stranger confronts him and offers him \$100,000.00 for the bullfrog.

"Sorry," the man replies, "he's not for sale." The stranger increases the offer to \$250,000.00 cash up front.

"No," he insists, "he's not for sale." The stranger again increases the offer, this time to \$500,000.00 cash.

The man finally agrees and turns the frog over to the stranger in exchange for the money.

"Are you insane?" the bartender demanded.

"That frog could have been worth millions to you, and you let him go for a mere \$500,000!"

"Don't worry about it." the man answered. "The frog was really nothing special. You see, the rat's a ventriloquist."



HONOR FLIGHT TOP OF VIRGINIA

Saluting Our Heroes, Inspiring Our Youth

Serving the Veterans of the Shenandoah Valley, Loudoun County and beyond
Mission #15 - Harrisonburg, VA September 24, 2022

Honor Flight - Top of Virginia. We have members from chapter 1061 doing this trip to the memorials in Washington D.C. JMU ROTC will be accompanying the veterans on this trip. **I would like to hear comments from those going to put in the next newsletter. Please take pictures that I can include as well.**

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Jerry O'Hara, Tom Snook, Sonny Clutteur, and
Kenny Emerson



Have a safe and happy holiday with family and friends! For those still working be proud of what you do. For those retired relax and enjoy life!



*"Sharing tales of those we've lost is
how we keep from really losing them."*

Mitch Albom