

# V.V.A. Clermont County Chapter 649

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2014



### Sick Bay :

VVA member Butch Bennett, is now home, recovering from surgery at the VA Hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Butch.

**New Members :** Chapter 649 acquired 2 new members at our Nov. monthly meeting, Stephen U. De Hass - U.S. Army

James R. Hull - U.S. Navy

To all our new members: **Welcome Home**

**Guest Speaker: Kris Kringle - Toy Maker / Residence : North Pole**

*Mister Clause will be asking for your personal information from all in attendance, so he may log the information into his delivery book, as to who has been Naughty Or Nice !*

### \* \* \* DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12 / 01- Ray Autenreib

12 / 02- George Sloff

12 / 03- Paul Wells

12 / 05- Wayne Vineyard

12 / 12- Sandra Sullivan Avva

12 / 13- Richard Rubsam

12 / 17- Larry Litsey

12 / 19- Jerry Blevins

12 / 17- William Ludlow

12 / 21- Earl Wright

12 / 23- Stephen De Hass

12 / 25- Dan Haglage

12 / 25- **Christmas Day**

12 / 29- Paul Hornscheimer

12 / 30- Leonard Cooper

12 / 31- Charles Matthews

12 / 31- Daniel Colman

12 / 31- Mike Jarvis

**OUR NEXT MEETING**  
**Thursday December 11**

### LOCATION

Owensville Fair Grounds  
Look For All The Cars

Door Opens - 6:00 PM

Meeting Begins - 6:45

Dinner Begins - 7:00 PM

**January Meeting Date**

**Thursday - January 8, 2015**  
**Union Twp. Civic Center**

**Food Served @ 7:00 pm**

### November - 5th "Battlefield To Home - A Continuity Of Care or Our Veterans"

#### VAMC - Cincinnati, Ohio

Chapter 649 members attend the VA Hospital for the VISN 10: VA Healthcare System Of Ohio

#### VISN 10: VA Healthcare System of Ohio

The VA Healthcare System of Ohio is one of 21 Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN). VISN 10 was established in March 1996 and is located north of Cincinnati, off I-71. The VAMC Cincinnati supports the Network Office. The VA Healthcare System of Ohio serves Veterans in Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and Southeastern Indiana.

The Network Facilities include:

- Cincinnati VAMC (Ft. Thomas division)
- Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC
- Chillicothe VAMC
- Dayton VAMC
- Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center - Columbus Three VISN facilities, Cincinnati VAMC, Dayton VAMC, and Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC, are considered tertiary care facilities. The Network supports 32 Community Based Outpatient Clinics, which provide outpatient services in Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and Southeastern Indiana.

Three VISN facilities, Cincinnati VAMC, Dayton VAMC, and Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC, have active academic affiliations with medical schools. The medical school affiliations allow for education and training of medical students and house staff in VA healthcare facilities. Cincinnati and Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC's are highly affiliated tertiary care facilities. All facilities have affiliations with nursing and/or allied health programs.

Read More: <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?id=1010>



### November 9 - 13 - Veterans Day - Events Attended:

Chapter 649 members attended many "Veteran's Day" events, throughout the week of November 7 -13.

Many organizations within our surrounding area, invited all veterans to attend their Veteran's Recognition Day events.

Nov. 7 - VA Hospital - Cincinnati - Meet & Greet, followed by dinner for all in attendance.

Nov. 9 - Summer-Side Methodist Church - Breakfast

Nov. 10 - Sam's Club - East Gate - Veterans Appreciation Day - Breakfast

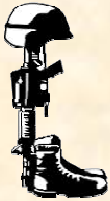
Nov. 11 - Speaking with student's at Milford Junior High School - Veterans Appreciation Day - Luncheon

Nov. 11 - Blanchester School system, Four Separate Schools - Breakfast and Lunch

Nov. 11 - Chapter 649 Memorial - Recognition of all veterans attending, and our fallen Clermont County Veterans.

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Parade - New Richmond, Ohio

Nov. 13 - Speaking with student's at Amelia High School



### November 11

Chapter member Darryl Trace presented Chapter 649 with a life-size "Soldiers Cross", to be used during chapter events. This Cross also can be used at Fundraiser events, allowing the boots to become a "Donation box" for those who wish to provide donations to chapter 649. Each boot contains a separate cylinder to place donations in.

*Many thanks to Darryl for his gifted art-work.*

**November 15** Buckeye State Council invited Ken Williamson (District 3 Director) to attend the scheduled Board Of Directors meeting / District 6 - meeting, held in Medina, Ohio, asking Ken to assist, newly appointed district-director six, Ron Oiler, of the duties and requirements of a District Director.

### November 24 - O'Bannon Senior Housing

Within Chapter 649, are two members who in the early 1970's formed a 3 piece musical band, providing music from the 50's / 60's era, playing Country music, as well as 50's /60's rock, for many local area residence.

Throughout the past 40 + years they have been opening acts for larger, well-known, musical-bands who have toured and performed in the Cincinnati area, also providing entertainment for many local VFW's / Am. Legions / Moose Lodge's / Bars / Private Parties / County Fairs & Small Town Festivals.

Over the years together, the times have changed and the band-name has changed, but the music remained the same.

*The Sun-Liners* band also provides musical entertainment for residence of ;Georgetown Veterans Home / Nursing Homes / as well as Senior Housing residence, enabling the residence to once again hear the music they grew-up listening to.

After the short one hour concert, the band then talks with residence, one-on-one, thanking each veteran in attendance for their service to our country, (as well as chatting with non-veterans), listening to the stories they relay to us.

( Not all Veterans reside in Veterans Homes )

Chapter 649 AVVA members Joann Gregory and Donna Beckstedt, provided Soda drinks & Chips for the crowd, while *The Sun Liners* (Darryl Trace, wife Jessie Trace, and Wayne Gregory) provided the music . . . A good time was had by all.

### DECEMBER 2 - VA Hospital - Cincinnati

Chapter 649 members will host Bingo Night at the VA Hospital, Cincinnati.

Providing Hot-Dogs & Soda drinks to all in attendance.

VA Hospital, Entertainment Chairperson - Jo Ann Norton suggest arriving at 6:45 PM, Bingo begins at 7:00 PM

Join us at VA Medical Center as we assist the bingo-caller at the VA Hospital

### DECEMBER 7 - Pearl Harbor Day

New Richmond - Market Street School will hold a Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony, Sunday, 2:00 PM

Honoring those lives lost December 7, 1941

### DECEMBER - 11 - Christmas Dinner

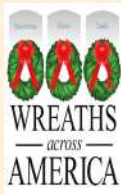
Just a reminder to those who anticipate attending our 2014 Christmas Dinner.

Our **December Monthly Meeting** will be held at the **Owensville Fair Grounds**, to be followed by our Christmas Dinner.

Doors Open at 6:00. There will be a short meeting. Dinner served at 6:30 Dinner will be served Buffet Style,

Rumor has it Santa Clause is coming, photos will be taken of members who wish to sit on Santa's lap OR stand beside Santa, for a Photo Op.





**DECEMBER 13, 2014 - Georgetown - Veterans Home**

There will be a ceremony held Saturday Dec. 13, at 2:00 PM  
Georgetown Veterans Home, as Wreaths Across America starts its Annual Displays.

**Also; Chapter 649** will participate by placing a wreath at our Union Twp. Memorial. - - (No ceremony is scheduled)

**DECEMBER - Consolidated Health Services**

Consolidated Health Services offers a full line of innovative home care services to meet the total needs of our patients. We have earned a positive reputation in the industry for developing cutting edge programs to deliver state-of-the art services. We encourage a culture of associate engagement throughout our workforce. The corporate office in Milford, Ohio, supports four distinct-but-coordinated home care companies, including home health care and hospice, home infusion therapy, home medical equipment and non-emergency medical transportation. We currently provide services in over 60 locations across the country with plans for continued growth into new markets. We have MANY openings in our Milford Corporate office.

To learn more, Contact:

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**ATTENTION ALL NEW VVA & AVVA MEMBERS**

If you have recently become a member of Chapter 649, I would like to take a photo of you !  
I use this photo to place upon our slide show which is presented prior to the beginning of each monthly meeting.  
If you served in the military, I also would like **YOU**, to provide me with a photo of yourself, taken while serving in the military, so I may portray a photograph of you while serving (Then) and a current day photo of you (Now), which is also shown upon our website. <http://www.vva649.org/thenandnow/index44.htm>

To complete the current-day photo I must take your photo with you standing in front of a Green-Screen background, allowing me to delete the green background, and replace the green with a photo of you standing in front of the American Flag.

**Please refrain from wearing any clothing containing the color GREEN !**

**A.V.V.A.** Members: I also wish to take a current-day photo of you to place with our other AVVA members photos.

Thank you for any help you may provide,

Wayne Gregory, - Chapter 649 Treasurer / Chapter 649 Webmaster / Chapter 649 Newsletter

**WISHING ALL VETERANS, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Vietnam Veterans Of America - Chapter 649, B.O.D.  
*Mark Brandon, Ken Williamson, Bob Wilms, Jim Sullivan, Don Sheppard,  
Steve Tam, Ben Joehnk, Bill Barker, Michael Newman, Wayne Gregory*



**DECEMBER - DECEMBER 2 - Chapter 649 - Bingo Night- V A Hospital**

Members of Chapter 649 will travel to Cincinnati, VA Medical Center, to participate in Tuesday Night Bingo with the residence, providing Hot-Dogs, Chips, and Soda's . While Jo Ann call Bingo, Chapter 649 pays the Bingo winners. If you wish to participate, contact; Mark Brandon - 513. 309. 3568 for more information.

**DECEMBER 11 - Chapter 649 December Monthly Meeting - OWENSVILLE FAIRGROUNDS**

Chapter 649 will conduct a very short December Monthly General Membership Meeting, to be held prior to our 2014 - Christmas Dinner.

Doors Open @ 6:00 pm / Monthly Meeting Begins @ 6:45 pm / Monthly Meeting Ends @ 7:00 pm / Dinner Served @ 7:00 pm

All Donations for "Veterans In Need" Not Yet Received, Will Also Be Collected for Distribution To Veterans

**Cost Of Dinner : Each Attending Member Please Provide A Covered Dish Suitable For Those Attending**

Please Contact: AVVA Joann to coordinate Covered - Dishes needed & Serving Size.

(Eliminating Everyone Bringing the same Covered Dish )

**DECEMBER Request:**

November 20, 2014, I was invited to the house of former co-worker / Chapter 649 member, Jimmy Arnold, to view a few photos he wished to show me. I was truly surprised at what lie in store for me.

For years, Jimmy has been asking members of our chapter to provide him with a 5 X 7 photo taken while in the service. I granted Jimmy's wish like others, but did not think much about it, thinking it was for a Chapter 649 scrap-book. Unbeknownst to me, each photo he received was being placed in a frame, and placed on the walls in a special built building. Although the wall containing Chapter 649 members and other Veterans who provided photos, there were other photos of various sizes in a second room, which was a larger sized room, The walls of this room were completely covered with pictures.

Jimmy, a crew-chief on a "Dust-Off" helicopter, explained, the pictures were actual photos taken, while serving in Vietnam while on various missions. Picture frames were filled with letters to him, from his wife Angie, and his correspondence back to Angie. Jim also informed me he was shot-down five separate times during his tour in Vietnam.

If you wish to be added to Jimmy's Wall Of Fame, please provide a 5 X 7 photo to Jim at our monthly meetings.

*Jimmy, you have done good ! Thanks you for the invite.*

*Other photos taken of your collection are now placed on our website, within our Photo Gallery*





## ***The Soldiers "Night Before Christmas"***

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.  
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,  
and to see just who in this home did live.  
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,  
and on the wall pictures of far distant lands.  
With medals and badges, awards of all kind,  
a sobering thought came through my mind.  
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,  
the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The Soldier lay sleeping silent alone,  
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.  
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,  
not how I pictured a United States soldier.  
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read ?  
Curled up on a poncho, a floor for his bed ?

I realized the families that I saw this night,  
owed their lives to those soldiers who were willing to fight.  
Soon 'round the world, the children would play,  
and grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.  
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,  
Because of soldiers like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.  
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.  
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom; I don't ask for more,  
my life is my God, my country, my corps."  
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,  
and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,  
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
Then the soldier rolled over, a voice soft and pure,  
whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."  
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,  
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."