

V.V.A. Clermont County Chapter 649

JULY NEWLETTER 2014



Sick-Bay:

*Phil Tussey : Phil has returned home from having major surgery.
Please remember to keep Phil and his family members in your prayers.*

*Lenny Cooper : Lenny is slated for Bi-pass surgery soon.
Please remember to keep Lenny and his family members in your prayers.*

* * * JULY BIRTHDAYS

07- 01- Bob Wolf	07- 12 John Morgan	07- 25 Brenda Smith- Avva
07- 01- Pamela Stevens - Avva	07- 13 Dale Thompson	07- 25 James Comello
07- 02 Bob Gustin	07- 14 Ralph Adkins	07- 25 Tim Schmidt
07- 03 David Murrell	07- 15 Roy Weatherspoon	07- 26 Dave Conley
07- 06 Ray Hutchinson	07- 20 Bobby Sluss	07- 26 Davie Stevens- Avva
07- 07 Ray Day	07- 21 Richard Stobbs	07- 30 Jack Burriss
07- 09 Uldis Kordons	07- 21 Terri Daugherty - Avva	07- 31 Thomas Whalen
07- 09 Thomas Olenick	07- 22 Wayne Blanton	07 / 31 Bruce Chitwood
07- 11 Louis Hornberger	07- 24 Jim Wilson	
07- 11 Ron Miller	07- 24 Ken Cook	

Guest Speaker: Gary Knepp ,

Gary will discuss his recent book about the Korean War and the similarities between it and the Vietnam War. Should be interesting.

June Events:

June 8th, Chapter 649 held its annual Flag Retirement Ceremony.
Boy Scouts Of America, Troop 742 demonstrated the proper procedure for retiring "Worn & Tattered" American Flags.
. Guest Speaker, Clermont County Commissioner, Bob Proud
. Union Twp. Trustee, Matt Beamer.
. Master Of Ceremony, Brian Thomas
Event Chaired by, Steve Tam / Ken Williamson
Chapter 649 wishes to "Thank" all who attended

June Events:

June 18th, Chapter 649 members Cliff Riley (Ohio, State Council President), Ray Autenrieb (Ohio, State Council Second Vice President), traveled to Delaware, Ohio to attend VVA Chapter 1095 first membership meeting and swear-in , newly elected officers. Chapter 1095 received its Charter May 21st with the membership count of 31 members, June 18th the membership count had grown to 43 members.
Delaware, Mayor - Carolyn Kay Riggle also was in attendance, to show support for Chapter 1095.
Mayor Riggle also became a 1095 AVVA member.
Welcome Home Chapter 1095

June Events:

June 25th, Chapter 649 sponsored - Bingo Night at the Cincinnati VA Hospital, providing Hot-Dogs & Soda for all in attendance.
Chapter members Mark Brandon, Bob Wilms, Bobby Bennett, Wayne Waligorski, and Ray Autenrieb, attended the event. Instead of Bingo, the Horse Race game was played. Each time a veterans horse won the race, the veteran was presented \$1.00. Good times were had by all.
"Thank You" Jo Ann Norton, for the invitation, allowing Chapter 649 to be a part of your V A event.

NEXT MEETING
Thursday July 10

LOCATION
Union Twp. Civic Center
4350 Aicholtz Road
Clermont County, Ohio
Food @ 7:00 PM
Business @ 7:30

Guest Speaker immediately
after the pledge of allegiance

August Meeting Date
Thursday - August 14

AVVA Membership

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of Am. Members actively participate and work in supporting VVA .
If you have a friend or relative who is not eligible to join VVA, talk to them about joining AVVA.

For a \$20.00 annual dues fee you can become a member, and help further VVA programs.
Applications are available on Chapter 649 website or see Joann at the meeting.
WELCOME HOME



June 28

Buckeye State Council held the first Board of Directors meeting of the newly elected officers. With past President Tom Burke not seeking re-election for 2014, Cliff Riley placed his name on the ballot, and is now Buckeye State Council's President, with Ray Autenrieb as Second Vice and Ken Williamson as District Three Director. Appointed Chairperson positions were assigned for numerous committees, future membership meetings and BOD meeting dates were tentatively scheduled, District meeting were tentatively schedule.

Further information will be provided to each chapter as new events and meetings are announced.

JULY

Be a hero to the grandkids by taking advantage of Kings Island's free admission for Military personnel July 3-6.

Are you brave enough to ride "The Beast" or "The Banshee"?

Kings Island is once again honoring the brave men and women who serve in the U.S. military. All members of the military -- active and retired -- will receive free admission to Kings Island during the Fourth of July holiday July 3-6. The offer also allows military personnel to purchase up to six (6) discount admission tickets for members of their immediate family for only \$29.99 at the front gate admissions windows on the day of their visit. Military personnel who qualify for the free admission ticket and discount offer for family members include active military, retired military, National Guard, veterans with honorable or medical discharge and Reserve Officers' Training Corps with government issued ID. Go to www.visitkingsisland.com. Scroll the left or right arrows of the advertising banner until "Military Days" displays. Click on "More Info."

JULY

Chapter 649 will submit a sign-up sheet at our July 10 monthly meeting for those who wish to work in our booth at the Clermont County Fair, begin July 20 — 26.

Please consider working at our information booth so that only a select few does not have to attend every day or evening during the fair season.

Remember all veterans showing a valid ID get free admission to the fair.

JULY

Note *

Chapter 649 website, "News You Can Use" has been reformatted to provide information concerning all monthly events and happenings within Chapter 649 and Buckeye State Council to be viewed, by clicking on the calendar month. Whatever month the event is due to happen it will be posted, allowing all viewers to be aware of future events, well in advance.

There is now a Public Service Announcement page available so that chapter members may have posted any local area community event fundraisers or information to pass along.

As the summer season is now upon us, you may wish to use our 649 Newsletter or Website to provide advertisements for your Church Group, Boy Scout Group, Girl Scout Group, Pool Party, or Business.

If you have articles of interest you wish to have placed within our newsletter, please contact :

Wayne Gregory - Treasurer mgregory2@cinci.rr.com



July News - 2014 - Page 3 of 4

The Wall - Facts you may not be aware Of

Submitted By Gene Wilt - Chapter 649 Delegate

A little history most people will never know. Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall. There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010. The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 57 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam ..

,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam ..

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia . I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring 1beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest . And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sand-lot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam . In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Please pass this on to those who served during this time, and those who **DO Care**.

I've also sent this to those **I KNOW** do care very much, and I thank you for caring as you do.



UPCOMING CHAPTER 649 EVENTS

JULY

- July 20 - 26 - Clermont County Fair - Man Booth At Fairgrounds
Meet & Greet - Providing V A Benefits Information To Other Veterans

AUGUST

- AUGUST 5 - 9 - Leadership Conference - Wichita, Kansas

SEPTEMBER

- SEPTEMBER 6 - Golf Outing - Fundraiser - Elk's Run Golf Club - Batavia
- SEPTEMBER - Caravan To Kokomo - Veterans Reunion
More Information as Date Draws Closer

OCTOBER

- October 2 - 5 - Clermont County Fair - Man Booth At Fairgrounds
Meet & Greet - Providing V A Benefits Information To Other Veterans

NOVEMBER

- November 11 - Veterans Day - Ceremony At Our Memorial
- November ? - Date TBA - Veterans Speak At Local Area Schools
- November 11 - Veterans Day Parade Time & Place TBA

DECEMBER

- DECEMBER - Food Drive For "Vets In Need"
- DECEMBER 2 - Chapter 649 - Bingo Night- V A Hospital
- DECEMBER - Chapter 649 Christmas Dinner - Dates & Time TBA