

V.V.A. Clermont County Chapter 649

SEPTEMBER NEWLETTER 2014



Sick-Bay:

September 19, Joann Gregory underwent Knee surgery.

At first, the insurance refused to pay for the surgery. She then called the insurance co. and spoke to a lady, explaining that the knee in question is attached to the leg she uses to get her husbands attention, when all the HONEY DO'S are not completed. . . She was then informed; Insurance Will Pay for both knees if needed. Oh - Woe - Is - Me . . Them Women, Do Tend To Protect each other !

Bob Wilms will also be undergoing knee replacement surgery in September and will be convalescing for several weeks thereafter.

Rumor has it (I just started it) that Bob and Joann will form a chorus line at the Christmas Party and will be doing some high kicking.



Passing Of, Retired Senior Chief Petty Officer - Jeff Bosworth 1948 - 2014
 Jeff, a long time Chapter 649 member, also a Teacher at UC Campus (Batavia)
 Passed Away August 18 while admitted at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Our Warmest Condolences to the Bosworth Family

* * * SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09 / 01- Cliff Riley	09 / 12- Ray Miller Jr	09 / 21- Amanda Sullivan Avva
09 / 04- James Brath	09 / 13- Kim Bredenbeck	09 / 21- Darryl Trace
09 / 05- Herstle Bridges	09 / 14- Danny Sims	09 / 22- Luther Perry
09 / 06- Wayne Waligorski	09 / 14- Tim Long	09 / 25- Frank Brisker
09 / 06 - Bruce Nutley	09 / 15- Robert Derr	09 / 25- James Ohsehirt
09 / 06- James "Peanut" Kahles	09 / 15- Ronald Sirabry	09 / 26- George Anderson Jr
09 / 07- John Swigert	09 / 16- James Bell	09 / 26- John Roudolph
09 / 07- Phillip Tussey	09 / 17- Rebekah Welch Avva	09 / 27- Cindy Smith - Avva
09 / 08- Connie Lillis Avva	09 / 20- David Watkins	09 / 27- Robert Bell
09 / 10- Tom Fecher	09 / 20- Lannie Cornell	09 / 30- Dennis Waler

NEXT MEETING
Thursday Sept. 11

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

October Meeting Date
Thursday - October 9

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

Guest Speaker: Ohio Second District US Congressman Brad Wenstrup

Congressman Wenstrup will be speak about various veterans issues in Congress and also about his experiences in Iraq.

AUGUST - Chapter 649 Memorial, Paint Party

Thank You to all who attended the "Paint Party" at the Helicopter Park. This ambitious project was accomplished over three days, August 16 – 18. Chapter and AVVA members replaced the slats in the two visitor benches and repainted the wrought iron parts of the benches. Our VVA logo signs, the two pillars supporting the helicopter, and the small street light and its concrete base were all repainted and look spectacular. President Mark Brandon would like to give special thanks to Ken Williamson, Don Sheppard, Michael Newman, Jim Sullivan, Bob Wilms, Larry Litsey, Ron Tucker, Ralph Walters, and Trudy Mullis for all their hard work. Mark invites everyone to visit the spruced up Memorial to see for themselves.

AUGUST - V V A National - Leadership Conference

VVA Members of Ohio State Council, and VVA Chapter 649 attended the National Leadership Conference held in Wichita, Kansas, Aug. 5 - 9, with approximately 600 other State and Chapter members attending.

Many seminars were held each day providing the correct procedures and duties of each elected VVA Officer within the State level, or Chapter level, of the responsibilities of their elected office.

August 4th - Registration Day, Welcome Home Party (An opportunity to visit with old acquaintance, and meet with new members).

August 5th - Opening Ceremony - Posting Of the Colors, Guest Speakers, Special Guest appearance: Dorothy & Toto.

August 6th - Seminars, AVVA Luncheon, Town Hall Meeting - (Agent Orange, Over 300 In Attendance)

Bus Ride to "Cow Town" for a B B Q Dinner, / walk through the first town built in Wichita, for a up-close view, of how the west looked in the 1800's. 1864 Jesse Chisholm completes "Chisholm Trail" - 1870 - Wichita Incorporated by 125 Citizens.

August 7th - 9:00 - POW / MIA Ceremony, with the releasing of 50 black balloons which represented the 50 States who still have POW / MIA's. View Page 3 for: Daddy, Daddy Poem (Very Emotional Ceremony) / more daily seminars.

August 8th - A.M. - Closing Ceremonies / P.M. - Banquet - Guest Speakers , TV and Silver Screen - Tucker Smallwood, Terrie Frankel, of the Doublemint Twins, (Double Your Pleasure, Double Your Fun, With Doublemint, Doublemint - Doublemint Gum)

and also a farewell send-off from Dorothy & Toto. - Continued pg 2



Chapter 649 VVA and AVVA was well represented by Don & Laverne Sheppard, Michael & Joyce Newman, Wayne & Joann Gregory, Ray & Sue Autenreib, Cliff & Elaine Riley.

August 9th - Our flight for leaving Wichita took us to the Twin Cities, with a two hr. lay-over before leaving for Cincinnati. We were informed the plane Cargo Door would not close, (which provided us with an extended layover of another 90 minutes) (*Note* Both Joann and Elaine kept insisting, Cliff & myself take the flight anyway, and they will catch a later flight*)
Thank Goodness for TSA Rules !

KWCH TV in WICHITA, Reported: VVA Leadership

Kansas, is one of the many media outlets that covered the August - 7 - Faces of Agent Orange Town Hall meeting, held in conjunction with VVA's National Leadership & Education Conference.

Hundreds of war veterans talked about "Agent Orange" at a meeting in Wichita.

They wanted to know what was being done about it.

The chemical was used during the Vietnam War to clear the jungle.

Now, veterans are saying it has not only affected their mental, physical, and emotional health, but also their families.

The reason so many veterans were there is to raise awareness of "Agent Orange" and file a claim.

Don Sheppard (Delegate, Chapter 649, Leadership Report)

After attending a seminar on "Filing a claim with VA" Don informed all chapter members that although there is now a form available upon the Internet to Fill-In a file yourself, **Please Do Not** use this method to file any claims you may have.

Please visit your VSO Office, for assistance in the filing of any claim !

Any mistake made by you (if filing by yourself) will become a reason to DENY your claim, forcing you to re-file again.

Please visit your VSO when submitting a claim, so all information is CORRECT each time you submit a claim.

Michael Newman (Delegate, Chapter 649, Leadership Report:

Michael is a newly elected Delegate. The VVA leadership conference held in Kansas was the first conference he has attended. Michael was amazed with all the information each seminar provided and the procedures that must be taken when serving as a Officer within a VVA chapter. Michael also informed all members attending our chapter monthly meeting, " This was a trip, well - worth taking".

Joann Gregory (AVVA, Chapter 649, Representative)

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Announces 2014 Awards Recipients

(Washington, D.C.)—The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) held their 2014 annual AVVA Awards Luncheon August 7, 2014 at the National Leadership and Education Conference in Wichita, Kansas.

They are pleased to announce the winner for 2014 AVVA Fellowship Award, Sharon Hodge, AVVA At-Large member from Maryland.

The 2014 AVVA Member of The Year Award, Sue Dirks, AVVA member from Chapter # 1058 Jennings, Louisiana.

The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America 2014 Project Friendship was given to Shalom Homes Inc. of Wichita, Kansas.

The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America National President, Sharon Hobbs, presented a check to Donna Chandler; Executive Director of Shalom Homes Inc. in the amount of \$7,000.00 with donations continuing to arrive. Shalom Homes Inc. is a transitional living home for homeless veterans.

President Hobbs stated "AVVA had numerous nominees this year for both awards; the committee's choices were outstanding. "I congratulate both for their love and unselfish commitment to our veterans, The overwhelming support for Project Friendship shows the dedication our organization has to help our veteran's.

The Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is an organization dedicated to addressing the issues effecting all veterans and their families.



DADDY, DADDY

Daddy, Daddy, today I turned three
you helped celebrate with me.
It's also the day you left for a far away land
to a place called Vietnam.

Daddy, Daddy, today I'm seven
A lot of people say you've gone to heaven.
I heard Mommy saying something about MIA,
I'll never forget this awful day.

Daddy, Daddy, today I'm nine
just wanted to tell you that I'm doing fine.
Don't worry, I'm really okay
but I sure miss you, each and every day

Daddy, Daddy, today I'm sixteen
had my first date, his name is Gene,
We went to a high school dance,
maybe its the start of my first romance.

Daddy, Daddy, today I'm twenty-three
A very special man wants to marry me.
Oh, how I wish you could walk me down the aisle
just you and me, Daddy, together for awhile.

Daddy, Daddy, your grandson turned two.
I'm proud to say that I named him after you.
He's such a delight, this precious baby boy
I want you to be *here* to share in our joy.

Daddy, Daddy, today I'm twenty-five
God above I pray you're still alive
Far away, held against your will
I won't forget you, I love you still.

LAST CHANCE - September 6th - Golf Fundraiser

We still have openings for Teams to play, and Sponsors who wish to Sponsor a Hole.

If you would like to present a team for playing, please contact: Ken Williamson 513. 260. 6501

The deadline for sign-ups is NOW upon us.

Help support Chapter 649, so Chapter 649 may help support other veterans in need, within Clermont County.

Caravan To Kokomo - September 18, 19, 20

Kokomo will hold its annual "Vietnam Veterans Reunion" September 18, 19, 20 Kokomo, Indiana.

Chapter 649 was unable to assemble enough personal to caravan to Kokomo.

If you have the time, make the trip. This is one LARGE reunion. Chances are you'll find someone you knew while serving in the military.

ADVANCE NOTICE INFORMATION

Sign-Up Sheets will be distributed at our October AND November general membership meeting for members to submit information as to; Will You Be Attending Our Christmas Dinner ?

What type of covered dish you wish to provide at our 2014 Christmas Dinner.

Chapter 649 needs this information well in advance so we may calculate the amount of food needed, for the amount of people who plan to attend.

For our new members who may not be aware, each year chapter 649 provides 10 to 12 "Food Baskets" to be given to Clermont County Veterans in Need. We provide each family with empty banana boxes containing Can-Food, & Staples, thus providing not only Christmas Dinner, but many meals there after.

Honey Baked Ham donates a Ham for each family, Chapter 649 provides all other food, plus a Gift-Card to each family.

Items needed, Canned Corn, Green-Beans etc.

Soups of all kinds, Navy Beans, Corn-Bread etc.

Sauces -Spaghetti / Apple, etc.

Soap/Bath/Dish/Hand/Laundry etc.

Personal-Care-Items/ Razors/Shaving Cream / Kleenex etc.

NOTE * Any of the items mentioned above can **NOW** be presented to chapter 649 at monthly meetings, held in **September - October - November**, and **December 11**, during our Chapter Meeting at the Owensville Fair Grounds

Basically, any non-perishable food or Food Staple you yourself, would serve or be served, if fixing a meal for your family.

PLEASE CHECK ALL DONATIONS FOR EXPIRATION DATES

Please, No Food Expirations Before 2015



SEPTEMBER

- **SEPTEMBER 6 - Golf Outing - Fundraiser - Elk's Run Golf Club - Batavia**
- **SEPTEMBER 11 - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - UNION TWP. CIVIC CENTER**

OCTOBER

- **October 2 - 5 - Pumpkin Run - Clermont Co Fairgrounds - Man Booth At Fairgrounds**
Meet & Greet - Providing V A Benefits Information To Other Veterans

NOVEMBER

- **November - Food Drive For "Vets In Need"**
Collection Of Can-Goods and other Staples to help provide Veterans In Need, during the Christmas Holidays, will begin November 1, 2014 !
All donations of Can-Goods, Paper Products, etc. etc. will be delivered to the Veterans Family in need, Dec. 12 or 13. If you have donations of any kind, or are seeking more information as to what to provide, please contact; Chapter 649 AVVA Representative - Joann Gregory at Our General Membership Meeting, held on the Second Thursday of Each Month - Union Twp. Civic Center Food @ 7:00 PM - Business begins @ 7:30 PM (2013 - 11 Veterans received three banana boxes full of Food & other staples).
Honey Baked Ham also donated Honey Baked Hams to each veteran.
- **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 2 - Chapter 649 - Bingo Night- V A Hospital**

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

Chapter 649 will conduct the 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)