



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Clermont County, Chapter 649
P O Box 426, Batavia, Ohio 45103
www.vva649.org



Key Accomplishments of Chapter 649 in 2019

People often ask members of our Chapter what our mission is, why we don't contribute to this or that veterans' group, and what we do with the money we raise. The activities our Chapter initiates and sponsors flow from our mission statement,

“The mission of Chapter 649 of the Vietnam Veterans of America is to provide fellowship, advocacy, education about veteran benefits, as well as financial assistance, as appropriate, to veterans of all eras, pursuant to the founding principle of the Vietnam Veterans of America, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”

The expenditures of Chapter 649 are targeted to help veterans in our community and their families. Specifically, in the past year some of the programs which money raised from the Golf Scramble, Memorial Brick sales, Gun Raffle, member dues, area Meet and Greet donations were used to:

- Provide approximately \$5,000 in cash donations and gift cards at Christmas to needy Clermont County veterans and their families. Some of this money was also contributed to other veterans' organizations to strengthen their efforts in our community. One example was Chapter 649's contribution to the Joseph House for homeless and drug dependent veterans.
- Maintain the helicopter, the brick patio (which was completely renovated in 2019), and several other memorials at the Union Township Veterans Memorial Park and hold several ceremonies there each year including Vietnam Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
- Sponsor several Bingo events at the Ohio Veterans Home in Georgetown. In addition to playing Bingo, our members chatted with and offered fellowship to the residents.
- Award two \$1,000 college scholarships to two 2019 graduates from Loveland and New Richmond High Schools.
- Send delegates to the VVA National Convention in Spokane, Washington. There they voted on national issues, elected national officers and representatives, and attended conferences. At these meetings, the delegates learned about current veterans' issues and pending national legislation. This information was then passed onto local chapter members upon their return.
- Hold several “Meet and Greets” at Batavia Township Park, Eastgate Walmart, Milford Walmart, Eastgate Kroger's, and Everything Bagels in Eastgate. At these events, VVA members talked

“Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another”

with area veterans, from WWII to Afghanistan-Iraq, and checked to see if they are aware of the many VA benefits to which they may be entitled. The success of these events can be measured by the fact that we are the largest VVA chapter in the State of Ohio with over 250 active members.

- “Welcome Home” Honor Flight veterans as they returned to Cincinnati from their trips to Washington, D.C.
- Conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony in conjunction with local Boy Scout Troop 742. At this ceremony, emceed by WKRC radio host Brian Thomas, we instructed and demonstrated to the public the proper methods of disposing of old, tattered, and faded American flags.
- Host volunteer speakers at our monthly meetings to keep members informed of issues relevant to them. One such speaker was Frank Morrow, Executive Director of the Clermont County Veterans Service Office who updated the members about their benefits.
- Sponsor our 26th annual Memorial Day vigil at Veterans Memorial Park. Each hour we “called the roll” of area deceased veterans from all eras and placed a small American flag on a sea of white crosses by the helicopter monument.
- Speak at several area schools about our service in the military.

We trust that this synopsis of our activities last year satisfies most questions the public may have about our stewardship of the monies we receive. Any other questions may be addressed by contacting a chapter officer through our website at <http://www.vva649.org/> or by sending a letter to Chapter 649 at the address above.