



“Welcome Home” NEWSLETTER

MAR/APR 2017 - VOL 3 NO 2



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Events

The next Chapter meetings will be March 4, 2017 & April 1, 0900 S. Metro Denver Fire & Rescue Board Room 9195 E. Mineral Ave. Centennial, CO. The Board of Director's meeting will follow 30 minutes following the regular mtg.

Next CO State Council meeting March 11th.

Notice:

If you have moved or changed your address, PLEASE notify us immediately!

Contact: Lee White, Membership Chair

E-mail: <mailto:flyboy51@q.com>

Phone: 303-519-2252

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Editor's Note:

This version of the newsletter is in Microsoft Document (.docx) format so that the [links](#) will work. Put your cursor over the link, depress your Control Key (ctrl) and depress your left mouse button and it will take you to the listed link position. PDF format the links will not work.

Notes from the President

Lee White

Spring is just around the corner, and Chapter 1106 has a full schedule of events planned to educate and inform our veterans and their families. The main event to focus on will be our partnership with our sister Chapter 1071 in presenting an Agent Orange/PTSD/Hep-C Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2017 at the American Legion Post 161, 6230 W. 60th. Avenue, Arvada, Colorado 80003 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Program to include speakers on:

- Agent Orange: Dr. Diane Ricci and Renee' Pace, CO Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Hepatitis C (the forgotten virus): Christine Panak, Snow Companies
- PTSD: Presenter TBA
- Suicide Prevention: Presenter TBA

[Please review the “flyer” attached to this newsletter.](#)



February meeting biggest turnout in Chapter history

"Member Feature"

Tom Werzyn served in the Army from March 1967 to January 1970 and attained the rank of Sergeant (E-5). He was an Area Intelligence Specialist (MOS 97C) and served in Rach Gia, Vin Long, Can Tho, and in and out of Saigon. Tom said, "One of the good memories of my tour in Vietnam was the beauty of the country and working with the Vietnamese people. My wife, Valerie and I have a son and daughter and five grandchildren. My goal as a member of our VVA Chapter is to serve my fellow members and my veteran brothers and sisters in need!"

Military Trivia

The U.S. Air Force was part of the Army until 1946. What was it called? See answer at the [end of the Newsletter](#).

January Special Guest



Brian Karsh of Assist2Sell with his father, Mike, and Hazel (Scholarship Committee Chair), pose after Brian presented the chapter with a check for \$1,000.00 for a scholarship. We sincerely thank you Brian!

February Special Guest

David Fry, Arapahoe County Assistant Veteran Services Officer, spoke to our chapter about the services available as well as personal help which the ACVS provides. Many interesting questions

were posed by members with very well articulated answers.

Membership!

VVA Chapter 1106 Membership: 60 (as of 2-4-17)

AVVA: 20

TOTAL: 80

Welcome new VVA members:

Roger Lanphier

Garry Turks

Jim Henderson

Steve Simmons

Welcome new AVVA members:

Shane and Brandy Schafer

Transfers from "At Large" status to Chapter 1106:

Anthony Croce

James Brennan

Ronald Dahl

James Dick

James Griffin

Karl Staging



Board of Directors/Officers

Lee White - President

Bob Easter - Vice-president

Joe Plant - Treasurer

Hazel Simeon - Secretary

Board Members - Milt Omoto, Patti Ehline, Paul Seppo, Dave Lyons

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1106 S. METRO DENVER, CO

Working Committees

(Folks are needed to fill some spots!)

Agent Orange/PTSD - OPEN

Membership - Lee White, Mike Messenger

Newsletter Editor - Bob Rotruck

Fundraising/Grants - Milt Omoto

Marketing/Media/Events - OPEN

POW/MIA – Mike Messenger

Webmaster – Robert Senatore

Women Veterans - Patti Ehline

Scholarship Program - Hazel Simeon, Bob Easter, Joe Langran, Paul Seppo, Mary Seppo, Bob Rotruck

Veteran Emergency Assistance Committee - Joe Plant, Bob Rotruck, Lee White, Dave Lyons

Meetings/Events Calendar - 2017

March 4th – Chapter monthly meeting.

March 11 – Colorado State Council – Castle Rock

April 1st – Chapter monthly meeting

April 6-8 – Conference of State Council Presidents Meeting - Silver Spring, MD

April 26th – Sky Sox Baseball Game with Rolling Thunder – POW/MIA Chair dedication, Colorado Springs.

April 29th – Chapters 1071 & 1106 combined Agent Orange/Hep-C Town Hall Meeting at American Legion Post 161, Arvada, CO



In Memoriam

Vietnam Veteran SP5 Roland Omoto passed away in December 2016 from cancer induced by Agent Orange exposure. He also suffered from PTSD. He is the older brother of Chapter member Milt Omoto. He served with the US Army from 1967 to 1970. He was stationed at Can Tho South Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 and was engaged in the 1968 Tet Offensive. Memorial services were held in Glendale California with full military honors. He is survived by

his son Christopher, who is a highly decorated Marine Corps Veteran with multiple tours of the Iraq War.

VA's Rule Establishes Presumption Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

Adult leukemia • aplastic anemia & other myelodysplastic syndromes

Bladder cancer • kidney cancer

Liver cancer • multiple myeloma

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma • Parkinson's disease

"We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they have earned."

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985. The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas. The rule will be effective either 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, or following conclusion of the 60-day Congressional Review, whichever is later. Roughly 1,400 disability claims related to Lejeune are already pending, and will be reviewed immediately, according to the VA.

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1106 S. METRO DENVER, CO

Chapter Certificates of Appreciation

Group Leader, Jim Hemphill, Master Carpenter, Tom Werzyn, and Computer Nut Job, Bob Rotruck worked on a project to give food businesses a special Certificate of Appreciation for giving free meals or deep discounts on items to active duty military and veterans on Veteran's Day last year.



Jim Hemphill presenting the Plaque to Christine McLain, Managing Partner, Longhorn Steakhouse, Centennial.



Bob Rotruck presenting the Plaque to Castle Rock Chili's General Manager Steve Schimer, and his Assistant Manager

Announcement Corner

Submitted by John Vargas:

American Legion Post 1260 of Highlands 2017 Golf Tournament Fundraiser should be even a bigger success than last year. Again we will be giving away huge prizes for hole-in-ones. We have moved the Tournament to Sunday, 21 May 2017 this year to allow for those that were working to join

in the fun. The Post Veterans and Children programs benefit from the proceeds. See the attached brochure on how to participate at the end of the newsletter.

Message from Mike Messenger:

It's Official... MLB Official!! The "Honor Chair" is here, our negotiations with the Colorado Springs Sky Sox are in full swing and attached is the official flyer for this event. I will also have a poster made in time for the Colorado Springs Swap meet.

There is a tremendous amount of excitement by the Sky Sox in making this event an evening of HONOR, THANKS and CELEBRATION to those who served and our chapter will be at the heart of it all. Although we are still working out some of the logistics of the event, I can tell you we already have interests from other military organizations in Colorado Springs like ours to assist and more importantly, **BUY TICKETS**.

We will be selling our tickets for \$12.00 (two dollar discount) and for each ticket we sell we will receive \$4.00. As everybody else works for a living, I and Terry will manage ticket sales. Our chapter is charged with selling 150 tickets, but have no limit beyond the 150. We already have a section reserved in the stadium next to the chair for those who buy tickets from us. We are also hoping to set up our Missing Man Table (no ceremony), and are waiting for a confirmation.

Gary and Karen Myers, Randy and myself have a meeting with the Sky Sox on February 23rd. We should have more event details afterwards. This is exciting everyone as we have an opportunity to honor our Colorado POW/MIA's at every home game for the Sky Sox. We are expecting a lot of press and air time coverage before and on game day. The Sky Sox are the Milwaukee Brewers Triple A farm team so I'm hoping they will get a "tickler" out to their fans.

So start thinking about the POW/MIA Honor Chair Ceremony as it's going to take all of us to get involved.

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

2017 Soldier Stone Trip

From Hazel Simeion

A Chapter trip is planned for August 18-19 to Soldier Stone near Salida, Colorado. This is a very secluded but very special place where all those countries are recognized for their support and losses during the Vietnam War. The Gateway Inn & Suites in Salida have reserved 20 rooms for our adventure at a cost of \$99.00 per night for single, double, queen, and queen double. The actual trip to the monument will be conducted on Saturday the 19th, but if you haven't visited this part of Colorado you are encouraged to site see Friday afternoon and Sunday morning. Reservations must be made by July 15th. Call them at 719-539-2895. The reservations are being held under the name: Soldier Stone Vets. The hotel website is: <http://salidagatewayinnandsuites.com>.



Soldier Stone



Soldier Stone

In Memoriam: Atak Military Working Dog



"In November, I had to say good bye to my battle buddy with 4 paws. MWD Atak (J240) (retired) Feb 2004 to Nov 2016. I have no words except I'm sorry buddy and I hope you had a good time sleeping on the couch and enjoying retired life. These past 11 months have been a blessing and I owe you everything. I truly believe that I'm here today because of you! You walked me into Iraq and walked me out, not to mention the countless other soldiers and Airmen you served with and saved. It was a privilege to be your Handler and to have you beside me. I will miss you forever and I look forward to seeing you on the other side. Until then Rest Easy buddy, we got it from here. RIP MWD Atak."

Suzanne Sigona - Associate Member



Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

Suzanne has been presenting these wonderful pins to our chapter members. Many thanks to you Suzanne. See information about the pin at the [end of the newsletter](#).

Book/Articles Published by Members

At The Wall....

I've seen them alright-
they come here at night alone;
even in groups, couples.
Silent dampness,
whispers, flags, candles,
a prayer.
And perhaps an oath-
to remember,
or just in frustration, exasperation
at the loss of such innocence,
and each other.

You can't tell someone
about the cold fist
behind your belt,
when you see the name
you don't want to look for,
and can't leave behind
without touching.

Nights are easier to take here.
Faces, not eyes.
Starlight reflects from the tears,
and the chiseled stone
seems to know
more about silence,
given and received,
than the flood of seekers
daily tramping, unknowing,
through my vigil
on my own grassy knoll.

Author: Tom Werzyn

Daddy Come Home

My birthday is coming up soon,
We're having a party about noon.
Daddy can't you come home,
I don't want to party all alone.
We just celebrated Veteran's Day,
I did the best I could to pray.

Thanksgiving is coming soon,
We're having dinner about noon.
Daddy can't you come home,
I don't want to eat all alone.
I will say a very special grace,
And pray that I will soon see your face.

Christmas is coming soon,
We're opening presents way before noon.
Daddy can't you come home,
I don't want to see my presents alone.
I will say special words about baby Jesus,
And pray that you see him too with us.

And now a year has come and gone,
Daddy you've been away much too long.
Daddy can't you please come home,
I'm growing up, but I don't want to do it alone.
I will say my prayers at bedtime tonight,
And pray and pray that you are safe and all right.

And now a stranger stands at our door,
I don't know why he is there for sure.
I heard him say "It is with deep regret."
Mommy is frowning, her brow in a fret.
She drops to her knees and begins to cry,
I look at the stranger and I don't know why.
His uniform is like Daddy's, I wish it was he,
But your Daddy's not coming home you see.

He is safe in heaven with Jesus above,
But he sends you his undying love.

Daddy has gone home!

BOB ROTRUCK – '07

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From the Editor!

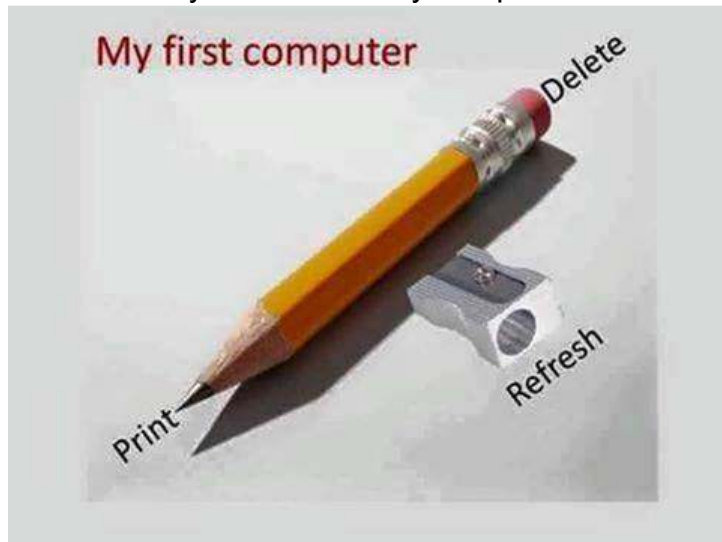
Light Side

Secretary of Defense

Rob O'Neill is the man who killed Bin Laden. When asked what he thinks about Marine Corps General "Mad Dog" Mattis being considered for Secretary of Defense, O'Neill said: "General Mattis has a bear rug in his home, but it's not dead - it's just afraid to move"!!!

Early Computer

For those of you that are very computer literate!!!



Are any members of VVA Chapter 1106 in this picture??? Some photographs from history!



Military Electricians – 1918

How many of you remember this kind of date??



A man and woman on a date – 1950!



A soldier shares some bananas with a goat. Battle of Saipan, 1944.

Trivia Answer

Prior to 1947, the U.S. Air Force was called the Army Air Corp.

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

Veterans:
SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, April 29, 2017

All Veterans and Guests are invited:

**Agent Orange and Hep-C
Town Hall Meeting**

When: Saturday, April 29, 2017

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: American Legion Post 161

6230 West 60th Avenue, Arvada CO

Topics Will Include:

Agent Orange - Hep-C - PTSD - VA Benefits

Representatives from the Veterans Administration, Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, County Veteran Services from surrounding Counties, and others will present

Questions? Contact: VVA Chapter 1071 at 303-870-2428 or
Chapter 1106 at 303-519-2252



Sponsors:



Chapters 1071 & 1106





Post 161



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"



Purpose: To recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

Eligibility: Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

Presentation: These lapel pins will be presented in a dignified manner to each Vietnam veteran during public events held in their communities by Commemorative Partners. Accompanying remarks should reflect the nation's thanks for their service and sacrifice. In the rare instance when an honoree cannot attend a public event, the pin may be presented during a private ceremony.

Symbolism:

- **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
- **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
- **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
- **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
- **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. Also, the official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative, and this lapel pin is the nation's lasting memento of thanks.

Published: August 2016 www.vietnamwar50th.com

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American Legion Post 1260
18 HOLE SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT
A Colorado 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Organization.
Proceeds will be used for American Legion
Veterans and children's programs.





COLORADO AMERICAN LEGION POST 1260

**Golf Tournament Fundraiser
Post 1260 of Highlands Ranch**



The Links Golf Course

Sunday, May 21, 2017

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1106 S. METRO DENVER, CO

Tournament Information

Date

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Time

Check-in is 6:45 am. Range balls are FREE - come early.
Tee time is 8:00 am.

Type of Tourney

Shotgun Scramble/Best Ball
(No Handicaps)



Location

The Links Golf Course
5815 Genealog Pkwy
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130
303-470-9292

Cost

\$135 per player, includes greens fee, cart, range balls,
continental breakfast, lunch, goodie bag & prizes
***All net profits are for American Legion Post 1260
Veterans and children's programs.

Continental Breakfast

Donuts, Juice & Coffee - FREE
(Bottled water on cart)

Lunch

Taco Buffet - FREE

Goodie Bag

One for each golfer (worth at least \$50) - FREE

Beverages

Available for sale at grill and beverage cart

Free Prizes

- 1 - Longest Putts
- 1 - Closest to Pins
- 1 - Longest Drives
- 3 - Low Scores for 18 holes & 1 for Highest Score

Mulligans

\$10 for 1 (\$20 for 4, 2 are FREE) - max 4 per player

Fairway Throws

\$10 for 1 (\$40 for 4, 2 are FREE) - max 4 per player

Phil Mickelson Hole

\$15 Fee - ball put 300 yards from tee on 8th Hole - Par 4

TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: \$300 AND UP

☐ I cannot attend but I wish to make a contribution in the
amount of \$ _____

Name of Sponsor (for recognition) _____

HOLE SPONSORS

\$300 includes signage at tee box or green
\$500 includes signage plus each member
of foursome only pays \$75 for everything
(\$200 savings)



The Links Golf Course
AMERICAN LEGION POST 1106 GOLF FUNDRAISER REGISTRATION FORM

E-mail

Phone

Address

Player's Name

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

Please return this Registration Form with payment to: American Legion Post 1106, 1801 S. Broadway, Suite 100, Denver, CO 80202. Registration fees should be forwarded to Barry Fries, At Director of Marketing, 1801 S. Broadway, Suite 100, Denver, CO 80202. (Check amount for more payments to American Legion Post 1106)

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MAY 12TH, 2017

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1106 S. METRO DENVER, CO

FRIENDS OF CHAPTER 1106

 <p>ERC MANAGEMENT INC.</p>	 <p>Freddy's FROZEN CUSTARD & STEAKBURGERS®</p>	<p>ERC Management, LLC 791 Southpark Dr., Suite 600 Littleton, CO 80120 720.328.3299 www.FreddysUSA.com</p>
 <p>Caribou Coffee 12501 E Lincoln Ave Englewood, CO 80112 303-799-1258</p>	<p>American Legion Post 1260</p> 	
 <p>Home Depot Foundation 8477 S Yosemite St Lone Tree, CO 80124</p>	 <p>South Metro Denver Fire & Rescue 9195 E Mineral Ave Centennial, CO 80112</p>	
 <p>Monthly Membership Meetings VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00a.m. Our meetings are held at: VFW Post 2461 1350 S Broadway, Denver, CO 80210</p>	 <p>Applewood PLUMBING HEATING & ELECTRIC SINCE 1973</p> <p>Applewood Plumbing Heating & Electric Main Billing Office: 5000 W 29th Ave. Denver, CO 80212 Phone: 303-232-6611 Fax: 303-477-4310 Email: custservice@applewoodfixit.com</p>	
 <p>THRIVENT FINANCIAL® <i>Connecting faith & finances for good.®</i> 9137 E Mineral Cir Ste 100 Englewood, CO 80112-3422</p>	 <p>BizCARD Xpress SUPERFAST PRINTING & SIGNS®</p> <p>6882 S. University Blvd. Centennial, CO 80122 303-771-2244</p>	
 <p>Jersey Mike's Subs 1390 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver</p>	 <p>STUDIO 1430 Main Office: 4700 South Syracuse Street, Suite 1050 Denver, CO 80237</p>	