



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1106

Membership Meeting July 1, 2023

Meeting Location: South Metro Fire & Rescue Building, 9195 E. Mineral Avenue, Centennial, CO 80112 (Board Room). Zoom provided.

Meeting called to order by President Dave Lyons at 9:00 AM.

Invocation and Prayer: Reverend Garry Turks

Pledge of Allegiance (All)

POW/MIA Chair Presentation: Dan Green

Moment of Silence: For all those men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those still MIA. We also remember our VVA and AVVA members who have passed.

Officer and Board Member Roll Call: Dave Lyons, Milt Omoto, Mike Huber (on-line), The Rev. Garry Turks, Joe Plant, Patti Ehline, Joe Robinson, John Vargas, Tom Werzyn, Litta Plant-Schaper (AVVA)

Excused: Sally Ann Eaves, Joe Dempsey

Members Present

NOTE: No sign-in list as Jack Hunter, who normally provides the list of attendees, is absent.

Introduction and Recognition of Guests and New Members

Guests were introduced and recognized.

Appreciation Presentation: An appreciation certificate was presented to Daniel Plant (son of Joe Plant) by John Vargas for his continuous donation to Chapter 1106; Daniel lives in Texas and regularly travels to Colorado to see his parents.

Special Presentation: Alycia Carmin, Colorado State Coordinator, Quilts of Valor Foundation

Alycia presented 15 of our Chapter members with a "Valor" quilt. So far, 71 Chapter members have been awarded a quilt. A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

President Dave presented Alycia with an appreciation plaque for her continued service in coordinating the making of valor quilts and presentation of quilts at veteran organizations.

Member Biography: At each monthly meeting we will feature a member who will give a brief background of him or herself. This month Wayne Buser presented his experience as an air traffic controller in Viet Nam; he was stationed there in the early 1960's, well before the build-up; he talked about the unit's mascot, a Bengal tiger named "Tuffy." Tuffy made it back to the States to his new home at the Ohio zoo.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Dave Lyons)

- Dave encouraged members to turnout out and participate in this year's Highlands Ranch Fourth of July parade; we assemble at 7:00 AM (see flyers and map that were sent out); updated information was provided by Board member Joe Robinson
- Dave thanked all who brough their food donation last month and today; our Chapter Spring and Summer Food Drive collection will go to the Volunteers Of America Bill Daniels Veteran Services Center's food bank; Alen Ebert and Patti Eline will deliver collected items
- Dave stressed that we are in need of more Buddy Check callers; some of the current callers can no longer call due to health issues; and, for those still Buddy Check callers, thank you
- VVA National Convention: President Dave will be attending
- Dave announced that on Saturday, July 8th, the Forgotten Heroes Campaign will be presenting awards to three Chapter members
- Dave reported that the Chapter has a new challenge coin that is for sale at the promotional items table

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Milt Omoto)

- Milt also stressed the need for Buddy Check callers, as this is an important way to stay in touch with members; we also find out about members who have deceased that we may not hear about otherwise
- Milt also thanked those who donated food items for the Daniels Veterans Center

TREASURER'S REPORT (Mike Huber)

- Mike reported on the financial status of the Chapter
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Alan Jaffe and seconded by Joe Robinson; the motion passed

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Milt Omoto for Sally Ann Eaves)

- Minutes from the June 3rd meeting were distributed to members electronically
- Motion to approve the minutes was made by Tony Nickerson, seconded by Alan Jaffe.
- The Motion carried

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP AND COLOR GUARD (Lee White and Dan Green for Dale Creason)

- Lee reported that VVA National has recorded 90,234 members and 10,438 AVVA members; we loss 84 members nationwide; Chapter 1106 now has 200 regular members and 44 AVVA members for a total of 244
- Lee encouraged member spouses to consider becoming an AVVA member

- Dan reported on the activities of the Color Guard; the Color Guard presented colors at Wind Crest retirement home, the American GI Forum at the Embassy Suites, Denver Tech Center, and will be at the Fourth of July parade; they also conducted a missing man table ceremony at the Elks Club for Rolling Thunder

VETERANS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Joe Plant)

- Joe reported that in June, the Chapter's Veterans Emergency Assistance Program assisted four veterans

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT (Rev. Garry Turks)

- Chappy again stated that he is so honored to be in the room with other Vietnam veterans who represent all branches of service
- He stressed the importance of Buddy Checks as it is important that we check on each other and that we know we will continue to check on each other; Chappy will expand his list of those he regularly calls
- Our sick and shut-in list is still long and Chappy continues to contact each member
- Chappy along with others will visit the grave site of member Lawrence Durham who passed in early May; also, Michael Tarby's wife has cancer
- Amy member wishing to see Chaplain Garry or Chaplain Loni after the meeting are invited to do so

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS (Tony Nickerson)

- Tony reported that President Dave has a TIA; as a follow-up, Dave reported that he had his TIA assessment on June 30th
- Tony reported on a benefits and pay increase for veterans effective in 2024; the veterans COLA was passed
- The PACT Act is effective October 2022 through October 2023; you must get signed up and your evaluation completed within this duration
- Patti added that the VA has information including information for children of veterans with birth defects as a result of toxic exposure

SPEAKER'S BUREAU (Tom Werzyn)

- No activity due to schools on recess

GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING (Milt Omoto)

- Milt encouraged members to donate items to the VVA Household Good Program, which is a good fundraiser for us by donating any used unwanted household items, clothing, etc.; you can schedule a pick-up on-line at PICKUPPLEASE
- If you shop at King Soopers, sign-up with their Community Rewards program, another source of income for the Chapter; see Milt for information on how to sign-up

CHAPTER EVENTS COORDINATOR (Joe Robinson)

- Joe reported on the Fourth of July parade in Highlands Ranch; we are partnering with the Central Colorado Corvette Club and their "Vettes for Vets" program;
- Assemble in the Target parking lot at 7:00 AM and wear your yellow Chapter shirts; the parade begins at 9:00 AM

- Our group will be led by the Chapter Color Guard with banner and colors, followed by a red, then a white, and then a blue Corvette, then member walkers, and finally by the rest of the vehicles;
- We currently do not know our staging in the parade

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (Gary Weston)

- Gary reported that the committee has selected the six scholarship winners for 2023, out of 14 applicants
- Each scholarship is \$2,000
- Winners will be invited to the August Membership meeting to present their papers

SOCIAL (John Vargas)

- The theme for the August 12th Chapter picnic will be Hawaiian; the picnic committee is working on the event; the committee can use more help
- John reported that there are challenge coin holders at the promotional table

PROMOTIONAL (Lee White for Joe Dempsey)

- In the absence of Joe and Ita Dempsey, LeAnn Stelzer is helping at the promotional item table today

VOICES FOR VETERANS (Patti Ehline for Warren Harris)

- Patti reported on efforts to increase participation with the Voices for Veterans Mental Health Council online meetings; currently there are two monthly meetings
- They may go back to live meetings at the VA

VETERAN HEALTH and WOMEN VETERANS (Patti Ehline)

- Patti reminded everyone to report to the VA if you had to go to a non-VA facility for urgent care
- Patti would like to see those women who made blankets for Sky Ridge cancer treatment patients to thank them
- Patti reported that she will be attending the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington D.C.; the Vietnam Women's Memorial is a memorial dedicated to the nurses and women of the United States who served in the Vietnam War; the memorial was dedicated in 1993 and portrays three women caring for a fallen soldier

WEB MASTER/NEWSLETTER (Bob Rotruck)

- The September/October newsletter has started; send article contributions to Bob

FORMER PRESIDENT (Lee White)

- Lee encouraged members to get new members no matter where they live as they can participate via Zoom
- The new Chapter Challenge coins are available
- Lee reported that he has eight more Plan Your Legacy three ring binders available

AVVA Litta Plant-Schaper

- Nothing to report

50/50 Drawing (Ron Smith)

ROUNDTABLE

- Roger Lanphier reported that he attended a veteran's event in Kansas City that features WWI veterans and received a special challenge coin; he presented the coin to Lee White for the Parker location's top Poppy Drive collection amount
- Patti recognized Andrew and Alex for their work with today's meeting audio and video in the absence of their grandparents
- President Dave reported that there is an agent orange medal available, and information will be sent to all members on how to acquire one

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fourth of July Parade, Highlands Ranch, July 4, 2023; assemble at 7:00 AM (see flyers)
- Forgotten Heroes Campaign Presentation, American Legion Post 1 (I-25 and E Yale Ave, 11:00 AM)
- Next Board Meeting: Saturday, July 29, 2023 at 9:00 AM On-Line
- Next Membership Meeting: August 5, 2023 at 9:00AM
- Chapter Summer Picnic, Saturday, August 12, 2023, Falcon Park, Highlands Ranch

MEETING ADJOURNED by Dave Lyons, President at 10:54 AM.

This Chapter Membership Meeting minutes submitted by Milt Omoto for Sally Ann Eaves, Chapter Secretary

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Circulation Notice: These minutes may contain sensitive and/or personal information; therefore, please use discretion when sharing this information with non-VVA members

Note: This is the web version of the minutes posted to the Chapter website.