

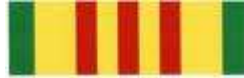


Nam Express

The Official Newsletter
VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA CHAPTER 377
Chapter Established November 2, 1987
2272 Dryden Road, Dryden, New York 13053



*"Here's to us who fought for it, the sheltered shall never know the price, or glory, of freedom."
by an anonymous Vietnam soldier.*



November 2020



The next chapter meeting is on November 10th at 1:00 pm.

AMERICAN FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY



On Friday September 18, 2020, at 6:30 pm in Homer, New York, members of Chapter 377, participated in the Flag Retirement with Honors to POW/MIA Recognition Day. We would like to thank Brenda and Ken Clark for inviting us to this beautiful event.

Members present at the Homer ceremony were Mike Portzline, Kevin Walsh, Jim Evener, Greg Harvey, Kim Walsh, Dale VanBenschoten, Gary Napieracz and Lisa LaDieu.



Cayuga County Memorial Dedication

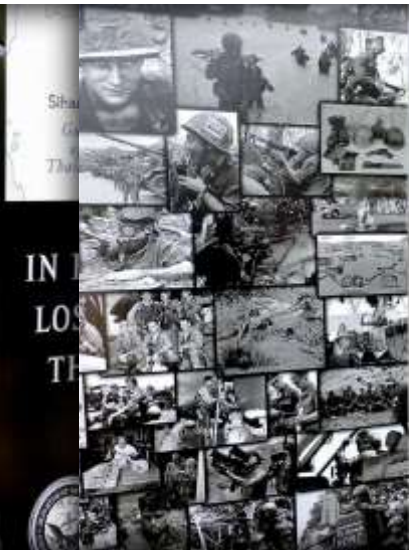
On September 19, 2020 at 1 pm, Chapter 704 Vietnam Veterans of America from Auburn, New York, dedicated their memorial to Cayuga County residents who died in Vietnam. Several members of Chapter 377 were present to pay tribute to the occasion.



Lou Patti, Chapter 704



Paul Koekebacker
Paul Koekebacker



Dale Van Benschoten



Jim Jones



Mike Portzline



Lisa LaDieu AVVA member







VIETNAM MEMORIAL

Centerport Aqueduct Park

September 19, 2020



THE VOICE OF CHAPTER 377

**STAY TUNED, NO EXPLANATION WILL BE
REQUIRED**



Cheryl Wunder, Dale Van Benschoten, Greg Harvey, Fred Dexter, Mike Moran, Gene Barnes



Cornell Veterans Colleague Network Group, Team RWB Create a Special on-line Tribute to POW/MIAs

Hi all,

Please join the Cornell Veterans Colleague Network Group, Team RWB Ithaca, the Tompkins County Department of Veterans Services and Cornell ROTC us as we commemorate POW/MIA Recognition Day 2020 virtually. In a regular year, we would be joining the Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 377 for their 30th annual Watchfire but this year, to promote safety, they have cancelled the in-person event and helped us create a very special online tribute:

<https://youtu.be/u7xrTCPcX1k>

My personal thanks to Jack and Grace, without whose unstinting time, engagement, and technical expertise, this video would not have come together so beautifully.

Stay well,

Emily

Emily Franco, US Army
Member at Large
Veteran's Colleague Network Group

Jack McSorley
MIDN 1/C, Cornell NROTC
Brigade Commander, Cornell Tri-Service Brigade

Grace Ding
MIDN 1/C, Cornell NROTC

2020....What a year.

By: Lisa Ladieu



So many events missed and yet we seem to keep close and make our own “events”. Gary and the crew are always in touch trying to figure out ways to keep 2020 from becoming a complete bust. Not in my wildest dreams could I have ever figured that we would have a Flag Retirement ceremony. Not only one event but two...that’s later in the story.

Gary managed to put together, with the help of Brenda and Ken Clark, a beautiful flag retirement at Tartan Acres in Homer. On top of a huge mountain surrounded by rolling hills, trees changing colors because of the fall, a beautiful clear sky, and alpacas....yep, I said alpacas. They were a hoot and we all enjoyed watching them run around having fun. Especially me. I felt like a little kid and ran over to the fence to try and pet one. Gary followed behind and told me to “Be careful, they spit!” I secretly think that he was hoping it might happen. What a story that would have made.

We all spent time talking and laughing and catching up until it was time to light the fire. The sooner the better we all hoped because it was so cold....like hats, gloves, coats, and YELLOW SCARVE cold. We all know who that is. Finally it was time. The flags had already been folded and placed in the pile before we arrived thanks to the Kevin and Kim Walsh and, Ken and Brenda Clark. So we just needed some kerosene to get the fire underway. Gary and Dale doused the pile and scooted off quick, it took off quick. It didn’t take long for the flames to grow really high because the wind was a little strong. Gary had already called the fire department to let them know about the fire we were planning. Or so we thought...he was on the phone with them after the fact...it all worked out...they didn’t show up.

I was asked to sing The National Anthem as the flames got higher. I know personally that the fire was rising up fast because I have never sung the song so fast in my life. By the “Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave “ I had inched myself practically behind the people listening to me. My backside felt like it was on fire.

It was a glorious fire filled with many colors and we were all very happy and proud to be a part of the evening.

Now the second fire which was to take place in Dryden didn't happen because of the wind. We know this because Gary received a call from Mike Moran who was in Dryden with the hopes of having a fire too. He was put on speaker phone and we all had the chance to yell out “Hi” to him. Mike then processed to ask if we had been drinking. We expressed to him that we were just having a great night. The Dryden retirement of the flags will happen at a later date.

It didn't take long for the fire to become embers but we all stuck around. We sang songs, told stories, and wished that someone would have brought marshmallows for s'mores. What a time we had. Hopefully soon we will be able to create memories, that is if the world around us gets back to some kind of normalcy.

Thank you so much to Brenda and Ken for lending us your beautiful land and for your hospitality. You were great hosts and it meant the world to us that you did this. We will never forget it.

I want to thank all who were there. Gary, Mike P., Dale, Jim, Kevin, Kim, Greg, Brenda and Ken, for making the night, a night to remember.

MEMBER PROFILE

Thomas E. Margrave, AKA “Tom”

Service; US Army, 1963-1990.

An Armored Cavalry Officer who served with “Cav” units throughout much of his career. He was with Troop B & HHT, 1-1 Cav, 23d Infantry Div. (Americal) in Vietnam, 1969-1970. He taught at West Point and then served with 3d Armored Division in Germany. He was the Chief of the Range Division at Fort Drum. He then attended Language School and the Bangladesh Defense Forces Staff College. He was with the US Western Command, Hawaii. He retired as the Chief of Army Division, Office of the Defense representing Pakistan.



Civilian Occupations:

1993 to present; Episcopal Priest, Cortland NY.

2005-2011; Disaster Chaplain's Service of NY (working with American Red Cross).

2011 to present; Disaster volunteer with CNY Chapter of American Red Cross.

2001 to present; Chaplain & Firefighter.

He is married with two sons and a daughter. Hobbies are fishing & hunting, small boat sailing, reading military history, snow sports and cycling.

His fun fact is; “Like Mark Twain, report of my death was premature!”





CHAPTER INFORMATION

President	Gary Napieracz	315-730-7726
Vice-President	James Evener	315-283-3637
Treasurer	Harvey Baker	607-898-3507
Secretary	Mike Moran	607-539-7728
Directors	Dan Rose, Fran Moore, Ron Dexter, Mike Portzline, Carl Bullock, Tom Margrave, Paul Pagliario, Dale VanBenschoten, Gene Barnes, Charles Harrington, Larry Housel, Ralph Moss	
CHAPTER CALENDAR		
November 10,	1:00	Chapter Meeting
December 1,	1:00	Chapter Meeting
January 4,2021	1:00	Chapter Meeting
MEETINGS ARE HELD @ AMERICAN LEGION DRYDEN RD.		

Dryden DVMH CALENDAR:

Next Board meeting will be November 24, 2020 @ 5:30 PM

*****a full menu is available every day (closed Mondays)*****

The director for the Home is Michelle Morse; she can be contacted at 844-9900, or shelba3@hotmail.com.

November Calendar

- 11/1 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 11/3 Election Day
- 11/10 1775, US Marine Corps established
- 11/11 Veterans Day**
- 11/13 1982, Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated
- 11/22 1963, President J.F. Kennedy Assassinated
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Day

FROM CHAPTER 377 SECRETARY

Members present 20, 4 AVVA. 15 gathered for lunch at the home before the meeting. Meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm Pledge of Allegiance. Prayers by Holly Hollingsworth. Dedications: Douglas Fitzpatrick, 87, USAF Korea George Apgar, 79, USA Herbert Jacobs, 78, USA

Secretary's. Report; waived

Treasure Report: Report was read and passed. National sent a check for 1/3 of our annual Membership dues rebates, due to COVID. A discussion on costs of Newsletter mailings. Harvey Baker suggested that we donate \$250.00 to the DVHM. Discussion followed. A motion to give the DVHM \$350.00 was passed. A donation by Dave Waldman was made to the chapter.

Announcement: Covid Guidelines will be observed at all Chapter meetings and events we participate it.

Next meeting will be November 10, 2020 due to Election Day on November 3.

Old Business:

Ron Pluck reports that the Tompkins County Veterans Memorial, DeWitt Park cleanup is still going on each Thursday at 7:00am. The Sons of Union Veterans are having problems getting members there, so we (Chapter 377) will continue cleanup in Oct/Nov. This takes about an hour just picking up small stuff. In September, the American & POW/MIA flags were cut down and desecrated by unknown persons. A police report was filed.

Thanks were given to Brenda (retired Colonel USAF) & Ken Clark of Homer for their offering of their property for a Flag Retirement/Watchfire on September 18,2020.

Paul Pagliario spoke of the nice Cayuga County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication in Weedsport that the Chapter attended in September.

The topic of using "cut our Stars" from retired US Flags for fundraising or memorials was revisited from September's meeting. Pro and Cons about legality/ethics/memorializing veterans were talked

of. Does the Chapter want to participate in such a project? Tabled for further meetings.

VP Jim Evener is still looking for volunteers to go through the chapter scrapbooks and photos to sort and organize them. Contact him if you are available (a great winter project).

New Business:

Homer Living History Center may have a third informal Veterans/Watchfire there on 11/11. Details to follow.

VVA National Newsletter will now only be online due to cost savings. Go to VVA.org to read the paper.

Ithaca has cancelled it's Veterans Day Parade. We do not know if any Ceremonies will be done at DeWitt Park. We WILL have at least a Pop Up/Flash Mob/ Protest Dedication there on 11/11 at 11am. Details to follow!

There was a discussion of resuming our informal lunch get-togethers once a month. Prez. Gary will organize.

Some Members have been concerned about the health of Dr. Garber at the Tompkins/Cortland VA Clinic. He is the primary doctor for many of the Chapter members. His Staff assured us he was doing OK. Discussion on how great all the staff there are. We have previously given a Certificate of Achievement and photo to them.

Prez. Gary asked members to think of something the Chapter can do to continue the legacy of Vietnam Veterans. We have provided three granite memorial benches in our area. Cortland County's Memorial Park has need of a "perpetual Flame". Is this something we should be involved in? Are there other ideas?

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm
Next Meeting at 11/10/20 at 1:00pm @ American Legion

WRITERS' FORUM

If you've read or written

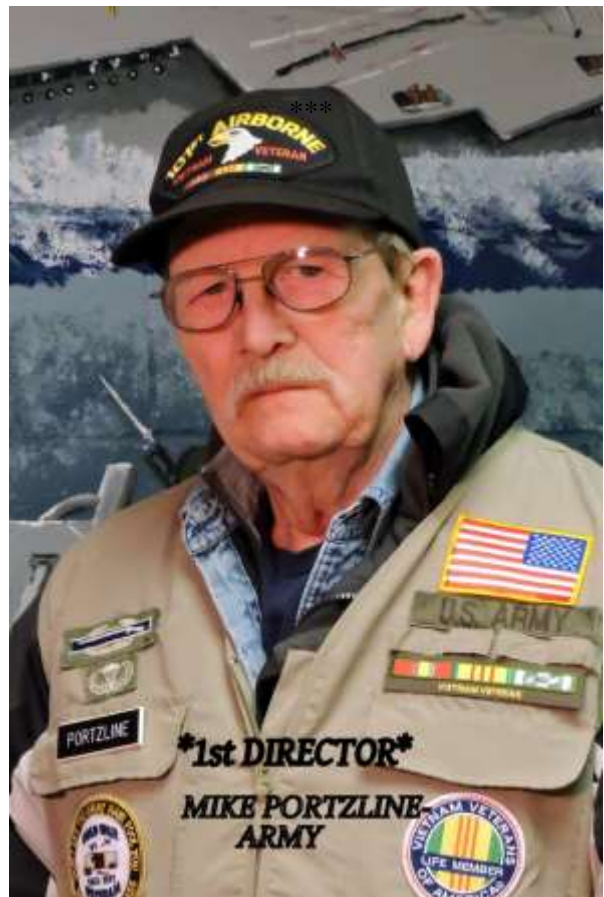
something you'd like to share in the Nam Express, please send it to gsmith1264@comcast.net or to 1264 Glatco Lodge Rd., Hanover, PA 17331, or call 717-698-1343.

CORRECTION: In the October issue of the newsletter we had listed the key note speaker at the 9/11 Ceremony as Lt. Col. Kim Walsh. Her rank at retirement was Colonel.

STORIES & NEWS

Chapter Member Active in Community Service

Mike Portzline from Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 377, from Dryden, New York has donated canned goods and other packages of food to the Moravia, New York thrift store for years. The store has a food bank for people who need a little help feeding their families. The chapter is fortunate to have members like Mike who go over and above to support our local community.



Members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 377, from Dryden, New York have collected and donated bicycles to Lee Miller of Locke, New York who repairs them and then gives them to area children. According to Mr. Miller "The young kids who get these bikes could not be happier. You see them ride around town on these bikes and some of them ride these bikes in Groton's Ole

Home Days parade." He asked that the Chapter continue its efforts to refurbish the bikes. "This is better than scrapping them for a few dollars. Getting bicycles to kids is more important"



Media Contact:

Katie Gorscak, (202) 418-2156
katie.gorscak@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

FCC DESIGNATES '988' AS 3-DIGIT NUMBER FOR NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

Action Will Help Combat Rising Suicide Rates by Making It Easier for Americans in Crisis to Obtain Assistance from Trained Counselors

WASHINGTON, July 16, 2020—Today, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules to establish 988 as the new, nationwide, 3-digit phone number for Americans in crisis to connect with suicide prevention and mental health crisis counselors. The rules require all phone service providers to direct all 988 calls to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by July 16, 2022. During the transition to 988, Americans who need help should continue to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling 1-800-273-8255 (1-800-273-TALK) and through [online chats](#). Veterans and Service members may reach the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) by pressing 1 after dialing, chatting online at www.veteranscrisisline.net, or texting 838255.

The new rules will apply to all telecommunications carriers as well as all interconnected and one-way Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service providers. They provide for a two-year transition, reflecting the real challenges of this nationwide effort, including the need for widespread network changes and providing time for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to prepare for the expected increase in the volume of calls. Under these rules, calls to 988 will be directed to 1-800-273-TALK, which will remain operational during the 988 transition and after it is completed. To ensure that calls to 988 reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, all covered providers will be required to implement 10-digit dialing in areas that both use seven-digit dialing and use 988 as the first three numbers in seven-digit phone numbers.

Since 2008, suicide has ranked as the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. Suicide claimed the lives of more than 48,000 Americans in 2018, resulting in about one death every 11 minutes. An FCC staff [report](#) to Congress in 2019 proposed establishing 988 as an easy to remember three-digit code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Staff analyzed various options and determined 988 was the best option for increasing access to crisis resources and ensuring the fastest possible transition. Establishing the easy-to-remember 988 as the "911" for suicide prevention and mental health services will make it easier for Americans in crisis to access the help they need and decrease the stigma surrounding suicide and mental health issues.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of approximately 170 crisis centers. The centers are supported by local and state, and public and private sources, as well as by Congressional appropriations through the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is the access point for the Veterans Crisis Line, which is managed by the [United States Department of Veterans Affairs](#).

Action by the Commission July 16, 2020 by Report and Order (FCC 20-100). Chairman Pai, Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel, and Starks approving and issuing separate statements.

WC Docket No. 18-336

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Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

POW/MIA Recoveries & Burials Reported 16 thru 30 SEP 2020 (8)

“Keeping the Promise“, “Fulfill their Trust” and “No one left behind” are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation. The number of Americans who remain missing from conflicts in this century as of FEB 2019 are: World War II 73,025 of which over 41,000 are presumed to be lost at sea, Korean War 7665, Vietnam War 1589 (i. e. VN-1,246, Laos-288, Cambodia-48, & Peoples Republic of China territorial waters-7), Cold War 111, Iraq and other conflicts 5. Over 600 Defense Department men and women -- both military and civilian -- work in organizations around the world as part of DoD's personnel recovery and personnel accounting communities. They are all dedicated to the single mission of finding and bringing our missing personnel home.

For a listing of all missing or unaccounted for personnel to date refer to <http://www.dpaa.mil> and click on ‘Our Missing’. Refer to <https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Year/2019> for a listing and details of those accounted for in 2019. If you wish to provide information about an American missing in action from any conflict or have an inquiry about MIAs, contact:

== Mail: Public Affairs Office, 2300 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D. C. 20301-2300, Attn: External Affairs
Call: Phone: (703) 699-1420

== Message: Fill out form on

<https://www.dpaa.mil/Contact/Contact-Us/>

Family members seeking more information about missing loved ones may also call the following Service Casualty Offices: U. S. Air Force (800) 531-5501, U. S. Army (800) 892-2490, U. S. Marine Corps (800) 847-1597, U. S. Navy (800) 443-9298, or U. S. Department of State (202) 647-5470. The names, photos, and details of the below listed MIA/POW's which have been recovered, identified, and/or scheduled for burial since the publication of the last RAO Bulletin are listed on the following sites:

<https://www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly>

<https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/News-Releases/>

<http://www.thepatriotspage.com/Recovered.htm>

<https://www.pow-miafamilies.org/>

<https://www.pownetwork.org/bios/b/b012.htm>

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>

Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipients

One or more Vietnam Medal of Honor recipients will be memorialized each month until all recipients have been acknowledged.



Terry Teruo Kawamura, Corporal, United States Army

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Cpl. Kawamura distinguished himself by heroic action while serving as a member of the 173d Engineer Company. An enemy demolition team infiltrated the unit quarters area and opened fire with automatic weapons. Disregarding the intense fire, Cpl. Kawamura ran for his weapon. At that moment, a violent explosion tore a hole in the roof and stunned the occupants of the room. Cpl. Kawamura jumped to his feet, secured his weapon and, as he ran toward the door to return the enemy fire, he observed that another explosive charge had been thrown through the hole in the roof to the floor. He immediately realized that 2 stunned fellow soldiers were in great peril and shouted a warning. Although in a position to escape, Cpl. Kawamura unhesitatingly wheeled around and threw himself on the charge. In completely disregarding his safety, Cpl. Kawamura prevented serious injury or death to several members of his unit. The extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed by Cpl. Kawamura are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.



HOW ABOUT A DD-214... AND AN 11B MOS?

IN-COUNTRY VET



Happy Birthday:

11/2, Kevin Grewe
11/7, Rene Sylvester
11/10, David Putnam
11/11, Ron Dexter
11/14, Dale Van Benschoten
11/15, David Stein
11/17, Barry Dexter
11/23, Jim Evener
11/24, Robert Christopher
11/28, Vernon Collins



Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another]



Veterans in immediate crisis may call the Veterans Crisis Line at (800-273-8255 then press 1, text 838255 or chat online at veteran Crisis Line.net/get-help/chat. For more information on VA's mental program, visit (www.mentalhealth.va.gov)

The paper copy of this newsletter is printed by
Thank You!



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Heartland Farm Horse Supplies

9105 Rt. 96, Interlakin, NY

*The Little Shop with Something
for Everyone at Affordable Prices*