



## September 2017 NEWSLETTER

### From the Chapter President



*"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*

#### WELCOME HOME

Hello there, as summer winds down-I have heard the geese flying over- and we get to reclaim the area we have some work to do for fund raising. I am still waiting to hear any ideas from members that want to chair a fund raiser. We have the VVA POPPY fund raiser all ready to go. i.e.- we are all dressed up but need a place to go. If a member knows a business manager/owner that would let us setup let me know. We would simply hand out VVA POPPYS and have donation can on table. No solicitation for funds. Request letter is attached and will also be available at September meeting. Thanks to those who donated to help get POPPY fund started. This will help with our charity donations. --

Friday September 11 is POW-MIA Recognition Day. Please take a moment to reflect on this. I remember when VVA first started, one of their main goals was full accounting for those left behind.- Our VVA picnic is on Saturday, September 16 1-5PM at Roxanna Moose Lodge. Many thanks to them for hosting us again. If you haven't signed up yet please do so. We need head count for food. Free to VVA and AVVA members and \$10 for non members.-

I received a call from Patricia, manager of Castle in the Sand asking if we could

donate some bottled water for "Surfers Healing" event on That Wednesday. They bring over 200 autistic children to the Castle and teach them fundamentals of surfing. The effect this has on these special people is astounding. We donated 40 cases of bottled water and was well used. Thanks Eddie Lewis for helping. Google -Surfers Healing- and view OC video. Castle donated a Hotel Stay for our very first fund raising event. Way to go Castle.

Sept. 11 is Patriot Day. Lets hand out some hand held flags at Fireman's Memorial on boardwalk.--

September 18 is 70th Birthday of the U.S. Air Force. Damn, I am older than the Air Force. Sept. 24 is Gold Star Mothers Day. God Bless Them.-

Operation "Seas the Day" is September 5-10, 2017. They bring WW's down and treat them to a week of Ocean healing. Parade is on Friday Sept. 8 and we will be handing out Flags again to crowd. wanna help? Hope to see everyone at meeting on Monday, Sept. 4 (Labor Day) Social at 5PM, meeting at 6PM. Until Then. Welcome Home.

Your Prez,

Nelson Kelly

## Service Officer Report on Veterans Legislation

This month I want to report on the Veterans Legislation passed so far this year. Some of these Bills are to improve the VA and others improve Benefits used by all Veterans. Bills S-544 and S-114 extend and provide funding for the Choice program for at least 6 months (it is expected that Congress will be working on a replacement for the Choice program during that time). Vietnam Veterans were officially recognized with a Federal Holiday on March 29th of each year.

The Bills are as follows:

March 28, 2017: S. 305 - "Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017"

This bill adds National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29) as a holiday upon which the American flag should be prominently displayed.

April 19, 2017: S. 544 - "An Act to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the termination date for the Veterans Choice Program, and for other purposes"

This law extends the "Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014," eliminating its August 7, 2017 sunset date and allowing it function until the money in the Veterans Choice Fund is gone. It also makes the VA the primary payer for "for medical care relating to non-service connected disabilities" and allows the VA to share medical information with non-VA agencies providing medical services to veterans.

June 23, 2017: S. 1094 - "Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017"

This law gives the agency's leaders the ability to fire inept employees and protect those who uncover and report wrongdoing at the VA.

August 12, 2017: S. 114 - To authorize appropriations and to appropriate amounts for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve hiring authorities of the Department, to authorize major medical facility leases, and for other purposes

Aiming to increase transparency under this new law, the Department of Veterans Affairs must report back to Congressional panels each year about bonuses given to its regional leadership.

August 16, 2017: H.R. 3218 - Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017

Also known as the "Forever GI Bill," this law expands opportunity for veterans to use their educational benefits, most prominently getting rid of a 15-year time limit on using educational benefits for veterans who left active duty in 2013 or later. It also makes it easier for veterans to find schools that give them priority enrollment. It passed unanimously in the House and Senate.

August 23, 2017: H.R.2288 - Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act is designed to "streamline the lengthy process that veterans undergo when appealing their claims for disability benefits" with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Improvement and Modernization Act will, at least in theory, help veterans navigate the VA system and challenge rejected benefit claims. It is also intended to reduce the appeals backlog with new approaches for veterans seeking benefits. VA says it will take 18 months to setup the new appeals system.

Bill Wolf  
VVA VSO

# A Note from the Chaplain

Lord our God, as you are with us please also be with and shelter the Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action in all wars and conflicts. Comfort them and their families with some sign of your presence. O Lord, these gallant men and women who bore so great a burden must not be forsaken or forgotten. God of justice who we pray-your compassion we beseech for those for whom no accounting has been made. Amen

September 11th- Patriotic Day-take a moment on this day for those we lost.

September 15th- National POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Post #166 will have a service at 1400hrs.

Chaplain Sarge Garlitz 443-735-1942 sargegar@msn.com

---

## Membership

Through the end of July, 2017 Chapter #1091 has 56 Life Members, 23 Individual Members and 2 Veterans Incarcerated along with 1 Life Member pending. Total of 82 strong!

AVVA HAS 10 supporting members.

Next chapter meeting, first Monday of September 5:30 PM.

Bring an eligible friend or relative with you to join our active Chapter!

Bob Gilmore

---

## VVA Apparel

VVA members, we still have the following apparel items:

Long Sleeve Black Shirts - L-1, XL-1

Black Sweat Shirts - XL-2, XXXL-3

Black Golf Shirts - L-1, XL-3

White Golf Shirts - L-4, XL-1

We ordered new (6ea) VVA black hats and (6ea) VVA white hats. They are in now. If you want a hat see me!

Thanks,  
Bob Smith

## VVA Apparel

VVA members, we still have the following apparel items:

Long Sleeve Black Shirts - L-1, XL-1

Black Sweat Shirts - XL-2, XXXL-3

Black Golf Shirts - L-1, XL-3

White Golf Shirts - L-4, XL-1

We have ordered new ( 6ea) VVA black hats and (6ea) VVA white hats. Should be in soon. Will keep you posted.

Thanks,

Bob Smith

---

## Call Us

If you need to call one of your officers for any reason, please use our new Chapter 1091 telephone number 410-213-5228. This will give you a recorded message that tells how to get to our officers, "press 1 for President Nelson Kelly", "press 2 for VP Gerald Barrons", etc. It also has a "press 0 for information", when you press this you will get a choice of two recorded messages, one will give you information about our Chapter and when it meets and the other about upcoming events (this one should change monthly). How it works is that when you press a number for an officer it forwards your call to that officer's cell phone, so you only have to remember one number instead of 6. It also gives one point of contact for any callers, give it a try and let me know how you like it.

Remember you can email us at [oceancityvva@gmail.com](mailto:oceancityvva@gmail.com) and please check the calendar on our website for upcoming activities at <http://www.vvachapter1091.org> and "like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/oceancityvva1091/>.

---

Please mark your calendars as our next Meeting will be October 2, 2017 at 5:00 PM