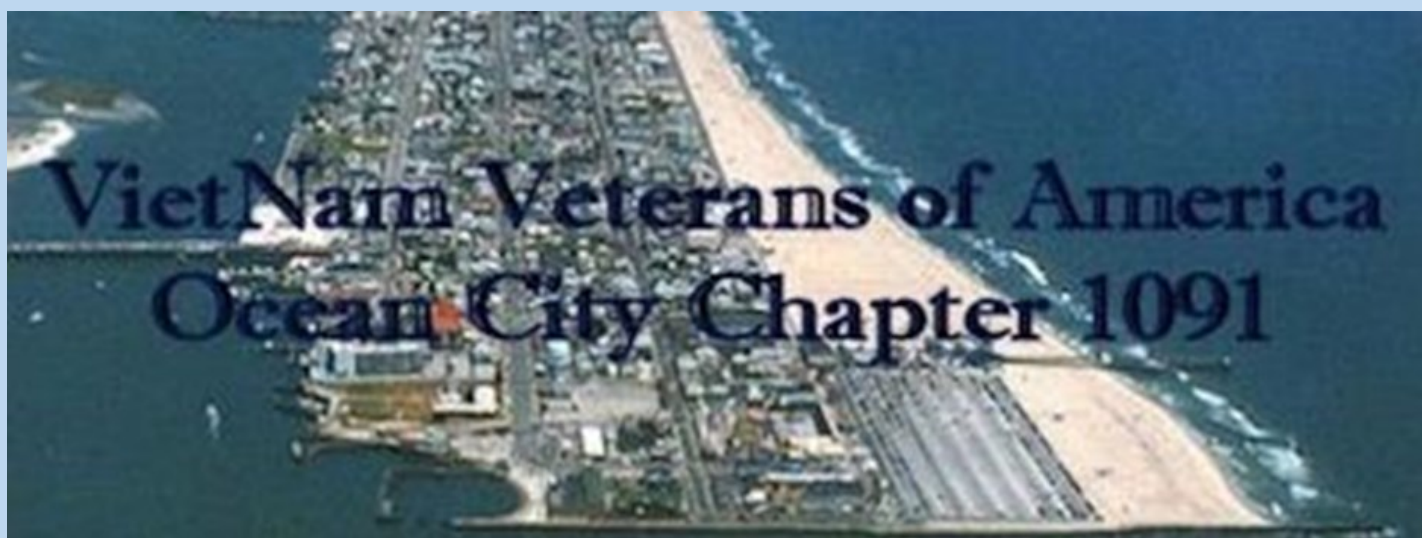




# WELCOME HOME



## NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2018



# FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

## WELCOME HOME

Holiday newsletter for VVA 1091

First and very first may everyone have a wonderful and blessed Christmas and Holidays.

VVA lost a member and good friend recently. Jim McGrath passed away. Jim was instrumental in helping MCVETS get started years ago. He hung in there Marine Corps tough until the end.

We attended and participated in Veteran Day Services at both Worcester County Veterans Memorial and American Legion Post 166. Both services very nice.

We donated 300 hand held flags to Lighthouse Christian School Veterans Day Service held on Friday Nov. 16, 2018. Last year they honored Vietnam Veterans and this year Korean Veterans. We donated 30 Korean Veteran lapel pins and Korea "I Served" bumper stickers. This is a outstanding program with grades 1-6 doing skits and songs honoring Veterans. Just outstanding.

We cosponsored a Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service with Post 166. We were honored with a WWII Veteran Stan Czajka that served at Pearl Harbor in the grizzly clean up effort. Thank You Stan. The reason they call your generation "The Greatest Generation" is easy-because you are.

We are in the process of starting a Scholarship for Stephen Decatur High School NJROTC. Thanks to Bill Gibbs for helping us to get financially started. Scholarship To be named

" The Barry Berger Memorial Scholarship" More on this as it develops.

Don't forget our Holiday/6<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary "HAIR OFF THE DOG THAT BIT YOU PARTY" on Tue. Jan. 1, 2019. 1-5pm. Flier on this soon.

Keep our military in your thoughts and prayers through this Blessed season.

Next meeting on Monday Jan. 7. 5pm social 6pm meeting. I will be headed South on Jan.17 and returning on March 23. Gerry Barron will be taking over during my absence.

Thanks and stay safe.

Your Prez Nelson Kelly

# MEMBERSHIP

## Chapter #1091 Current Membership:

VVA#1091.	AVVA#1091
Individual 1&3 Yr. 13	Individual 1&3 Yr. Members- 9
Veterans Incarcerated-2. Life Members-80.	Veterans Incarcerated-2 Life Members-4

**\*\*Note\*\*** Effective in November 2018 National VVA has announced dues structure changes to membership.

Going forward all memberships in VVA will be Lifetime.

\*Upon renewal of current membership all 1yr Individual Members will become Lifetime Members at a reduced renewal fee of \$50.

\*Upon renewal of current membership all 3 yr. Individual Members will Become Lifetime Members automatically at no charge.

\* All new members will be Lifetime Members for a \$50 charge.

### **ECI VISIT November 28, 2018:**

Four members of Chapter #1091 visited and had lunch with both East & West Veterans Incarcerated groups at ECI.

We were warmly received by both groups and attended their brief group meetings. We were also permitted to bring copies of our VVA Magazine along with many VVA 2019 Calendars. This is a very much appreciated Chapter #1091 Outreach Program.

I encourage any member that would like to join in our next Spring visit to ECI to contact me on our VVA TN (410)213-5228

Bob Gilmore

# FROM THE SERVICE OFFICER

## The Veterans Choice program, is it still alive?

I think everyone had heard that the Veteran's Choice Program was dead, that is far from the truth. In June the President signed the Mission Act of 2018 which added 5 Billion dollars to keep the program alive and to initiate the new "Veterans Community Care Program". The VA has been given a year to setup the new program, so don't expect it to be a reality until June of 2019. In the meantime, we still have the "Veterans Choice Program".

The big change with it is that the contract with HealthNet expired and the VA has taken over administering the program here in the east. Eligibility for the Choice Program remains the same as it has been based on one or more of the following conditions:

- VA can't provide the services the Veteran needs
- VA can't make an appointment for the Veteran at the nearest VA medical facility within 30 days of the clinically indicated date (the date the Veteran and their VA provider agree should be the next date the Veteran is seen for care)-or, if VA can't determine this date-the date the Veteran prefers to be seen next
- Veteran lives more than 40 miles (driving distance) from the nearest VA medical facility with a full-time primary care physician
- Veteran has to travel by air, boat, or ferry to get to the nearest VA medical facility

Veteran faces an excessive burden in traveling to the nearest VA medical facility (such as geographic challenges, environmental factors, or a health problem that makes it hard for you to travel)

To use the Veterans Choice Program, Veterans must receive prior authorization from VA to receive care from a provider that is part of VA's VCP network of community providers. The authorization is based on specific eligibility requirements and discussions with the Veteran's VA provider. VA must authorize care that is needed beyond the scope of the first authorization.

For more information about the Choice Program go online to: <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/VCP/index.asp>

For more information concerning the "Mission Act" go online to: <https://www.va.gov/oei/missionact>

You have probably heard that the Mission Act privatizes the VA, it does NOT! The VA in fact will be administering the new program and it will have 4 contractors (the US has been divided into 4 regions) who will handle the billing from providers. The VA will oversee the program, that's why they were given the year to set everything up. As more information comes out about the new program, I will pass it along. But for now, use the Choice Program!

Bill Wolf, VVA - VA Certified Veterans Service Officer

# FROM THE CHAPLAIN

It has been a half of a century or longer, that many reading this were in the Country of Vietnam. Away from relatives, friends and neighbor who should have supported your military efforts. Being a great distance from "home" you had to make the best of it, because the war was a 24/7 type of duty. The USO sent entertainers etc. for the season but for many this did not fill the void. The war was intense, still you did your war job.

You made it home but many did not. I am sure this takes you back to the Christmas time you spent in Nam and the buddies you were with. If you are reading this, "welcome home".

You left many friends in Nam and around the United States. It is time to get in touch with them and share with them thoughts on how good a friend or team mate they were. A half a century is a long time and your phone call is being waited on as you are waiting for your phone to ring.

Sarge Garlitz, Chaplain

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Headquarters, 7th Battalion 15th Artillery

APO San Francisco 96368

AVGK-AB-CO

22 December 1968 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

ALL OF OUR THOUGHTS ARE OF HOME AND LOVED ONES IN THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON,  
WHICH MORE THAN ANY OTHER HOLIDAY, BINDS FAMILIES IN UNITY.

I PRAY THAT EACH OF YOU WILL DRAW STRENGTH OF CHARACTER  
FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM, AND THAT YOU WILL RECALL THIS  
YEAR OF DIFFICULT SERVICE, WITH HONOR, AND WITH PRIDE. MAY  
EACH OF YOU RETURN HOME SAFELY TO ENJOY OTHER CHRISTMAS  
HOLIDAYS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

I EXTEND MY SINCERE WISHES TO EACH OF YOU FOR A PLEASANT AND  
MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND FOR A NEW YEAR OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

LTC HENRY E. SIMPSON, JR.

U.S. ARMY Field Artillery Commanding

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Throughout the Christian world, the Christmas season is a time of joy and spiritual inspiration. Despite separation from our families and the

hardships imposed by war, those of us in Vietnam will still share the

traditional Christmas spirit this year. We can enjoy the spiritual satisfaction that comes from giving. As fighting representatives of the Free World, our gift is the help we give the Vietnamese people to secure their future freedom. Each of you gives a part of this gift and deserves the satisfaction of having increased the happiness of others -- the true Christmas spirit. My best wishes to each of you and your families for the Christmas season.

May you enjoy good fortune during the coming year.

GENERAL W.C. WESTMORELAND

U.S. Army Commanding December 22, 1968

Hey VVA,

Hope everyone is ready for the Holidays. We still have many items (shirts, long sleeve shirts, jackets, etc). Call me, text me or email me, tell me what you would like to have, a phone number, and your size. I will look and see if we have what you want and let you know. Would like hearing from you. If I don't hear from you have a wonderful HOLIDAY.

C 443 614-2503

E [rls.terps22@gmail.com](mailto:rls.terps22@gmail.com)

Thanks,

Robert Smith



At Our December Membership Meeting William Gibbs, a High School friend of Barry Berger, presented the Chapter with a check for \$2,000.00 for the Barry Berger Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund will be used for scholarships for the NJROTC Cadets at Stephen Decatur. In the picture receiving the check on the left is Vice President Gerry Barrons (Filling in for President Nelson Kelly) and on the right is Jack Hyle Sgt-at-Arms for the Chapter. Presenting the check is William Gibbs of Dough Roller Restaurants of Ocean City.

## 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. 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/> .

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Remember, our Chapter Birthday Celebration will be on January 1, 2019 from 1-5 PM and our next membership meeting will be January 7, 2019 at the American Legion, 2308 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City, MD.

Social Hour begins and Food will be served at 5:00 PM,  
Membership Meeting at 6:00 PM.

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Vietnam Veterans of America, Ocean City Chapter 1091,  
2308 Philadelphia Ave, P.O. Box 1343, Ocean City, MD 21842