

The Voice of 436

May 2018



Major Louis. F. Guillermin Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 436



Next meeting:

May 9th, 7:30 p.m.

@ VFW Post 845

4601 West Lincoln Hwy.

Downingtown, PA 19335

610 269-8818

<http://www.vva436.org>

Bad weather cancellations:

email notices will be sent or call Post 845 for updates

Chapter officers 2017-2018

President: Frank Houck

1st V.P.: Dave McTavish

2nd V.P.: Barry Amole

Treasurer: Jim Doedderlein

Directors: Robert Gallagher

Chris Pitt

Sandy Lopacki

Vince DiLodovico

Bud McCullough

The April 11th meeting of VVA Chapter 436 was called to order at 1935 hours by President Frank Houck with 25 members present, including 11 Officers and Directors. President Houck led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for our POW-MIAs. Jed Burns gave the invocation. A Motion (Amole, Maher) to accept the Secretary's Report of 3/14/18 as distributed and posted was approved unanimously, as were two other Motions, one (Weimer, Pitt) to accept the Treasurer's Report, and the other (Doedderlein, Morris) to approve the SGOC Report.

The evening's speaker, Col. John C. Church, USMC (Ret.), was introduced by Jed Burns. Col. Church recently completed two years as Superintendent at the Valley Forge Military Academy. His father and uncle were both decorated combat veterans, and he joked that, "You can always tell a Marine, but you can't tell hum much."

Much of Col. Church's comments centered around specific needs of society most often found in certain groups such as Native American tribes and, of course, the US military. Those characteristics include: *"loyalty, shared sacrifice, selflessness, and sense of duty."* He referred frequently t(1) the book, *"Tribe,"* by Sebastian Junger, which discusses the eternal human quest

for meaning and the innate drive for people to belong to small groups defined by a clear purpose and understanding; and (2.) the documentary movie *"Restrepo"* which Junger co-directed after spending a year embedded with the Forward Operating Base of the 2nd Platoon, Battle Co., 173rd Airborne Brigade, chronicling the work, fears, and loyalty of those troops in northeast Afghanistan, near the Pakistan border. In the book, Junger asks, "What does it say about a society when you don't have to do anything to be an adult?" Native Americans live by this brand of unity and loyalty, historically because of the danger of being attacked by outsiders, and they have a "HABO (Help A Brother Up)" culture. He noted that war is evil, but once you're involved in a war you focus on those tenets which you can't find anywhere else but in the military.

He commended the members for their service and for displaying the values he had been describing, reminding us that only a very small percentage of Americans ever serve in the military where we need the best and the brightest to serve, because the numbers of those who believe in such shared loyalty are diminishing rapidly.

Afterwards, the Colonel was presented with the VVA challenge coin and a Michael Crescenz MoH memorial coin as well.

Upcoming Meetings

Regular membership meetings are held the 2nd Wednesdays of the month, exclusive of July & August.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for May 9th, usual time and place.

Scheduled speaker is Christine Beady, Executive Director, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

Speaker scheduled for the June 13th meeting is Dr. Christopher M. Fiorentino, Ph.D., President, West Chester University.

Website: <http://www.vva436.org> Visit the site often and provide your feedback to webmaster Phil Prinzi. Any items you'd like to see posted should be routed through Ken Schweitzer first. Please help us maintain this valuable resource.

Newsletter: Following the discussion at the March meeting, there will be some notable changes in what specific financial details are included in these newsletters and what information will be left in the Minutes posted in the Members section of the website. As always, our thanks to John Morris and Jim Doedderlein for helping get these missives out on time. Send any items for possible inclusion to www.vva436@gmail.com or to jmahermdmph@yahoo.com.

Membership: As of 1 April 2018, Membership Chair Jim Doedderlein reports we had 144 regular members and 12 Associate members. You can help the cause by inviting any unaffiliated VN vets (or VN-era vets) you meet to visit the website and attend the meetings.

Agent Orange Maynard Kaderlik, Chair of VVA's AO & Dioxin Committee, expressed sadness and frustration at the slow pace of AO legislation in Congress, saying the decisions on presumptives based on the March, 2016, IOM Report are long overdue. Bob Stone emphasizes that members should continue to visit the website for any AO updates. He also strongly urged that if you have been diagnosed with Diabetes following AO exposure you should be sure to file a claim, and not rely on the VA providers to take care of that.

Membership form

Regular membership in VVA is open to any Veteran who served *anywhere* during the Vietnam War era.

Mail to PO Box 189
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Email: _____ Born: ____/____/____

- Dues: \$20.00/year (regular and associate memberships). **VVA Life Membership: \$100**
- I served in the US military, for other than training purposes, between 8/5/64 and 5/7/75
- I served in the US military in Vietnam between 2/21/61 and 8/5/64.
- DD214 enclosed (Applications without DD214s will be processed as associate memberships)
- I wish to join the Associates of the VVA. (No military service needed) (No age limits)
- AVVA Life Membership.** Cost based on age

Visitors and New Members: In addition to the evening's speaker, Jim Roach, from Oxford, PA, was introduced. He is a 29 year member of the US Army and retired in 1995. He is a member of VVA Chapter 67, Media, but finds that Downingtown is closer to his home. Welcome home, Jim!

Incoming Correspondence:

** On May 19th, State Sen. John Rafferty is sponsoring a ceremony to honor US war veterans starting at 1000 hours at the OJR School. Contact his office at 610-831-8830 by May 4th to reserve a seat.

** Also on May 19th, State Rep. Becky Corbin is sponsoring an Armed Forces Appreciation Day breakfast at the Hopewell Methodist Church in Downingtown, at 0930 hours. RSVP by May 11th at 610-524-5595.

** The CVAMC will host the KofC's 8th Annual John Mattis Car Show on June 2nd from 1000 and 1400 hours in Lot E. Contact Jim at 610-733-2310 for details.

** A letter of appreciation was received from Project Healing Waters for our March donation in support of their fly-fishing event.

** The SEVC will hold its 5th Annual Car Show on Saturday, August 11th (rain date: August 12th), between 1000 - 1500 hours. Contact Barry Amole or Ken for details &/or to assist.

** The SEVC and American Legion will hold their 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at the Turtle Creek Golf Course on Friday, September 28th. For details, contact John Massaro at 610-935-1425 or 306-7925.

** The Mission First Housing Group will hold a Welcome Home 2018 fund raising event at the Science History Institute, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, on October 4th. Invitations will be forthcoming.

Education/Scholarship Committee: Jed Burns reported that applications for the scholarships are being received now.

Honor Guard: Frank Houck noted that the Honor Guard will participate in the parade in Kennett Square on Memorial Day, the one in Malvern on the following Saturday, and the Dogwood Festival in Phoenixville on Armed Forces Day. He is still waiting to hear from the Phoenixville VFW as to the sequence of events there.

VA/Veterans Affairs:

** The Association of the US Army is presenting a VN War Commemoration Program at Washington Crossing' Historic Park Visitor's Center on April 19th; doors open 1230; ceremony starts at 1330 hours.

** The US Department of Labor Veterans' Employment & Training Service has announced \$12 million in funding for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, female homeless vets, and homeless vets with families.

** Also, HUD and the VA announced \$43 million available through the HUD-VASH program to 325 local public housing agencies to provide permanent homes to some 5200+ homeless vets.

[Blue print = email addresses](#) • [Red print = website hot links](#)
www.vva436.org: for updates & meetings minutes.

** VA Secretary Shulkin was recently fired despite the support of VVA and other groups; a copy of his NPR radio interview is available on line and is highly recommended listening.

** There will be a Memorial Day service in West Chester on May 20th, and a Friday breakfast at the Ridge Diner at 0830.

Doc's Corner:

** The VA recently treated their 100,000th Hep C patient and hopes to have them all cured by this Fall.

** The VA's Decision Ready Program has been expanded to include more types of claims and expand the pool of vets, service members and surviving families, working through accredited VSOs.

** The VA also has a new update to their appeals status tracker; log on the Vets.gov and click on "Check your claims and appeals status."

** The VA Blog has posted notice of recent charity scams you should know about.

New Business: Several Motions were made and approved unanimously: (1.) (Amole, Gallagher), at the request of Maria Hyland, to support a MSAWI event; (2.) (Stone, Burns) to donate to the KofC in support of the John Mattis Car Show; (3.) (Schweitzer, Stone), to support the post-Memorial Day Parade lunch at VFW Post 845.

Of Interest/Good of the Chapter:

** Ken reported 64 members and guests attended the recent annual luncheon at Limoncello's.

** On May 27th, Rolling Thunder will hold its 31st Memorial Day Ride for Freedom Demonstration in Washington, D.C.; details are on their website <http://www.rollingthunder1.com>.

** Boscov's Friends Helping Friends event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16th. There will be a planning meeting on June 16th. See Chris Pitt for details &/or tickets.

** Frank Houck indicates the new Challenge Coin is in production and, once the final payment is received, is expected to be available by April 25th.

** Ken announced that the CVAMC is planning a spaghetti dinner in May or June.

** Bingo night is scheduled at the SEVC on the 4th Tuesday in May; they need volunteers to help. Contact Ken for details.

** The volunteer coordinator at the SEVC has resigned and they need to find a replacement.

** VVA 40th anniversary coins are available for \$5.00 each with orders of 10 or more. Doc Maher will order 10 of them.

** VVA Chapter 290, MN, has special VN fishing lures for \$10.00, with funds going to AO genetic research.

** Tony Cantone is working with John Morris on a Los Gourmenderos trip in South Philly.

** Fathers' Fest will be June 19th; see Bob Gallagher to help.

** The members made a donation to the General Fund.

** Meeting adjourned at 2045.



Major L. F. Guillermin Memorial Chapter 436

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Phoenixville, PA 19460

Email: vva436@gmail.com

website: <http://www.vva436.org>

[Address label here](#)