

The Voice of 436

April 2021 ✪ Major Louis. F. Guillermin Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 436



Next meeting:
May 12, 2021

Location and time: VFW
Post 845 Downingtown at
1700 hrs (5:00pm)

Bad weather cancellations:
email notices will be sent
or call 484 705-5041

Points of interest from 14 April 2021 meeting. There were 22 members in attendance. Minutes for the past meeting were approved on a MOTION by Amole/Maher, motion was passed unanimously.

Treasures Report and SGOC Report were unanimously approved by a motion made by Bassetti/Maher. Financial are reports available on the website.

Frank strongly recommends that we get the DMVA Digest from the PA Dept. of Military Affairs. The Director of all benefits can be found by calling the VA Benefits at 1-800-myva411.

We currently have 143 members, due to the passing of Joseph Falker, and 9 associate members.

The Coatesville VA is celebrating its 90th Anniversary on 12 May 2021 at 1400hrs. This is a virtual celebration. Please RSVP to Kirk Fernitz by 07 May 2021.

We continue to support Senate Bill 952, The Burn Pit War Fighter's Act.

Scholarship Committee continues to receive scholarship applications as the deadline approaches.

Honor Guard upcoming events include Armed Forces Day flag presentation at Mission BBQ Plymouth Meeting on 15 May 2021 at 12 noon.

Frank recently received an email from Malvern Memorial Day Parade Committee stating the scheduled Sunday June 6 parade, has been rescheduled to 26 September 2021. Frank will represent our Honor Guard in Downingtown on Memorial Day May 31 12 noon in a small ceremony containing Commanders of the local Veterans Service Organizations.

Annual VVA 436 Banquet will be held at The Spring Hollow Country Club on 26 June 2021 from 1300-1600. The meal will be a served affair consisting of numerous appetizers and your choice of 1 of 3 of the following entrees. The entrees are: Medallions of beef tenderloin, Grilled filet of Salmon, and Chicken Francaise. Please contact Frank at frankhouck@gmail.com with your number of reservations requested and each meal choice for your party. The chapter will cover the cost of each member and one guest. For each additional guest, please contact Frank. There will be an open bar for the duration of the banquet.

Chapter officers 2019-2020

President: Frank Houck
1st V.P.: Ken Schweitzer
2nd V.P.: Barry Amole
Secretary: Michael DiPuppo
Treasurer: Jim Doedderlein
Directors: Robert Gallagher
Chris Pitt,
Sandy Lopacki
Vince DiLodovico
Ralph Bassetti
Ron Kosh
D. Fenstamacher

Upcoming
Meetings

The May membership meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021 at 1700hrs/5pm at VFW Post 845 Downingtown PA

Website: [HYPERLINK "http://www.vva436.org/"](http://www.vva436.org/) Webmaster Phil Prinzi continues to do a great job with the site, and would appreciate comments, and suggestions. Regular updates are posted with important issues of concern to the membership. Please visit regularly to stay informed.

Newsletter: We continue to try and improve the quality of our newsletter. Any inputs, suggestions, criticisms are highly encouraged.

VA Membership: Jim Doedderlein reports 143 members and 9 associates.

Agent Orange: See comments

President's Comments: **Chapter Banquet Info: See comments. Contact President Frank at frankhouck@gmail.com for reservations and meal choice.**

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: ____/____/____

- VVA Life Membership: \$50 (this is a reduced price)**
- 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)
- HYPERLINK**
"https://vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Membership-Quick-Reference-Guide-January-2018.pdf" AVVA Life Membership. Price based on age

Crab Fest 2021

Frank will coordinate with Hilltop Crab House for the event. Date and time to be announced (August).

Reading Fightn' Phils Game in August is being coordinated by Barry Amole. Date to be announced.

Agent Orange

Military Times reports troops exposed to Agent Orange outside of Vietnam could be in line for presumptive benefits. New legislation was introduced by Pennsylvania Reps. Matt Cartwright (D), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R) to expand presumption of exposure to Agent Orange for Disability Benefits to veterans who served in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia during the conflict.

DMVA Digest

The Wall That Heals, a ¾ scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be on display May 13-16 from 1-4pm at the Tunkhannock Area Football Field, 200 Franklin Ave. Tunkhannock, PA (Wyoming County). The exhibit is open to the public.

I encourage all Veterans to visit the online PA Veterans Registry to request information related to state benefits and programs and services offered by DMVA. Registrants can also opt-in to receive the weekly electronic DMVA digest, which features program updates, veteran-related news items, employment opportunities, veterans events and much more. To register, see website:

www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/Outreach-and-Reintegration/PennsylvaniaVeteransRegistry.aspx

Vantage Point

VBA is implementing the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. Signed into law March 11, the ARP ensures Veterans have continued access to quality health care and protections against COVID-19, as well as providing economic relief, eliminating claims of backlogs, facilitating modernization to the supply chain system, and decreasing appeals to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. www.blogs.va.gov/Vantage/87708/american-rescue-plan-arp

Department of Homeland Security pushes REAL ID deadline to 2023

Coatesville VAMC

IAW Save Lives Act, COVID-19 immunizations are available to all veterans, spouses, and caregivers. To schedule an appointment, call 610-384-7711 ext. 5110

VVA National

On April 28, 2021, John Rowan, VVA National President, testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, on legislation pending before the committee. The full testimony is available on

<https://vva.org/category/vva-testimony>

Pending legislation addressed:

S. 89 Ensuring Survivor Benefits During COVID-19 Act of 2021

S. 189 Veterans Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act of 2021

S. 219 Aid and Attendance Support Act of 2021

S. 437 Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2021

S. 444 AUTO for Veterans Act

S. 454 K2 Veterans Care Act of 2021

S. 458 Veterans Claim Transparency Act of 2021

S. 565 Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act of 2021

S. 657 A bill to modify the presumption of service connected for veterans who were exposed to herbicide while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes

S. 731 Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2021

S. 810 Fair Care Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021

S. 894 Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021

S. 927 TEAM Act

S. 952 Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021

S. 976 Caring for Survivors Act of 2021

S. 1031 A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes

S. 1089 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation for disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf War veterans, and for other purposes

S. 1071 VA AID Act of 2021

S. 1093 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department, The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration

S. 1095 Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021

S. 1096 Fry Scholarship Enhancement Act of 2021

S. 1188 SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act

To view the above bills, please visit

<https://vva.org/what-we-do/veterans-advocacy/legislation-action-center>

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Address label here