

# AT EASE



**Vietnam Veterans of America Central New York Chapter #103**  
**P.O. Box 675, Liverpool, NY 13088**  
**[www.cnyvva103.org](http://www.cnyvva103.org)**

**January 2008**

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
CHAPTER #103  
P.O. BOX 675. LIVERPOOL, NY 13088  
(315) 458-1323  
WWW.CNYVVA103.ORG

**2008**

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OFFICE**  
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The website of the New York State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America is [www.ny.vietboonixcs.org](http://www.ny.vietboonixcs.org).

Sue Doan, our State Veterans Counselor, has the following address:

Sue Doan  
State Veteran Counselor  
State Office Bldg. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
333 E. Washington Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202

If any veteran has a question or problem that needs to be addressed, give Sue a call at 428-4046 at the State Office Building. She helped many veterans last year, especially through referrals from members of this chapter. The Iraqi/Afghan vets we've helped send to her are very thankful to Sue for watching out for them.

# President's Message

The January 17<sup>th</sup>, meeting will feature a short update on Agent Orange followed by a question and answer period. Our speaker will be Dr. Sven Ljaamo who is new to the staff at our VAMC. He is an expert on Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Dr. Ljaamo conducts clinics here, Watertown, Fort Drum and Carthage. In addition, the Doctor is involved in compensation and pension clinics for environmental and occupational related problems. We will open our meeting at 1900 and recess at 1930 for Dr. Ljaamo's appearance. We'd want a full house that night to make his visit is worthwhile and maximize the spread of new information and answers to your individual questions. Sue Doan and Pat Chase have also been invited.

Gordy Lane and Pete Bronstad, deserve a big Congratulations and Thank you from the chapter for putting together and executing a very successful and well attended Symposium on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. at the UAW Hall in East Syracuse to introduce The Onondaga County Veterans Referral and Treatment Program. Attendees included the V.A., State, County, and City law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's office, Judge Anthony Paris, Attorney David Gideon who was representing Judge Tormey, Chief Judge of County court system, NYS Corrections Department officers, and from Buffalo the founders of the Western New York Veterans Program, who pioneered the program to help veterans (regardless of age or conflict), who get into trouble with the justice system. We are using their model which has shown positive results in Buffalo, to start a similar program here.

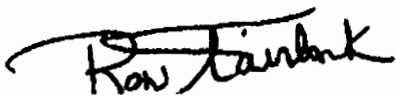
The chapter received a very warm letter of thanks from Patty Chase at the Vet Center for our contribution this year, (increased by \$100.00), to help fund their Annual Christmas Party. Our Treasurer represented the Chapter at the party and assured us it was a full house and the food and desserts were wonderful. What a guy!

At our last meeting, Bill Molloy-chair of our MIA/POW Committee agreed to do his best to put together a renewal of our recognition ceremonies for the next MIA/POW Day. He would certainly welcome anyone who would like to work with him on this. We had conducted ceremonies on this day at the KVA Memorial in years past and we need to bring this back.

The chapter Christmas party on December 20<sup>th</sup> went over big-we filled about 75% of the room. Gordy, served as the Chairman and brought in Twin Trees pizza, wings and plenty of soft drinks. Tell Gordy thanks, for the good chow when you see him next.

Anyone interested in participating in a group Water Aerobics class just for Vets? Bill Molloy is involved in a class at Fitness forum on Onondaga Hill. It uses a heated pool, and professional instructor. It can loosen up your joints and wake up your muscles and make you feel better. Call Bill at 492-3015 for more info.

For the good of the order,



Ron Fairbank

## **\*\*ATTENTION MEMBERS\*\***

We have received an invitation from the Vietnamese community to attend their annual Tet-Lunar New year celebration on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Cathedral Academy of Pompei from 2pm until 6pm. You can come for an hour or two or the full celebration. Your attendance will be appreciated and acknowledged by the community leaders. Gordy and I have attended in the past and were warmly received.

Program includes the traditional lion dance, ancestor worship ritual, wishing long life to the community elders ceremony and contemporary song and dance performances. There will also be academic achievement awards for the youth. The Chapter will be placing an ad in their program book to show our support.

## **\*\*TIME TO PLAN 2008\*\***

We need to decide on the operation of the Hot Dog Cart-who will manage it, who will buy the supplies and who will run it.

Who will be chair of the Installation Dinner this year?

Who do we present awards to?

Who will be our speaker? I have an idea but want your ideas in case mine falls through.

The T.V. Program is in serious need of people. We can't continue much longer as is-we have no back-up people if someone is ill or out of town. Training will be provided.

Ron

January 8, 2008

## **VA Is Leader in Hospice and Palliative Care *Consultations for Veterans Nationwide***

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is providing hospice and palliative care to a growing number of veterans throughout the country as the need continues to rise for care and comfort at the end of life.

VA provides palliative care consultation services at each of its medical centers and inpatient hospice care in many of its nursing homes throughout the country. VA contracts with community-based hospice programs to enhance VA's ability to provide this critical service when and where needed.

"Wherever veterans receive their health care, VA has a system in place to address their hospice and palliative care needs," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "We are dedicated to providing compassionate care and personal assistance to the thousands of veterans and their families who face terminal illnesses."

Nearly 9,000 veterans were treated in designated hospice beds at VA facilities in 2007, and thousands of other veterans were referred to community hospices to receive care in their homes.

The number of veterans treated in VA's inpatient hospice beds increased by 21 percent in 2007. In addition, the average daily number of veterans receiving hospice care in their homes paid for by VA increased by 30 percent this past year.

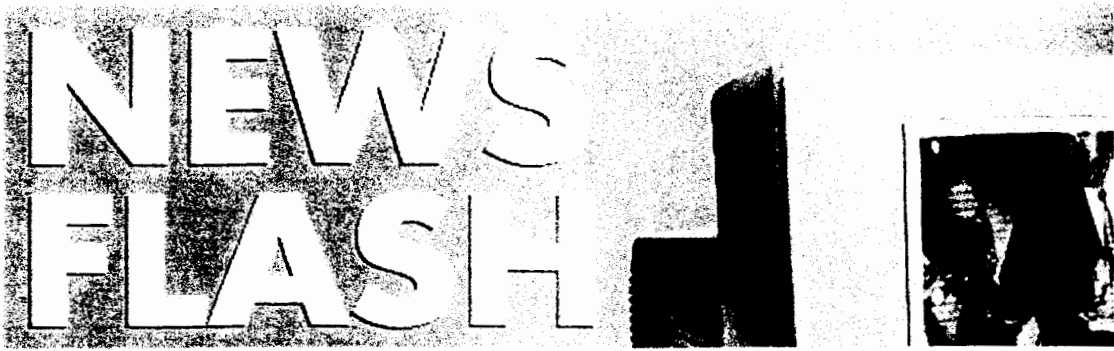
Because of the large number of World War II and Korean era veterans and a tripling of the number of veterans over the age of 85 from 2000 to 2010, the increase in the need for hospice care is expected to continue. The proportion of Vietnam-era veterans over the age of 65 will continue to increase through 2014, when Vietnam veterans will account for nearly 60 percent of all veterans in that age group.

VA's expansion of its hospice and palliative care capabilities came about through a collaboration with community-care providers. In 2001, the National Hospice-Veteran Partnership Initiative began to build partnerships between VA facilities and community hospice providers, funded in part by the VA and by nonprofit groups such as the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Advanced Illness Care Coordination Center.

To date, VA has partnered with community hospice programs in 35 states to promote hospice services that are not provided directly by VA staff. These partnerships help veterans transition from VA hospitals to their homes in the community.

Palliative care adds a focus on quality of life and comfort to veterans with life-limiting illness, and their families. Palliative care consultation teams include physicians, nurses, social workers and chaplains. Additional support may be provided by pharmacists, rehabilitation therapists, recreation therapists, mental health professionals and other specialists.





## **IRS rules vets work benefits tax free**

VA Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations  
Washington DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2008

### **Pay in Vets' Work Program Ruled Tax-Free**

#### **Ruling on Compensated Work Therapy Retroactive Three Years**

WASHINGTON -- Payments provided to veterans under two specific programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) -- the Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) and Incentive Therapy (IT) programs -- are no longer taxable, according to the Internal Revenue Service. Veterans who paid tax on these benefits in the past three years can claim refunds.

Recipients of CWT and IT payments no longer receive a Form 1099 (Miscellaneous Income) from VA. Veterans who paid tax on these benefits in tax years 2004, 2005 or 2006 can claim a refund by filing an amended tax return using IRS Form 1040X. Nearly 19,000 veterans received CWT benefits last year, while 8,500 received IT benefits.

The IRS agreed with a U.S. Tax Court decision earlier in 2007 that CWT payments are tax-free veterans benefits. In so doing, the agency reversed a 1965 ruling that these payments were taxable and required VA to report payments as taxable income.

The CWT and IT programs provide assistance to veterans unable to work and support themselves. Under the CWT program, VA contracts with private industry and the public sector for work by veterans, who learn new job skills, strengthen successful work habits and regain a sense of self-esteem and self-worth. Veterans are compensated by VA for their work and, in turn, improve their economic and social well-being.

Under the IT program, seriously disabled veterans receive payments for providing services at about 70 VA medical centers.

# # #

For the latest news releases and other information, visit VA on the Internet at

<http://www.va.gov/opa>.

To receive e-mail copies of news releases, subscribe to VA's list server at:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opa/ist/istserver.cfm>.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Veterans must provide evidence of service (DD214 or Equivalent)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran (Y) \_\_\_ (N) \_\_\_

Are you a Vietnam-Era Vet? (Y) \_\_\_ (N) \_\_\_

In-Country Vet? (Y) \_\_\_ (N) \_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES** for Veterans is \$20.00/year. We accept checks, credit cards or money orders. Please do not send cash.

Type of Membership: ( ) New ( ) Renewal Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**To purchase hats, T-shirts,  
stickers, pins, ect. Go to:**

**Westvale Gardens  
2400 West Genesee St.  
Syracuse, New York 13209**

**And say "HI" to Bill Martin!**



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 **AT EASE** 

VVA Chapter #103 holds its meetings at American Legion Post 188, 205 Cypress St., Liverpool, NY on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Directions: From Heid's Corners, follow signs to Rt. 370 (2<sup>nd</sup> Street). Take first left past Washington Park. The Post is on your right side, across from the park.