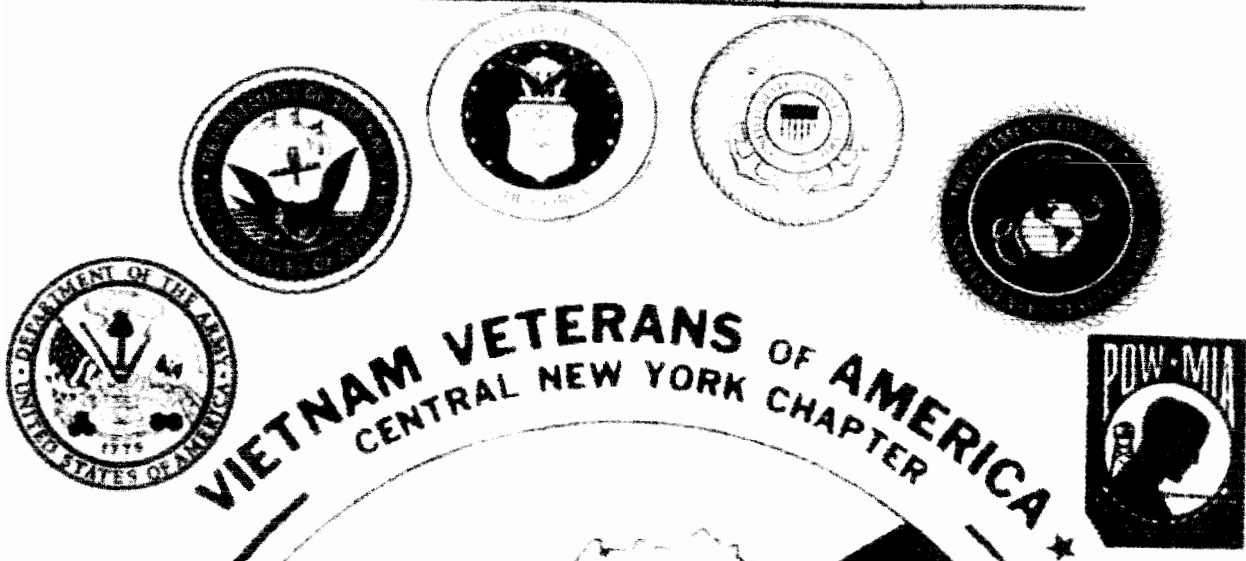


# \*\* AT EASE \*\*



**SEPTEMBER 2006**

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER #103**  
**P.O. BOX 675, Liverpool, New York 13088**

**2005-2006**

**OFFICERS:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Gordon Lane</b>	<b>(638-2827)</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<b>Ronald Fairbanks</b>	<b>(652-9459)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<b>Richard Madden</b>	<b>(635-2019)</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>John Lamanna</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Charles Tipton</b>	<b>(451-1628)</b>

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<b>Publicity</b>	<b>XXXXXXXXXX</b>	<b>XXXXXXXXXX</b>
<b>VA/VVA Liason</b>	<b>Gordon Lane</b>	<b>(638-2827)</b>
<b>VVLP</b>	<b>Ron Fairbanks</b>	<b>(652-9459)</b>
<b>Watchfire</b>	<b>Pete Bronstad</b>	

**Visit our website @[www.cnyvva103.org](http://www.cnyvva103.org)**

Message from Gordie Lane, Chapter President VVA 103

Our Watch Fire this year was one of best if not the best. Our new Director of the NYS Fair was extremely helpful and was on hand with chapter members when we unveiled our new sign for Veterans Memorial Watch Fire Park sponsored by VVA 103. The signs were made compliments of the City of Syracuse. The sign is on State Fair Blvd just before the entrance of the Park. I want to thank on behalf of our Board of directors all those that made this possible.

For your information, at the Memorial at the New York State Fair, in the center, you will see a grave stone permanently installed with our national logo. We all should take great pride in this because to my knowledge, there are no other Veterans organizations that have their logo parentally displayed at the Fairgrounds.

I want to thank the Veterans Committee of the UAW for all the help they have given us. They have been helpful to us in so many ways. The only thing they have ever said when we reached out to them was "How can we help". They are truly a great friend to our chapter. We look forward to working with them on future projects

Right now our chapter is involved with the newest project. We are working with the UAW and other veteran's organizations to change the Veterans Day events at the War Memorial and to bring back the Veterans Day parade .This is a massive undertaking involving many people, organizations, and Veterans. There will be a lot more on this and watch for different news media coverage on this. Believe me this is a great undertaking.

Our TV program is doing well and I want to thank Ron Fairbanks for getting it up and running again. If anyone one out there has any input, please call Ron. We are always looking for new things to do.

This year on 14 October 2006, Saturday, at 12 noon, at Marcellus Park, in Marcellus we will be having a chapter picnic for our members and friends. You will receive an invitation in the mail. There is no cost, but we will need to get numbers so we can order the right amount of food. Please read your invitation and call one of us. Hope to see you there.

We would like to see more members at our meeting so that we can get your input.

I hope that you all had a nice summer and hope to see some old friends at the picnic.



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

333 E. Washington St.  
Syracuse NY 13202-1422  
(315) 428-4046

George P. Basher  
Director

August 30, 2006

Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 103  
PO Box 675  
Liverpool, NY 13088

RE: AT EASE

Enclosed are business cards for the two State Veteran Counselors working in our Syracuse office. Please add Kevin Justian and Sue Doan to your mailing list and remove Pam Tanner who is no longer in this office.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sandra A. Leslie  
Program Aide

Enclosures



NEW YORK STATE  
Division of Veterans' Affairs

County Office Complex  
70 Bunner Street - 1st Floor  
Oswego, NY 13126  
(315) 343-0394  
FAX (315) 343-0654  
(M, Th, F)

**KEVIN E. JUSTIAN**  
State Veteran Counselor

State Office Building  
333 E. Washington Street  
Room 430  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(315) 428-4046  
FAX (315) 428-4047  
(Tu, W)

kjustian@veterans.state.ny.us  
www.veterans.state.ny.us



NEW YORK STATE  
Division of Veterans' Affairs

**K. SUE DOAN**  
State Veteran Counselor

sdoan@veterans.state.ny.us  
www.veterans.state.ny.us

County Office Bu  
160 Genesee Street - 2nd  
Auburn, NY 13021-  
(315) 253-  
FAX (315) 253-  
Tu, W & 1st-3rd-5

State Office Bui  
333 E. Washington S  
Room  
Syracuse, NY 13  
(315) 428-4  
FAX (315) 428-4  
Mon, 2nd & 4th



# WARM THEIR HEARTS


**Warm Their Hearts is a program designed to help Veterans with gently used, handmade, and donated items such as:**

Lap Blankets .....  
Walker Totes .....  
Wheelchair Totes  
Stoma (Trach) Bibs  
Colostomy Bag Covers

Winter Hats  
Baseball Caps  
New Tee Shirts  
12-18" Throw Pillows

Our goal is to gain the support of volunteers in helping to make or donate these items for Veterans. We are appealing to knitting/crocheting groups, schools, senior citizen groups, and anyone who would like to lend a hand. This is a great project for Family & Consumer Sciences classes to be involved in. Any of these items can be gently used, crocheted, knitted or sewn. All items will be donated to the Vets currently in the VA Medical Center, families of Veterans as well as homeless Vets located throughout the area.

For more information, patterns, or to have donations picked up, please call Barbara Maestri at (315) 484-9948, 558-2915 or email me at: [Warmtheirhearts@yahoo.com](mailto:Warmtheirhearts@yahoo.com).



Subj: **DoD Announces Comprehensive Review of Military Awards**  
Date: 9/9/2006 9:58:13 AM Eastern Standard Time  
From: felliot@rochester.rr.com  
To: felliot@rochester.rr.com

U.S. Department of Defense  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)  
News Release

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**No. 880-06  
September 08, 2006**

### DoD Announces Comprehensive Review of Military Awards

The Department of Defense has begun a comprehensive review of military awards and decorations in order to ensure policies are consistent with the evolving nature of warfare.

This comprehensive review will lead to an administrative revision of the Department of Defense Instruction 1348.33-M, the Manual of Military Decorations and Awards.

A working group consisting of representatives from each Service, the Joint Staff and the Institute of Heraldry will form the core of the comprehensive review effort.

This comprehensive review of military awards is expected to continue over the next six to eight months and will involve but not be limited to the following:

- Honor and Valor awards with particular focus on clarity of criteria and processes.
- The "V" device and the Purple Heart medals in eliminating disparate qualification criteria among the military services.
- Expeditionary medals in regard to how the theatre of operations is defined.
- Iraqi and Afghanistan campaign medals with regard to subsequent awards of these campaign medals, with a goal of appropriately recognizing service over multiple tours in those theatres of operations.

"The evolving nature of warfare demands that we review policies; for example, in the case of expeditionary medals, we must review how we define the operating "box" - whether it is the theater of direct action, or whether it might extend far beyond" said David Chu, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "For example, we must consider whether air support originating at great distances or different continents indeed represents expeditionary service for purposes of those awards."

"When it comes to valor awards, we must clarify criteria, including a review of boundaries that increasingly extend far beyond a particular combat zone, yet involve direct threats to American lives" said Chu.

Wednesday, September 13, 2006 America Online: SPD179RET

Subj: **Airmen Missing in Action From the Vietnam**  
Date: 9/9/2006 9:59:22 AM Eastern Standard Time  
From: felliot@rochester.rr.com  
To: felliot@rochester.rr.com

> VVA Talklist

> -----

>> NEWS RELEASES from the United States Department of Defense

>>

>> No. 883-06 IMMEDIATE RELEASE

>> September 08, 2006

>> Media Contact: (703) 697-5131/697-5132

>> Public/Industry(703) 428-0711

>>

>> Airmen Missing in Action From the Vietnam

>>

>> The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced

>> today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the

>> Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial

>> with full military honors.

>>

>> Air Force Maj. Burke H. Morgan, U.S. Air Force, of Manitou Springs,

>> Colo., was buried Sept. 7 beside his wife, Mary, at the U.S. Air Force

>> Academy. The service there coincided with his U.S. Air Force Academy

>> graduating class' 45th reunion.

>>

>> On Aug. 22, 1967, Morgan and a fellow officer took off from Nakhon Phanom

>> air base, Thailand, in their A-26A Invader on an armed reconnaissance

>> mission over Laos. The crew had radio contact on their mission shortly

>> after midnight, but were neither seen nor heard from again. Electronic and

>> visual searches of their last-reported location in Xiangkhoang Province,

>> as well as over the planned flight path, did not locate the missing

>> aircraft.

>>

>> A joint U.S.-Lao People's Democratic Republic team traveled to the

>> province in 1993 to interview three informants about various crash

>> sites. The men recalled the 1967 crash, as well as the burial of the crew

>> members. They also stated that one of the bodies was disinterred by

>> unknown persons in 1986.

>>

>> Four years later, another joint U.S.-Lao team resurveyed the original

>> crash site, and requested that the Lao government conduct a unilateral

>> investigation. The Lao government was able to confirm that some remains

>> were exhumed in the mid-1980s, and promised to continue its

>> investigation.

>>

>> Then in 2002, Lao government officials reported that the remains had been

>> turned over to a Lao official in 1987 or 1988, but that the official had

>> since died. His driver, however, had possession of those remains and had

>> been holding them in safekeeping awaiting directions from authorities.

>>

>> Scientists of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command were able to identify

>> those remains using a variety of forensic methods, including analysis of

>> skeletal and dental remains.

>>

>> For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account

>> for missing Americans, visit the DPMO Web site at

>> <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1169.

>>

Wednesday, September 13, 2006 America Online: SPD179RET

>>  
>> [Web Version:  
>> <http://www.defenselink.mil/Releases/Release.aspx?ReleaseID=9936>]  
>  
>  
>  
> -----  
> To unsubscribe send an email to:  
> [vva-off@vva2.talklist.com](mailto:vva-off@vva2.talklist.com)  
>  
> The opinions expressed on this list do not necessarily reflect the  
> opinions of Vietnam Veterans of America.  
>

Subj: **VVA Press Release: VVA Applauds Recent Court Decision in Favor of Service Members Who Served In the Offshore Waters of Vietnam**  
Date: 8/18/2006 2:58:40 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: felliot@rochester.rr.com  
To: felliot@rochester.rr.com

This press release can be found online at <http://www.vva.org/PressReleases/2006/pr06-030.htm>



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2006

No. 06-30

Press Release

Contact:  
Mokie Porter  
301-585-4000, Ext. 146

## **Vietnam Veterans of America Applauds Recent Court Decision In Favor of Service Members Who Served in the Offshore Waters of Vietnam**

(Washington, D.C. ) – “Some of the inequities of the application of presumptive coverage for exposure to Agent Orange have finally been set aside,” said John Rowan, national president of Vietnam Veterans of America. “We need to spread the word about this decision to all Navy veterans who served in the waters offshore of Vietnam and received the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM). This Court decision will allow for an untold number of veterans and their families to receive the compensation and health care they are entitled to, as well as other VA programs,” Rowan said.

On August 16, 2006, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims rendered a decision in the appeal of *Haas v. Nicholson*. In their 31-page decision, the Court determined the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has been unlawfully denying presumptive disability compensation for exposure to Agent Orange (AO) for service members who served in the waters offshore of Vietnam and earned the VSM.

Numerous veterans who served in Vietnam have been able to qualify for presumptive disability compensation for exposure to AO. Unfortunately the application of presumptive coverage has resulted in many inequities for veterans and their families. An example of this can be seen in the VA's denials of presumptive service connection to service members who served on boats and ships off the coast of Vietnam. Although these veterans earned and received the VSM, many have had their claims denied by VA for presumptive disability due to AO exposure because they did not step foot on the ground in Vietnam.

“All veterans who served in the waters offshore need to speak with a service representative or service officer as soon as possible to see if they have a viable claim for compensation,” Rowan said. These veterans should also participate in the Agent Orange registry exam. I fully expect the

Wednesday, September 13, 2006 America Online: SPD179RET

VA will attempt to rescind and revise their interpretation of the law. If you have had a claim denied or have never filed, you must do so before the regulations change again in favor of the VA."

###

*Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*

## **An Agenda for New York State's Veterans**

**Draft: August 24, 2006**

New York State has 1.25 million citizens who have defended liberty and justice around their world through service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Our State also has 40,000 residents who currently serve in the armed forces. As veterans, you represent the highest ideals of our society — and you deserve a Governor who will advocate for you.

Our veterans face a variety of challenges. Many are suffering health problems from wounds — physical and psychological — that occurred in battle. Others are struggling to find a job, to get an education or even to find a home. And thousands of soldiers who are currently serving in the Middle East will experience many of these same challenges as they return home over the next several years.

But I can't even recall the last time Albany had a comprehensive policy to address the needs of our veterans. In fact, Albany has cut back on the number of counselors who help our veterans find the services they need, and the number of offices where veterans can go to access these services.

When veterans put on the uniform of one of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, they're doing more than serving their country. They're serving their state, and their county, and the city or town they're from. It's time that New York had a governor who recognized that we have a fundamental obligation to those who have made that commitment, and that sacrifice — an obligation, as Abraham Lincoln said, "to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle."

During my time as attorney general, I proved my desire to fight for those who "have borne the battle." Recently, my office has helped counsel reservists on their legal rights relating to employment, even helping them win back pay in some instances. As governor, I will continue be a strong voice for New York's veterans.

### **I. Provide Leadership**

- I will appoint a competent, activist veteran to head the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs — someone who is in touch with the concerns of New York's veterans.
- I will also elevate the director of the state DVA to a cabinet-level position, because it's important that they "have my ear" on issues that affect our veterans.
- Many veterans have told me that the last administration depleted the ranks of the State DVA, so I will examine the mission and budget of the agency — taking an honest look at what must be done to provide our veterans with appropriate services and benefits.

### **II. Improve Benefits**

- Over the last three years, State governments have expanded benefits for veterans through the Patriot Plans. But the system of benefits remains confusing to many veterans. That's why the State's veterans counselors are so important. The needs of

veterans and the landscape of benefits is always evolving, and I will ensure that our State's counselors are committed professionals who are equipped to assist our veterans in obtaining the benefits and services they need.

- Over the last 12 years, the state DVA has diminished its regional presence, which has been to the detriment of our state's veterans. I will explore ways to expand the DVA's regional presence.

### **III. Strengthen Outreach**

- The state DVA can't serve our State's veterans effectively unless it maintains an ongoing dialogue with our diverse community of veterans. I will hold DVA officials accountable for reaching out to veterans, such as by inviting veterans all around the State to hearings and roundtables where we can discuss the challenges they face.
- I don't believe you can advocate for New York State's veterans effectively unless you understand the diversity of their ranks. Our State has many kinds of veterans, from retired career members of the armed forces to members of National Guard and Reserve units who were called up for active duty. We also have many female veterans and people of color who are veterans. Many veterans have told me that our state government serves some groups of veterans better than others. I will take steps to ensure that New York serves all groups of veterans effectively.
- As Governor, I will ensure that the State Division of Veterans Affairs develops a plan to address the needs of soldiers who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. I will direct State DVA counselors to make follow-up contact with every soldier who returns to New York from overseas combat and to assist them with any of the problems they are facing. Counseling is the main service of the State DVA, but many returning vets do not know about the counseling service, or do not call until it is too late to avert a health crisis or prevent homelessness.

### **IV. Advocate for Veterans**

- In addition to fighting in Albany for our State's veterans, I will take advantage of the New York State Governor's national profile to advocate for better federal services and benefits for all veterans. I will ensure that our State's veterans get their fair share of federal support and that our State maximizes federal resources.
- My Washington representatives and I will fight hard to make funding for the VA mandatory, and to ensure the VA has the resources it needs.

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER #103**

PO Box 609  
East Syracuse, NY 13057

**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)\_\_\_\_\_

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** is available to any Veteran or Non-Veteran who would like to support VVA Chapter #103. **ANNUAL DUES** for both Veterans and Associate Members is \$20.00/Year. We accept checks, credit cards or money orders. Please do not send cash.

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

**When you need help....  
Medical Problems? Medical Concerns? Eligibility Questions?  
Call VA Telecare  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
1-888-838-7890 (toll free)**

**VA Medical Professionals are as close as your telephone.  
VA Telecare, a service of the Syracuse VA medical Center.**

**“Putting Veterans First”**

**To purchase hats, T-shirts, Stickers, Pins, Etc. Go to:  
Westvale Gardens  
2400 West Genesee Street  
Syracuse**

**And say “Hi” to Bill Martin!**

Vietnam Veterans of America  
Central New York Chapter 103  
P.O. Box 675  
Liverpool, NY 13088

**NON PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
LIVERPOOL NY  
PERMIT #55**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

Directions: From Heids Corner, follow signs to Rt 370 (2nd Street).  
Take first left past Washington Park. The post is on your right side,  
across from the park.