

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1071 - Denver
Location: Elk's Lodge #1777
1455 Newland Street
Lakewood, CO
Date: Saturday Jan.20,2018
Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT**

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by: Stan Paprocki, 1071 President

Prayer & Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S – John Altfeltis

Pledge of Allegiance – Stan Paprocki

Posting of POW/MIA Colors on POW Honor Chair – Ray Holtz

Roll Call: Present: Stan Paprocki, Terry Ritenour, Leonard Smith, Ray Holtz, John Altfeltis and Marty Chavez

Excused: Jose Gonzales,

VVA Members Present: (52) John Altfeltis, Donald Bates, Bill Bleau, Bob Burnham, Bobby Campoy, Larry J. Cato, Chuck Chavez, Marty Chavez, Bob Coleman, Robert Doriss, Don Emmot, Jeffrey Fossum, Cliff Fejfar, Bill Ferguson, Bruce Gottschalk, Ron Gorman, Bob Hartman, Nelson Hendrickson, David Hennig, Lynn Herbert, Jim Hernandez, Ray Holtz, Ron Kurtz, Jim Miles, Vern Moore, Steve Newton, Owen Oliver, Stan Paprocki, Philip Post, Fred Pottle, Trini Rael, Steve Randolph, Frank Riddle, Terry Ritenour, Bill Robbins, Lew Roman, Joe Romero, Don Saiz, Eddie Shreeve, Tom Simpson, Leonard Smith, Lindsay Smith, Otto Smolik, Larry Sourbeer, Daniel Sorensen, David Steiner, Wally Struble, John Thompson, Jim Topkoff, Gary Uyeda, Bob Wyatt, George Zervos

AVVA Members Present: (3) Archbishop Alexander, Janet Beiner, Scott Hefty

Guests: (9) Susan Bates, Linda Olson, Dick Kurth, Mike Holland, Tom Bradley, Jerry Cupps, Nelson 'Ray' Campbell, Joe Sleevi, Mark Crespin

President Report: Stan Paprocki,

Happy New Year to all

- 1 Attended State president council meeting in Silver Spring MD
- 2 Blue Water bill dead in the water, Sponsors will have to start all over again.
- 3 Discussed VVA registration yellow card sent to members by mail. Your choice if you want to participate on survey.
- 4 VVA 40th anniversary will be in October. More details later
- 5 POW-MIA committee reports that there are still 1602 MIAs
- 6 VVA National conventions will be as follows: 2019 in Spokane WA, 2021 in Greensboro N.C.
- 7 Gave update on VA hospital in Aurora.
- 8 Presented \$500 donation from 1071 to Elks Lodge. Vanita from Elks accepted check, She spoke to members and explained what the Elks does for veterans and what donation will be used for. Vanita thanked the chapter for the donation and also for our support with the morning breakfast.
Janet Beiner DAR and AVVA member also spoke and offered their services to the Elks, explaining what DAR does for veterans. Janet also mentioned that any member who did not receive their Service Recognition Certificate to please come see her.
9. Veterans Appreciation Day is January 26th, 7:30 am at the state capitol. Recommends that as many

veterans as possible attend.

10. United Veterans Committee's annual banquet will be held in April. Recommending that as many members as possible attend. Price to attend is \$40. Stan stated that 1071 officers will be attending. Stan also invited all members to attend the monthly UVC meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of the month.

11. Introduced Bill Bleau as the new VSO (Veteran Service Officer) for our chapter. Bill has taken several classes and tests to become a VSO. Please see Bill for any help with VA claims & issues. He will be glad to assist you. Not too many VSOs in Colorado. It means a lot for our chapter to have its own VSO. Thank you Bill for doing this.

Vice President Report: Terry Ritenour

1. Bad Daddy's Bar & Grill in Arvada has come on board in supporting our chapter with monthly \$25 gift cards for their place. I encourage all of you to stop by and patronize Bad Daddy's. They have great hamburgers and great salads.
2. Several of us attended the screening of 12 Strong movie last week. It is a great true story movie about a secret mission in Afghanistan right after 9-11. There was a Q & A session after the movie with two of the main Green Berets who were there. The two soldiers talked about their experience in Afghanistan and also on the movie set during the filming of 12 Strong. Very interesting of what actors are allowed and not allowed to do while filming. There is also a book out called Horse Soldiers by Doug Stanton. The movie is based on this true story. Jim Miles and Owen Oliver who also attended the screening have read the book and say it is excellent reading. Also attending were Stan, Terry and Marty from our chapter. Chapter 1106 members presented the Colors. The screening was attended by several veterans young and old.
3. Mental Health First Aid training is available this month by the Jeffco Mental Health. Info is on our website.

Secretary Report: Marty Chavez,

Welcomed guests and had them introduce themselves.

Gave update (for Jose Gonzales) on wife's surgery and also passed on information regarding the unveiling of the Vietnam Memorial in Brighton this coming Memorial Day. Keep this day open as our member Jose has put quite a few hours attending council meetings to get this project going. Memorial has been approved thanks to Jose and several others. There were over 200 men drafted from Brighton and surrounding areas during the Vietnam war and several of them were KIAs.

Financial Report: Leonard Smith

Leonard reported on the Chapters financial. As always, if anyone has any questions, please come see me after the meeting.

Webmaster: Ray Holtz

1. December website visits were 3,671.
2. Posted thank you email from Puerto Rico State Council.
3. Latest Agent Orange Newsletter is posted.
4. Posted a link to Military Service Records, Awards, and Unit Histories: A Guide to Locating Sources.
5. Posted Chapter Tony Lopez Scholarship of \$6,000.00.
6. The last 4 week period for the King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards ending Dec 17th we had total of \$6,426.36 which is the best ever and added to the previous 4 week period of \$4,962.50 gave us a total of \$11,388.86. We received a check for the last 2 periods for \$569.44. The next period that will end on Jan 20th, today.

Membership: Ray Holtz

1. We added 1 new member: Stanley Ogata.
2. We added 1 new member to our AVVA roster: Marie Winfrey (Rick's wife)
3. We have 166 members, and 20 AVVA members giving us a total of 186 members.

Ray directed members to grab a File of Life card from back table and to record all necessary medical information as a safety card for medical responders if needed.

Question was asked of Ray regarding where we stand nationally with our large group on members (166). Ray explained that we probably hit the middle mark as several large states have 1000+ members. Several states are way lower than us so we are very proud of our 1071 members. We have a large group (64) attending today.

Outreach Liaison: Robert Primeaux (Absent)

Outreach Committee: Chaplain John Altfeltis:

John gave an update and continued prayers for members Dan Dietz, Al Roettger, Jose Gonzales' wife Cathy.

Also prayers for chapter 1075 (Colo Springs) president Manny Pedraza who is having some medical issues.

Please keep all our members in your thoughts and prayers especially those who are ill.

Board of Directors:

Guest Speaker: David Steiner, Ph.D, USAF (R), 1071 Board of Directors.

David spoke about his time in the Air Force as a Master Navigator. He spoke about his many flights into typhoons to gather weather intelligence for the ground forces in Vietnam. David flew several missions starting in 1967. David has flown several different aircrafts such as C141s, WC-130s & EC-47s to name a few. He flew 740 combat hours and was awarded 11 Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross. There were several questions asked to David.

Ray Holtz mentioned that David's Bio and link to his website is on the our chapter website, under Photo Galleries Members. Go to the website to learn more about this 1071 member and brother.

David also spoke about getting members to know each other and the best way to do that is to get members to tell everyone a little bit about themselves, their time in service and their experiences. This was brought up at the board meeting and all thought it was a great idea. First we should start with the board of directors then members. It is not that hard to do. Contact me (David) and I will walk you through it. I really think this is the best way to get to know each other. Everyone has a different story to to tell. Long time coming.

David also spoke about the Tony Lopez Scholarship which has been increased to \$6000.

Honors Burial: Jim Topkoff

Jim gave an update on the Honors Burial and answered questions by members regarding how we go about getting cremains identified and approved for burial by the VA.

Marketing: Jim Topkoff

Drawings Door Prizes:

\$10 Subway gift card: #783

White Fence Farm Gift Card: # 813 Robert Doriss

Hu Hut Gift Card: # 790

King Soopers Gift Card (DAR) : #776 Wally Struble

1071 KS Card \$25 : #782 Ray Campbell

Gift Basket donated by Mark Crespin (Clear Caption): #781 Marty Chavez

Up Coming Events:

Old Business: Terry mentioned poppies donation on Saturday before Memorial Day. Volunteers will be needed as we have 4 King Soopers stores already reserved. This is a great way for our chapter to raise funds to help out veterans in need.

New Business: Mark Crespín from Clear Captions was invited by VP Terry to speak to members regarding a free telephone with free service available to veterans who are hearing impaired. Mark distributed flyers about this phone along with his card. If you missed out and are interested contact Mark Crespín at 303-325-4877. Let him know you are with chapter 1071.

Linda Olsen informed members that Inner City health will be having a free for Veterans Dental Cleaning on May 5th. You will have to register and Linda will email you with more information .

Marty and Steve talked about attending funerals for veterans at Ft. Logan. If you are interested in being part of attending funerals for veterans please contact Steve Newton.

Retiring of POW/MIA Colors: Ray Holtz

Benediction: John Altfeltis

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am MDT

Next Chapter Meeting will be on Feb 17th, 2018

Marty Chavez - Secretary

VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver