

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1071 - Denver  
Location: Elk's Lodge #1777  
1455 Newland Street  
Lakewood, CO  
Date: Saturday Feb. 17, 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** – Jose Gonzales

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

**VVA Members Present: (60)** John Altfeltis, Donald Bates, Bill Bleau, Bob Burnham, Steve Connolly, Don L. Carroll, Larry J. Cato, Marty Chavez, Bob Coleman, John Currie, Dan Dietz, Robert Doriss, John Durant, Bill Ferguson, Jeffrey Fossum, Cliff Fejfar, Jose Gonzales, Bruce Gottschalk, Ron Gorman, Nelson Hendrickson, Lynn Herbert, Jim Hernandez, Ted Hildebrand, Ray Holtz, Kevin Hurst, Ron Kurtz, Bob Lopez, Michael McDonald, Jim Miles, Tom Moermond, Vern Moore, Rusty Morse, 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, Tom Simpson, Joe Sleevei, Leonard Smith, Lindsay Smith, Otto Smolik, Larry Sourbeer, David Steiner, Wally Struble, John Thompson, Jim Topkoff, Gary Uyeda, Bill Vance, Phil Waters, Rick Winfrey, George Zervos

**AVVA Members Present: (4)** Archbishop Alexander, Scott Hefty, Mary Ann Whitehead, Marie Winfrey,

**Guests: (15)** Susan Bates, Linda Olson, Mark Crespin, Joe Dural, Phil Marchetti, Jerry Cupps, Nelson Campbell, Joesph Ellis, Jerry Liechtt, Kari Leitchtt, Rebecca Hefty, Morgana Reader, Bernice Bertolli, Bob Savage, Tim Bradley

**President Report:** Stan Paprocki,  
Welcomed Members and Guests

1. Introduced Bob Savage, Kemp Elementary School Principal, Bob explained to members what what members of 1071 had done to help his school and students with the proper procedure to raise and lower the nation's colors. Bob also talked about the recognition and presentation of certificates by the Adams County School District 14 to members of 1071. ( See article posted on website).
2. March 7<sup>th</sup>, Governor Hickenlooper is scheduled to place a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We will post more information on website when we can confirm this event.
3. United Veterans Committee: VVA member Larry Carroll, who is also a member of UVC spoke about the upcoming banquet and also about that UVC does for veterans with donations from the banquet. He encouraged members to attend this banquet. The banquet will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Renaissance Hotel. It is the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the UVC which was started by a Vietnam veteran back in 1972. Larry also mentioned that he served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade, US Army and that they will be having a reunion in San Antonio, Texas on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. Larry can be contacted if you are interested for more info on both the banquet and reunion.
4. March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am at Crown Hill mortuary for identification of veterans cremains. Jim Topkoff will address this later in the meeting.
5. VVA National Leadership Conference is in Palm Springs Calif. On July 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> . This is mostly

for chapter officers but members can attend too.

6. May 26<sup>th</sup> Poppies donation for Memorial Day event at several King Soopers stores. Ray will cover more later.
7. May 28<sup>th</sup> Brighton Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be dedicated. Our chapter will be there in full force. Jose Gonzales has spearheaded this memorial and will cover more later.
8. Covered some available information regarding the 2019 VA budget.
9. Invited member Steve Randolph to talk about a program at the Golden Clinic for veterans 65 years or older. This is a volunteer program where you can show up at the clinic every Tuesday to learn about different issues which can be beneficial to veterans.
10. There will be no breakfast before next month's members meeting.

**Vice President Report:** Terry Ritenour

1. Guest today, Joseph Ellis (Army Veteran) is the court peer mentor coordinator for the 1st Judicial District, gv-op Veterans Treatment Court, Jefferson County.

Joseph told us a little bit about the court, the peer mentors and the New Jefferson County Jail's Veteran's Pod. Joseph took several questions and encouraged members and visitors to look into the program as volunteer mentor are always needed, especially veterans.

2. Mark Crespin with Clear Captions is back with us today. Mark has set up a table in the back and will demonstrate the phone system for hearing impaired and will answer any question. John Altfeltis and others also spoke about having this phone installed at their homes. Positive reviews were shared.

3. The "Vietnam magazine, April issue has a great story on "John Rowan" our VVA National President. Terry brought a copy for members to see and read. Article has a great picture of John when he was in country, young picture with no beard.

4. Just a reminder for all of us. Let's be on the lookout for other veterans, especially Vietnam veterans who don't know about the VVA brotherhood. Reach out to them and invite them to our chapter meetings.

**Secretary Report:** Marty Chavez,

Welcomed guests and had them introduce themselves. Joe Dural, (Vietnam veteran, Army) invited by Jose Gonzales. Jerry ( Vietnam Veteran, Coast Guard ) and his wife Kari from chapter 1106 visited and brought some donated clothes, Jerry also stated that they wanted to attend our meeting to see how much different it is compared to theirs. Phil Marchetti, (Vietnam, Navy)

Marty also recognized Morgana Reader (DAR) for her support also with the Kemp Elementary Flag protocol. Morgana also received a certificate of appreciation from Adams School Board last Tuesday.

**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. January website visits were 3,867.
2. Posted VVA Guidance for the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) letter. The VVA recommends to not use this program at this time.
3. Posted thank you letter from the Mountain Resource Center for our clothing drive.
4. Posted VA Budge Proposal for 2019.
5. Adams County School District 14 Honors 1071 Members posted photos and letter.
6. The Bio of Jose Gonzales has been added to our Photo Galleries Members page.

7. The last 4 week period for the King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards ending Jan 20th we had total of \$7,066.11 which is the best ever. We will get a check for the last period for \$353.31. The next period that will end on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>.

8. Poppy fundraising stores signed up for Memorial weekend Sat. May 26<sup>th</sup> are: Thornton, W. Arvada, Green Mtn and Ken Cayrl. For Veterans Day weekend Sat. Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> the same except Ken Cayrl was booked but we have the store at Kipling and Belleview to take it's place.

### **MEMBERSHIP: Ray Holtz**

1. We added 2 new members: Francis Donovan and Joe Sleevei.
2. We added 1 new member to our AVVA roster: Michael Holland
3. We have 167 members, and 21 AVVA members giving us a total of 188 members.

**Outreach Liaison: Robert Primeaux** (Absent)

**Outreach Committee: Chaplain John Altfeltis:** Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters who are ill. John gave an update on Al Roettger and Robert Primeaux.

John spoke about the ClearCaption phone that was installed at his home. He encouraged those who are hearing impaired to stop by back table to see Mark Crespin from Clear Captions.

**Board of Directors:** Jose Gonzales gave an update and descriptions of the Brighton Vietnam Memorial scheduled to be unveiled this coming Memorial Day, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Speakers and Honor Guard requested by the Brighton City Council have already been scheduled. Jose will pass on more information as the time gets near.

David Steiner reminded all members to get out there and vote when elections are up. Dave also gave a short bio about our chapter and then introduced 1071 president Stan Paprocki as the next speaker who will talk about his military experience, but first Stan turned over the platform to Linda Olson from Inner City Health. Linda spoke about the dental cleaning and encouraged veterans to register for their free dental cleaning scheduled on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Guest Speaker:** Our guest speaker for this month's meeting was our President Stan Paprocki, who served with the 101st Airborne Division. Stan discussed his transition from civilian to military and shared about his time in Vietnam.

Stan had a few questions asked after his presentation.

**Honors Burial:** Jim Topkoff gave an update on the Honors Burial. March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am is when volunteers will need to meet at Crown Hill Mortuary. We need about 10 -12 volunteers of which 6 should bring laptops with them, the rest will be needed to locate and retrieve the cremains. Jim recommends that volunteers dress in layers of clothes as it is very cold where the cremains will be identified. Jim has a sign up sheet for those wishing to volunteer. Everyone here is invited to volunteer however there is only so much room to work within the room where the cremains are stored. Time estimate to get all Ids done is about 5-6 hours. Coffee and pastries will be provided.

**Scholarship Committee:** David Steiner. David gave us an update on the Tony Lopez Scholarship which has been upgraded to \$6000.00 and is available to Veterans and their children.

**Marketing:** Jim Topkoff

**Drawings Door Prizes:** Hand made pen by Dan Dietz up for bid; No bids

\$25. King Soopers reloadable card: Gary Uyeda

White Fence Farm \$30.: Bruce Gottschalk

\$10 King Soopers gift card from ClearCaption: #863

\$25 Burger Barn card: #854

## **Up Coming Events:**

### **Old Business: None**

**New Business:** Lew Roman spoke about a birthday party scheduled for a veteran turning 100 years old on Sunday. Members were invited to attend and show support for this veteran who also happen to be a former mayor of Louisville.

Bob Lopez put out a request from a teacher at Wheat ridge HS for help in finding a Vietnam nurse who might be willing to speak to her high school students about her experience in Vietnam. Jerry Liechitt from chapter 1106 said that they had a nurse member and might be able to help. Bob also mention that the Support our Troops organization has made 20,000 ribbons which will be handed out during the opening of the new VA Hospital in Aurora.

Phillip Post spoke about the postage stamp that he has made for the chapter to sell as a fund raiser. These are commercial stamps which can be used by everyone.

John Thompson just came back from the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association annual meeting. The 101<sup>st</sup> just started a new chapter in Boston Mass. The new chapter sponsors Homebase.org which is geared for veterans especially the younger ones. John spoke to the organization board and reminded them that suicide among Vietnam veterans takes up most of the 22 per day that they estimate. This organization does wonderful things for veterans. Go to homebase.org to view their site and see for yourself what they are all about.

**Retiring of POW/MIA Colors:** Jose Gonzales

**Benediction:** John Altfeltis

**Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am MDT**

**Next Chapter Meeting will be on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Marty Chavez - Secretary**

**VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver**