



Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1071 - Denver

Location: Elks Lodge, 1455 Nelson St. Lakewood Co

Date: Saturday: January 18th, 2025

Scheduled Time: 10:00 AM MDT

CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order by President Stan Paprocki

- Opening Prayer: Otto Smolik
- Pledge of Allegiance Stan Paprocki
- Posting of POW/MIA Colors– Jose Gonzales / Otto Smolik
- Moment of Silence for POW/MIA'S- Stan Paprocki
- Roll Call: President Stan Paprocki, VP Trini Rael, Secretary Marty Chavez, Sgt. at Arms Jose Gonzales.
- VVA Members present: (29) **Steve Newton, Wally Struble, Jose Gonzales, Stan Paprocki, Lynn Herbert, Otto Smolik, Owen Oliver, Marty Chavez, Trini Rael, Jerry Zimmer, Jim Topkoff, Danny Tomlinson, Mike McDonald, Nelson Hendrickson, Dave Caldwell, Jim Higgins, Larry Hood, Doug Scherer, Alan Jones, Darrell Chapman, David Nila, John Abeita, Bill Bridges, Larry Carroll, Darrell Stenzel, Luther Lemke, Bill Robbins, Bob Lopez, Dick Bares,**
- AVVA Members Present: (2), **Renee Ambrose, Mary Ann Rhode,**
- Guests: (4) **Chris Stenzel, Mike Richards, Ron Williams, B. Stanford *?)**
- Welcomed New Members: Stan.
Welcomed Guests: Stan;
- Members Birthdays or Anniversaries: Stan:
 - Tony Lopez / Ch.1071 Scholarship Program; 1071 Jerry Zimmer; Jerry spoke about the 2025 scholarships we are offering local area students for colleges and trade schools. If you've got grandkids that are that are going to be going on to either one, they should apply. We look at academic excellence, extracurricular activities, and they must write an essay. The scholarship is online right now. The fourth thing down when you go on the Chapter 1071 website. Last year, we had 11 applicants. We are trying to drum up more interested but \$5000 per scholarship is significant.

- **Schools Speakers Program: Jim Higgins:**

Our intent this morning, is to pitch our high school speakers' program. I look around here half of the attendees here today are already participating in the speaker's direct program. we've conducted programs in high schools, pretty much for sophomores and juniors for several years. It was started by a former member, Al Rottger, who has since passed away and he was the plank holder of the program. Presenting all the different branches of services at the high schools, about the Vietnam War and our experiences there. There's a lot of misunderstanding about Vietnam. it's a very good opportunity for us to get out there and share some perceptions about who we are, what we did, what we were engaged in. The program starts in April, May. We've already had teachers from high schools say hey we need to have you guys come back because for our kids are very interested. It is one of the most compelling experiences they will have during the school year. We really have an opportunity to go out there and provide that education, plus have a very good experience for ourselves. We've never gone anywhere we would not be welcome.

If any member is interested in joining the school's speaker program, please see Jim Higgins or Doug Nunes.

- **President Stan Paprocki.**

- **General Meeting Guest Speaker: (Doug Nunes)**

- **Report: Stan Paprocki,**

- **Vice-president: Trini Rael;** Good morning. I wanted to reach out to the membership and announce the next State Council meeting that we have at Castle Pines is on March 8th so if anyone is interested in one of these meetings, you are more welcome to attend.

- **Secretary Report: Marty Chavez;** The ladies from the Quilts of Valor will be presenting their quilts, between 12 and 14 quilts. They will be here at our May meeting. If you have not received a quilt and would like to, or if you would like to nominate somebody for a quilt, you can go online and do that. Just go to qov.org, (quilts of valor.org) and you just fill it out and they will contact you and get you all set up for a quilt. Well, they fill out the fill out the application on the on the online, the Quilts of Valor QO v.org and fill out the application and send it in. You can do it online and they'll get a hold of you. If you have any questions, you can contact me You can nominate yourself or you can nominate another veteran. The veteran must be alive.

- **Financial Report: Read by V.P. Rael**

- **Membership Report: Ray Holtz / Stan Paprocki**

1. In November we had 1 new VVA member Donald Stillman.

2. In December we had 1 new VVA member Robert Fox

3. In November and December, we had no new AVVA members.

4. We have 245 members, and 51 AVVA members giving us a total of 296 members.

*Webmaster Report: Ray Holtz

1. December website visits were 1,095.

2. Posted notice of the passing of Cliff Fajfar and his obituary along with funeral arrangements.

3. Posted link to 2025 scholarship application.

- **Honors Burial Report: Bill Bridges;**

1. Bill gave an update on Director / Member Cliff Fejfars' funeral services scheduled for Jan. 24th. Starting with a Christian Mass at Christ on the Mountain Church following with a funeral procession to Ft Logan.

American Legion Riders, on motorcycles will be in the procession from the church with their flags all the way to Fort Logan. There will be participation by the US Navy Honor Guard and their bugler, All Vets Honor Guard will do the gun salute. The Honor Bell will be rung in Cliffs' honor. The Colorado Patriot Guard will stand with their flags at the entrance of Shelter C, , The Elks Lodge, Rocky Mtn. Honor Flight staff as well as other friends. Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters. We are hoping to have as many as possible VVA 1071 members there. Immediately after or thereabouts at 3:30 there will be a reception and a luncheon at the Elks Lodge. Cliff and Amys' favorite Mexican restaurant (Moose Hill Cantina) will do the catering. Ray has posted most of this information on the website.

2. I did get a notification from the owner of Rhonda's Funeral Home. She's getting ready to transfer those cremains to our administration and management. I'm hoping that this next week she will be setting a date

when we can go pick up the cremains of the veterans that she has in her possession. We'll try to arrange for an April service when the weather is better.

More to come later, Never give up, Never give up.

3. Secretary Chavez informed the membership that the VVA 1971 board agreed to donate \$1000 to the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight in Cliffs' memory because Cliff was such a great part of that organization. The board of directors also agreed to donate. \$500 to the Denver Hospice Center, both donations are in memory of Cliff Feifer in lieu of flowers.

- Fund raising; Steve Newton; 29th of March, first time we've done it on Vietnam veteran's day. Signup sheets are on the back tables.
- Merchandise: Jim Topkoff;
- Guest Speaker: Next month's speaker is one of our members, Rick Claggett. He will be covering his experience as a dog handler in Vietnam.
- March: SSgt. Dannielle Mc Bride from Space Force, which is situated out in Buckley. They give us an overview of what Space Force is and what its mission is.
- April: Robert Doriss, one of our members, who's going to give a presentation
- Director discussion:
- Discussion from the floor.

1. Danny Tomlinson (VVA Member) was appointed to the board of the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight, specifically his job on the board is to do public relations, goodwill ambassadorship. (Danny); on behalf of the board of the Rocky Mountain Honor Flight, thank you very, very much for the generous donation to Rocky Mountain Honor Flight in Cliffs Memory.

2. David Nila, VVA member; I'm on the Veterans Committee of the Elks. I manage 40 W, which is right down the street from Colfax. In that building we have 29 veterans. These guys are hurting, so when you come to our meetings every month, if you can bring something, extra pair of socks, canned food, doesn't matter. These guys can use all these items that we take for granted. We really do appreciate it.

3. Dick Bares, VVA member: Tom Mormon has been running the burial services at Ft. Logan every other month for the veterans that never received military honors. Tom's health is deteriorating so I volunteered to take over the program. On February 8th we'll be doing our next service. There is usually about 30 veterans' cremains arriving from out of state where there's no family to be there for the service. Other cremains show up or who knows why they end up without sending military honors. Your presence to honor these veterans.

- Reminder: Sign in | Raffle ticket;
- Door Price Drawings: Jim Topkoff;
 1. LARGE Teddy Bear; Jerry Zimmer
 2. Gift card; #245.
 3. \$25 IHop card; #249
 4. \$25 Black Eye Peas; #238 Mike McDonald
 5. Binoculars; #246 Danny Tomlinson
- POW/MIA-Retiring ~ Jose Gonzales / Remembering our Veterans ~ Otto Smolik

Today we honor and remember one of our own.

JOSEPH L SIMPSON*** DATE OF BIRTH Feb 6th, 1945, HOME OF RECORD; DENVER

DATE OF

CASUALTY May 12th, 1968, CASUALTY PROVINCE; QUANG TIN, Vietnam

BRANCH OF SERVICE; ARMY RANK; SSGT STATUS; MIA

The Siege of NUK TAVAK (Ngok Tavak) and KAM DOK (Kham Duc), May 10-12, 1968

Kham Duc Special Forces camp (A-105), was located on the western fringes of Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam.

In the spring of 1968, it was the only remaining border camp in Military Region I.

Backup responsibility for the camp fell on the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), based at Chu Lai on the far side of the province.

The small forward operating base of Ngok Tavak was defended by the 113-man 11th Mobile Strike Force Company with its 8 Special Forces and 3 Australian advisors. Since Ngok Tavak was outside friendly artillery range, 33

Marine artillerymen of Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 13th Marines, with two 105mm howitzers were located at the outpost.

OP1 was manned by PFC Harry B. Coen, PFC Andrew J. Craven, SGT Joseph L. Simpson, and SP4 Julius Long from Company E, 2nd of the 1st Infantry. At about 0415 hours, when OP1 came under heavy enemy attack, and was overrun by the NVA. Rescue efforts were impossible because of the hostile threat in the area and the order was given to escape and evade, SP4 Julius Long was with PFC Coen and SSGT Simpson. All three had been wounded and were trying to make their way back to the airfield about 350 yards away. As they reached the airfield, they saw the last C-130 departing. PFC Coen, who was shot in the stomach, panicked and started running and shooting his weapon at random. SP4 Long tried to catch him, but could not, and did not see PFC Coen again. Long then carried SSGT Simpson to a nearby hill, where they spent the night. During the night, the airfield was strafed and bombed by U.S. aircraft. SP4 Long was hit twice in the back by fragments, and SSGT Simpson died during the night. SP4 Long left him lying on the hill near the Cam Duc airfield and started his escape and evasion toward Chu Lai, South Vietnam. SP4 Long was captured and was released in 1973 from North Vietnam. SSGT Joseph L. Simpson's body was never recovered, still listed as KIA / MIA.

****SSGT Joseph L. Simpson has a military stone in his honor at Ft Logan Nat Cem.**

****YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN NOR SHALL YOU EVER BE. May they all Rest in Pease, Thank you for your service**

- **Benediction; Otto Smolik**
- **Meeting adjourned: Stan (Turn Cell Phones back on)**
- **Up Coming Events:**
 1. **Jan.20th MLK Day**
 2. **Feb.1st BoD meeting**
 3. **Fea. 14th Valentines' Day**
 4. **Feb. 15th VVA members meeting**
 5. **Feb. 17th Presidents' Day**

Marty Chavez – Secretary, VVA Chapter 1071 – Denver

People inspire you, or They drain you---Pick them wisely” Hans F. Hansen

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