

P.O. Box 1042
Janesville WI 53547-1042



May/June 2019 Vol. XXXII, No. II

*** Mail Call ***

This bimonthly newsletter is the official publication of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Janesville, WI, Rock River Chapter #236. It is a chapter of the national organization, which is a non-profit veterans' organization recognized by the Veterans Administration as a service organization. Opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the national organization of the VVA or its chapters.

APRIL 2019	OFFICERS	TELEPHONE
President	Bill Nielsen	(608) 728-4514
V. President	John Kettle	(608) 756-1893
Secretary	Bob Engstrom	(608) 754-2706
Treasurer	Tom Stehura	(608) 756-1127
AVVA Pres	Rosemarie Titus	(847) 471-5036
Board of Directors		
Roger Manecke		(608) 756-1279
Garry Meister		(608) 774-0350
Richard Waugh		(608) 754-0747
Al Pacheco		(608) 757-2882
Mike Eggleston		(608) 879-9461
Par Brown		(608) 756-2548
NEWSLETTER	Tom Stehura	
State Council Reps.		
Tom Stehura		Mike Johnson 752-1318

The Bulletin Board

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

May	Event
5	Chapter Meeting 6.PM - VFW
11	Put Up Street Flags
22-24	Veterans Cemetery Spruce Up
25	Small Grave Flag Placement
26/27	Tank Co and Memorial Day

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	27	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

June	Event
2	Chapter Meeting 6.PM - VFW
15	Support the Troops

New Life Membership

VVA is only offering LIFE memberships for \$50. If you have been getting a 1 year membership for \$20 you will need to pay \$50 at your next renew or be dropped from the VVA. If you paid \$50 at your last renewal you will become a LIFE member automatically without any further payment. NEW members will only have the \$50 LIFE membership when they join. (with a DD214 submitted).

VVA and AVVA Membership Applications are available on line at the **VVA.Org** or the **AVVA.Org** websites in the Forms tab. Contact Tom Stehura or Rosemarie Titus if you have questions or need assistance.

Letter from the President:

As we start another Year. I want to Thank Everyone who gives me the confidence to be President for another year. I want to thank the members who help run the chapter and keep it one of the best chapters in the state. We will be putting up street flags on the 11 May. So if can help, meet at Traxler Park At 8:00am. Cemetery flags will be placed on Saturday, 25 May. Meet at Oak Hill Chapel at 8:00am. Don't forget the ceremonies on the 27 May, Memorial Day. parade and at Traxler Park. I hope everyone will have a great and safe summer.

Builder for Peace,
President Bill Nielsen

(SPECIAL MAY EVENTS SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED)

2019 VVA, Tim Kettle, Max Perkins and Albert Kath, Jr.
Scholarship Recipients

Katie Chesbro – Milton
Samantha Goodger – Milton
Alexis Faith Stesney – Milton
Elizabeth Rubeck - Craig (Al Kath, Jr.)
Saige Worden – Craig
Alexus Bell – Beloit
Henry Korfmacher – Evansville
Taylor Stark – Orfordville
Devin Wolf – University of Minnesota

Carly Kathleen Davis – Milton
Molly Maxwell – Milton
Cullin Rebarchek – Milton (Tim Kettle)
Madelyn M. Volkey – Parker (Max Perkins)
Andrew Meyers – Parker
Shannon K. Mullooly – Clinton (Tim Kettle)
Alexis Miller – Orfordville
Brenna C. Zomok – Orfordville

The scholarships will be presented at the school ceremony by:

Parker High School	May 15, 2019	Rick Waugh
Beloit Memorial High School	May 22, 2019	Garry Meister
Evansville High School	May 22, 2019	Roger Manecke
Orfordville/Parkville High School	May 22, 2019	Mike Eggleston
Milton High School	May 23, 2019	Roger Manecke
Craig High School	May 29, 2019	Roger Manecke
Clinton High School	May 29, 2019	Garry Meister

Plaque Presentation To Festival Foods



Al Pecheco presents the management of Festival Foods a plaque recognizing their company's service to veterans. Every Friday morning Festival Foods provide a meeting place for veterans with coffee and donuts. The plaque was donated by Veterans United for Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Vietnam Veterans of America

This Plaque, shown below, was presented to Festival Foods at a ceremony on April 29, 2019 in appreciation for all the support they give to the Janesville area veterans.



Memorial Day Week and Weekend Activities

**** Meet at Kealy's Kafe for breakfast 1 hour before start time**

May 11, Saturday – Street Flag Placement (meet at Traxler Park) **

- 8:00 A.M. Work party to place the American Flags on the city entrances.

May 22-24, Wednesday through Friday - Oak Hill Veterans Cemetery

(Al Pacheco and Pat Riley will coordinate the Day and Time)

- Work party to clean and dress up the Veterans Section
- Put up road American Flags in cemetery (with assistance of the city staff)
- Verify power is available at the Veterans Section for the Monday ceremony

May 25, Saturday - Oak Hill, Mt Olivet & Milton Lawns Cemeteries **

- 8:00 A.M. - Place small American Flags on the graves of all veterans

May 26, Sunday – Janesville Tank Company Ceremony

- 6:00 P.M. – Setup at Tank Company Monument
- 7:00 P.M. - Remembrance Ceremony

May 27, Monday – Memorial Day **

- Oak Hill Cemetery at 8:00 A.M. - Remembrance Ceremony @ Veterans Section.
- Setup at 7:15 A.M. Take down after the ceremony.

May 27, Monday – Memorial Day

- Milton Lawns Cemetery at 9:30 A.M. - Remembrance Ceremony by VFW 1621

May 27, Monday – Memorial Day Parade (Will Take Place)

- 11:00 A.M. from the Armory to Traxler Park.
(Due to Milwaukee Bridge closure starting location and route aren't determined)
- Line up beginning at 10:15 A.M.

May 27, Monday – Memorial Day Ceremony at Traxler Park

- 11:00 A.M. or after parade arrives at the park.
- Set up immediately after the Oak Hill Ceremony concludes
- Luncheon after the ceremony at the Janesville V.F.W. Club

July 6, 2019 Saturday Oak Hill & Mt. Olivet Cemeteries **

- 8:00 A.M. Remove small American Flags from the Veterans Graves.

(We always need help for this, Please join us if you can.)

Placing Cemetery Grave Flags on Veterans Graves.

On Saturday morning, May 25, 2019, at 8:00 A.M. the Janesville Patriotic Society will place flags on the graves of all veterans in the Oak Hill, Mt. Olivet, and Milton Avenue Cemeteries. We will meet at the chapel by the Oak Hill Ave. entrance to the cemetery and disperse from there.

PLEASE JOIN US

Memorial Day Parade Invitation Letter

Dear Friend,

I want to apologize for the lateness of this invitation letter. Due to the closure of the Milwaukee Street Bridge the Patriotic Society has been seeking approval for an alternate route that will meet with the Parks Department, City and State approval for traffic detours. As of this date we still don't have approval, but rest assured, **"WE WILL HAVE A PARADE"** on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2019.

In past years you have participated in the parade, and we look forward to you joining us again this year. We will assemble at 10:15 A.M. at the corner of High and Dodge streets by the Old Armory Building. The parade will begin at 11:00 A.M. sharp. The parade will follow the leading Police Car and eventually end at the Veterans Plaza in Traxler Park.

As in the past the parade will honor the thousands of men and women, veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces, who have given their lives defending the freedom we all enjoy.

If you want to participate in the parade, contact me before May 20 so I can reserve a place for you in the parade. Include the Number of People, Number of Vehicles, and any other information I can use to reserve enough space for your unit.

Thank you.

Tom Stehura - (608) 756-1127 – **toms27@charter.net**
-(608) 920-6223

Parade Chairperson
Janesville Patriotic Society

or write to
1309 Manor Dr.
Janesville, WI 53548-1416

Janesville Patriotic Society Parade Criteria

The purpose of the Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the Janesville Patriotic Society is to “Honor Veterans for Their Service and Sacrifice”. Units wishing to participate in the parade must meet the following criteria. The final determination as to a unit’s qualification will be made by the Janesville Patriotic Society Parade Committee.

Type of Units Allowed:

(At least 1 American Flag is require with each unit)

- Veteran Organizations and their Auxiliaries and Associates
- Active Duty Personal, including Reserve Units and Personnel
- Military Veterans marching as individuals
- Bands and Other Marching Musical Units
- School Organizations, Boy Scout and Girl Scout Units
- Vehicles and Floats with a “Veteran” theme
- Any Organization or Business wishing to honor veterans
- Other units who’s theme is judged appropriate by the Parade Committee

Units and Activities NOT Allowed:

- Politician or Candidates running for political office, displaying campaign signs, and/or distributing campaign literature
- Political Action Committee/Group supporting a social issue or a politician
- Political or Social Issue Statements or literature of any kind
- Advertisement of Products or Services for sale by a business
- Food, Drink and/or Candy, or Business Literature distribution
- Motorized units such as bumper cars, mini bikes, go carts, etc. designed to entertain
- Other activities and units judged to be inappropriate with the intent and purpose of the parade’s “Honoring Veterans” theme

If you have any questions, contact the Parade Chairman

We have received two Feasibility Study Documents: 1. The Dissolution of the VVA, and 2. Changing the VVA to allow non-Vietnam veterans to become members. (#1 & #2 Document Titles are paraphrased)
In response to these initial proposal in September 2016 the chapter voted to send the letter below to the National VVA President stating the chapter's feeling on what was being proposed.

===== (Sent on our chapter letterhead. Reformatted here for the newsletter)

September 4, 2016

John Rowan, President

Dear President Rowan

It has been brought to our chapter's attention that the Vietnam Veterans of America is considering major changes to the organization's membership requirements and the organization's name. These proposed changes are being considered because of concern about the "Last Man Standing" as our organization's membership slowly dwindles down to one last member. These changes would allow other Non-Vietnam veterans, (particularly Iraq, Afghanistan, and Global War on Terrorism veterans), to join our organization as regular members. Also, the name "Vietnam Veterans of America" would be changed to reflect this new membership. At this time we have no information about how these changes will be acted upon, when they will be implemented, or what the new name for the organization would become.

Rock River Chapter #236 of the Wisconsin State Council wishes to go on record as being vehemently opposed to any change that would allow non-Vietnam Veterans to become members of our organization or changing the name of Vietnam Veterans of America. As Vietnam veterans we have worked long and hard to overcome the stigma attached to our service and establish ourselves as productive and dependable members in our local communities. Our chapter's activities in our communities and around the Mid-west are recognized as outstanding and have received many kudos for how we represent ourselves and all veterans. As our chapter membership slowly decreases we will have a plan in place regarding the distribution of our funds to serve our community and continue honoring ourselves as Vietnam veterans and all other veterans.

While we always will show respect and concern for our fellow veterans regardless of their conflict or war, we believe there are many avenues available for veterans to participate in organizations that currently exist. For example, Associates of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disable Veterans of America, just to name a few. Many of our members belong to one or more of these above organizations. These Iraq, Afghanistan and GWT veterans can also form their own organization like we did over 25 years ago.

In closing we hope that you will keep our organization unchanged and let us continue our work in keeping the Vietnam War and the memories of those of us who served pure and un-compromised.

Thank you

Bill Nielsen, President, Vietnam Veterans of America Rock River Chapter #236

Cc: Wisconsin State Council

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Both of the Feasibility Papers are quite substantial, (approximately 110 pages total).

We will review them at the chapter meeting.

If you want a full copy of these, send me an e-mail address and I will forward copies to you.

Below is a picture of the living statues of the Three Men and the Nurses our chapter uses in the ceremonies we conduct around the mid-West. The statues are made up of the children of our members and their friends. The American Flag use as a backdrop was purchased by our members through donations and fund raising.

In addition to these statue reenactments we also conduct the American Flag Folding Ceremony, Use the 6 Battlefield Cross to Honor the Fallen, The POW/MIA Remembrance Table Ceremony, Rifle Salute and Taps, and Salute to the 5 Service Branches, and much more , as part of our Ceremony.

If we are in your neighborhood, Come See Us.



The Janesville Patriotic Society
The Veterans Walkway in Traxler Park is dedicated to honoring our veterans by placing their names on bricks on the walkway. There are five types of brick available to honor these veterans and their mothers.



There are five type of bricks available.

- VETERAN BRICKS**
- PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT BRICKS**
- GOLD STAR MOTHERS BRICKS**
- VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL BRICKS**
- GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM BRICKS**



To obtain an Order Form and information about the brick send your:

**NAME,
 ADDRESS,
 PHONE NUMBER,
 and
 E-MAIL ADDRESS**

to

**JANESVILLE PATRIOTIC
 SOCIETY**

**WALKWAY BRICK ORDER
 P.O. BOX 2414**

JANESVILLE, WI 53547-2414

OR E-mail To:

Toms27@charter.net

Subject Line: "Brick Order"

Also include your address information in the E-mail" and ordering information will be sent to you.



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NOTICE:
Since we only have 5 advertiser in our newsletter, as of this issue, we will stop taking new advertisers. As a show of loyalty to those who have stayed with us all these years, we will continue running their ads until they tell us to stop. Thank you

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