



# INCOMING FROM THE 101<sup>ST</sup>

## CHAPTER 101 VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

Volume 37 No. 9 P.O. Box 904 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-0904 September 2019

September 2019							October 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	30						27	28	29	30	31		
5th to 8th		VN Traveling Tribute Wall					7th		Breakfast at Chat-R-Box				
7th		VVA Brat Fry - W. Grand Foods					10th		Chapter Meeting - 7pm				
9th		Breakfast at Grace's - 9am					11th		Veterans Appreciation FB Game				
12th		Chapter Meeting - 7pm					17th		VFW Post Meeting - 7pm				
15th		Wisconsin Dells Parade											
19th		VFW Post Meeting - 7pm											



### Monday, September 9, 2019

Please note the location for breakfast today!!

Come and have breakfast with other chapter members  
at Grace's in Wisconsin Rapids.  
Breakfast starts at 9 a.m.

### Chapter Membership Information

Life memberships are now \$ 50.00. There is no longer a yearly membership.

**YOU MUST SUPPLY A COPY OF YOUR DD - 214 WHEN APPLYING. NO 214, NO MEMBERSHIP!  
NATIONAL SAYS THE 214 IS DESTROYED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT.**

Contact Ron Clark at 715-421-4615 if you have membership questions or need help.

### Breakfast Note

Breakfast this month. Our breakfast meeting will be held at the Chat-R-Box in Kellner. The date is Monday, August 5th. Breakfast starts at 9 a.m. Please come by and join us!

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### American Heroes Cafe' Activities Crossview Church – Wisconsin Rapids

*Courtesy of Bill Haack*

The cafe is open and coffee and donuts available for your enjoyment! Looking forward to seeing you there! See the list of upcoming activities below.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sept. 5th – 8th – Vietnam Traveling Tribute Wall** at Veterans Memorial Field, Portage, WI

**Sept. 7th** - VVA Brat fry at West Grand Quality Foods

**Sept. 14th** - VFW Brat Fry at Baker Street Quality Foods. Last Brat fry of the year.

**Sept. 18th** – Quilts of Valor. Nineteen veterans will receive a quilt at this ceremony.

**Sept. 25th** - 4th Anniversary of the Cafe today. A drawing is being held for an eagle and metal flag.

**Oct. 11th** – Veterans appreciation football game Lincoln vs. La Crosse Logan.

**Nov. 9th** - Military Appreciation Night. A veteran will drop the puck at the start of the game. Veteran to be selected.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thought for the Day:** Some things are just better left unsaid -- and I usually realize that, right after I say it.

**SWEPS update:** Our current total is \$1240. The goal is \$1500. We will deliver the check to SWEPS on 6 November in time for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Eagle Raffle Tickets:** \$2 each, 3 for \$5. 6 for \$10 and 12 for \$20. Drawing September 25th, Cafe's 4th anniversary

### Current Chapter Officers

- President** - Bill Haack.
- Vice-President** - Dave Posey.
- Secretary** - Tom Heiser.
- Treasurer** - Bob Skerven.
- Sgt-at-Arms** - Allan Brown.

### Meeting Night

The chapter meets each **Second Thursday** of the month except for January, February and August.

### Meeting Location

All meetings are held at VFW Post 2534 which is located at 2711 Reddin Road, Wisconsin Rapids. Reddin Road is off of Hwy. 34 North as you are leaving Wisconsin Rapids.

We do have a July summer meeting at a different location which is our shelter located at Lyons Park. The park is located just off the west side of the Riverview Expressway bridge and can be accessed off of 2nd Avenue South.

All Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans are invited to join our chapter. The cost is \$50 for a lifetime membership.

### Newsletter

The newsletter is published monthly in print and electronic media. To save on costs it is preferable if you would receive it via e-mail. To receive the newsletter electronically send your e-mail address to: **stack@wctc.net** with "Newsletter" in the subject line and you will be added to the list. Thank you - Jim.

### Biblical Quotes - For we all are sinners A Nun Grading Papers

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah

### Wood County Veterans Service Office

For help understanding or applying for your Veteran's benefits

Office locations: The Courthouse in Wisconsin Rapids and Norwood Annex, 1600 Chestnut Street, Marshfield.

Wisconsin Rapids Phone: 715-421-8420

Marshfield Phone: 715-384-3773

E-mail: [veterans@co.wood.wi.us](mailto:veterans@co.wood.wi.us)



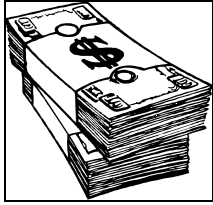
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## VVA Monthly Raffle

The "Monthly Drawing" is now being done among those who are **present**. The **50/50 Drawing** continues to be done as before.

There was no meeting in August, hence, no drawings. See you in September.

### Looking Ahead

Sep. 5th to 8th - VN Traveling Tribute Wall - Portage.  
 Sep. 7th - VVA Brat Fry - W. Grand Quality Foods.  
 Sep. 9th - Breakfast at Grace's.  
 Sep. 12th - Chapter Meeting - 7 pm.  
 Sep. 14th - VFW Brat Fry - Baker St. Quality Foods.  
 Sep. 19th - VFW Post Meeting - 7 pm.

Oct. 7th - Breakfast at the Chat-R-Box.  
 Oct. 10th - Chapter Meeting - 7 pm.  
 Oct. 11th - Veterans Appreciation football game, Lincoln versus La Crosse Logan  
 Oct. 17th - VFW Post Meeting - 7 pm.

### Questions That Haunt Me!

1. Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?
2. Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
3. Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp that nobody will eat?

  
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## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

### Meet the Challenge!

Having started with the July 3rd American Heroes Café, 25% of the proceeds from donations will be set aside in a separate bank account to be donated to SWEPS following the Cafe on 20 November.

The account will be monitored and maintained by Kathy Kolo. If you would like to make a direct donation to the SWEPS, see Kathy or any member of the Heroes Café staff.

I challenge anyone who is financially able to make a donation of \$25 or more. However, any amount will help us achieve and exceed our goal. Our goal for this year is \$1000, but we can go over the goal as much as we want. As veterans and first responders our first priority is our community. There is no reason for anyone in Wood County to go hungry, especially during the holidays.

The check will be delivered to SWEPS after the Café on 20 November.

### Kid's Advice to Kids

Felt - tip markers are not good to use as lipstick - Lauren, age 9

### Ritchay

Funeral Home  
715-423-1414  
1950 12<sup>th</sup> St. S.  
Wis Rapids. WI

### Feldner/Ritchay

Funeral Home  
715-886-3161  
615 1<sup>st</sup> St  
Nekoosa, WI

**“Family - to - Family  
Service”**



## You've Been Hacked!

The Pentagon is opening a new front in its war on flaws and bugs in its websites. On August 11th and 12th, about 100 hackers from around the world went to town on the Marine Corps' public-facing sites, finding more than 75 security vulnerabilities in just a few hours, the Defense Digital Service announced on August 13th. It is the latest hack-the-military bug-bounty program, the brainchild of DDS director Chris Lynch. The first one, Hack the Pentagon, launched in 2016, found 138 bugs. Then came Hack the Army, which found more than 118; Hack the Air Force, versions one and two, found 315 collectively, and this year's Hack the Defense Travel System, which found more than 100. DDS is working with San Francisco-based bug-bounty company HackerOne on the programs.

The hack-the-Pentagon efforts are helping to fix non-sensitive Defense Department sites. It was a push to get the Pentagon to experiment with the concept at all, Lynch told Defense One on the sidelines of the DEFCON hacker conference here. Lynch says he is still struggling with aspects of Pentagon acquisition that are too weighted toward established players at the expense of innovation and the timely fixing of problems. "The old-school approach was, we would have this really large vendor and they would sell you some terrible piece of software—probably—and they would say, 'This is 100 percent going to do the job of securing your networks, certifications, and systems and it's all going to be great. Perfect.'...That doesn't really work. You need a broader community."

Just by telling the world that the Defense Department was open to tips, DDS officials received reports that they wouldn't otherwise have gotten. Lynch said they also learned how hard it is for outsiders to report problems to the Defense Department related to public websites. He recounted one of the more interesting experiences he had reaching out to the larger hacker community. "Someone in a foreign country, I can't remember where they were, sent us an email with a vulnerability that they knew about. They said, 'I don't even know how to report a [website] vulnerability to the DoD'" he said.

This was before the DDS began working the issue, according to a spokesperson. "There was no way to just say 'Hey, I saw something. I'm just going to report it.'

I think that's crazy. It was a big wakeup call. This person was scared to report to the DoD. I say, let me know. I want to know." It's now easier and there is an established process for disclosing those, according to DDS.

*(Defense One | Patrick Tucker| August 13, 2018)*

## WW I National Memorial Update

A century after the First World War, a project to build a national World War I memorial has taken a significant step forward. The latest design concept for the memorial has been approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. Plans call for the memorial to be built at Pershing Park along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington by 2020. Designs for the memorial got a unanimous vote during a presentation by the commission's project team. The project was presented to CFA, the National Park Service and the National Capital Planning Commission. "We will continue to push forward in this effort. Our veterans deserve our best effort, and we owe it to them," said WWI Centennial Commission chair Terry Hamby in a release. Architect David Rubin and members of the commission said variations on the design may be developed further with the oversight organizations.

Congress in 2014 designated the site of the new memorial, which is intended to honor the Americans who served in the war, numbering more than four million men and women. The memorial project is funded through private donations. Donations may be made at the commission's website. A memorial to the war already exists on the National Mall, a small structure with columns supporting a dome, placed by the citizens of the District of Columbia in the 1930s. But a national World War I memorial was never built, while the nation's World War II memorial opened in 2004, and the site for the Desert Storm memorial was approved last month.

*(Military Times | Kathleen Curthoys | July 20, 2018)*





## Fraud Again

A judge demanded to know July 31st why a North Carolina man repeatedly used an Army general's uniform to fool others, asking if "it was like Halloween every day," as he sentenced him to six months' imprisonment for an impersonation that ended with an alarming helicopter ride. Christian Desgroux, 58, also received a year of supervised release for wearing a three-star general's battle dress uniform when he unexpectedly landed in a chartered helicopter at a technology company late last year. While authorities say he was trying to impress a female employee, the case was so serious that federal terrorism investigators launched a probe.

That November landing at SAS Institute wasn't the only time Desgroux pretended to be a general despite never serving in the U.S. military, prosecutor Barbara Kocher said Tuesday. She told the judge that Desgroux had convinced a now-estranged wife that he was going on fake deployments and had worn a military uniform while getting kicked out of strip clubs. "He liked the sense of importance he gained by masquerading as a general," Kocher said, adding that Desgroux "has used this persona for years." Federal sentencing guidelines called for no more than six months' imprisonment, U.S. District Judge Terrence Boyle made clear how serious it is to impersonate a military officer.

\* "You can be a danger to people," Boyle said. "What made you think you could act like a general?"

\* Wearing an orange jumpsuit, Desgroux apologized, saying he hadn't realized what he was doing was illegal.

\* "So it was like Halloween every day of the week?" Boyle asked. "Why not wear a top hat and a tuxedo?"

\* The defendant then meekly added, "It was a mental issue, sir." He said he bought the uniform from a surplus store.

Desgroux had previously been ruled competent to proceed with the case, a finding his attorney didn't contest. Federal prison officials oversaw a mental health exam that showed he had a personality disorder with narcissistic traits as well as alcoholism, Kocher said, but his offense wasn't the result of psychosis. Boyle said he would credit Desgroux for the more than five months he's been jailed since his arrest. He also ordered him to stay away from alcohol and undergo mental health treatment. Defense attorney Andrew McCoppin told the judge that prior to the November arrest, his client had previous inpatient psychiatric treatment.

"There definitely is a mental health component to all this that he's going to need to continue to work on," said McCoppin, who declined a reporter's request for further comment.

Desgroux had pleaded guilty in June to a single count of impersonating a military officer when he convinced a charter helicopter pilot to land at the company's sprawling headquarters in Cary. When Desgroux landed at the SAS corporate campus on November 6th, he was approached by security officers. Homeland Security Special Agent Tony Bell has previously testified that Desgroux saluted the security officers and that some saluted him back. Still, the suspicious guards called local authorities who got federal agents involved.

Federal agents have said he hoped to impress the woman with the nearly \$3,000 chartered flight and claims he was on a mission authorized by President Donald Trump himself. The woman, however, was married and not romantically interested. She was expecting him to arrive by car, but instead they went on a 30-minute helicopter ride around Raleigh, authorities said. She and the pilot appear to have been swept up in Desgroux's strange behavior and were not charged. Desgroux, a native of Chile who worked out of his North Carolina home as a mechanic, has lived in the Raleigh area for several decades and became a U.S. citizen in 2016.

*(The Associated Press | Jonathan Drew | July 31, 2018)*

## Staying Healthy



## Your Life in 1917

Some items from 1917:

- The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
- Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores only.
- Only 14 percent of homes had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of homes had a telephone.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average US wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour.
- The average US worker made between \$200 & \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year. A dentist \$2,500 per year. A veterinarian between \$1,500 - \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all Doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as "substandard."
- Sugar cost four cents a pound, eggs were fourteen cents a dozen, and coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.
- The American flag had 45 stars.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30.
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.
- There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.
- Two out of every 10 adults could not read or write, and, only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstore.
- Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WW II Veteran William E. Brandenburg

Nearly 76 years after he was killed in an intense World War II battle that claimed about 1,000 U.S. Marines and sailors, a Marine from New Miami, Ohio was scheduled to return home as the latest example of the military providing closure to families decades after death. The family of Marine Corps Reserve PFC.

William E. Brandenburg welcomed the entire community, particularly military families, to his funeral. A somber military procession after the funeral, on the way to his burial, was scheduled for July 27th to which the public was encouraged to line the streets in Brandenburg's honor.

Brandenburg, 17, was fighting the Japanese on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The battle, which lasted several days, killed 1,000 Marines and sailors and wounded more than 2,000 Americans. The Japanese "were virtually annihilated," according to a news release about Brandenburg from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Brandenburg, who went by "Billy," died on the third day of battle, on November 22, 1943. He was born in New Miami on January 3, 1926. He was the son of Robert and Mattie (Rice) Brandenburg. His parents and siblings are all deceased, but still living are numerous nieces and nephews, as well as great-nieces and great-nephews. "A lot of people in New Miami are related with the Brandenburg's, so there's going to be a lot of the family members here," said Dave Mangus, a veteran who served 23 years in the Navy and husband of Brandenburg's great-niece, Marla Mangus. "His family is also anybody who was in the military, and we have a lot of military brothers and sisters coming to bring him home."

The military listed Brandenburg's age as 19, but he actually was 17 when he died. Like many others during WWII and Korea, he fibbed about his age and enlisted at 16. Brandenburg's bittersweet homecoming, and burial just feet away from his parents, was made possible by modern scientific methods. His unidentified body was buried in one of several battlefield cemeteries on the island. His was known as Central Division Cemetery, which later was renamed Cemetery 26. All of the remains from Betio were sent to the Schofield Barracks Central Identification Laboratory in 1947 for identification. By 1949, those remains that still were unidentified were buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. One group of those bodies was designated as Tarawa Unknown X-074. That set was dug up in October 2016, for identification and Brandenburg's remains were among them.

Scientists from the DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis, anthropological analysis and "circumstantial and material evidence" to make identifications. Because Brandenburg's body now has been identified, a rosette mark will be placed next to his name on a monument in Honolulu that lists the names of missing military.

*(Journal-News | Mike Rutledge | July 24, 2019)*

### Update from President Haack

As most of you know, Tom Sachs attended the VVA National Convention in Spokane, Washington in July. There were several issues that were on the agenda for this convention and the following is a summary of events that took place at the convention.

John Rowan was reelected to an eighth term as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America on July 19, at the organization's 19th National Convention in Spokane, Washington. Rowan, who was elected to VVA's highest office in 2005, has served as the chairman of VVA's Conference of State Council Presidents, for three terms on the organization's Board of Directors, and as president of VVA's New York State Council.

Thomas Burke of New Philadelphia, Ohio, was elected to serve as Vice President; Bill Meeks, Jr., of The Woodlands, Texas, was reelected as Secretary; and Jack McManus of Flat Rock, North Carolina, was elected as VVA's Treasurer. In addition, 19 National Board of Directors were elected: Ten At-Large and nine Regional. The At-Large directors are Dottie Barickman (IA); Richard C. DeLong (LA); Gumersindo Gomez (MA); Dennis Howland (UT); John Margowski (WI); Felix Peterson (OK); Dave Simmons (WV); Dan Stenvold (ND); Kerwin Stone (TX); Sandie Wilson (MI); and Jerry Yamamoto (CA).

The nine Regional directors elected to serve a 2019-2021 term are: Region 1, Skip Hochreich (MA); Region 2, Ted Wilkinson (NY); Region 3, Sara McVicker (DC); Region 4, Spence Davis (GA); Region 5, John Riling (MI); Region 6, Robert Grabinski (WI); Region 7, Dennis Andras (LA); Region 8, Francisco Ivarra (WA); and Region 9, Dick Southern (CA).

Two items that were proposed to the board were discussed in detail, but no final action was taken. No firm date was established for dissolution as was recommended by Working Group 1. So that decision was delayed. The proposal to form another veteran's organization could not be acted upon because congress has shown a reluctance to charter another organization. Therefore, these things remain in limbo and hopefully they will be resolved before we are all too old.

I don't want to say much more until I get a summary from the State Council to clarify some of the questions I have.

Bill Haack  
President Chapter 101 - Vietnam Veterans of America

\*\*\*\*\*

**Where does time go? Don't ask me,  
I don't have enough time in the day as is!**

### Capitol Cornerstone Is Placed

September 18, 1793

On this day in 1793, George Washington lays the cornerstone to the United States Capitol building, the home of the legislative branch of American government. The building would take nearly a century to complete, as architects came and went, the British set fire to it and it was called into use during the Civil War. Today, the Capitol building, with its famous cast-iron dome and important collection of American art, is part of the Capitol Complex, which includes six Congressional office buildings and three Library of Congress buildings, all developed in the 19th and 20th centuries.

As a young nation, the United States had no permanent capital, and Congress met in eight different cities, including Baltimore, New York and Philadelphia, before 1791. In 1790, Congress passed the Residence Act, which gave President Washington the power to select a permanent home for the federal government. The following year, he chose what would become the District of Columbia from land provided by Maryland. Washington picked three commissioners to oversee the capital city's development and they in turn chose French engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant to come up with the design. However, L'Enfant clashed with the commissioners and was fired in 1792. A design competition was then held, with a Scotsman named William Thornton submitting the winning entry for the Capitol building. In September 1793, Washington laid the Capitol's cornerstone and the lengthy construction process, which would involve a line of project managers and architects, got under way.

In 1800, Congress moved into the Capitol's north wing. In 1807, the House of Representatives moved into the building's south wing, which was finished in 1811. During the War of 1812, the British invaded Washington, D.C., and set fire to the Capitol on August 24, 1814. A rainstorm saved the building from total destruction. Congress met in nearby temporary quarters from 1815 to 1819. In the early 1850s, work began to expand the Capitol to accommodate the growing number of Congressmen. In 1861, construction was temporarily halted while the Capitol was used by Union troops as a hospital and barracks. Following the war, expansions and modern upgrades to the building continued into the next century.

Today, the Capitol, which is visited by 3 million to 5 million people each year, has 540 rooms and covers a ground area of about four acres.

\*\*\*\*\*

**I finally get my head together:  
now my body is falling apart!**

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 101  
3220 Sampson Street  
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Chapter 101 Vietnam Veterans of America – Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 September 2019 Page i

## **Wisconsin Dells Parade**

**Sunday, September 15, 2019**

Throughout the years members of our chapter have taken part in the annual Wisconsin Dells Wo-Zha-Wa Fall Festival parade with other veterans from the Dells and Adams area. For those going this year meet at Kay's house, 1015 Capital Drive around 10am or so, or by the police station around 1pm.

**The parade starts at 1:30 pm.**

**Call Gary Schoenborn at 715-323-6226 if you have any questions.**

## **Upcoming Events / Articles**

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**"Never again will one generation  
of veterans abandon another."**

