



CHESAPEAKE VET

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 712

Volume 6 Issue 1

Published Quarterly

4th Quarter 1999

<http://www.vva712.org>

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We Want You!

From the President

Our chapter has been moving in new directions as of late, and new membership continues to grow at a steady pace.

Many of our newest members bring a vast amount of expertise with them, but the potential for this chapter to continue to grow and thrive, simply does not move on its own impetus. When we made the commitment to serve our country, we knew that it would take the all out effort of every individual, if we were to succeed in any measure. Why then, do some of our members expect that the organization can continue to coast along, with only a handful of members who are dedicated enough to make things happen. *The Can Do attitude must apply to all.* We have the talent and resources, but without continued input from the "silent majority," there simply will be no chapter in the future, unless we all choose to join Chapter 451? We have recently instituted a new policy of conducting the major portion of business at regular Board meetings, while reserving our monthly meetings for special activities which include distinguished guest speakers, socials, an upcoming dance on Valentines day, and numerous other activities which will certainly be of interest. But the bottom line is actually quite simple. YOU, yes you, must start to take initiative and pride in your membership, as well as

supporting your fellow vets. So, the time has come—a call to arms. Come out to *your* meetings. Come out to *your* breakfasts. Take an active role, and be proud of just who you are, and what we are really about. It's *your* VVA chapter!

December Cheer

Join your fellow VVA712 members on December 8th.

We will have a brief business meeting at our usual location, American Legion Post 7, then adjourn for some comradeship and good cheer. Holiday music and refreshments provided by the Chapter.

Guest Speaker

We had a very special guest speaker for our November 17th meeting.

Mr. Paul Spreiregan, the senior architect and contest judge for the "WALL," provided an inside look at the process that shaped our nation's memorial to our fallen comrades. Approximately twenty Chapter members, Legion members, and friends attended the talk. **See the attached calender for a complete listing of Chapter events during the upcoming months.**

Calendar of Events

Your officers have been hard at work scheduling events that will promote camaraderie, socializing, education, and public service for the Chapter membership.

Clip the calendar attached to this newsletter and keep it handy. Each month we hold an informal breakfast on the first Saturday and a regular business meetings on the second Wednesday. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings and events.

VVA712 On-Line

Our chapter web site offers event notices and other important information.

Located at <http://www.vva712.org>, the site lists email address for chapter members, links to other VVA sites and veteran's information. We are also posting Vietnam era photos, sound and video clips, and narratives. Eventually, we hope to develop an "Internet Documentary" of Vietnam experiences and memories. If you have access to the Internet, check out your chapter site and be sure to send your email address to webmaster@vva712.org.

Annapolis Memorial Day Parade, 1999



Melvin R. Shoemaker
Photo by Frank Cisneros



Left to right: Andre Prairie, Irv Furman, Tory Salvia. Ed Peckman.
Photo by Frank Cisneros





VVA CHAPTER 712 CALENDAR: Nov 1999 – May 2000

NOVEMBER Guest Speaker	Breakfast Meeting Saturday 11/6, 0900 hrs	Johnny's Family Restaurant 3023 Mountain Road in Pasadena. Call 410-255-1621 for directions or see the map on our web site at http://www.vva712.org/breakfast_info.htm . Join your fellow Vets for good company and conversation. Spouses are always invited. The breakfast is a great opportunity to introduce a prospective member.
	Visit The Wall Thursday 11/11, 0900 hrs	Meet at Post 7 at 0900. We will travel to Washington, DC for ceremonies at The Wall.
	Monthly Meeting Wednesday 11/17, 1930 hrs	American Legion Post 7 1905 Crownsville Road. Call 410-573-0004 for directions or see the map on our web site at http://www.vva712.org/meeting_info.htm Guest Speaker Paul Spreiregan, senior architect and contest judge for the "WALL," provides an inside look at the process that shaped our nation's memorial to our fallen comrades.
	Information Table Saturday 11/20	Help man the VVA712 information table at SAMS CLUB in Annapolis from 9am to 4pm.
DECEMBER Holiday Party	Breakfast Saturday 12/4, 0900 hrs	Johnny's Family Restaurant
	Monthly Meeting Wednesday 12/8, 1930 hrs	American Legion Post 7 Holiday Party. Following a brief meeting, we will adjourn for refreshments provided by the Chapter. You bring the good cheer.
JANUARY Happy Millennium!!	Breakfast Saturday 1/1/2000, 0900 hrs	Johnny's Family Restaurant Happy New Millennium!! Let's toast the new century with several pots of coffee.
	Monthly Meeting Wednesday, 01/13, 1930 hrs	American Legion Post 7 Regular business meeting.
FEBRUARY Dinner Dance	Breakfast Saturday 02/5, 0900 hrs	Johnny's Family Restaurant
	Monthly Meeting Wednesday 02/9, 1930 hrs	American Legion Post 7 Nominations for Officers.
	Fund Raiser Dinner Dance Saturday, 02/12, 1800 hrs	American Legion Post 7 Valentine's Day Dinner Dance. This is a joint fund raiser and social with Post 7 and will feature a steak dinner followed by dancing to a live band.
MARCH Nominations Guest Speaker	Breakfast Saturday 03/4, 0900 hrs	Johnny's Family Restaurant
	Monthly Meeting Wednesday 03/8, 1930 hrs	American Legion Post 7 Nominations for new Officers. Guest Speaker (To Be Announced).
APRIL Draft Budget	Breakfast Saturday 04/1, 0900 hrs	Johnny's Family Restaurant
	Monthly Meeting Wednesday 04/12, 1930 hrs	American Legion Post 7 Presentation of draft budget for new fiscal year and election of chapter officers.
MAY New Officers	Breakfast Saturday 05/6, 0900 hrs	Johnny's Family Restaurant
	Monthly Meeting Wednesday 05/10, 1930 hrs	American Legion Post 7 Installation of new officers.

From the Ft. Meade Sound Off

Submitted by **Conrad Castro**, Chapter Secretary.

Local Veterans Set Sail on Troopship Re-enactment.

On November 13th, Project Liberty Ship and the crew of the John W. Brown re-enacted the return of a troopship to Baltimore at the end of WWII in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The Veteran's Day commemoration began at the Dundalk Marine Terminal. The Liberty ship sailed across the Inner Harbor to Harborview where it was met with flags flying and a band playing. Everyone was invited to tour the ship upon its

arrival. For information about future Liberty Ship events, call 410-558-0164. I was only 8 years old when War II ended. I personally hope to attend and pay my respects to my forefathers (Father and Father-in-law).

VA Representative Visits Kimbrough Twice a Week.

Don Santos (one of our members), Military Service Coordinator for the Veterans Administration Regional Office, Baltimore sets up shop in room E-26 of Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center twice a week. No appointment is necessary. For more information call 301-677-8635.

Happy Holidays



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