VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
MIAMI VALLEY CHAPTER 97

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President-Steve Ratcliffe
1st Vice-Dave Fuch
2nd Vice- Steven Cox
Secretary-Mike Vanderveen
Treasurer-OPEN
3 Year Director-Gary Nunn
2 Year Director-Robert Smith
1 Year Director-Rick Cummings
Past President Director-OPEN
AVVA Liaison-Madeleine Istvan

Your Delegates to the Vietnam Veterans of America National Convention
Stephen Ratcliffe, David Fuchs, Gary Nunn

November 2017 – December 2017
“Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS:
The Board of Directors Meetings is held on the first Thursday of every month @ 5PM at the
Chapter Home.

CHAPTER MEETINGS:
The Chapter Membership Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month @ 7 PM at the
Chapter Home located at 5657 Rosebury Dr. Huber Heights Ohio.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
First Saturday Every Month:  FREE PANCAKE breakfast for VETERANS @
Longhorn Steakhouse on Miller Lane @ 9AM. Try to arrive by 9AM., as time and
space is limited. Please call the Chapter the Monday before the event and let us
know how many will be attending so we can give them a head count.
HONOR FLIGHT NOVEMBER 4TH: We have several Chapter 97 members going to Washington DC., LET’S GET OUT TO DAYTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND WELCOME THEM HOME. BE THERE BY 10:00PM.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 9TH AT NOON: VVMP CLEAN UP. RAIN DATE
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10TH AT NOON

NOVEMBER 11TH: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park Veterans Day Ceremony 11:00 AM

NOVEMBER 15TH: MEET WITH UAW LOCAL 402, 3671 URBANA RD. SPRINGFIELD, OHIO To inform them about VVA Chapter 97 and to hand out the 50th Commemorative pins and Certificates.

DECEMBER 2ND AT 9:00 AM: Award presentation to Longhorn Steakhouse on Miller Lane

DECEMBER 3RD 6:00 PM: POW/MIA CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH 5:30 PM: CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:
The warm weather has left us and the cold is fast approaching. I hope everybody stays in good health this winter season. The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team Fund Raising Event is over for 2017. We had a good turnout for the games and I want to thank all of the Chapter Members that helped out over the year and on the day of the event.
Tom Istvan, Dave Gannon, and myself will be heading to Washington D. C. on Honor Flight Dayton, this November 4th. Come on out to the Airport and welcome us back to Dayton. If there are any other Chapter 97 Members going on this same flight, please let me know. (937) 864-2197.
I would like to thank all the members that showed up to work HAUNTFEST, this fundraising event brought a little bit of money into our bank account.
It is never to late to help your chapter by serving on a committee or hold an elected position, or just help out at an event. If more members would do just a little bit, than we could do a lot more for our veterans and community. This will also help prevent burnout of the few who are carrying most of the load. We are not getting any younger. If you have some spare time and want to help, please let me know.
WE NEED THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS
TREASURER, WEBMASTER, COMPUTER TECH and BOARD OF DIRECTOR

If you would like to help in any of these areas or just be a helper at an event we are at, give me a call at 864-2197 or call the Chapter at 233-9750.

I hope everybody has a **SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON**
Stephen Ratcliffe President

**AVVA LIAISON COMMENTS:**
KNOW A VETERAN, TELL A VETERAN
Veterans - shop the online BX/PX at: [shopmyexchange.com/veterans](http://shopmyexchange.com/veterans)

The Department of Defense will soon grant, on Veterans Day, online exchange shopping privileges to Veterans of all United States Armed Forces, including: tax-free shopping, access to exclusive military pricing on name-brand products, and more!

The first step is to go to: VetVerify.org to submit a verification form to check your eligibility.
Madeleine

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS THAT ARE IN NEED OF OUR SUPPORT:**
To those of you who are silent in their time of need, we are here for you, and are thinking of you. Sometimes just a phone call helps show that someone really does care. Let’s remember our men and women defending our **FREEDOM** as they are away from family and friends for months at a time. **GOD BLESS THEM AND KEEP THEM SAFE!**

**MEMBER NEWS:**
**THOUGHTS & PRAYER’S:** Please keep our brothers and sisters and their families in your thoughts and prayers:
Remember to let Ron, Steve or Kris know about any hospital, death or sick members. When I know, I send cards to let them know we are thinking of them.

**VVA CHAPTER 97 NEWSLETTER:** Is now on the Buckeye State Council website @ VVA Buckeye State Council.
**PRODUCT SALES:** All Chapter vehicle decals, hats and shirts continue to be available. If you would like other items for our inventory, please let us know.

**LET’S GET THE WORD OUT:** Commemorative 50th Anniversary pins are available to any Vietnam Era Veteran. Eligibility—All active duty armed forces personnel who served from November 1st 1955 to May 15th 1975. These 50th Anniversary pins can be obtained Monday – Friday @ the Chapter or @ any membership meeting.

**Dues, dues, dues**...If you pay your membership yearly, don’t forget to look @ your due date on your membership card and if you have let your membership expire, it’s never too late to reinstate.
“LET’S GET OUT THERE AND SIGN UP SOME NEW MEMBERS”

Remember as veterans, the only way to make a difference is to get involved!

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS:
2018 scholarship applications will be mailed to every area high school in March. Students may get an application from their guidance counselor. Applications will be available at the chapter office if you wish to pick up one in person.

SPECIAL THANK’S:
To the members, their families and friends that is able to participate in this great organization, whether physically or in spirit.

OUR NEWSLETTER:
Be sure to let the Chapter know if you have a change in address, phone number or email address so we can get the newsletter to you. You can call the Chapter Home, Ron @ (937)233-9750 weekdays from noon to 4 PM. We also have several copies available at the chapter.

EMAIL ADDRESSES:
We would like to have everyone’s email address so when things come up on short notice we can send information in a timely manner.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:
If anyone has anything they would like posted in the newsletter please contact us via email, President Steve Ratcliffe, sharks6970@att.net, associate member, Kris Nicholson @ nursenick@woh.rr.com or through the chapter Home. Newsletter content has to be Board Member approved. We look forward to your input to the newsletter.

FACEBOOK:
If you would like to join VVA Chapter 97 Facebook Page….while in Facebook...search for VVA Chapter 97 - Dayton, Ohio. Send a request to join... and we will add you. Keep in mind that this is a CLOSED group for Chapter 97 Members and their families ONLY.

HONOR FLIGHT:
Honor Flight is a great program that helps veterans heal from the wounds of war. They have a wonderful group of people in the Miami Valley that makes it come together for the veterans in our area. They spend one full day in our nation’s capital visiting the many Veterans Memorials. Applications are available online and @ the chapter home. Please mail completed applications to the address listed on the application.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK UPDATE:
The GE Aviation Research Group from the University of Dayton is sponsoring a Veterans Day Celebration at the park on Friday, November 10th, 11:00 a.m. They are the group who volunteered to do "police call" at the park at least once a month. They would like to honor our veterans on that day complete with pizza and drinks. If you or any other veteran wishes to attend, I need to know headcount by Friday, November 3rd so that enough food is ordered. The Ponitz Academy Army JROTC will be in attendance.
In case of inclement weather, the event will be held indoors at GE Aviation on UD's campus, just across Stewart Street.

I was at the park Friday to meet with Mark Riley, City of Dayton, to discuss some tree trimming, brush removal, weeding at the sensory garden and front sign, trash removal and new parking lot lights. The city will "limb up" everything to 6’ and remove some branches around the existing parking lot lights so we may get the parking are lighted again. He said they would do all this, except for the new lights, prior to Veterans Day. That being said, we'll see what happens.

The water has been shut off at the memorial. The lights will need to be wiped down and cleared of spider webs and such. The memorial will need to be wiped down and dried off as well. I will bring the needed water, towels and cleaning materials to the park on the 9th or 10th, depending on the weather. The cleanup will only be postponed due to rain. Cleanup will be done regardless of temperature, so dress warm if necessary. Also, please bring a blower, if you have one. The sidewalks will need to be cleared throughout the park.

Call Ron @ the Chapter if you’re attending and Mark will call him for a head count.

**Again, if you or any other veteran wants to attend the GE Aviation Veterans Day Recognition, I need to know by Friday, November 3rd.**

Mark Ski
WOUNDED WARRIOR SOFTBALL FUNDRAISER UPDATE:

Thank You from WWAST Host Committee

"Thank You" to VVA Chapter 97 members, and especially Board Members, for their hospitality hosting the WWAST-to-Dayton Planning & Execution Committee, led by Scott Kuhnen and Tim Gebard.

From the time of our initial request to partner with VVA Chapter 97 until this just-concluded hosting on 13-14 October, 2017, the Chapter has leaned way forward and offered not just a place to host our meetings, but also the support and numerous hours of their own labor to raise funds for hosting this special group of veterans.

Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team Executive Director, Dennis Wince, consistently remarks on Dayton as being one of the most professional and best organized of the stops of the team's extensive schedule and VVA 97 is a big part of that success.

With your support, this WWAST host committee has contributed almost $20,000 to the new Fisher House project on the grounds of the Dayton VA Medical Center and, this year, added another $4000 to the coffers of Honor Fight - Dayton.

As we move toward hosting the WWAST again in 2018, VVA Chapter 97 will continue to play a vital role, but is scaling back on their hosting responsibilities. This will free up the Chapter to pursue other exciting opportunities and engage the community in new ways. Chapter members will continue to be involved with our Committee (Thank You!) and we look forward to another great event next year.

Thanks for all you have done for us!

WWAST THANK YOU AND DONATION UPDATE:

Thank You!

..for your support of the 2017 appearance of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) in Dayton. This year's event, held on Friday and Saturday, 13-14 October, at Ron Nischwitz Baseball Stadium on the campus of Wright State University, was an unqualified success!

The support of our community partners, like Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 97), Operation Heroes First, the Dayton Legends Softball Club, The Wright B Flyer, Hanger Clinic, the Veteran & Military Center of Wright State University, the Dayton VA Medical Center, Beavercreek Memorial VFW Post 8312, the Dayton-Montgomery Co. CVB, members of numerous groups at Wright-Patterson AFB, and sponsors like Edelman Financial, Morgan Stanley, AT&T, and numerous organizational and private donations has enabled our committee to contribute the following:
1) $5000 = WWAST Kid's Camp: one Dayton area child to the 2018 WWAST Kid's Camp in New Hampshire.
2) $4000 = 8 trips to Washington DC for Dayton-area veterans on Honor Flight - Dayton in 2018
3) $8000 = Our 2017 donation to the new Fisher House being built on the grounds of the Dayton VA Medical Center.

We are still taking donations for the next couple of weeks, but will then start planning for another hosting in 2018.

We'd like to share this experience with you via these links to photographs taken by our official event photographer, Dick Smith.

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipN6SJpUBZ6BdnEnjLnpx8gQjtJuIVD6gHNpVdZyEJ-Beof399kn_75Df1vpraA4w?key=MUwzMINCaUhnempYMXXhKdXM5UVBvQVBFfZmswejRn

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOj8BpGl6gE9-XHsOmXHlflzo7ALJbgs6maumwcnTfA9XIMaySYBixRmrv3FbaRfQ?key=NFBNbkI1WIJTWaA5cS1OaUVxc3BiZGU3OE9WQ3pB

https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMlt5VAWs9jeRG0vQR1HDErGrb1BzPkN2VsP4OJjNfSKNYgpeG72DABFFWzC4A?key=WC1YZHVtV2VuTkxZR1dOeUtqSUdZbS02UmRQaGhB

It has been our honor and privilege to bring this event and these outstanding young veterans to our area and meet our dedicated committee's mission to "Honor Our Veterans and Help Our Community."

Your support was instrumental in our success.

Respectfully,

Scott Kuhnen
Tim Gebard
Dayton Warriors Softball Fund

p.s. - Look soon for announcement about a return by the WWAST to Dayton in 2018!
ANY CHAPTER MEMBER CAN ATTEND THIS EVENT

Buckeye State Council District 3 Meeting
Saturday, November 4, 2017 9:30 to 12:00
Green County Administration Building 571
Ledbetter Road, Xenia

AGENDA

9:30 A.M. Coffee and Donuts

10:00 A.M. Call to Order - Ken Williamson, District 3 Director

10:01 A.M. Pledge of Allegiance - Xenia Chapter 930, Tony Zamora – President

10:02 A.M. Opening Prayer - Xenia Chapter 930, Tony Zamora - President 10:05 A.M. Who's Here - Xenia Chapter 930
10:15 A.M. Cliff Riley - President, Buckeye State Council

10:30 A.M. Chapter Reports: Report activities that your chapter is doing this year. Chapter 10 Chapter 97 Chapter 930 Chapter 592 Chapter 649 Chapter 783 Chapter 1126

10:55 A.M. Michael Newman, Chapter 649 - Blue Water Navy

11:10 A.M. Ray Autenrieb, 1st Vice President, BSC - Attracting New Members

11:25 A.M. Green County Veterans Service Officer - Veterans Benefits 11:40 A.M. Ask The Buckeye State Council. This is your opportunity get answers to your questions about operations, policies and programs at the State level.

11:55 A.M. Next meeting date

12:00 P.M. Adjourn and closing prayer.

Directions from Cincinnati I-71 North: Travel to Exit 28 Rt. 48 to Lebanon. Turn right at the end of the ramp. Follow Rt. 48 for 5.4 miles to Rt. 42 North. Turn right onto Rt. 42 North and follow for about 20 miles. Just past Rt. 35 you will turn right onto Ledbetter Road. 571 will be the first building on your right.

Directions from Dayton: Follow Rt. 35 to Xenia. Exit onto Rt. 42 and turn left onto Rt. 42 North. Ledbetter Road will be a few hundred feet on the right. 571 will be the first building on your right.
Vietnam Veteran of America Chapter 97:

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH 5:30 PM: CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER
LOCATION: GOLDEN CORRAL --2490 COMMONS BLVD.,
BEAVERCREEK, OH. 45431
COST: $13.50 includes meal-drink-tax-tip/ kids $6.15/ each person pays cashier.

There will be DOOR PRIZES, Please try to get there by 5:30.

RSVP: Call Ron at the Chapter if you are going. The room holds 50 and we need a
number count to make sure we have enough room.

PLEASE PRESENT THIS COUPON TO GOLDEN CORRAL