



# SPOOKY



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

Mail: P.O. Box 11100, Albany, NY 12211 Tel (518) 465-6829 FAX (518) 465-6508  
WEBSITE: [www.TCCVEV.com](http://www.TCCVEV.com) OFFICE: 142 Catherine St., Albany, NY 12202

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## **PUBLICATION: January - February 2018 ----- UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **JANUARY**

- |    |           |        |   |
|----|-----------|--------|---|
| 1  | Monday    |        | Happy New Year!   |
| 2  | Tuesday   | 7 pm   | TCCVEV's General Meeting @ Zaloga Post 1520                 |
| 8  | Monday    | 8:30am | Albany County's Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony @ Zaloga Post 1520 |
| 8  | Monday    | 8:30am | Renss. Cty's Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony @ Troy's LOB |
| 10 | Wednesday | 7 pm   | Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien's Gen'l Mtg @ Zaloga Post 1520         |
| 16 | Tuesday   | 7 pm   | TCCVEV's Board Meeting at the Catherine St. Office          |

### **FEBRUARY**

- |    |           |        |   |
|----|-----------|--------|---|
| 1  | Thursday  |        | 50th Anniversary of Vietnam's TET Offensive - were YOU, there?  |
| 5  | Monday    | 8:30am | Albany County's Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony @ Zaloga Post 1520   |
| 6  | Tuesday   | 7 pm   | TCCVEV's General Meeting @ Zaloga Post 1520   |
| 12 | Monday    | 8:30am | Renss. Cty's Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony @ Troy's LOB   |
| 14 | Wednesday | 7 pm   | Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien's General Meeting @ Zaloga Post 1520<br>(ALSO, it's Ash Wednesday - Lent starts)                                     |
| 16 | Friday    | TBD    | Pacific Theater Remembrance Event @ Zaloga 1520 (Usually, starts at 9 am with breakfast, following the event. Check for the time in Jan.) |
| 20 | Tuesday   | 7 pm   | TCCVEV's Board Meeting at the Catherine St. Office  |
| 25 | Sunday    | 2:30pm | Four Chaplain Ceremony - VA Hospital - Usually the last Sunday.   |

### **President's Column** This year's Veterans Day was a proud day for Tri-County Council.

We were pleased to have Jack Clancy, the Council's first President & Jimmy Brown, our 2nd President; as Co-Grand Marshals of the Albany Veterans Day Parade. Both paved the way for this organization to open its doors of welcome and assistance to both "In-Country and Era Veterans". This started 35 years of successful service in assisting vets and Gold Star Families of all wars and conflicts in our community. Both said very heartfelt remarks after the parade's luncheon. We now have Tri-County golf shirts available for purchase. They come in black or white - polyester blend, with the TCCVEV logo embroidered on the left side. There is the option for a name on the right side. The cost, per shirt is \$25 & all sizes are available. To order, please make checks - payable to: Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans OR use, "TCCVEV" and mail check, name & size(s) to: TCCVEV, P.O. Box 11100; Albany, NY 12211.

We had many accomplishments during 2017; most of which, could not have been done without our hard working members & friends. Thank You, ALL. On behalf of this organization; I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas & that 2018, will be a Happy & Healthy New Year. Stay safe and we hope to see you all in 2018 for another great year.

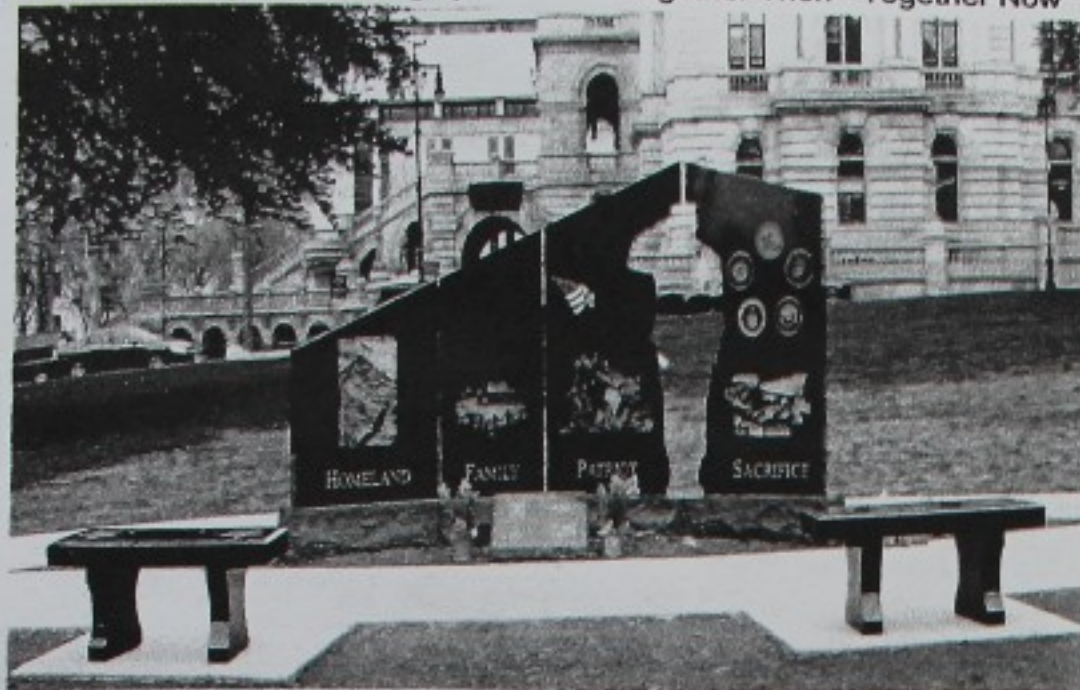
### **Chaplain's Corner**

by

**Rev. Charlene Robbins GSM**

As we scurry about to gather gifts, cards and trimmings for the holiday meals; let us remember those men and women who stand to protect us, both here and abroad. Their interrupted lives aren't garnished with lights, ornaments and sumptuous dinners. Some live in the meanest of circumstances; especially, in areas of conflict. Also, remember the families whose table has an empty place; that, will forever remain vacant. In this "Season of Light, Peace, Hope and Brotherhood"; let each of us pray, each in our own way, for GOD's LOVE, to prevail in the hearts mankind. Then, and only then; will Peace, be the experience of ALL.





**NOTE:** For INFO; check 3 Sites on FACEBOOK's: 1) *Gene Loparco*, 2) *Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans (TCCVEV)* & 3) *Capital Region NY - Veterans' News*. Also, for INFO on our website: [www.tccvev.com](http://www.tccvev.com)

**Important Notice:** Returning GI's are seeking a connection with local organizations & if, YOU have the opportunity to assist ANYONE - please, do so. Here's some (518) INFO:

- A) AMERICAN LEGION: 1) #1520 Zaloga = 459-1520; 2) #1610 N Albany = 465-4800; 3) #1530 Bucci-McTague = 463-1475; 4) #1256 (Colonie) Bill Marquart 869-5888; 5) #1040 Blanchard(Delmar)=439-9819 & 6) #1231 Melvin Roads(Rensselaer)=462-7006
- B) AMVETS (American Veterans) - Post 35 = Cmdr. Fred Clark (Rotterdam) = 356-1474
- C) DAV (Disabled Am Vets) 1) Troy= 472-3638 & 2) Schd'y Chptr #88 =649-7455 @ Jim B.
- D) Military Order of the Purple Heart, Inc. Commander - Tom Prasenski (585) 208-6401
- E) TCCVEV (Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans) - see: SPOOKY's TOP, for ALL info
- F) USMC Detachments: 1) Albany (Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien #241 - Bill Keyes) = 237-1712; 2) Schenectady (Electric City) = 355-2746 & 3) Troy (Tim Forbes) = 728-6494
- G) VFW Posts: 4) #8692 Robert L. Weininger (Colonie) = 456-7794; 2) #8444 Wm F. Wigand 465-6992(Albany); 3) #6776 Sheehy-Palmer 465-9349(Albany); 4) #7062 Boyd Hilton (Altamont)= 861-8323 and 5) VFW Post 357 (Schd'y) 382-8363

**Quotable Quote:** "...What a FOOL does in the END, a WISE man does in the BEGINNING".

A Special Report: Our Legislative Committee Members, Kevin Hicks & Joanne Martin; thought that the following info would be informative for your viewing. "VA: More alternative therapy options available to fight PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). By *Stars and Stripes'* Reporter, Nikki Wentling's article on 12/7/17 - Washington - Pressurized oxygen chambers, light-emitting helmets & neck injections are all treatments the Dept. of Vets Affairs is using to help vets with PTSD & traumatic brain injury. The VA would offer hyperbaric oxygen therapy as alternatives in treatments. The main reason to research this new option is to assist in the decrease in suicides from returning vets. The studies since 2015 is encouraging, as well as their studies. The VA is using the shot of medication into a patient's neck; the Long Beach, CA's VA is using this method (stellate ganglion block). The American Legion has applauded the new procedures in assisting these issues; some test are inconclusive, too. At least, something is being done for our vets.

**Veteran's Benefit:** Deborah M. Grant = (518) 378-6637; is the Rep. from Clear Captions who made her presentations during TCCVEV's Gen'l Mtg; besides at the Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien 241 Det (MCL) Mtg. & Zaloga's Am Legion Mtg. = for any "Loss of Hearing" Telephone System, at NO cost to you, the veteran; whether, you are a VA Disabled Patient or not. You are entitled to the FREE telephone. The Federal Government (Disabilities Act of 1990 - was concerned that any person with a hearing disability to be able to communicate with other telephone users - made the telephone companies get a fee - which you were charged the monthly fees for many years. Now, if you need one - contact her ([Deborah.grant@clearcaptions.com](mailto:Deborah.grant@clearcaptions.com)). This machine holds 100 of your numbers, displays the captions on the screen, answering machine messages, etc. NO GIMMICK. Give her a call, 5 or 6 mbrs from each mtg, got one already. I'm just giving you some info. I'm contacting many of my organizations to invite Deborah to speak at our mtg & explain this wonderful opportunity for those vets who have hearing issues. Again, (518) 378-6637.

CHINA BEACH - AUGUST 12, 2018: Sunday @ NOON at the Polish American Center (same place) - more info, in the future. To request Raffle Tickets; CALL: Al Diacetes (518) 466-8771 or Darlene Stanton (518) 7310 - \$10,000 is the 1st Prize.



**SHOP RITE's** Grand Opening in N Greenbush on December 10th, was attended by many TCCVEV members & our Honor Guard. A check for \$60,000 was presented to Kevin Hicks for their Veterans Program Chairperson. It was very cold & early but it was worth it! Thank you ShopRite for ALL the years of your support to TCCVEV and other Veterans groups & programs.



**Capital Region HAV: ALBANY** County's "Honor-A-Vet" Application: call (518) 447-7710 or mail: Albany County Veterans Svc. Bureau, 162 Washington Ave (7th Fl), Albany, NY 12210. You may check the following internet LINK for ceremony information and applications, at: <http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/VeteransServicesBureau/ProgramsandServices/HonoraVeteran.aspx>

**RENSSELAER** County's "Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran" Application: either call Lonnie (518) 270-2760 (Rensselaer County Vets Affairs' Committee Secretary) or email Lonnie at: [LWarrington@rensco.com](mailto:LWarrington@rensco.com). View the following 2 internet Links for their county's information:

1) [http://www.rensco.com/vet\\_hav.asp](http://www.rensco.com/vet_hav.asp) & 2) <http://www.rensselaercounty.org/Honor%20A%20Veteran%20Ceremony.htm>

**SARATOGA** County's monthly "Honor-Deceased-Veteran" Ceremony. Applications are through the Town Supervisor's Office. Ceremony is held on the 3rd Tuesday at 40 McMaster St., Ballston Spa ; in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room. Contact Frank McClement, County Veterans Director for any information pertaining to future steps at (518) 884-4115 or email Frank at [veterans@saratogacountyny.com](mailto:veterans@saratogacountyny.com)

**SCHENECTADY** County's "Honor-A-Veteran" Ceremony; Address: 797 Broadway, Schenectady, NY 12305-2704. This program is new for 2017 and it's for any DECEASED or LIVING Veterans. For additional INFO or applications; contact County Veterans Director, Bill Frank at (518) 377-2423 or email Bill at [William.Frank@schenectadycounty.com](mailto:William.Frank@schenectadycounty.com)

**NOTE:** Every veteran is eligible to have this ceremony and family members may apply for the veteran at any of the 4 CAPITAL REGION Counties - call for any info, applications or general news. Again, ONLY Schenectady County's HAV, may be for a Living Veteran.

**50-50 Winners:** October = Bill Day; November = Henry Rosenstein & December = Jenny Conklin. Thank you to ALL, for your support.

**A SPECIAL NOTICE:** Former mbrs of the Army Reserve 1018th Supply and Service Company Members will hold a "Welcome Home Again" 50th Reunion at Colonie Elk's Lodge #2192 in Latham; on May 19, 2018 - at 6pm.

There will be a special memorial for Specialist 5 James McNeilly and all of the fallen heroes. ALL former reservists who served with the unit in Vietnam, their families and friends are invited. For more information, contact either Delmar's Frank Merges at (518) 461-9503 or Guilderland's Kenny Henk at (518) 356-0387.

Note: Frank Merges, is a founder of Albany Chapter 8 of Vietnam Veterans.

This group reported for duty on May 13, 1968 & shipped to Vietnam; they returned on October 19, 1969.

**Remember** ALL our GI's, both men & women; serving overseas - they're away from their families. Let us say a prayer for their safe return. Also, those serving in the USA - and thank ALL those serving our Country.



TAPS: In 2017, we lost members/friends: Col. Charlie R. Johnson, Eddy LaMora, Bob VanBuskirk, Jerry Salzburg, Bud Soraghan, Francis Nardolillo, Arthur Roth & Tony Schmitz. They'll always be in our prayers and their families.

**Membership News:** We are ending 2017 with 70 Paid Members. This is a bit lower than previous years and I hope we can do better in 2018. Start the New Year off by writing your check; filling out the form below & sending in your dues. You're done with it, for another year. Life Membership, is now 173. Check your address label on this newsletter. After your name, if your number, starts with Less than 18 - you are **NOT** paid for 2018. Example: # 10-1094 or # 16-2356; the PREFIX #, 10 or 16, indicates the "Last Year", you paid your dues. Also, check your Membership card - is your address correct? If not, let us know? Any "DUES status or "Life Membership" request; CONTACT, Jerry D'Amelia, at: gdameli1@nycap.rr.com or CALL: (518) 281-3885.

2017 Regular **DUES** are \$15, Annually — JOIN or RE-UP **NOW!** OEF & OIF Vets Welcomed!  
Membership is opened to Vietnam Era Veterans (1 May 1957 - 7 May 1975).  
Also, anyone who served *SINCE*, 7 May 1975 or is still serving on Active Duty in the US Military.  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS are **NOT** Required to have Served in the Military

**CIRCLE ONE:**      NEW                      RENEWAL                      ASSOCIATE                      LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$150

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_ (WORK) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH & PERIOD OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

MILITARY UNIT SERVED WITH \_\_\_\_\_

MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Type of Discharge (Include DD214) \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

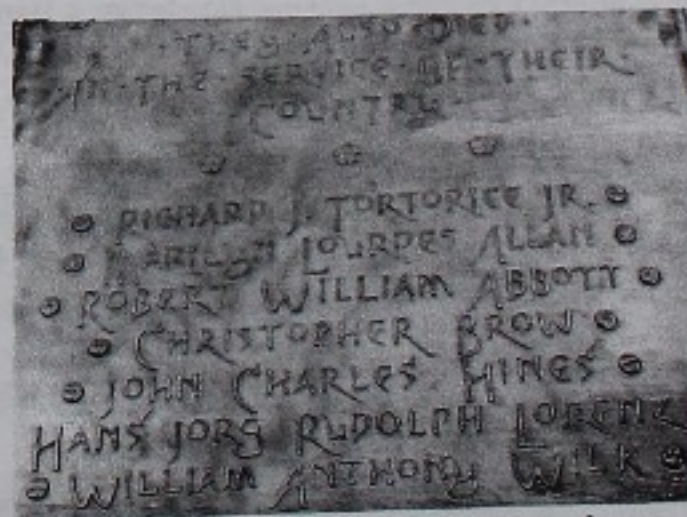
Complete and MAIL the above application; along, with your **DD214** (not for Associate Members)  
AND your \$15 or \$150 check, to: **TCCVEV**, P.O. Box 11100, Albany, NY 12211

Note: Any questions or comments; concerning "SPOOKY"? Email - Gene Loparco (Editor): loparco8888@yahoo.com

Many made the supreme sacrifice for the following....."FREEDOM-never take it for granted; because, it's NEVER free".



**God Bless America!**



**Remember OUR Veteran!**