



SPOOKY



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

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PUBLICATION: March - April 2018 ----- UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

3	Saturday		Albany HS's JROTC Ball @ Zaloga Post 1520
5	Monday	8:30am	Albany County's Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony @ Sheehy-Palmer Post
6	Tuesday	7 pm	TCCVEV's General Meeting @ Zaloga Post 1520
10	Saturday	TBD	Schenectady's HAV Event at the VFW Post 357
11	Sunday		Daylight Savings
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 Gen'l Mtg @ Zaloga Post 1520
17	Saturday	9 am	St. Patrick's Day - Albany Parade, after Mass at Blessed Sacrament
20	Tuesday	7 pm	TCCVEV's Board Meeting at the Catherine St. Office
20	Tuesday		SPRING Begins

APRIL

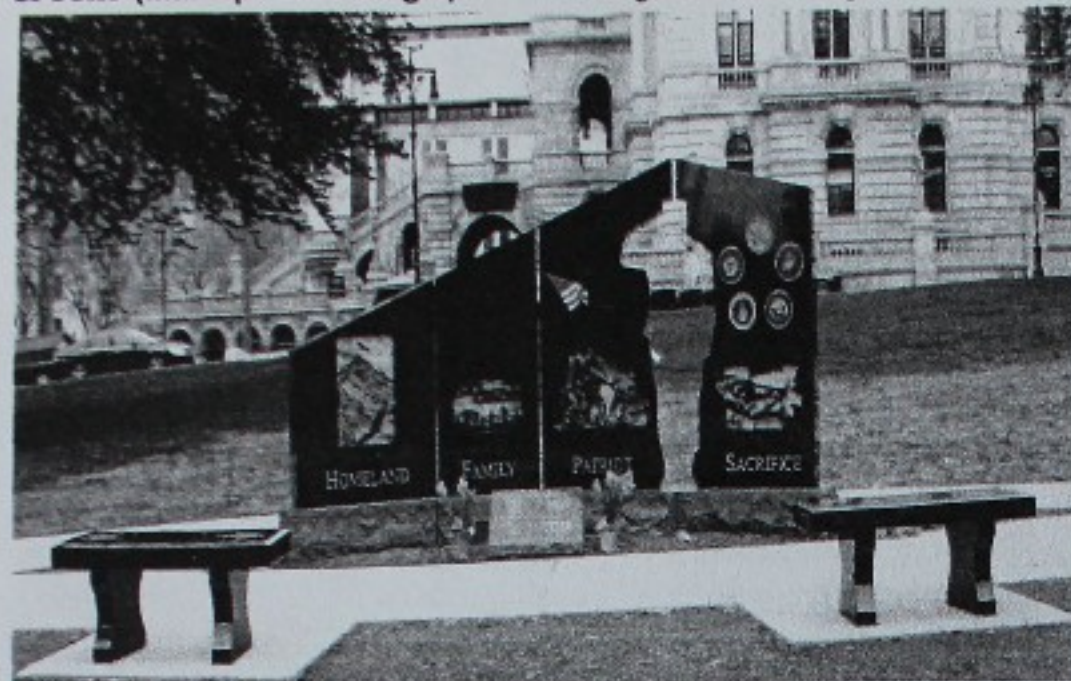
1	Sunday		EASTER
2	Monday	8:30am	Albany County's Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony @ Zaloga Post 1520
3	Tuesday	7 pm	TCCVEV's General Meeting @ Zaloga Post 1520
9	Monday	8:30am	Renss. Cty's Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony @ Troy's LOB
18	Wednesday	7 pm	Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien's General Meeting @ Zaloga Post 1520
13	Friday		Gold Star Mothers' NYS Convention Weekend, starts at the Century House
13	Friday	1 pm	GSM will meet at Lafayette Park's Vietnam Memorial on their tour
13	Friday	6:30pm	GSM' Memorial Service @ Century House
15	Saturday		GSM' Banquet Dinner @ Century House
17	Tuesday	7 pm	TCCVEV's Board Meeting at the Catherine St. Office
23	Saturday	5:30pm	Blue Star Mothers' "Blue Jean Ball" @ Zaloga Post 1520
28	Saturday	TBD	Honor Flight from Albany Airport to Washington, DC
28	Saturday	TBD	Vietnam Wall at Guiderland's Tawasentha Park

President's Column 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: "TCCVEV" & mail check, name and size(s) to: TCCVEV, P.O. Box 11100; Albany, NY 12211. NOTE: In April, please show support to our Gold Star Mothers at their NYS Convention from 13th - 15th & to our Blue Star Mothers, At their Blue Jean Ball at the Zaloga Post, the following Saturday, the 21st.

Quotable Quote: "Never met an Atheist in a foxhole, when the Viet Cong were attacking....Dear God, please get me outta here & get me home safely"; especially,



50 years ago, during the Feb. 1st, 1968 "TET Offensive"



NOTE: For INFO; check 3 FACEBOOK sites: 1) GENE LOPARCO, 2) Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans and 3) Capital Region NY - Veterans' News AND at our website: 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

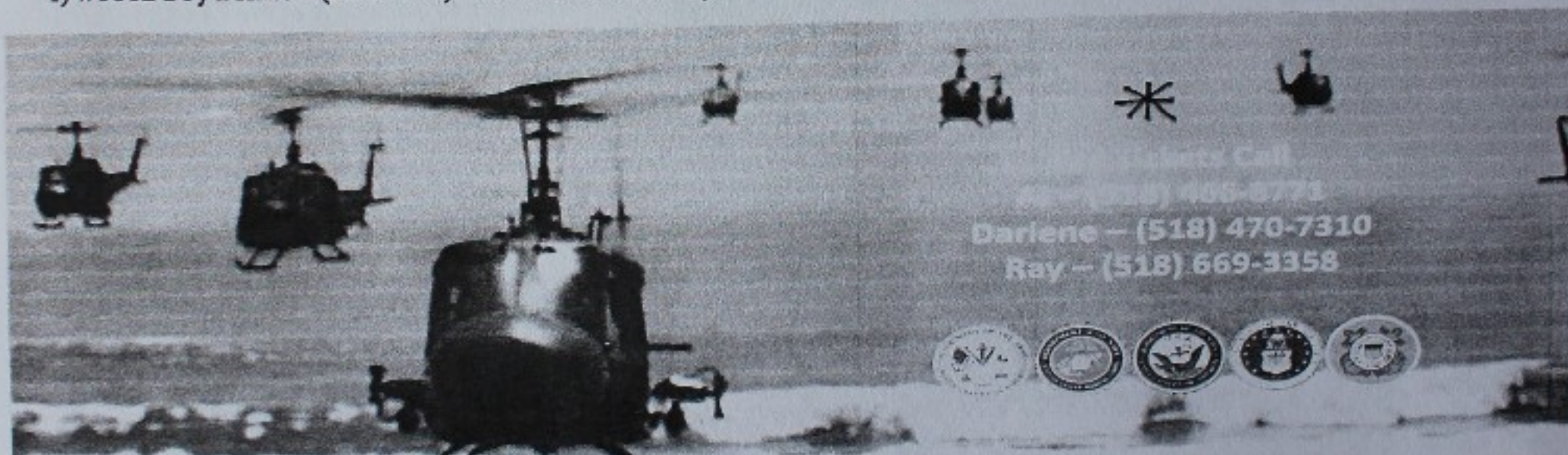
E) TCCVEV (Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans) - see: SPOOKY's TOP - Front Page, for ALL info

F) USMC Dets: 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



To benefit returning Veterans & Veterans of all eras and their families

Drawing held Sunday - August 12, 2018 at the Polish American Citizens Club of America

110 Commerce Avenue, Albany, New York

12 Noon - 5 PM (Rain or Shine)

No need to be present to win!

\$10.00 Per Ticket - Only 4,000 Tickets Available

1st Prize - \$10,000.00 2nd Prize \$1,000.00 3rd Prize \$500.00



CHINA BEACH LZ-25 will be held on AUGUST 12th, Sunday at 12 NOON to 5PM (Rain or Shine) @ Albany's Polish American Citizens Club of America, 110 Commerce Ave. (same as the past 2 years). \$20 EACH Adult & checking on children (the past has been \$10 for ages 6 to 12 and free for the below age 5 for kids - we'll verify everything). But one thing for sure, it'll be another great gathering. Raffle Tickets are on sale, for \$10 each & only 4,000 available.

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.

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. View the following 2 internet Links for their county's information:

1) 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

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

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.

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 (Founder of Albany Chapter 8 of Vietnam Vets) or Guilderland's Kenny Henk at (518) 356-0387. This group reported for duty on May 13, 1968 & shipped to Vietnam; they returned on October 19, 1969.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Rev. Charlene "Char" Robbins GSM

Sometimes, we really do need to be reminded of the effort & sacrifice put forth; so that we can live our lives as we do today. Our men and women in service, past & present are of nobility beyond compare. They give ALL they have to see the challenge at hand to its conclusion. God bless our veterans & our active military for their integrity and dedication!

"At last, March is here and our thoughts turn to early Spring, warmer weather & the observance of life being renewed all around us. For just a moment, pause, allow your mind to drift back to the winter of 1777-1778. Picture our nation's Father, George Washington; whose birthday, we just celebrated,; with the deep etchings of concern across his weary face. This concern would be about the revolution, which appeared to be in its darkest days. This concern would be about the his troops, lacking adequate provisions, clothing and shelter to protect them from the howling winds and bone chilling temperatures. This concern would be about the future of this land, he held most dear.

Once dubbed, the "Bullet Proof President", because of his uncanny "good fortune: to return from battle unscathed, while his horses succumbed and his jacket bore testament to the bullets that hailed around him. Was it luck or faith? Know to be a man of God, Washington most certainly acknowledged & prayed to God - for inspiration and guidance.

One of the noted & most challenged experiences accredited to Providence for Washington, was recorded in the National Tribune in 1850. The experience occurred after Washington prayed at Valley Forge. Later, in his tent, he beheld a "vision" of an angel & the future of America. The last words heard from this Presence were, "Let every child of the Republic learn to live for his God, his land and the Union."

The essence of these words has bee echoed in every oath for our military and government personnel to this day. So, why the discord today? Have we forgotten that we are one people, blessed by diversity and resourcefulness, and united under the belief in that something greater than we, called "God, Providence or the Divine".

Let us remember that in all creeds, we call ourselves the children of God. Let us demonstrate, "In God We Trust"; by looking for the Light in each other and not criticizing or judging the shortcomings. Let us pray that "We, the People" becomes our experience not just a theory. It is our birthright, it is our duty!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 For God is nat a God of disorder but of peace. 1 Corinthians 14:33

SPOOKY (Mar-Apr 2018's Pg 4) **SICK CALL:** Tom Marienllo, has been in the VA Hospital this past month; is home now & still under the weather but getting better. He thanks you for the thoughts & prayers, cards & visits. Linda appreciates the thoughts, too. His home add: 319 Mountain St.; Albany 12209 & e-mail address: tjmarinello@nycap.rr.com

Membership News: PAID 2018 membership is now, up to 31. This is not bad for early in the year but we could do a lot better. Also, Life Membership is 177; including, 3 since our last issue: James M. Bleser, Genevieve A. Gallagher & Milton A. Matthews. So, write your check; filling out the form below & send in your dues. You're done with it, for another year. 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: # 16-1094; the PREFIX #, 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; please contact, Jerry D'Amelia, at: gdameli1@nycap.rr.com or CALL: (518) 281-3885.

2018 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 _____

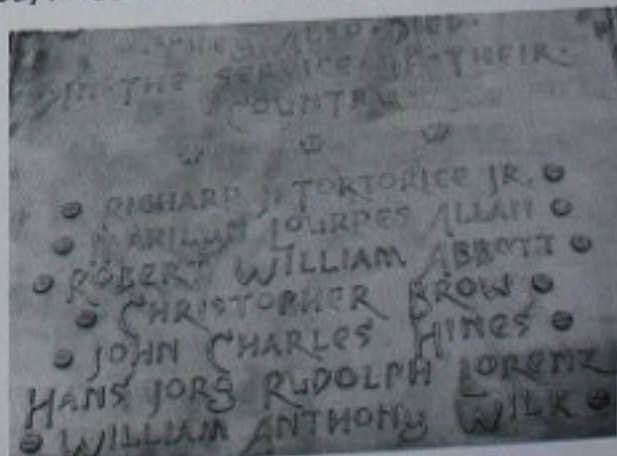
Complete and MAIL the above application; along, with your **DD214** (not for Associate Members)
AND your \$15 or \$150 check, to: **TCCVEV**, P.O. Box 11100, Albany, NY 12211

Note: Any questions or comments; concerning "SPOOKY"? Email - GENE (Editor): Loparco8888@yahoo.com

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



God Bless America!



Remember OUR Veteran!