



SPOOKY



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

MAIL: P.O. Box 11100; ALBANY, NY 12211
WEBSITE: www.TCCVEV.com

TELE (518) 465-6829 FAX (518) 465-6508
OFFICE: 142 Catherine St., Albany, NY 12202

2020 Officers: President - Joseph Pollicino Vice President - Robert Allyn Treasurer - John Del Balso Secretary - George LaMora
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SPOOKY EDITOR is GENE LOPARCO

PUBLICATION: MARCH - APRIL 2021 (including May's Dates, too)

MARCH 2021

UNTIL Further Notice - VIRUS could Cancel Events thru 2021

2 7 PM TCCVEV's General Meeting, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520
9 7 PM Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520's General Meeting
10 7 PM Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien MCL Det. 241's General Meeting at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520
14 DAYLIGHT Savings Begin; let's hope it brings in healthier sunlight, too.
16 10:30 am TCCVEV's Board Meeting will be held at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520 (could be at Catherine St.'s Ofc)
17 St. Patrick's Day; there was no plans for a Saturday, the 13th Albany Parade due to the virus.
20 Spring Begins
26 Palm Sunday

APRIL 2021

UNTIL Further Notice - VIRUS could Cancel Events thru 2021

4 Easter Sunday
6 7 PM TCCVEV's General Meeting, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520
13 7 PM Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520's General Meeting
14 7 PM Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien MCL Det. 241's General Meeting at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520
20 10:30 am TCCVEV's Board Meeting will be held at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520 (could be at Catherine St.'s Ofc)

MAY 2021

UNTIL Further Notice - VIRUS could Cancel Events thru 2021

4 7 PM TCCVEV's General Meeting, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520
9 Mother's Day
11 7 PM Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520's General Meeting
12 7 PM Capt. Wm. D. O'Brien MCL Det. 241's General Meeting at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520
18 10:30 am TCCVEV's Board Meeting will be held at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520 (could be at Catherine St.'s Ofc)
31 Memorial Day.....don't know any info concerning a Parade or the date, if there's one. Still waiting for our member & VP, Bobby Allyn, the next Grand Marshall for either Memorial Day or Veterans Day Parade.....still an honor to be selected.

PRESIDENT Column: Joe Pollicino is still optimistic that 2021 will be a safer and healthier year and getting back to normal. Like many, Joe's concern is for one's self, family & friends. Unlike, in service this is a "World" War on this Pandemic virus. Many have been given their first vaccine & a second, soon after. Many are still waiting for their first shot - have faith. All the counties are in the same situation, save lives. Unfortunately, some people just don't get it - "Play it Safe, WEAR the MASK & Social Distancing".

During this time of concern, like many Veteran and Fraternal Organizations - the funding is not there, as yet. Many are doing Fundraising by offering their members & the "Public" - "Take Out by Drive-Thru" Meals. You have to do something to generate money to survive; yes, there's "Raffles"!

Compliments to the people of ALL organizations that volunteer their time to make the events, successful. We don't take it for granted but say, "Thank You" - for a job well done. After all, we depend on everyone to help out.

We're sorry that we couldn't share our presence with Marines at the Annual Iwo Jima-Pacific Theater Event or "The Four Chaplains" Event, due to COVID-19. There's 2022.

We "Never Forget" our Veterans (Past or Present) OR our "Band of Brothers" --- we will be there for ALL, Always!

Chaplain's Column by Rev. Charlene "Char" Robbins GSM.....Requested the following prayer

Prayer for the Nation

Almighty God, You have given us this good land for our heritage. We humbly ask You that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Bless our land with honorable endeavor, sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitude brought here out of many nations and tongues. Endow with the Spirit of wisdom those to whom in Your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Your law we may show forth Your praise among the nations on earth. In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble do not allow our trust in You to fail. Amen.

.....Thomas Jefferson, taken from "Prayers for Today," published by Leaflet Missal Co.

TCCVEV meetings at the Zaloga Post are continuing in the Hall (1st Tuesday at 7 PM, for General) & in the side room for the Board (3rd Tuesday at 10:30 AM - for now). **MANDATORY** = Social Distancing & Wearing of a Mask. **NOTE:** check out our TCCVEV's Facebook and Internet's (www.tccvev.com) sites.

FYI: Our TCCVEV Newsletter that you enjoy reading every two months, has been named, "SPOOKY" because of the proud heritage of the Douglas AC-47 aircraft (also, nicknamed "Puff, the Magic Dragon") during the Vietnam War. It was the first in a series of fixed-wing gunships developed by the US Air Force. It was designed to provide more firepower than light and medium ground-attack aircraft in certain situations when ground forces called for close air support. The squadron was stationed at Nha Trang Air Base in South Vietnam during the mid-1960's. During the TET Offensive on 2/1/68; I can remember, while stationed at Tuy Hoa Air Base (65 miles north of Cam Ranh Bay); seeing the use of Spooky's firepower at night. When you saw that long red line of bullets from the ship - it meant that for every fifth round - there was a red tracer. You can view the nightly continuous line of rounds from Spooky. 50 Or 100 round per second. I was happy to have Spooky, on our side. I viewed this site, nightly when guarding the perimeter during my 11 pm - 7 am perimeter watch shift or from the flight line. Note: The aircraft also carried flares it could drop to illuminate the battleground. On November 14, 1965; the 4th Air Commando Squadron used a new call sign, "Spooky".

COVID-19 Virus Vaccine NEWS: has been manufactured by many companies & once approved will be sent throughout the country. The VA will send out notices via Email or the news media and it'll be up to whomever is eligible to receive the vaccine, will have to make the decision of getting the shot, NOW or later. (Resending this comment, still important)

Editor's Opinions-Comments: Hope all the readers enjoy SPOOKY and all the changes of the newsletter, over the years. I try to keep it interesting besides informative. Also, my challenge is the selection of the right photos. You may Email me (lopenco8888@yahoo.com) for any comments on issues, articles, etc. **NOTE:** a thank you to Membership Chairman, Jerry D'Amelia for doing the Labeling of envelopes & delivering them to our home; and to my wife, Linda for the many hours of folding & enclosing approximately 340 SPOOKY newsletters with me. What a TEAM!

Congratulations: Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (DE); America's 46th U.S. President & Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Svcs. Also, to Kamala D. Harris (CA), the 49th & First Woman Vice President, May they be Healthy, Wise & Succeed in making America connected. God Bless them. The 59th U.S. Presidential Inauguration occurred on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.



Thank you for your service

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: ALL "Honor-A-Veteran" ceremonies (Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga & Schenectady) have been cancelled UNTIL Further Notice due to the virus. When it comes to worshipping...do you attend or watch service, on the laptop, with health priorities in place? Boredom, inactivity, working at home, etc. are the reasons to feel "down". This COVID-19 virus is the reason. If, you need to go out, you'll still need to use "Social Distancing & Wearing of a Mask. Let's keep praying for a cure.



SEPT. 14, 2014 VN MEMORIAL DEDICATION



TAPS: During this COVID-19 period, the past year, TCCVEV and family members have lost relatives, good friends, acquaintances and many Veterans from the Capital Region. Rest in Peace!

Membership News: IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU PAY YOUR DUES!

35 Members have already paid their 2021 DUES. This is really a good start for the year. Please keep the momentum going and send in YOURS. Remember Life Membership, which is now **186**, makes a great gift. One \$150 payment and you are DONE with dues. Our Newest Life Members, are: Thomas Cunningham & Donald R. Espey, Jr. TCCVEV have 3 new Members, since our last newsletter: Robert Bergeron, Peter Sipperly & William Wilday - "Welcome Home".

NOTE: Check your address LABEL on this newsletter. After your name, if your #, starts with a number, less than # **21** - you are **NOT** paid for 2021. (Example: # **20**-1234; the PREFIX #, **20**, indicates the LAST YEAR (2020), you paid your dues). Also, any "DUES" or "Life Membership" status - please contact JERRY D'Amelia (Membership Chairman), at: gdameli1@nycap.rr.com or CALL him at: (518) 281-3885. < 2020 Regular **DUES** are \$15, Annually -- OEF & OIF Veterans are 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 & 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

God Bless America!

Remember OUR Veteran!



When reporting the news for our "Spooky" DEADLINE; it was mentioned that many did not or could not attend the Iwo Jima and the "Four Chaplains" Events, since they were not occurring in 2021. Now, UPDATING:

- 1) NO Iwo Jima Event, but yesterday I did watch Clint Eastwood's *"Flags of our Fathers"*; a super movie and the photos taken on the island, shown at the end of the movie during "the Credits", were outstanding.



God Bless them

2A) As far as the 56th Annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award is concern; per TCCVEV member, Terry Brown's TU column, "Duty Calls", he mentions that The Albany Post 105 of the Jewish War Veterans' Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award Selection Committee unanimously selected Albany County Health Commissioner, Dr. Elizabeth Whalen as this year's recipient.

The ceremony was held in the Rev. Clark V. Poling Chapel, at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady; named in honor of one of the Four Chaplains that gave their life jackets to GI's during the sinking of the SS Dorchester on February 3, 1943. The other three First Lieutenant "Heroes", were: Rev. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister from Lewiston, PA; Rabbi Alexander D. Goode from Brooklyn and Father John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest from Newark, NJ. (Note: Out of 904 troops, only 229 survived...675 drowned).

2B) Also, in yesterday's TU the ("50 Years Ago") article, from February 22, 1971; had the Roman Catholic Priest, Rev. Peter G. Young as the recipient for that year's Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award. Con., Samuel S. Stratton, U.S. House of Representative and a WWII Navy Veteran, was the keynote speaker at the presentation held at the O'Brien School in Albany.

