



SPOOKY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

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SPOOKY EDITOR is GENE LOPARCO

PUBLICATION: JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2022

UNTIL Further Notice - VIRUS could Cancel Events thru 2022

- JAN.** 1 HAPPY New Year.....Let's pray that 2022 will be a much Healthier & Safer Year.
3 8:30 am Albany County's HAV at Zaloga's Am Leg Post 1520
4 7 PM TCCVEV's General Meeting, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520
9 National Law Enforcement Day.....Thank You for Serving & Protecting our Communities
10 8:30 am Rensselaer County's HADV @ Troy's LOB (DMV Bldg)
12 Remembering (Ret.) Charles Colonel Charles "Charlie" Johnson's 5th Annv. (2017)
17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day....."I have a DREAM!"
19 10:30 am TCCVEV's Board Meeting will be held at Catherine St.'s Office
27 Holocaust Remembrance Day
27 Vietnam Peace Accord Signed in 1973 (In '68, we thought the war would be soon over....5 years later!)
- FEB.** 1 8:30 am COULD POSSIBLE BE A CEREMONY - Albany County's HAV at Zaloga's Am Leg Post 1520
1 1968's South Vietnam's TET Offensive
2 Groundhog's Day.....shadow or not; longer winter or not - time will tell.
2 7 PM TCCVEV's General Meeting, at the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post 1520
8 8:30 am Rensselaer County's HADV @ Troy's LOB (DMV Bldg)
14 Valentine's Day
19 10:30 am TCCVEV's Board Meeting will be held at Catherine St.'s Office
21 Presidents' Day (Washington - born on the 22nd & Lincoln - born on the 12th)
23 1945 Marines take Mt. Suribachi, Flag Raised at Iwo Jima, (A.P. Photographer, Joe Rosenthal's photo)
28 Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day



2/2345 = Famous Pulitzer Prize photo by Joe Rosenthal, as Marines raising flag on Mount Suribachi

PRESIDENT Joe Pollicino's Column: Very optimistic that 2022 will be a safer & healthier year and getting back to normal. Also, anticipating another China Beach event in 2022, but the virus or other factors could change that Event; we'll keep you posted in the upcoming months prior to that event.

The goal for TCCVEV and it's members, assisting Veterans and their families, projects; helping our Gold Star Mothers and Blue Star Mothers. TCCVEV is very grateful for the contributions that ShopRite has given and our association with ShopRite, we're able to assist in many areas from the Capital Region - such as the College Endowments to Adirondack College, Hudson Valley CC, Russell Sage and Schenectady CC - etc.

Since TCCVEV started in 1982: we volunteered Color Guard/Firing Details, at VA Hospital, Vet Track (Court System), VMC (Veterans Miracle Cntr), NYS Labor Dept. & the McKenna Military Courtesy Rm at Albany Airport. Our 40th Anniversary will be upon us, very quickly (Sept 16th) & YES, we WILL be doing something special. We "Never Forget" our Veterans (Past-or Present) OR our "Band of Brothers" --- we will be there!

Chaplain's Column

by

Rev. Charlene "Char" Robbins GSM

As many of us contemplate writing "resolutions" for 2022, let's take pause for a moment. A resolution suggests, the situation is already accomplished. Perhaps that is the reason that most of us don't succeed in realizing our resolutions, our deeper, literal mind sees them as complete. Instead, let's substitute the word "intention", leaving our deeper mind, the freedom to draw people and circumstances that will help us achieve our intentions.

As we leave the season denoting peace, compassion and hope in cultures around the world, because of the returning LIGHT, literal and symbolic. Let's use this momentum to format our intentions, as we pray, each according to our faith, for a LASTING PEACE, a genuine extension of GOOD WILL to all, so that LOVE replaces fear in our generation and those generations to come.

Psalms 91:11.12 He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

God bless our service men and women for keeping us safe, knowing that God has always been "on our 6"! A safe and prosperous 2022 to ALL.

2021 Monthly 50/50 Raffle Winners = John Del Balso, Maryann Kosek Linda Doyle, Tom Marinello, Dan Primett, Tom Regan, Ray Thies and Richard Brand. and Darlene Stanton.

2021 China Beach Winners = 1st) \$5,000 Valentino Rizzo, 2nd) \$2,500 - John Burgess AND from 3rd to 7th Prizes - at \$500 Each Prize = a) Richard Barry, b) Jill Counhigan, c) Anton Hegg, d) Chris Mogul & e) Bill Sheppard \$10K total. Congratulations to ALL the **2021 Winners** and for those of us who didn't win; well, there's always next time in 2022!

2022's China Beach: We will notify you of the exact information in the upcoming months for this AUGUST event.

TCCVEV'S Vice President - Bobby Allyn, finally marched down Central & Washington Avenues, as Albany's 2021 Veterans Day Grand Marshal. It wasn't his fault but the COVID-19's virus that changed his fate for 2020's Memorial and Veterans Day Parades. Also, even 2021's Memorial Day but on 11/11/21, with lovely wife, Judy.....hand & hand made that memorable parade journey.

2021 Photo of
the wreaths, at
Saratoga Nat'l





HAPPY - SAFE - HEALTHY 2022. *Let's hope that is the start of something good.*

TCCVEV, hopes that you and yours had a Blessed Merry C Christmas. Mankind can use prayers for Peace on Earth and a VirusLESS world. To our Service Men & Women who protect the world and to those who are stationed, stateside - thank you for your service. May God watch over you - EVERY DAY. God Bless America & ALL Veterans.

Quotable Quote: ".....We few, we happy few, we Band of Brothers; For he to-day that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother;....." From Wm. Shakespeare's St. Crispin's Day speech of *Henry V.*, 1598.

Wreaths Across America: Bill Schaaf, Ray Sestak & the rest of the Patriot Guard Riders, have sent out a "THANK YOU" message to the community for another successful season. If, by chance some of our community residents haven't been to the National Cemetery to view the site of over 14,100 wreaths - what a site to see - for that matter, local cemeteries have their wreaths up, as well. In Bill Schaaf's FB & Email message, he has a BONUS Offer til 1/14/22 - it reads: "Get a jump on next year - From now until Jan. 14th, 2022 Wreaths Across America will now match any wreath purchased using our code - NY0057. So instead of getting a 3rd wreath whenever you purchased 2 wreaths using our code - WAA will now credit our sponsorship with 2 add'l wreaths-2 purchased now gets 4. Short time only until JAN. 14th AND have again included the ordering instructions should you wish to purchase between now & Jan. 14th. A few steps to do but mainly, to get the PDF file - **GO** to Bill's Email (pgrnysc@gmail.com) **FOR ORDERING....INTERNET Orders:** For those who wish to order a wreath on-line please use the following procedures - quick and easy....Start at: wreathsacrossamerica.org AND you'll see the Following: SPONSOR WREATHS.....Local Sponsorship Group....Wreath Sponsorship Group page....order wreaths, etc.

MAIL IN Form: You'll see on the order forms that the appropriate cemetery designation for G. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery is "NYGSNS" but just as important - the Sponsoring Group ID# is "NY0057" for the Patriot Guard riders. Just complete the form & mail in check with your order & our sponsorship code will be credited with matching wreaths.

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. A thank you to Jerry D'Amelia, Membership Chairman, for doing the labeling of envelopes & delivering them to our home; & to my wife, Linda for the many hours of folding & enclosing approximately 350 SPOOKY newsletters with me. What a TEAM!

Capital Region: ALBANY County's "Honor-A-Vet" Application: call (518) 447-7710 or mail: Albany Cty Veterans Svc. Bureau, 162 Washington Ave (7th Fl), Albany, NY 12210. You may CK 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: call Lonnie (518) 270-2760 (Rensselaer County Vets Affairs' Committee Sec'ty) or email Lonnie at: LWarrington@rensco.com. View the following 2 internet Links for info:

1) http://www.rensco.com/vet_hav.asp and 2) <http://www.renselaercounty.org/Honor%20A%20Veteran%20Ceremony.htm>

SARATOGA County's monthly HAV 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 INFO pertaining to future steps @ (518) 884-4115 or email = veterans@saratogacountyny.com **SCHENECTADY** For INFO; 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.

NOTE: due to COVID, all EVENTS could be postponed or cancelled; check with the county Directors OR veteran organizations for changes.

Important Notice: Many returning GI's are seeking a connection with local organizations and if, YOU have the opportunity to assist ANYONE - please, do so. Here's some (518) Capital District organization's INFO:

- 1) AMERICAN LEGION Posts: a) #1520 Zaloga = 459-1520; b) #1040 Blanchard-Currey (Delmar) = 439-9819;
- c) Melvin Roads #1231 (Rensselaer) = 462-7006; d) Bucci-McTague #1530 = 463-1475 & e) N Albany #1610 = 465-4800
- 3) AMVETS (American Veterans) - Post 35 in Rotterdam = contact = Doug Van Iderstynne = 356-1474
- 6) TCCVEV (Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans) - see: SPOOKY's Front page for ALL the information
- 7) USMC Detachments: a) Albany (Capt. O'Brien) = 237-1712; b) Schenectady (Electric City) = 355-2746 c) Troy 728-6494
- 8) VFW Area Posts: a) #6776 Sheehy-Palmer = 465-9349; b) #7062 Boyd Hilton (Altamont) = 861-8323;
- c) #8444 Wm. F. Wigand = 465-6992; and d) #8692 Robert L. Weininger (Colonie) = 456-7794.



TAPS: Saddened to report the passing of a Life Member and good friend, Ronald Brand, who passed away on December 10th. Our sympathy to his wife, Rose and their family! Also, he was a member of the Robert L. Weininger VFW Post 8692 in Colonie. Their VFW Chaplain, Gene Loparco & members - performed a respectful ritual at the funeral home. TCCVEV had their Honor Guard posts and members attended the VFW Ritual. Also, sympathy to the following families that had family members pass away in 2021: 1) USMC Non-Members = Tom Lemme (Iwo Jima Survivor) and Joe Nardolillo; 2) Life Member, Belle Pelligrino and 3) Member, Kevin Miller's son, Nathaniel Miller. Rest in Peace and God Bless them.

Memembership News:

Your 2022 DUES are presently DUE! Re-Up or JOIN... Our year ends with 2021 Paid Membership of 54 MBRS; same as we were last year in 2020. Considering what we are all going through, I think this is good. 14 Members have already paid for 2022 and this is a good start. Life Membership is now 190 - Remember, one \$150 payment and you are done with dues....FOREVER!). NOTE: Our newest Life Member is James H. Sill - Congratulations and Welcome!

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: # 21-1234; the PREFIX #, 21, indicates the LAST YEAR (2021), 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. < 2022 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!

