

Once again with my brothers... as we are together then... we are together now...



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

A NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED AND AWARD WINNING VETERAN NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

QUAD CITIES CHAPTER 299 • WWW.QCVVA299.ORG

FEBRUARY 2026

"We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would harm us." George Orwell

Jerry GOODWIN SPOTLIGHT

This month's SPOTLIGHT presents Jerry Goodwin, a decorated war veteran with the 25th Infantry Division. Jerry was drafted in 1966 and served until 1968. On November 9th at 10 a.m., Jerry was wounded by sniper fire, which resulted in a three-month recovery. But let's start at the beginning...

Jerry was born right here in the Midwest, the oldest of four boys. His family lived on a farm off Billy Wolf Road. At eleven years old, the Goodwins moved into town, sadly ending Jerry's squirrel-hunting days. Jerry attended United Township High School for three and a half years, then transferred to Moline High School for his last semester, which was a miserable experience because he knew no one at his new school.

After graduating from high school, Jerry worked twelve-hour days, seven days a week, making \$100 a month. He moved 13,000 bales of hay and milked eighty cows that summer. In his younger years, ten-year-old Jerry and his brother could be spotted delivering a hundred newspapers in the morning and then again in the evening. His strong work ethic continues until this day.

When Jerry was drafted into the Army, he was making \$10,000 a year. The Army was not as lucrative at \$1,200 a year, with \$16 deducted monthly for a U.S. Savings Bond. Jerry was sent to Ft Campbell, KY for basic then on to Ft Polk, LA, where it actually snowed! His MOS was 11 Bravo; an infantry role focused on ground combat and reconnaissance. He served in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Lightning Rod. Though it was hot during the day, the nights were freezing. During the pivotal TET Offensive, Jerry hunkered down in a bunker. During his time overseas, Jerry also marched into Laos and Cambodia. It was a good day for Jerry when he was finally shipped home from Vietnam. Jerry continues his military association with his VVA Chapter 299 membership, where he says, "It's good to be around a bunch of GIs."



Continued on page 2

CHAPTER 299

VETS IN CRISIS HOTLINE
1.800.273.8255
OR 988 PRESSING 1

President - LEN SPINDEL

309-737-5571

len.spindel@yahoo.com

Vice President - JERRY POLITO

309-912-6503

vito.p49@hotmail.com

Treasurer - JERRY MANICCIA

309-787-3162

jerrymaniccia@gmail.com

Secretary and Membership - JIM KIRSCHBAUM

309-738-6989

dixie.can.do299@gmail.com

STS Newsletter Editor - JIM KIRSCHBAUM

309-738-6989

dixie.can.do299@gmail.com

ILL. Dept of Veterans Affairs:

VSO Carla Waibel

Kewanee 309-852-0227

Moline 309-757-9960

Veterans Assistance Commission

Brad Bigford, Superintendent

(309) 558-3545

Parris Silvis: Asst Superint./Service Officer

(309) 558-3545

Cory Hawk: Service Officer

(309) 558-3545

Jason Willits: Service Officer

(309) 558-3545

VVA National Offices

800.882.1316

VA Outpatient Clinic Davenport

563.332.8528

VA Med Cent IA City

319-338-0581 & 800-346-1843

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1-309-755-3260

IA Vet Affairs & VSO

Director - Ben Enlow

563-326-8723

benjamin.enlow@scottcountyiaowa.com

HONOR GUARD CO-CAPTAINS

Tom Courtney - Funerals

C: 309-230-3704

tcour101444@aol.com

Dennis Johnson - Parades

C: 309-429-8235

tencentscrewdriver@hotmail.com

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Continued from page 1

Jerry is married to the lovely Freda. Together they have six children, thirteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. It's no surprise that both are extremely active. Jerry is on the board for the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) for Rock Island County, Senior Vice for American Legion in East Moline, member of East Moline's VFW, Vice President of the State of Illinois VVA, Senior Officer in MAVA, President of Country Music Association, and a convention delegate for VVA 299. At a past VVA Convention, Jerry met the field hospital nurse who had fixed him up when he was wounded! Not to be outdone, Freda is President for the State of Illinois AVVA and our local AVVA Chapter 299.

In 2000, The Rock Island Argus wrote an article, "Remembering Vietnam 25 Years After," about Jerry's military experience. It explains how running out of bullets saved his life. I hope you take time to talk with Jerry, that is if you can catch up with him, a human lightning rod.

*Respectfully submitted, Terry Lynch, Past President
Terry wrote this in October, the month he interviewed Jerry,
but it was submitted too late for November publication.*



★ SICK CALL ★



Below is list of members, wives and friends that are having health problems. Please keep these people in your thoughts. If any folks need to be added please

e-mail Jim Kirschbaum at dixie.can.do299@gmail.com

JIM BELL

ZAC HOEGNER

DENNY NEWEL 669

DENNIS JOHNSON

JIM KIRSCHBAUM

DIXIE KIRSCHBAUM

JOHN LAVELLE 776

JIM LOVELESS

MAURICE OSBORNE

ANNETTE PETERS

LEN PETERS

JERRY POLITO

TOM SKOREPA

GUNTER TERRONEZ MAVA

VVA CHAPTER 299 BOARD MEETING AGENDA ERICKSON CHEVROLET AT 6:00 P.M. FINAL REPORT DATE JAN. 13, 2026

See sign in Sheet

Jerv Polito- excused

Jim Kirschbaum- excused

Jerry Maniccia - excused

Agenda / Summary Discussions

1. [Agenda Item 1]: Additions / Changes to Agenda
2. [Agenda Item 2]: Secretary's Report/ Approval of Minutes
No report (no December General Meeting)
3. [Agenda Item 3]: Membership
The Chapter membership is still officially 370 members.
4. [Agenda Item 4]: Treasurer Report
See attached Financial Reports
5. [Agenda Item 5]: Donations/ Charities

Chairman Ron Roman presented two charities which were reviewed and passed on for approval. They are:

- a) Christian Care. A donation of \$400 was recommended and approved.
- b) US Care. A donation of \$400 was recommended and approved.

Our Chapter has donated to both charities in the past.

6. [Agenda Item 6] Vet to Vet / Care and Compassion
There is no planned activity currently. Paul Eaves needs Get Well cards. Donations would be appreciated. A request for the membership to bring Get Well cards to the General Membership Meeting will be sent out via the Robo call.
7. [Agenda Item 7] Golf Outing
Ron Roman reported that the 2025 outing was a success and that he is exploring ways to expand the size and charitable scope of the event. The date for the 2026 Golf Outing is September 14th, 2026. Ron Roman recommended that the Chapter acknowledge the repeat sponsors of this event. The Board authorized Ron to pursue his idea.
8. [Agenda Item 8] Honor Guard
The Honor Guard completed 187 funerals for the 2025 calendar year. The total for the year 2026 so far is 6. The Honor Guard will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14th.
9. [Agenda Item 9] STS Newsletter
Barb Lynch has withdrawn her offer to continue in Terry's place. The January STS may be the last issue to have a Spotlight review. Discussions about STS's future are ongoing.
- 10.[Agenda Item 10] WA 299 website
www.QCVVA299.org. No report.
- 11.[Agenda Item 11] Welcome Home Dance
The Welcome Home Veteran's Day Dance held on November 7th, 2025, at Baily's Quad Cities was a success. Terry Kramer provided a report at the November General meeting. The date for the 2026 Welcome Home Dance is
- 12.[Agenda Item 12] Old Business
 - a) QC Area Townships Veteran's Day Celebration Luncheon held on November 5th, 2025, at Baily's Quad Cities was a success. A letter will be sent thanking the townships for putting this event together. The Townships sent the Chapter a \$200 check for the Honor Guard services.
 - b) An EPG was presented and approved to provide approximately 90 small hams to the QC Veteran's Outreach Center to be distributed in food baskets during the Thanksgiving/ Christmas season. Len Spindel worked with HyVee Moline to purchase these hams. They were delivered to the Outreach center on December 13th.
- 13.[Agenda Item 13] New Business
 - a) An EPG was discussed and approved to provide a catered meal at the February General Meeting. The estimated cost is \$1250 plus \$250 tip.

13.[Agenda Item 13 continued]

- b). WA Illinois State Council Meetings. The next scheduled State Council meeting is scheduled for March 14th in Minooka, Illinois. The following scheduled meeting is June 13 in Rock Island.
VVA Region 5 Director Gary Estemyer
VVA Illinois State Council President Fred Barks
WA Chapter 299 State Council Reps Pete Sierra Jerry Goodwin Len Spindel

Next Board Meeting

Date: February 10th, 2026

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Ericksen Chevrolet, Milan, Illinois

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn was approved
These minutes were reviewed and approved at the January General Membership Meeting.

TAPS

Following is a list of funerals at which military honors were performed by the combined efforts of the V.V.A Chapter 299, V.V.A Chapter 669, V.V.A Chapter 776, and the MAVA (Mexican American Veterans Association) Honor Guards. Included in the list are the dates of the funerals, names, ages, and branches of service in which these veterans served. **Any chapter 299, 699, 776 and MAVA members are designated by bold letters and underlined.**

Date of Funeral	Name of Veteran	Age	Branch of Service
JAN 06, 2026	RICHARD J. WINTERS	77	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JAN 06, 2026	FRANK E. WIENER	84	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JAN 07, 2026	JACK L. JACOBSEN	81	U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JAN 09, 2026	GEORGE W. PALMER	65	U. S. ARMY (COLD WAR VETERAN)
JAN 12, 2026	MICHAEL B. BARTHOLOMEW	80	U. S. MARINE CORPS (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JAN 14, 2026	WILLIAM D. CARR	81	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JAN 20, 2026	BENJAMIN M. VARGAS	70	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JAN 22, 2026	DEREK W. SCHROEDER	40	U. S. ARMY (ENDURING FREEDOM VETERAN)
JAN 22, 2026	KENNETH R. MORROW	59	U. S. MARINE CORPS (ENDURING FREEDOM VETERAN)
JAN 23, 2026	FREDERICK L. WILLEY	84	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JAN 27, 2026	PAUL E. GOULET	81	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)

Submitted by Jim Loveless

JIM TEROS


-ONCE AGAIN WITH MY BROTHERS.



Kayla Buckley
Assistant Storage Manager

U-Haul Moving & Storage of Moline
5000 Avenue of the Cities
Moline, IL 61265
Phone: (309) 517-5981
kayla_hunt@uhaul.com
uhaul.com

Memorials can be sent to:
 V.V.A CHAPTER 299
 ATTN: HONOR GUARD
 P.O. Box 6076
 Rock Island, IL 61204-6076
 This will help our Honor Guard.
 THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT.



TO ALL MEMBERS:

If you have stories or pictures that you would like to share for STS

SEND TO: V.V.A QC Chapter 299
 PO Box 6076, Rock Island, IL 61204-6076
OR EMAIL TO: dixie.can.do299@gmail.com

Thank you, Jim Kirschbaum, Secretary



2 symbols that indicate your email messages and internet are a secure and encrypted connection.

<https://> *Submitted by Jim Kirschbaum*

2026 FOOD DISTRIBUTION DATES

Come help us out,
arrive at 9:00 am and done around
11:00 or 11:30 am

**Stern Beverage,
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FEBRUARY 18

MARCH 18

APRIL 22

MAY 20

JUNE 17

JULY 22

AUGUST 19

SEPTEMBER 23

OCTOBER 21

NOVEMBER 18

DECEMBER 16

SICK CALL

THIS IS A LIST OF MEMBERS, WIVES,
AND FRIENDS HAVING HEALTH
PROBLEMS. PLEASE KEEP THESE
PEOPLE IN YOUR THOUGHTS. IF
ANY FOLKS NEED TO BE ENTERED,
E-MAIL JIM KIRSCHBAUM.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF V.V.A. 299

It's that time of year that we need
members to step up and help to run this
chapter. We are in need of officers,
board members and other positions.

Please call Tom Courtney at
309-230-3704 or Jim Kirschbaum at
309-738-6989 if you can help out.

Submitted by Jim Kirschbaum

HELP NEEDED

Submitted by Past President Ken Madden

COME JOIN THE HONOR GUARD,

we will help you get a uniform and patches.

It is important that we fill these positions so the chapter
will run smoothly.

STEP UP AND SERVE

Thomas Skorepa
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Terry Lynch passed away last November 2025. We need someone to step in and do our Spotlights for this Newsletter.

Please contact Jim Kirschbaum if you are interested in helping with this monthly article for STS.

*Thank you,
Jim Kirschbaum*

UPCOMING DATES

FEB 12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

FEB 12 FLY THE FLAG DAY

FEB 14 VALENTINES DAY

FEB 15 SINKING OF THE
U.S.S. MAINE 1886

FEB 16 PRESIDENT'S DAY

FEB 16 WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY

FEB 18 ASH WEDNESDAY

FEB 23 IWO JIMA DAY

MARCH 8... DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME BEGINS

MARCH 17. ST. PATRICK'S DAY

MARCH 20. FIRST DAY OF SPRING

MARCH 29. PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29. VIETNAM WAR
VETERANS DAY



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QUAD CITIES

**THE MEAL ON FEB. 17, 2026
WILL BE CATERED BY**

SUBMITTED BY LEN SPINDEL



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 299
PO Box 6076
Rock Island, IL 61204-6076
www.QCVVA299.org

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DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE 299

FEB. 10BOARD MEETING	MARCH 10BOARD MEETING
FEB. 17MEMBERSHIP MEETING	MARCH 17 ..MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEB. 18FOOD DISTRIBUTION	MARCH 18FOOD DISTRIBUTION

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS:
Jim Kirschbaum and the STS newsletter will be
dixie.can.do299@gmail.com

BOARD MEETINGS:
ERIKSEN CHEVROLET • BREAK ROOM 6 PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING:
ERIKSEN CHEVROLET, 7 PM

We comply with applicable Federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex



Cut-Off Date For Submissions to STS is the 25th of every month



**We proudly support Vietnam
Veteran's Chapter 299**

Eriksen

CHEVROLET



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