

Once again with my brothers...as we were 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

"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

Dennis REESE

SPOTLIGHT



The ever smiling Dennis Reese was enjoyable to interview for this month's SPOTLIGHT. As seen in the photo left, he sang two songs beautifully while playing his guitar. This is a first for these interviews!

Dennis served in the Air Force from 1970 to 1972. He was stationed at various Strategic Air Command (SAC) bases. He was assigned as a dispatcher for HUEY helicopters which flew over convoys leading to missile sites. Although he was an Airman, the majority of personnel working with him were officers.

Dennis grew up in Fox River Grove, an area just outside Chicago. As a guitar player he became a member of a band. The band often opened for other well known bands. Dennis attended Black Hawk Community College and received his

Bachelors Degree from Western Illinois University. In 1975, he secured employment with the Moline Police Department and retired after twenty five years of service as a detective. As a policeman, Dennis had the honor of working Secret Service details for Presidents Reagan and George W. Bush. After retiring, he worked for the U.S. Marshals Service for the Southern District of Iowa. It is worth noting that he continues playing his guitar as a solo performer at multiple community and senior citizen events.

He is married to Marina Yokas and they will be celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary in September. He has two children, Andrea and Alex. He is a proud Grandfather of three with another one on the way in December. He flies the Thin Blue Line Flag in his front yard to reflect his commitment in honoring the men and women of law enforcement.

Dennis was encouraged by Bill Albracht to join Chapter 299.

Proudly, he said how welcoming the Chapter is in warmly greeting all members when they walk through the meeting doors. He noted how the Chapter builds up patriotic pride by the protocol established in meetings by saying the pledge and the presence of the Chapter Honor Guard. Dennis was also a significant participant in securing funds for the John Baker Memorial.

If you have a chance, please check out community and/or senior activity centers to hear this remarkable and talented guitarist/singer perform.



Submitted by by Terry Lynch, Past President

CHAPTER 299

VETS IN CRISIS HOTLINE
1.800.273.8255

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kcommand@aol.com

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Veteran Service Officers (VSO)
Al "Butch" Huber-VSO
309.721.1453

VVA National Offices
800.882.1316

VA Outpatient Clinic Davenport
563.332.8528

VA Med Cent IA City
319.338.0581 & 800.346.1843

IL Dept of Veterans Affairs
VSO Carla Waibel
309.757.9960

RI Cty Vet Ast & VSO
Todd Harlow
309.558.3546

VET CENTER (Counseling)
1-309-755-3260

IA Vet Affairs & VSO
Director - Ben Enlow
563.326.8723
benjamin.enlow@scottcountyiowa.com

HONOR GUARD CO-CAPTAINS

Tom Courtney - Funerals
309.912.7249 C: 309.230.3704
tcour101444@aol.com

Dennis Johnson - Parades
H: 309.764.3463 C: 309.429.8235
tencentscrewdriver@hotmail.com

BREAKING: VA plans expansion of benefits for disability claims for conditions related to certain toxic exposures

Published On May 27th 2021

VA announced two major decisions related to presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange and particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia.

Agent Orange

VA will begin implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), adding three conditions to the list of those presumptively associated with exposure to herbicide agents, more commonly known as Agent Orange. Those conditions are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism.

"Many of Nation's Veterans have waited a long time for these benefits," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough. "VA will not make them wait any longer. This is absolutely the right thing to do for Veterans and their families."

VA will apply the provisions of court orders related to *Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*, which may result in an earlier date for entitlement to benefits for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Vietnam War era Veterans and their survivors who previously filed and were denied benefits for one of these three new presumptive conditions will have their cases automatically reviewed without the need to refile a claim. VA will send letters to impacted Veterans and survivors.

Particulate Matter Exposures

The Secretary recently concluded the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence. VA's review supports initiation of rulemaking to address the role that particulate matter pollution plays in generating chronic respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War and/or after September 19, 2001, or in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War.

"VA is establishing a holistic approach to determining toxic exposure presumption going forward. We are moving out smartly in initiating action to consider these and other potential new presumptions, grounded in science and in keeping with my authority as Secretary of VA," said Secretary McDonough. VA is initiating rulemaking to consider adding respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, sinusitis, and rhinitis, to the list of chronic disabilities based on an association with military service in Southwest Asia, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan during the covered periods of conflict. VA will conduct broad outreach efforts to reach impacted Veterans and it encourages them to participate in the rulemaking process.

For more information, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures – Public Health](#).

Submitted by Bill Albracht

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Ken Madden to Jim Kirschbaum



Ken Madden to Jerry Maniccia



Vietnam Veterans of America 13TH ANNUAL 9/11 Commemorative Golf Outing

NEW LOCATION!

August 30, 2021

**Pinacle Country Club
11928 Knoxville Rd., Milan, IL**

Submitted by Ron Roman

Preferred Ball 4 Man Scramble
8am Registration
9am Shotgun Start
Entrance Fee \$360 per team
\$90 per person)

PROPER ATTIRE - NO JEANS, SHIRTS MUST HAVE COLLARS

Includes:

- Golf
- Clubhouse Catered Meal (Meal Only, \$25)
- Door Prizes
- Commemorative Gift
- Hole Prizes
- Free Keg of Beer (While it Lasts!)

Team Captain: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

**Prizes for: 1st, 2nd Place
and Middle Scores**

Plus! Hole in One Event for a NEW CAR!

Women's and mixed teams welcome!

ALSO

- **NEW!** "Purchase a Drive" contests on holes 9 & 18
- Competitive hole events for men & women
- Seniors 70+ Gold Tees Optional

Questions call **Ron Roman** at 1-563-359-3234
Register now, space is limited. No reservations will be accepted without payment, Checks only please (No Cash!). Postmark deadline is August 21, 2021. The postmark will determine your priority.

Make checks payable to VVA QC Chapter 299.
Mail to: **Ron Roman**
4410 Slate Creek Drive
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Proceeds go to support Veterans/Community Programs - Donations Accepted

INDIVIDUAL AS WELL AS BUSINESS \$100 HOLE SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE & SIGNAGE WILL BE POSTED AT SPONSORED HOLE.

NEW! Sponsorships for special hole to honor Veterans who have passed away. Call for information.

QC Cruisers SCHEDULE



The Quad Cities Cruisers is again requesting the presence of the Chapter 299 Honor Guard at some of their functions this year. The Honor Guard presents the Colors and Jim Bell has been known to sing the National Anthem. The Honor Guard has been known to sell 50/50 tickets for the club for which the club has donated half the intake to the Chapter. The Cruisers, in the past, have been a great donor to our chapter.

The schedule this year for the Honor Guard is:

Sept. 11 Southpark Mall parking lot
Show is from 5pm - 8pm. HG starts at 4:30pm

If you like vintage cars, good music, and a fun time, this is the place to be. Hope to see many of you there.

GOLFERS: Please note!

We expect to fill our limit of golfers early this year. Don't be left out, please get your reservations in early!

Thank you for your support!

Submitted by Ron Roman, Chairman for the Golf Outing



VET 2 VET REPORT FOR JAN 2021

In light of corona virus - 19, there will be no visitation to the VA hospital in Iowa City, until further notice.

If good will cards need to be sent to our veterans, please call Frenchy Eaves at (563) 386-1696. ■

**FROM THE EDITOR: PLEASE NOTE A MISTAKE WAS MADE
IN THE SPOTLIGHT FOR JUNE-TOM HICKSON.**

He has served Chapter 299 as Secretary, Vice President, and briefly as acting President. He's very proud of 299 and its Honor Guard.

IT SHOULD HAVE READ: President from (2018-2019) and briefly as acting Vice President.

Any 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.



Ken Stotmeister CLU LUTCF
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2021

FOOD DISTRIBUTION DATES

at the Quad City Expo Center, Rock Island
Show up time is 9:00 am and lasts till about
11:00 to 11:30 am

AUGUST 18, 2021 | NOVEMBER 17, 2021
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 | DECEMBER 22, 2021
OCTOBER 20, 2021

Submitted by
Jim Loveless

Quilt for the Dance



**GOLF
OUTING**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 30TH
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Thank You, Jim K

★★★★ **FOURTH FRIDAYS** ★★★★★

We are going to roll out the next addition of the *4th Friday* We are going to keep in line with the Gov's protocols regarding social distancing and mask wearing.

We are emphasizing "support the 1st Responders" as well as our honor guard members, Chapter members and loyal supporters.

We'll see how this works out. Come out and enjoy the day.

Ray Hamilton

Bradley & Tina Forret

309-797-1631

With Respect and Admiration To All Who Served.



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Moline, IL 61265



The Touring Wall in Aledo, IL



Rocky Bleier and the Family of Danny Daebelliehn



Pictured here from right to left is Jeanie Daebelliehn, our Chapter's own combat wounded-combat decorated and four-time Superbowl Champ, Rocky Bleier, flanked by Jeanie's daughters, Jennifer & Jana.

Jeanie is the widow of Danny Daebelliehn who was a life member of our VVA Chapter. Danny was a VN combat veteran and served in the Ninth Infantry. Danny was quietly proud of his service to his country and felt a brotherhood to all Vietnam veterans. He took great pleasure as well as pain in being

a Bears & Cubs fan, but faithful to the end, we waited for the return of the Bears to another Superbowl – but don't we all!

Danny and his family requested that \$2,000 in memorials be bequeathed to Chapter 299's Quad Cities Veteran Scholarship in Danny's name.

When Rocky was in town raising funds for our scholarship, arrangements were made to meet the Daebelliehn family. This was done the evening of the performance of Rocky's inspiring tribute to VN vets in the telling of the story of how his military service took him from the NFL and then the long journey back. His story - THE PLAY - chronicles the incredible challenges that he met and conquered. An uncommon man in very exciting times.

Although are days on God's green earth are numbered, our legacy as Vietnam veterans will go on in perpetuity through our scholarship.

Thank you Danny and thank you Rocky.

Submitted by: Bill Albracht!

HAVE A GREAT LABOR DAY ★ SEPTEMBER 6, 2021

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 -ONCE AGAIN WITH MY BROTHERS.

Thomas Skorepa
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

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 Rock Island, IL 61201
 309.788.7481

Continuing the tradition of service to those in need.



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
JUNE 28, 2021,	BRIAN L. POTTER	61	U. S. NAVY (COLD WAR VETERAN)
JULY 06, 2021,	ROY D. GOODRICH	79	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JULY 09, 2021,	DAVID L. GOLDSBERRY	81	U. S. ARMY (KOREAN WAR VETERAN)
JULY 10, 2021,	HENRY S. "HANK" LUCHNER	89	U. S. ARMY (KOREAN WAR VETERAN)
JULY 16, 2021,	BONNIE M. HOWELL	73	U. S. NAVY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JULY 16, 2021,	ROBERT T. COLWELL	83	U. S. AIR FORCE (KOREAN WAR VETERAN)
JULY 16, 2021,	MICHAEL D. KELLER	63	U. S. ARMY (COLD WAR VETERAN)
JULY 16, 2021,	DAVID PADGET	71	U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JULY 17, 2021,	EARL J. WENDEL	94	U. S. ARMY AIR CORPS (WORLD WAR II VETERAN)
JULY 20, 2021,	DENNIS W. THOENE	72	U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JULY 20, 2021,	RAYMOND V. EICKSTAEDT	95	U. S. ARMY (WORLD WAR II VETERAN)
JULY 22, 2021,	KENNETH E. SMITH	69	U. S. ARMY (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JULY 22, 2021,	JAMES W. SOPRIA	78	U. S. MARINE CORPS (VIETNAM WAR VETERAN)
JULY 23, 2021,	JAMES A. SIMS	62	U. S. ARMY (COLD WAR VETERAN)
JULY 23, 2021,	JOHN O. CHIN	59	U. S. MARINE CORP (COLD WAR VETERAN)

HELP NEEDED

Robo Call, Shoulder To Shoulder, Web Page, and our chapter picnic.

Come join the **Honor Guard**, we will help you get a uniform and patches.

It is important that we fill these positions to enable the chapter to run smoothly. We are not done yet.

STEP UP AND SERVE, IT IS YOUR PRIVILEGE.

Submitted by President Ken Madden

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE YOUR SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Please Call Jim at **309-738-6989** and leave a message.

We'll Need Your Name, Address, and Phone Number.

Thank You
Jim Kirschbaum, Editor

NOTICE TO ALL V.V.A. 299 MEMBERS

Your family has a member of the V.V.A 299 that has passed on, please send a copy of the obituary to:

V.V.A 299

ATTN: STS NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 6076 ROCK ISLAND, IL 61204-6076

or email dixiecando@outlook.com

We want to honor our fallen 299

Brothers and Sisters by having them in the newsletter in the "299 Remembrance" section.

Jim Kirschbaum, Newsletter Editor



299 REMEMBRANCE

NO FALLEN MEMBERS FOR MAY 2021:

Submitted by Jim Kirschbaum



Americal Division/23rd Infantry Division Monument Dedication

The Americal Legacy Foundation has placed a monument at the Rock Island Arsenal Veterans Cemetery in Rock Island, Illinois to honor the Americal Division. All those who served in the Americal Division as well as any other veterans are invited to attend.

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021
10:00 AM**

If you have any questions please contact
Lyle Peterson
Phone: (563) 343-1817
Email: petedav72@gmail.com

Please let me know if you plan on attending.

Lyle Peterson
Company B 4/31 – 196 LIB



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TO ALL MEMBERS:

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

SEND TO: V.V.A QC Chapter 299
PO Box 6076, Rock Island, IL 61204-6076
or email to: dixiecando@outlook.com

Thank you, Jim Kirschbaum, Secretary



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

Submitted by Jim Kirschbaum

VVA CHAPTER 299 BOARD MEETING MILAN LEGION AT 6:00 P.M. DATE: July 13, 2021

DATE REMINDERS: SPEAKERS: LOUDLY AND OBSERVE THE THREE MINUTES LIMIT.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE – FOR ALL OUR FELLOW VETERANS, PAST AND NOW SERVING.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA:

PERSONS PRESENT: PRESIDENT: KEN MADDEN: VIC PRESIDENT: LEN SPINDEL.; SECRETARY, JIM KIRSCHBAUM: TREASURER JERRY MANICCIA: DIRECTORS: PAUL FRENCHY EAVES, RON ROMAN, JIM BELL, JERRY GOODWIN.; JOE RAMOS TERRY KRAMER: TRUSTEE BOB JACKSON.

ABSENT: (EXCUSED; YES) JERRY GOODWIN
(EXCUSED NO)

PRESIDENT:

VICE PRESIDENT:

GUESTS/GUESTS SPEAKER:

REPORTS:

SECRETARY: MINUTES. JIM KIRSCHBAUM

MEMBERSHIP: JIM KIRSCHBAUM: TOTAL 399

TREASURER: JERRY MANICCIA: PRESENTED IN PRINTED FORM: YES

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: JERRY MANICCIA: YES

BUDGET COMMITTEE; LEN SPRINDEL, RON ROMAN, JERRY MANICCIA

EPG'S; 1. **TABLE ISSUE ON DONATION / CHARITIES;** OPEN; MCSPARIN; 2ND BY TERRY KRAMER; FOR; ALL: AGAINST NONE

2. OTHER EPG'S

A. FRIST DAY FUND. MOTION BT; JOE RAMOS; 2ND BY; TERRY KRAMER; FOR ALL; AGAINST; NONE

B. NIMI WALK. MOTION BY FRENCHY; 2ND BY RON ROMAN; FOR ALL AGAINST; NONE

C. Q.C. VETERANS; MOTION BY TERRY KRAMER; 2ND BY JOS RAMOS; FOR ALL; AGAINST; NONE

D. EXPLORERS MOTION BY JIM BELL; 2ND BY JOE RAMOS; FOR ALL; AGAINST NONE

ALL WERE FOR \$400.00 EACH.

DONATIONS / CHARITIES: BOB McSPARIN: SEE ABOVE

VET TO VET / CARE AND COMPASSION: PAUL EAVES: NO CHANGE

HONOR GUARD: TOM COUNRTNEY / DENNIS JOHNSON; 75 SERVICES SINCE JAN ONE

STS: EDITOR; JIM KIRSCHBAUM, GOOD ARTICLES ARE COMING IN. THANK YOU

WEB SITE: OPEN

ROBO CALLS: LEN SPINDEL; HAS TAKEN OVER.

OTHER COMMITTEES:

POPPIES: HOLD

WELCOME DANCE: WORKING

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY: NONE

GOLF: 40 LETTERS WERE SENT OUT AND ANOTHER 60 LETTER NEEDS TO BE SENT OUT IN THE NEXT WEEK

CHRISTMAS PARTY ; JERRY GOODWIN

OLD BUSINESS:

CARDS SIGN UP

NEW BUSINESS:

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

CLOSE MEETING TIME: 7:45 PM. OR 19:45 HRS.

Vietnam Veterans of America

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**BOARD MEETINGS ARE AT MILAN LEGION, 6 PM
MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS AT ERIKSON CHEVROLET, 7 PM**

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DATES TO REMEMBER FOR THE 299

AUGUST 10, 2021.....BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2021.....MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2021.....GOLF OUTING
SEPT 14, 2021.....BOARD MEETING
SEPT 21, 2021.....MEMBERSHIP MEETING
ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE PANDEMIC.

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



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

Eriksen CHEVROLET 

309-756-2700