

# CONNECTION



Connecticut Chapter 120

Greater Hartford  
Over 35 Years of Service to Veterans

January 2019

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## Meetings

The Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, January 31 at 7:00pm. Call the Chapter office for any changes in schedule. Chapter members are welcomed to attend.

## Notice

If you have moved or changed your address, PLEASE notify us immediately. Call the Chapter office at (860) 568-9212, mail us at the address on the back of this newsletter or e-mail the Newsletter editor at [ctchapter120@aol.com](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com).

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VVA Press Release – December 11, 2018

## VVA Condemns Obstruction of “Blue Water Navy” Bill by Sen. Enzi



“It is beyond disappointing that a single senator, Mike Enzi (R-WY), has obstructed H.R. 299, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, a bill that was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 382-0 and would assuredly pass in the Senate if the members of that body were given the opportunity to vote on it,” said John Rowan, VVA National President.

On Monday, December 10, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) brought up the Blue Water Navy bill on the floor of the Senate. When she asked for unanimous consent, it was the senior senator from Wyoming, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, who objected, citing cost concerns and saying that it would cause “budgetary and operational pressures that would happen at the VA.”

Earlier this year, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie voiced opposition to the legislation, reversing an earlier commitment by his predecessor, Dr. David Shulkin, to “do the right thing.”

“Congress is only too glad to throw money, and lots of it, at the Department of Defense for questionable programs, citing the need for a strong defense,” said Rowan. “The Senate is being prevented from ‘doing the right thing’ for a relative handful of veterans who served with honor in the waters off the coast of Vietnam and are now hurting from effects of exposure to Agent Orange.”

“Contrary to the VA’s assertions, we have the science that shows the pathways of exposure to this insidious herbicide. So we endorse the sentiments of two legislators, a Republican senator and a Democratic congressman, who make the case for passing this long-needed legislation.”

“This is an issue of justice,” said Senator Steve Daines (R-MT). “This is an issue of bureaucracy, frankly, not doing the intent of what Congress was, when it was originally passed. And this would clarify that so that we can make sure these vets get the benefits they deserve.”

“All too often,” said Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), “members of this Congress are willing to pay lip service to the sacrifices our military and military veterans make, then fall into the trap of playing politics when there’s a chance to actually do something to help them.”

For details concerning this VVA Press Release, see *On The Hill*.

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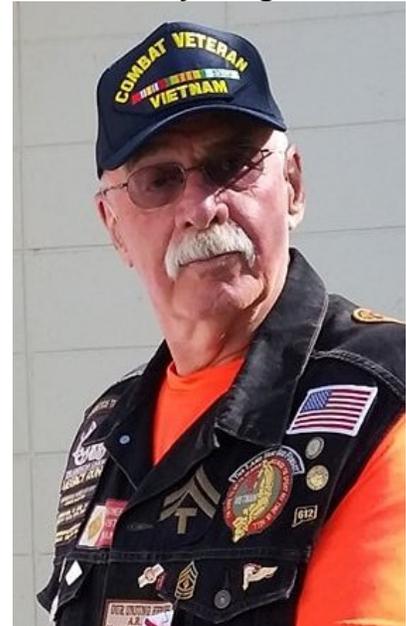
*Chapter/State News*

**Member of the Year  
Kathy Lechause**



Kathy has done so much for Chapter 120. When the chapter needed to take action on legislative issues, she was there. When the chapter needed help with the Holiday dance, she was there preparing and mailing invitations.

**Appreciation Award  
Gerry Wright**



In appreciation for his work in introducing HR 6566 and S 3355, Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act. Gerry, a Life member of Chapter 120, traveled over 10,000 miles throughout the country in promoting awareness of Agent Orange exposure.

**Birthday Wishes**

Birthday wishes go to our members born in January. May you have many more!

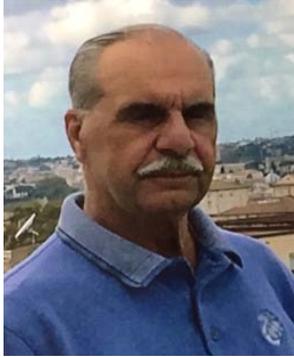
*James G. Ashwell      Vernon Biederman*  
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*Arthur N. Desrosiers   Stanley T. Duro*  
*Henry E. Jackson      Helen McDonald*  
*Thomas Parker         William M. Quirk*  
*Penny Siggia             Jim Tackett*

**Happy Birthday!**



Chapter 120 Life members Phil Morneault and Bob Venti participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the State Capitol along with members of the American Legion Post 133 of South Windsor on December 10.

**Tony Villaggio**  
**Chapter 120 Life member**



Tony Villaggio left the loving arms of the light of his life, his devoted wife of forty-seven years, Carol and his son, Michael of whom he was very proud, along with Michael's family on Thursday, November 15, 2018. Tony's iron will resulting from his United States Marine Corps Training (1964-1968) served him well in meeting life's challenges with determination and courage.

He lived his life grateful for each day with the attitude, "my glass is half full." He was a life member of the Cromwell Fire Department, a Cromwell Water/Fire Commissioner for eighteen years and membership in Knights of Columbus, Cromwell Outboard Association, Marine Corp League, DAV life member and the Vietnam Veterans of America. Tony was an avid kayaker and fisherman. The Connecticut River and Bass will miss his presence! A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, December 7 at Saint John Church, 5 Saint John Court, Cromwell CT. Burial followed Mass in the State Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown where full military honors were accorded. Donations may be made to Salvation Army, P.O. Box 509, Hartford, CT 06141-0509. The family wishes to thank the United States Veterans' Healthcare personnel and Yale's medical teams for their support. To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit [www.doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://www.doolittlefuneralservice.com).

**Norwich pauses to remember Pearl Harbor attack**



Almost eight decades have passed since a surprise attack rocked the island of Hawaii and the entire nation on a December morning in 1941, but it's an event that will not soon be forgotten — especially not in Norwich.

Friday marked Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, commemorating the surprise attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service, killing more than 2,000 and injuring more than

1,000 others.

An event at Norwich City Hall at exactly 11:49 a.m. Friday — the time-zone adjusted moment the first strikes were made against the naval station — was held to commemorate all lives lost that day, including two Norwich natives, Michael Quarto and Harold Carlson, who were on the USS Arizona which sunk during the attack. More than 1,000 of the lives lost that day were from the Arizona.

Norwich Area Veterans Council President and VVA Chapter 270 Life member John Waggoner served as master of ceremonies on the steps of City Hall, kicking off the event with remarks and a brief overview of the attacks that took place Dec. 7, 1941.

"I want to thank everyone for taking time to attend this commemoration of an event that should never be forgotten," Waggoner said.

Norwich police chaplain Charles Tyree offered a prayer to honor and remember those who died, followed by the placing of the colors by the Silver Dolphins Veterans Unit Color Guard.

"They say hindsight is 20/20, this is especially true in military conflict," said USS Nautilus commander and guest speaker Lt. Commander Bradley Boyd, describing the activities in Europe and Japan leading up to World War II.

Former State Troubadour Tom Callinan led the crowd in the singing of the song "Remember Pearl Harbor," followed by the roll call of the 17 residents who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor, including the two from Norwich whose family members were honored.

**CT Veterans Hall of Fame**



On Friday Dec.7, the CT Veterans Hall of Fame held the induction ceremony for the 2018 class. The event highlights the significant achievements in the community of the veteran inductees after they leave military service.

The 2018 CT Veterans Hall of Fame inductees are:

- Frank Alvarado - U.S. Army
- Kevin Brown "Red Eagle" - U.S. Army
- Daniel Camilliere - U.S. Army
- David Cole - U.S. Army
- Robert Froelick - U.S. Air Force
- Donald Maranell - U.S. Navy
- William Charles Mason, Jr. - U.S. Marine Corps
- Lawrence Isiah Riley - U.S. Air Force
- Anthony Sileo - U.S. Army

Commissioner Thomas Saadi stated "These men collectively served for decades in the military - in WWII; in the Vietnam War, during the Cold War, in Desert Shield and Desert Storm and in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their commitment and honor demonstrated through their military service set the foundation for their continued contributions and achievements throughout their post military lives – we honor them for their military service and for their continued contributions achieved for others – for their neighbors, their fellow Veterans, and for a multitude of communities, causes and residents across this state. I am humbled to be in the presence of such Patriots."

**POW/MIA News***From DPAA Public Affairs***DPAA Marks 30 Years of Sustained Joint Field Activities with Vietnam**

At a ceremony conducted in Da Nang on December 11, Vietnamese officials repatriated to Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) representatives what are believed to be the remains of three Americans unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

DPAA Deputy Director for Operations Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz led the U.S. delegation that

participated in the ceremony during which DPAA Detachment Two Commander Lt. Col. Adam Points officially accepted the remains.

The ceremony is part of a two-day visit that Kreitz is making to Vietnam to commemorate the 30th anniversary of sustained United States-Vietnamese joint field activities (JFAs) that officially began in September, 1988, to account for U.S. personnel who are missing from the Vietnam War.

“We extend our sincere appreciation to the government and people of Vietnam, especially the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons, assisting the U.S. accounting mission,” Kreitz said, as he met with Vietnamese officials before the ceremony.

The 30-year relationship of sustained field operations grew out of high-level discussions between the two nations that intensified in the early 1980s. Those talks were advanced by the Vietnamese government facilitating a visit to Hanoi by the National League of POW/MIA Families in 1982. That visit helped spur dialogue more focused on the issue of accounting for personnel missing from the war that ended in 1975.

The talks resulted in an initial joint field mission in 1985. Based on the success of that mission and subsequent talks, the two countries reached a formal agreement for a series of field missions that began in 1988. Since then, 133 JFAs have been conducted in Vietnam, to include the latest one that ends today, following investigation activities in several locations and recovery missions in Quang Binh, Quang Ninh, Thua Thien-Hue, Nghe An and Tuyen Quang Provinces.

DPAA plans to conduct four JFAs this fiscal year in Vietnam. Each JFA involves approximately 95 U.S. personnel and accompanying Vietnamese counterparts, plus a Defense Intelligence Agency POW/MIA specialist. Together, they work on investigations and recoveries throughout the country for a period of approximately 30 days per JFA.

The more than 130 JFAs in Vietnam have resulted in remains associated with 474 individuals being recovered and repatriated since the beginning of sustained cooperation in 1988.

When the Vietnam War ended, 1,973 Americans were missing in Vietnam. In addition to those remains recovered during JFAs, other U.S. remains have been unilaterally turned over by Vietnam, as well as remains recovered during the war, leading to 726 Americans accounted for to date. Across the countries of the region where Americans went missing during the Vietnam War -- including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and China -- a total of 1,592 Americans remain unaccounted for.

“The JFAs in Vietnam have contributed significantly to the answers that have been provided to 726 families,” Kreitz said. “And, as this ceremony indicates, that work continues in hopes that answers can be found for the families who are still missing loved ones from the Vietnam War.”

DPAA Director Kelly McKeague summed up the significance of the anniversary by stating: “In pursuing over these three decades this common humanitarian goal of finding answers for families and bringing unreturned veterans home, our joint endeavors have contributed to the security, stability, and prosperity that mark the strategic relationship America has with Vietnam.”

**On The Hill***From Military Times***Deal to extend benefits for ‘blue water’ Vietnam veterans appears dead for this year**

Hopes for a deal this year to extend disability benefits to thousands of “blue water” Navy veterans who claim toxic exposure while serving in the Vietnam War were all but ended Monday Dec.10 after supporters could not get unanimous support in the Senate for a potential fix.



The measure, passed by the House overwhelmingly earlier this year, would require Veterans Affairs officials to automatically assume about 90,000 veterans who served in ships off the coast of Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange for benefits purposes.

That would move would bring that group in line with hundreds of thousands of other Vietnam veterans who served on the ground there or on ships traveling upon inland rivers. VA officials have objected to the plan, saying the available scientific evidence does not support extending the benefits.

Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and other supporters had hoped to bring the issue directly to the chamber floor for a quick passage, but that parliamentary move was blocked by Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., who cited VA’s cost concerns about the measure.

“VA’s analysis shows the costs could be nearly five times what Congress assumed it was when the House of Representatives

passed it," he said. "So there's clearly more work to do just on figuring out the spending."

Under current department rules, the blue water veterans can receive medical care for their illnesses through VA, but must prove toxic exposure while on duty to receive compensation for the ailments.

Advocates have argued that VA officials are systematically denying those claims despite cases of rare cancers and respiratory symptoms already linked to Agent Orange because not enough study was done decades ago to support the toxic exposure connections.

The veterans affected can't afford more legislative delays.

"The only thing standing in the way of this bill to help our Vietnam veterans is the U.S. Senate, and that is shameful," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y. "We have just days before this Congress is finished and our blue water Navy veterans are waiting for us. Their families are waiting for us. Some of them are dying waiting for us."

Senate leaders could bring the bill up under regular order, but given the short schedule remaining — only a few days are left in the current congressional session — and their reluctance to make the issue a priority so far, that prospect is unlikely.

If the measure is not approved by the Senate by the end of the year, supporters will have to start over with the legislative effort again next year, a process that at best will likely take months.

Veterans groups called that a heartbreaking reality.

"If we can afford to send veterans to war, it's unacceptable that we can't afford to take care of them when they return home wounded, ill or injured," said B.J. Lawrence, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "(Enzi's) obstruction forsakes our nation's promise to take care of those who were injured or made ill due to their military service."

Mike Little, executive director for the Sea Service Family Foundation and a longtime advocate on the blue water benefits issue, said senators should be "ashamed" they could not finalize a deal.

"Blue water Navy should be the easiest legislation passed by Congress," he said. "The science is there, the facts are there, the advocacy is there. Nobody is lobbying against it except money hawks and the VA scientists who, on some levels, still disagree with the dangers of Agent Orange."

The legislation carries a price tag of about \$1.1 billion over 10 years, but VA officials have insisted the total is closer to \$5.5 billion. The costs would be offset with a new fee on some VA home loans, a cost-savings measure some lawmakers have opposed.

Congressional supporters also expressed similar disappointment that a deal could not be reached. House Veterans' Affairs Committee ranking member Tim Walz, D-Minn., blasted Enzi

and several other silent opposers for being hypocritical about the costs, given the major tax package passed by the Republican-controlled Congress last year.

"It is especially troubling to see this bill blocked when there is so much work left to do on toxic exposures as a whole, to include those exposed to burn pits and radiologically exposed veterans," he said.

His Senate counterpart, Montana Democrat Jon Tester, said the "this 11th-hour attempt to block the bill is a thumb in the eye to millions of veterans and service members,"

Isakson expressed frustration that existing research on the issue doesn't seem to be enough for VA and some of his colleagues.

"This thing has been studied as long as it needs to be studied," he said. "You're putting off a decision we're going to have to make in the future."



## Veterans Groups Ask President Trump to Support Blue Water Navy Legislation

A letter asking support from President Trump was signed by leaders from Disabled American Veterans, MOAA, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS and Vietnam Veterans of America.

The full text of the letter:

*As leaders of major veterans' organizations, and on behalf of our more than 5 million combined members, we respectfully ask for your personal leadership to help Congress pass critical legislation to correct a long overdue injustice harming tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans.*

*Knowing of your strong personal support for the men and women who served, particularly for the Vietnam generation, we are asking you to use your influence to get the Senate to pass the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018. This important legislation is supported by all major veterans organizations, passed the House unanimously by a vote of 382 to 0; and is strongly supported by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of Senators, including Senate Veterans Affairs' Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson.*

*Unfortunately, due to Senate rules, opposition by just a couple of Senators – in this case Senators Mike Enzi of Wyoming and Mike Lee of Utah – is thwarting the will of the vast majority who would support and vote for Blue Water Navy legislation, if given the opportunity. Regrettably, Monday night, Senators Enzi and Lee objected to a request to pass this legislation; and unless they drop their opposition to allowing a vote, the bill will die when Congress adjourns at the end of the year, and we'll have*

*to restart this fight all over again. That will mean thousands of aging and ill Vietnam veterans will continue waiting for their just benefits; some will not live to see that day.*

*We understand there is concern about the cost to provide benefits and health care to Blue Water Navy veterans suffering from cancers and other illnesses linked to Agent Orange. But when our nation asks its brave men and women to serve in harm's way, America assumes a sacred obligation to care and compensate for the injuries and illnesses they suffer during that service.*

*Some have argued that Congress should continue waiting until there is more "scientific" evidence. However numerous studies by the Centers for Disease Control, the National Academy of Medicine and others have already found that there is no scientific basis to exclude Blue Water Navy veterans from benefits linked to Agent Orange exposure.*

*When the Agent Orange Act of 1991 was passed, all 2.7 million veterans who served in Vietnam - including those who served off shore - were included. In fact, VA originally defined "service in Vietnam" to specifically include, "service in the waters offshore." That was Congress' clear intention when it passed the law and that's how it was implemented by VA. However, in 2002, based on an erroneous review of unrelated law, VA suddenly added a new requirement that a veteran must have actually put "boots on the ground" in Vietnam to get the benefits of the Agent Orange presumption. This change ignored the evidence that Agent Orange was heavily used on and near the coast, drifted offshore and could also be ingested through the water on ships.*

*VA's bureaucratic decision to take away the presumption of exposure for Blue Water Navy veterans was a mistake when it was made in 2002 and it is long past time for Congress to correct this grave error before it is too late for the Vietnam generation to receive justice.*

*Mr. President, we respectfully ask you to lend your personal support to passing the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R. 299) in the Senate. A public statement of support for the legislation indicating that you would sign this bill could help to persuade Senators Enzi and Lee to drop their opposition to allowing the Senate to hold a vote, where we are confident it would receive overwhelming support.*

*We thank you for all you have done to support America's veterans and respectfully ask you to help provide the leadership necessary to pass this important legislation in the Senate. We look forward to the day when you will be able to sign this legislation and finally pay a long overdue debt to thousands of Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans.*

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## **Delay, Deny, Until They Die**

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*Extracted from Newsrep*

## **Procopio v. Wilke: Agent Orange and the blue water Navy**



On December 7, 2018, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit heard oral arguments in a case called Procopio v. Wilke. Although this case has quietly made its way through the courts, it has the potential to dramatically change the manner in which the US Department of Veterans Affairs addresses service-connected disability benefits claims associated with

exposure to Agent Orange.

Shortly before the Federal Circuit decided the Haas case, a veteran named Alfred Procopio, Jr., filed a claim seeking service-connected disability benefits for prostate cancer and diabetes mellitus type II with edema arising from herbicide exposure during the Vietnam War. Like Mr. Haas, Mr. Procopio served in the Blue Water Navy in the coastal waters of Vietnam, and it is undisputed that he never set foot on Vietnamese soil.

Mr. Procopio focused much of his argument on technical and historical evidence in an attempt to convince VA that, notwithstanding the presumption, he had — in fact — been exposed to Agent Orange by drinking water on the ship while in coastal waters. He also argued that the Federal Circuit's decision in Haas failed to account for rules that require courts to interpret statutes in a manner that is most favorable to veterans, which is sometimes called the Pro-Veteran Cannon. In particular, Mr. Procopio argued that when deciding whether the phrase "service in the Republic of Vietnam" was ambiguous, the analysis must be conducted in a manner that is favorable toward the veteran. VA was not convinced by either argument, and denied the claim.

After a series of appeals, Mr. Procopio's case is now pending in front of the Federal Circuit, which is the same court that issued the decision in Mr. Haas's case. After VA and Mr. Procopio filed their written arguments, a three judge panel heard the parties' oral arguments on May 4, 2018. The panel took great interest in both arguments raised by Mr. Procopio, and on the suggestion of the VA's attorney, the court asked the parties to submit additional written arguments focused on the applicability of the Pro-Veteran Cannon.

After receiving the supplemental written arguments, the court decided to refer the case to an en banc panel — meaning that all of the Federal Circuit's judges will decide the case, not just a three-judge panel. Since then, additional written arguments in favor of Mr. Procopio's position have been submitted by almost a dozen veterans advocacy organizations, including the Big Six — Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), American Legion (AL), and American Veterans (AMVETS), the National Organization of

Veterans Advocates (NOVA), National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The full panel will hear oral arguments in just a few weeks.

The Federal Circuit’s order for supplemental written arguments, as well as referral of the case to the full court, indicate an interest by at least some of the judges to revisit the court’s decision in the Haas case. If Mr. Procopio prevails, it could mean that Blue Water Navy veterans may become entitled to the same presumptions that benefit other veterans of the Vietnam War. It may also cause veterans and advocates to examine and challenge other policies and regulations that VA has implemented when it determined statutory language to be ambiguous. On the other hand, if VA prevails it may not only adversely affect Blue Water Navy veterans, but could also strengthen the agency’s argument that courts must show it deference when interpreting statutes and implementing policy and regulations.

The only thing that is certain is that the stakes are high for both sides.

**Veterans Affairs News**



**VA hospitals outperform private hospitals in most markets, according to Dartmouth study**

According to an independent Dartmouth study recently published this week in *Annals of*

*Internal Medicine*, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals outperform private hospitals in most health care markets throughout the country.

“This is proof that the hard work and dedication of our VA employees is making a real difference in the lives of our nation’s Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “It validates the strong work we’re doing for Veterans under President Trump’s leadership in giving our heroes the very best quality of care that they have earned through their faithful service to our country.”

Dartmouth researchers assessed 121 regional health care markets with at least one VA facility and one non-VA hospital in conjunction with Hospital Compare data, a public database that ranks hospitals on quality measures like mortality rates and patient safety indicators.

According to the findings, VA hospitals provided the best care in most referral regions and rarely provided inadequate care. VHA hospitals provided the best care in most referral regions and rarely provided the worst care. VHA hospitals provided the best care in most referral regions and rarely provided the worst care.

One the most notable findings in study showed VA hospitals were the best or above average for treating heart attacks, heart failure and pneumonia. Additionally, VA ranked best in local markets at least half the time for measures including death rates among patients with serious complications after surgery; collapsed lung due to medical treatment; broken hip from a fall after surgery; and bloodstream infections after surgery.

While VA supports most of the study’s findings, the agency does not agree with the authors’ stance on community care, which ignores the fact that for decades it has served as a vital tool for ensuring VA has the ability to provide Veterans the best, most timely health care possible, and that it enjoys strong bipartisan support, as evidenced by passage of the MISSION Act.

VA has been offering community care since the World War II era, starting with the then-Veterans Administration’s Hometown Program that began in 1945. Former Secretary David Shulkin was a staunch advocate for community care and sought to increase its role at VA, arguing that competition with private providers is necessary for VA facilities to improve continuously. Former Secretary Bob McDonald also underscored the importance of this option for Veterans.

To learn more about the study visit <http://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2718687/veterans-health-administration-hospitals-outperform-non-veterans-health-administration-hospitals>.

**50 Years Ago**

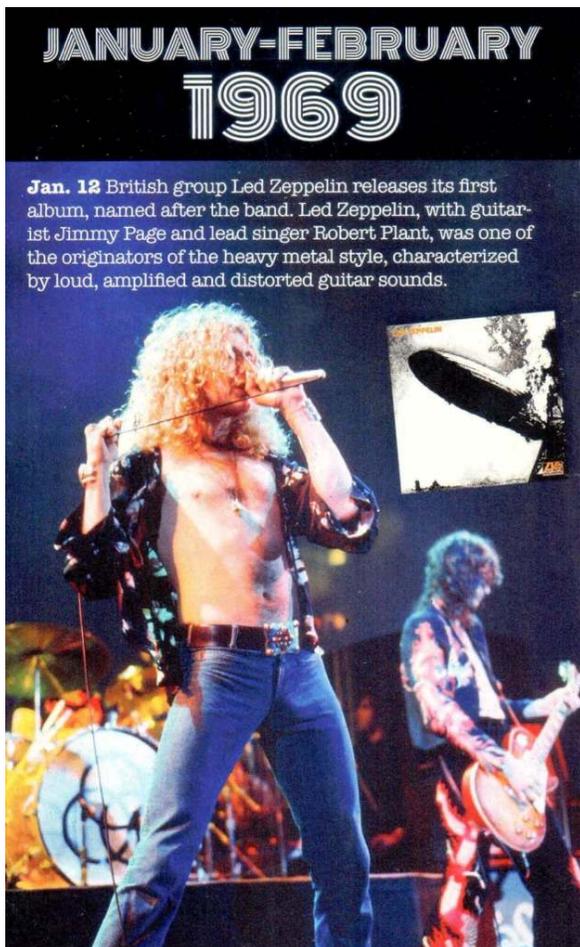
- **January 1** - RODNEY J. T. YANO, MEDAL OF HONOR
- **January 6** - DON J. JENKINS, MEDAL OF HONOR
- **January 11** - HAROLD A. FRITZ, MEDAL OF HONOR
- **January 13** - NAVY, MARINES, AND ARMY LAUNCH ASSAULT OF WAR. The Seventh Fleet Amphibious Readiness Group, supported by naval gunfire ships, puts 2,500 Marines ashore on the Batangan Peninsula, South Vietnam. Operating in concert with U.S. and South Vietnamese Army troops, the leathernecks screen some 12,000 Vietnamese civilians and kill 239 Viet Cong. The operation lasts until February 9 and is the largest amphibious assault of the war.
- **January 14** - FATAL FIRE ROCKS CARRIER ENTERPRISE OFF HAWAII. While steaming off Hawaii before deploying to Vietnam, the nuclear-powered carrier Enterprise suffers a costly fire when a rocket ignites on the flight deck and triggers explosions in armed aircraft. Though the flames are brought under control in less than an hour, 27 crewmen are dead, 344 injured, and 14 aircraft destroyed.
- **January 14** - JOHN E. WARREN, JR., MEDAL OF HONOR
- **January 15** - GARFIELD M. LANGHORN, MEDAL OF HONOR

- January 22 - MARINES CONDUCT OPERATION DEWEY CANYON.** From January 22 to March 19, 1969, the 9th Marines conduct Operation DEWEY CANYON, one of the most successful high-mobility regimental-size actions of the Vietnam War. Over a two month period, Marine infantry, which is transported and supported by helicopters, operate in the A Shau/Da Krong Valleys where they develop and open fire bases in leapfrog fashion. The operation accounts for numerous enemy casualties and uncovers the largest single quantity of enemy arms and ammunition in the war to date.

### VVA Membership Change

On October 20, 2018, VVA's National Board of Directors passed a motion to have one class of membership: Life membership. All active and pending three-year members have been converted to life members. This change is reflected on the October 2018 membership roster.

After October 31, 2018, all dues payments received for one-year membership will be refunded along with instructions for renewing as a life member. Active one-year members will remain active until their current term expires and are invited to renew as life members thereafter. The link to the new membership application is <https://vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/APPLICATION-FOR-MEMBERSHIP.pdf>.



### Newsletter articles/ stories/photos

Any articles, stories and/or photos submitted for the newsletter must be received by the "cut off" date for any given month. Photos must be accompanied by text which describes the event, names, dates and any other pertinent facts so our readers understand the story behind the photo(s). The newsletter editor will announce the "cut off" dates at each Chapter meeting. The "cut off" date for our February 2019 newsletter is 25 January 2019. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

### This newsletter printed by



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### Receive "The Connection" by E-Mail

The monthly Chapter 120 newsletter, The Connection, is available by e-mail. Currently, 100 members receive the newsletter by e-mail, saving the Chapter over \$1,600 in printing and postal fees annually. The newsletter is available in Adobe format (.pdf), attached to your e-mail. If you wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail the newsletter editor at [ctchapter120@aol.com](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com)



# Welcome Home



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