

# CONNECTION



Connecticut Chapter 120

Greater Hartford  
Over 36 Years of Service to Veterans

September 2020

Visit Our Website at [www.vva120.org](http://www.vva120.org)

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## Meetings

The tentative Chapter 120 membership meeting and elections will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, September 24 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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RELENTLESS PURSUIT

A DETERMINED NATION

NATIONAL  
★ POW/MIA ★  
RECOGNITION DAY

September 18, 2020

WWW.DPAA.MIL

The poster features a central graphic of a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, filled with a collage of images: a guard tower, an American flag, a POW/MIA symbol, a soldier saluting, a soldier in a field, and a soldier in a uniform. The background is dark blue with a radial pattern. The text is in a bold, serif font.

<b>CHAPTER 120 OFFICE</b>	<b>568-9212</b>
<b><u>Board of Directors</u></b>	
Paul Barry	569-3530
Bob Burgess	646-0205
William Chiodo	688-2518
Peter Galgano	828-1999
Frank Zizzamia	569-0705
<b><u>Executive Officers</u></b>	
Frank J. Mello, Jr., President	604-3879
Phil Morneault, Vice President	930-2122
Roger Anderson, Treasurer	528-4338
Peter Lund, Secretary	644-9770
<b><u>VVA Service Representatives</u></b>	
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E-Mail : gerfab@comcast.net	
Gary Waterhouse	656-0430
E-Mail : gwaterhouse@cox.net	
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Frank J. Mello, Jr.	604-3879
E-Mail: Fmello336@yahoo.com	
<b><u>Women Vietnam Veterans</u></b>	
Patricia Dumin	620-4131
<b><u>Product Sales</u></b>	
Leigh Lovering	528-8312
lhlovering@gmail.com	
<b><u>Newsletter/Website</u></b>	
John Cutler	282-7470
E-Mail: ctchapter120@aol.com	
<b><u>Notary Public</u></b>	
Gary Gazdzicki, Sr.	812-5703
<b><u>Vet Centers</u></b>	
Hartford (Area Code 860)	563-8800
New Haven (Area Code 203)	932-9899
Norwich (Area Code 860)	887-1755
Danbury (Area Code 203)	790-4000
<b><i>All Telephone Numbers are Area Code 860 unless otherwise noted</i></b>	

## Chapter/State News

### Chapter Elections Postponed; Nominations remain open

Nominations for Chapter officers, directors, state council delegates and Elections Committee will be opened until 20 September 2020. Please contact our Election Committee, Ken Lewis at 860-416-5276 or Email at ken8317@aol.com, or Tim Siggia at 860-289-1679 to submit your name or to nominate a member for one of these positions below.

Positions open for nomination:

**Officers:** President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

**Board of Directors:** Five positions

**State Council Delegates:** Five positions

**Elections Committee:** Three positions

Chapter 120 will again postpone elections until at least October 1, 2020. We again ask our members to offer their time and enthusiasm in order to continue the good works that Chapter 120 is known for in the veterans' community. We need our members to offer their support, expertise, their ideas and their leadership to guide our organization down the right path to attain our basic goals – and establish new goals for our future. We are asking you, our members, to seriously consider running for these important positions. We need your help – we need your leadership and ideas to guide Chapter 120 for the next two years.

## Connecticut Chapter 120 Election Rules

Revised November 2, 2006

### Section 1. Annual Elections

- The Chapter officers will be elected on even numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term in office. They are the following: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- The Board of Directors will be elected on even numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term of office.
- The State Council Delegates will be elected on even numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term of office.
- The Delegates to the National Convention will be elected on odd numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term in office.
- The three (3) member Nominating Committee will be elected at the April meeting and will serve a one (1) year term.

### Section 2. Candidates

- Candidates must have been a member for a minimum of fifteen (15) days prior to the election.
- Candidates must have on file with the Chapter, or present to the Nominating Committee their DD-214, or other proof of qualification for membership.
- Candidates may be nominated from the floor on the night of the election. Candidates must be present to accept the nomination or have submitted a letter of intent to the Nominating Committee.
- Candidates will be allowed space in the newsletter to campaign but not to defame or slander the other candidates. Space allowable will be at the discretion of the Newsletter Editor.
- Candidates will be allowed five (5) minutes to speak at the April meeting if desired.

## Birthday Wishes

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

<i>Paul H. Abel</i>	<i>Roger H. Anderson</i>
<i>James K. Barile</i>	<i>Brian W. Canny</i>
<i>Stephen Cole</i>	<i>Rodney Conlogue</i>
<i>Michael DeAngelis</i>	<i>Peter J. Donahue</i>
<i>Samuel W. Kotsch Jr.</i>	<i>Gary Lee</i>
<i>Rene A. Morissette</i>	<i>Arthur E. Noyes</i>
<i>John J. O'Boyle</i>	<i>Bruce W. Shewbrooks</i>
<i>Robert W. Tocionis</i>	

***Happy Birthday!***

- F. Candidates may use the membership list for a mailing pursuant to the Chapter rules and Federal laws governing the membership list.

**Section 3. Voters**

- A. To be eligible to vote, you must have been a member for fifteen (15) days prior to the election. This would include new members or reinstated members that are not paid up for the prior year.
- B. Voting members must have on file with the Chapter, or present to the Nominating Committee, their DD-214 or proof of qualification for membership.
- C. Voting members must have paid their dues for the current fiscal year. Membership may be renewed the night of the election, but must be paid prior to casting their vote.

**Section 4. Election Procedures**

- A. The voting period will be from the close of nominations until 8:00 PM.
- B. The quorum required to hold the election should be 10 members.
- C. A candidate can request a recount of the ballots for his or her office if the margin between the candidates running for that office is 10% or less based on the number of total votes cast.
- D. The ballots will be kept for one (1) year in a sealed envelope signed by the Nominating Committee or their appointees.
- E. Results will be announced the night of the election.
- F. If a Nominating Committee member is running for an elected position, they shall appoint a volunteer vote counter from the floor.
- G. The vote will be taken by a secret paper ballot.

**Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance Postponed**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Connecticut State guidelines for indoor events, the annual Chapter 120 Holiday Dinner & Dance will not occur in December, and will be postponed until the Spring. An announcement for this Chapter event will be made at a later date.

**Stand Down 2020**



The Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will be hosting STAND DOWN 2020 on September 24 and 25.

This one-stop access event will help to provide programs and services offered by State and Federal

agencies, Veterans Organizations and Community Based Non-profits.

The event will be held on two days, Thursday, September 24 and Friday, September 25.

On Thursday, a kickoff ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. at the DVA Rocky Hill Campus followed by online informational sessions and webinars.

On Friday, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., the DVA will coordinate distribution of personal need items to Veterans at four locations:

- DVA Rocky Hill Campus, 287 West Street in Rocky Hill
- Patrick Waldron Veterans Hall, 23 Memorial Dr. in Danbury
- Port 5 National Assoc. of Naval Veterans, 69 Brewster St. in Bridgeport
- Veterans Rally Point/Easter Seals, 24 Stott Ave. in Norwich.

These locations will be staffed by representatives of the regional Vet Centers, the CT Bar Association and the DVA to provide benefits information, pro-bono legal services and potential free COVID-19 testing by medical professionals.

**POW/MIA News**



**National POW/MIA Recognition Day**

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. This day was established by an Act of Congress, by the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act. It honors those who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). It is

most associated with those who were POWs during the Vietnam War.

The first observance of POW/MIA day included a remembrance ceremony at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. but since that time, the Pentagon is the site for the Department of Defense’s “official” observance, with other ceremonies happening at military installations and elsewhere.

Connecticut Unaccounted For from the Vietnam War (As of 8/21/2020):

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ANDREWS, STUART M       | AUSTIN, CHARLES D.   |
| BANKOWSKI, ALFONS A.    | BERGEVIN, CHARLES L. |
| BISHOP, EDWARD J. JR.   | COLLETTE, CURTIS D.  |
| CREAMER, JAMES E.       | DUNN, RICHARD E.     |
| GUILLET, ANDRE R.       | HESFORD, PETER D.    |
| HUNTER, RUSSELL P. JR.  | MC KINLEY, GERALD W. |
| MC MANUS, TRUMAN JOSEPH | MIXTER, DAVID I.     |
| MORIARTY, PETER G.      | MOSER, PAUL K.       |
| NICKERSON, WILLIAM B.   | NOBERT, CRAIG R.     |
| OTT, EDWARD L. III      | PERRY, THOMAS H.     |
| PFAFFMANN, CHARLES B.   | PREVOST, ALBERT M.   |
| SAEGAERT, DONALD R.     | SHONECK, JOHN R.     |
| WESTWOOD, NORMAN P. JR. |                      |

## On The Hill



## Tester, Rounds Spearhead Legislation to Streamline Benefits for Disabled Veterans

U.S. Senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) are spearheading bipartisan legislation to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) collection of medical evidence to streamline veterans' access to earned disability benefits.

Earlier this year, VA removed public access to forms known as Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs)—condition-specific forms with critical medical information relevant to veterans' disability benefits claims.

The Senators' Veterans Benefits

Fairness and Transparency Act would restore DBQs on VA's public-facing website to provide veterans and non-VA providers with easier access to their disability compensation claims and reduce the claims backlog. Their bill would also increase oversight by requiring VA to provide an annual report to Congress on any VA Inspector General findings related to future DBQ use.

"Veterans have sacrificed life and limb on behalf of our freedoms—and we need to make it easier, not harder, for them to access information critical to obtaining their hard-earned benefits," said Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "By simply placing the questionnaires back on VA's public-facing website, our bipartisan bill would provide veterans and their medical providers with seamless access to disability forms necessary in developing their claims. And, it would take steps to protect veterans by strengthening VA's ability to prevent, detect, and minimize the risk of fraud—all while reducing backlogs in a system created to efficiently serve those who served us."

"We are grateful to the men and women who sacrifice so much in service to our country," said Rounds. "When they begin the transition to civilian life after their service is over, we want to make sure they have all the resources and information possible to access the benefits they are owed. Our legislation would put the VA's Disability Benefits Questionnaires back on a public-facing website for easier access by veterans and their non-VA doctor. We believe this would restore a commonsense practice that makes the process of assessing disabilities simpler and more efficient for our veterans."

The Veterans Benefits Fairness and Transparency Act is supported by a number of Veterans Service Organizations, including Disabled American Veterans (DAV), The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), and the

National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO).

"All too often, veterans' claims are denied because they lack a medical opinion," said VVA National President and CEO John Rowan. "The DBQ is an essential tool that allows veterans the ability to add medical opinions in support of their claims for VA benefits. All veterans should have access to this form so they may provide evidence in support of their claim in a standardized format."

*Extracted from Stars & Stripes*

## Advocates begin 'final push' to get benefits for Vietnam War veterans

National veterans' organizations launched a "final push" Thursday Aug. 20 for Congress to grant Department of Veterans Affairs benefits to tens of thousands of Vietnam War veterans believed to be suffering the effects of Agent Orange.

The effort, led by Rep. Josh Harder, D-Calif., is designed to put pressure on lawmakers to publicly support the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act. The measure was added to the Senate's annual defense bill last month but didn't make it into the House's version because of cost concerns, Harder said. It must survive negotiations between House and Senate lawmakers before becoming law.

"People on the other side of this issue, their position is so indefensible that they don't want to be seen fighting against this," Harder said Thursday on a call with veterans groups. "Our job is to draw them out and shine sunlight on this issue."

The bill would approve benefits for Vietnam War veterans suffering from bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson's-like symptoms — conditions thought to be caused by exposure to the chemical herbicide Agent Orange. The bill would add the diseases to the VA presumptive list, which lowers the amount of proof veterans must provide in order to receive VA benefits.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America and Military Officers Association of America tasked their members with calling their representatives and urging their support.

"With this NDAA, we have an incredible opportunity to make things right," said retired Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, CEO of Military Officers Association of America. "Veterans suffering now can't wait for further studies like the VA has proposed, nor should they have to."

While the VA secretary has the power to add the conditions to the presumptive list, Robert Wilkie said earlier this year that he wouldn't make a decision about the conditions until at least the end of 2020, when results of two more scientific studies on the issue are expected to be published.

Advocates, however, think there is already enough evidence.

In 2018, researchers with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine determined there was “suggestive” evidence linking Agent Orange exposure to hypothyroidism.

A 2016 report from the academies determined that there was “limited” or “suggestive” evidence linking Agent Orange to bladder cancer. That year, the academies also clarified that Parkinson-like symptoms should be considered as part of Parkinson’s disease, which is on the list of presumptive diseases.

Previous efforts were made by former VA secretaries to add the conditions. Under former VA Secretary David Shulkin, the agency recommended in 2016 the addition of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson’s-like tremors to the presumptive list. Shulkin’s recommendation never made it past OMB. Lawmakers were told at the time that OMB was waiting on the results of more scientific studies.

OMB and Mick Mulvaney, its director at the time, objected to the recommendation. In addition to a lack of scientific evidence, OMB had concerns about the budget implications of expanding access to VA benefits to the thousands of veterans diagnosed with the conditions, Military Times reported, citing emails between Shulkin and OMB.

Seven national veterans groups wrote to President Donald Trump in February and asked him to intervene. They criticized the VA for dragging its feet.

It’s uncertain when negotiations on the annual defense measure will be finalized, but it’s likely to happen around the end of the year, Harder said. Trump has threatened to veto the bill if it includes language that would remove Confederate names from military installations.

**Veterans Affairs News**



*From MilitaryTimes*

**Coronavirus deaths among Veterans Affairs patients rising in August**

Coronavirus deaths among Veterans Affairs patients have increased steadily in recent weeks, putting the

department on track for its most monthly fatalities from the fast-spreading sickness since the height of the pandemic in the spring.

As of August 17, at least 2,448 VA patients had died from coronavirus complications in the last five months, with 322 of those deaths coming in August alone.

At that pace, the department will top 600 coronavirus deaths this month, well above the 497 recorded in July and 429 in June. In May, as the first wave of pandemic illnesses and deaths hit the country, the department saw more than 740 deaths among patients.

The rise in coronavirus fatalities comes as the number of active coronavirus cases — which spiked in late July — has steadily dropped over the last three weeks.

On Monday Aug. 17, department officials reported 4,213 active cases of the virus among patients, down more than one-third from the high of 6,213 active cases announced three weeks ago.

VA officials have repeatedly dismissed “case counts and other cumulative totals” as reliable measures of the impact of the virus among its patient population, saying that the rate of hospitalizations among infected individuals provides a better gauge of department success.

So far in August, about 15 percent of all patients who test positive for coronavirus have required hospitalization. That’s the lowest rate in the last five months. In July, the figure was 17 percent. In the prior four months, the figure topped 20 percent.

When asked about the recent increases in fatalities, VA press secretary Christina Noel said that the department “is closely monitoring all aspects of COVID-19 related to veterans’ health care and making adjustments as needed.”

Texas remains among the hardest hit areas by the latest nationwide surge in coronavirus cases. Five Texas VA sites — San Antonio, Houston, Temple, Harlingen and Dallas — are among the top 12 sites in active cases.

But death rates among patients there have stayed significantly lower than states like New York and New Jersey, which saw hundreds of deaths in the spring connected to the virus.

Three New York City area VA medical centers — the New York Harbor system, the Bronx VA and the hospital in East Orange, N.J. — account for about 13 percent of all VA coronavirus deaths nationwide.

More than 170,000 Americans and nearly 775,000 individuals worldwide have died from the virus.

Noel said that in anticipation of potential increases in coronavirus cases numbers this fall, VA medical centers are “taking precautions and considering the unique circumstances of their state and local markets, environmental safety preparedness and clinical risk assessments.”

Last week, officials announced plans to gradually reintroduce volunteer workers at VA sites after banning them from hospital campuses last spring in an effort to limit spread of the virus.

Department leaders said volunteers will be required to complete new training on current coronavirus procedures, to include proper use of personal protective equipment. They will also be screened for any symptoms prior to admission to the facilities.



Extracted from CNN

## US Postal Service delays force Department of Veterans Affairs to shift prescription delivery methods

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been forced to find alternative ways to ship mail-order prescriptions for patients whose medication is delivered by the United States Postal Service, including FedEx and UPS, CNN has learned.

The VA acknowledged the change in an email to a veterans group called Disabled Vets of America after it raised the issue on behalf of patients who had reported significant delays in receiving medication from USPS in recent weeks amid a nationwide slowdown, according to a copy of the correspondence reviewed by CNN.

"The VA has now confirmed to us that the United States Postal Service (USPS), which is responsible for delivering about 90% of all VA mail order prescriptions, has indeed been delayed in delivering these critical medications by an average of almost 25% over the past year, with many locations experiencing much more significant delays," the group's national commander, Stephen Whitehead, said in a statement Monday.

"To help mitigate these postal delays, the VA has been forced to switch to alternative delivery services in a number of areas across the country and is taking other actions to expedite processing and delivery of prescriptions," Whitehead added.

Those areas include Detroit, parts of New York and New Jersey, which were identified as hotspots with delivery delays, according to the VA email to veterans group, which was reviewed by CNN.

The VA "proactively converted from USPS to United Parcel Service (UPS) 2nd day air for those areas until service levels could be returned," the email says. The department also identified a "delivery service issue with UPS in the Arizona area and converted to Fed-Ex for roughly 5-weeks until service levels were restored with UPS," it adds.

VA has experienced an influx in mail-order prescriptions during the coronavirus pandemic as entry restrictions at facilities have prevented large numbers of patients from refilling their medications in person, a regional VA official told CNN.

Still, VA spokesperson Christina Noel told CNN that the department "has always used a variety of prescription delivery methods to ensure timely delivery," and insisted that those delivered via USPS "are averaging less than three days delivery time."

"More than 95% of VA prescriptions delivered via UPS next day service have been on time," she added, noting that the department "continually monitors prescription delivery times throughout the country."

The USPS did not immediately return a request for comment.

Simply unacceptable'

Veterans' groups remain outraged by the idea that veterans are experiencing delivery delays in receiving critical medication due to the ongoing slowdown caused by new, recently implemented USPS procedures.

"It is simply unacceptable that America's veterans, particularly those who were injured or made ill in defense of this country, should face the prospect of not receiving necessary medications in a timely manner considering such delays can be the difference between health and sickness, or even worse," Whitehead said.

The new procedures for the USPS were laid out in a memo earlier in August and come under the leadership of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a longtime Donald Trump supporter and fundraiser, who stepped into his role in June.

DeJoy reversed course Tuesday Aug. 18, saying that all changes being made to the Postal Service would be suspended until after the November 3 election, just as 20 Democratic states announced plans to file federal lawsuits.



**Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.**  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 6, 2020

## Leave No Veteran Behind... the Mission Continues: America's Aging Veteran Population and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Vietnam Veterans of America is proud to announce the release of our report, America's Aging Veteran Population and the COVID-19 Pandemic, the findings of our five-month-long investigation into the circumstances contributing to the over 1,010 fatalities in 47 State Veterans Homes," said VVA National President John Rowan.

"The idea of not abandoning a fallen soldier on the battlefield is a tightly held credo," noted Rowan. "Images of overflowing emergency rooms, body bags stacked on loading docks, refrigerated trucks for morgues, and stories of patients dying without their families triggered memories of our own wartime experiences, and we recognized that today's battlefield is the COVID-19 pandemic."

"We realized that veterans in State Veterans Homes are often overlooked, disenfranchised, or without family. They have little or no voice in determining their care. VVA refuses to leave these veterans behind," said Rowan."

"We were disturbed that VA officials, including VA Secretary Wilke, have denied having any authority or responsibility for veterans in the homes," noted Rowan. "In truth, VA's Geriatric and Extended Care Programs offer a continuum of services and programs--which include the State Veterans Homes. We were dismayed that VA leadership had chosen to view this group of

veterans as part of VA’s 4th Mission--to assist civilians in times of emergency.”

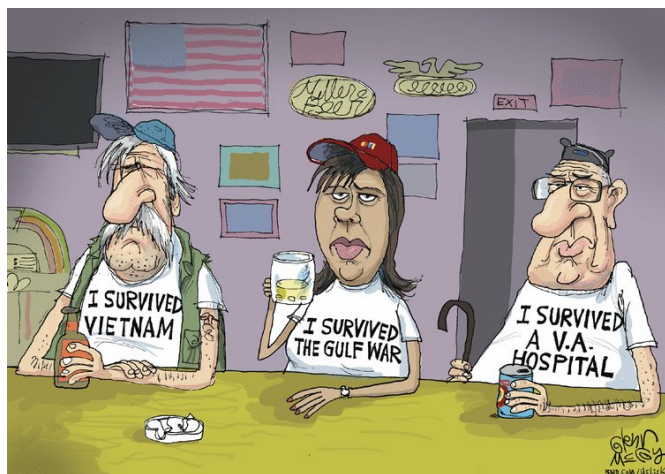
As VVA’s Subcommittee on the Aging Veteran Experience (SAVE) began to monitor State Veterans Home COVID-19 deaths, the rising numbers called into question the entire spectrum of the State Veterans Home/Department of Veterans Affairs relationship, including funding, organization, and oversight. In addition to tracking the deaths, SAVE examined the federal regulations which assign explicit authority and responsibility to the VA to ensure that the State Nursing Homes follow a set of specified regulations. The Committee identified areas of concern and formulated recommendations.

“The VA and State Veteran Homes are complex “systems” that intersect in providing care to our aging veterans,” said Rowan. “Understanding how these systems interact is vital if we are to improve the quality of life and care for those who use them. It is important to note that VA relies heavily on State Homes to provide the bulk of long-term care for our elderly veterans.”

The challenge is here. VA estimates that nearly 55 percent (10,881,049) of America’s veteran population is 65 years or older. The needs of these veterans are rarely discussed and often overlooked. We need to address the kinks in the systems now. None of the adjustments can be achieved solely by the VA or the State Governments. Progress can only be achieved through a committed partnership. Each has an ethical and moral responsibility to do so.



Full report at:  
<https://vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/FINAL-SAVE-REPORT.pdf>



From Vietnam Magazine

## A Closer Look at the F-8E Crusader



Shortly after 10 a.m. April 3, 1965, Pham Ngoc Lan brought his MiG-17 to fire on Navy Lt. Cmdr. Spence Thomas’ Vought F-8E Crusader as the American jet pulled away from attacking an anti-aircraft artillery position. Approaching undetected, Pham opened fire at a range of 200-300 yards. As the shells hit, Thomas lit his afterburner and climbed away. Pham’s wingman and two other nearby MiGs tried unsuccessfully to down three additional Crusaders. Thomas landed his severely damaged fighter at Da Nang in northern South Vietnam. Although the North Vietnamese won this first F-8 vs. MiG engagement, Crusaders by the end of the war had earned the title “MiG Masters,” achieving a 19-3 kill ratio over opponents.

The F-8, which entered production in 1955, was the Navy’s first fighter to use the “area rule” fuselage shape (a design feature that gave the fuselage a slightly narrowed waist to reduce drag) and lightweight titanium. The aircraft’s innovative overhead wing provided the high angle required for carrier landings and takeoff speeds of 100 knots (115 mph) while keeping the fuselage level. This enabled the plane to use weight-saving short landing gear and offered outstanding ground visibility. The Crusader’s lightweight and powerful Pratt & Whitney J-57P afterburning engine gave it exceptional acceleration and climb rates that pilots exploited in training and combat over North Vietnam.

The Crusader, equipped with four internally mounted 20 mm Mk 12 cannons, was the last U.S. fighter plane with guns as its primary armament. It also carried 24 2.75-inch rockets in a nose pod for ground-attack missions. The F-8 progressed to the “E” model by 1962. That model featured greater engine thrust, wing pylons for 2,000-pound bombs and improved radar, but it lacked the rocket pod. F-8Bs and later models carried up to four AIM-9 Sidewinder infrared-guided missiles. The F-8E was the last and most successful model. Several earlier versions were refurbished and deployed. Few, however, achieved the performance or enviable reputation of the F-8E. The last F-8s departed fleet service in the 1970s and were retired by 1980.

**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)

## Helping Hands for Our Fellow Veterans



### ***Won't You Please Give a Helping Hand to a Brother or Sister Veteran?***

Several veterans have contacted Chapter 120 asking for help in paying the most basic of needs for themselves and their families. These veterans are those who do not qualify for regular federal, state or local assistance – they fall into that financial category where they make too much to qualify for assistance, but not enough to afford basic needs for their families, like food, fuel for heat, or clothing for their children.

Chapter 120 has decided to ask you – our members – to lend a helping hand to your fellow veterans and their families. Won't you please consider donating for this worthy cause? Even a small amount of \$5 can make a difference – or more if you can afford to help a fellow veteran and his or her family.

Please send your generous gift, made out to Connecticut Chapter 120, to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.  
 Connecticut Chapter 120  
 Attention: Helping Hands for Veterans  
 P.O. Box 4136  
 Hartford, CT 06145

Chapter 120 has established a separate line item in the budget to collect donations to assist these fellow veterans and their families in need. *And don't forget, your donations are tax deductible.*

## 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 October 2020 newsletter is 18 September 2020. 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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