



The Veteran's Voice



Minutes
June 26, 2018

Attending: Ron Harris, Bob Krzynowek, Ron Fitzsimmons, Larry Kall, Mike Lynch, Joe Harsch, Bonnie Kuhr

The pledge of allegiance was said.

The meeting was conducted by the Board. On motion made, seconded and passed the minutes and the treasurer's report were approved. In view of the small number attending, it was decided to ask members to RSVP each month so the cook knows how much to make.

*POW/MIA Ceremony
Education
Etchings in Stone
Scholarships
Purple Heart Dinner
Casinos
Live Streaming
Upcoming Events*

**POW/MIA Ceremony:
July 7
ALR436 Angier
Robert Krzynowek, NCVVI**

(Note: Despite the rain, there was a crowd. Thanks to the Angier American Legion Riders who conducted the ceremony.)

**August 4
MOPH
Ron Harris, NCVVI**

NCVVI elected not to participate in the 4th of July ceremonies at the Capitol.

Education: Bob Matthews reported in. There will be a teach-in in Pittsburgh on September 22. Bob will be in touch with the membership if he needs help. He also noted that he has been invited to submit a curriculum.

Etchings in Stone: Etchings may be shown at the Renaissance Building in Wake Forest on October 24. The moving wall will be in Wake Forest on October 21, 22, 23. See schedule at bottom of Newsletter.

Scholarships: Ron Harris asked for approval from the group for having Skylar Cranston, his granddaughter, attend the July meeting as he and Skylar will be leaving on a family trip on August 4. The group approved awarding her the certificate on July 24.

Bonnie reported that the other three winners will be present on August 4 with family members. Bonnie has sent letters to the newspapers of the recipients, hoping for some publicity. (NOTE: I heard from one newspaper.)

Casinos: Dave Samuels was en route to Raleigh via air so not able to get to the meeting in time. Hence, no report this month.

Live Streaming: July 11 in case you missed it. BAT-21 The Real Story.

President:

Vice President:

Treasurer:

Bob Krzynowek

Secretary:

Bonnie Kuhr

Directors:

Dennis Abels

Paul White

Dave Samuels

Bill Dixon

Angelo Carmen

Speaker System: It seems to be working with the microphone Dave Samuels obtained.

Old Business: Officers: Ron Harris has agreed to be Chair of the Board and handle the business meeting. Bonnie, as secretary, will continue her role, including answering all queries that Ron gets. If anyone is interested in being secretary and/or administrator of the scholarship committee, please let Bonnie know.

New Business: Ron Harris has joined the N.C. Patriot Guard Riders. He is encouraging members to join. You don't need a bike, don't have to pay dues, don't have to attend meetings. The riders attend military funerals. This came about when one of the churches was demonstrating at funerals and the riders would drown out the protests. He attended a ceremony for Cpt. Charles Albright. The honor guard rode from the funeral home to the cemetery. See NC PatriotGuardRiders.org.

Purple Heart Foundation: The annual Purple Heart dinner will be held on August 4.

UPCOMING EVENT - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wake Forest Proudly Hosts The Wall that Heals

October 18-21, 2018

Exhibit open 24 hours a day

E. Carroll Joyner Park

701 Harris Road

Wake Forest

Free and open to the public

Wake Forest is the only town in North Carolina to host this exhibit in 2018.

The wall stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest. Visitors can do name rubbings of names on The Wall.

There will be a mobile education center.

Bonnie, the cook, was thanked by Bonnie. There will be a repeat of the menu as she has a lot left in her freezer because of the small number attending. Larry Kall will be chef in July.

Reception of Vietnam Vets

By : Skylar Cranston

The Vietnam War is considered one of the most divisive wars since the Civil War. The Civil War was a war fought between brothers and brothers, while the Vietnam War was people against people. I decided to interview my grandfather on his experience with his homecoming, and how similar or alike it was compared to past and present homecomings of other soldiers. The following will show you in detail the painful, honorable, and meaningful insight that he was willing to tell me along with insight from others who fought and what they faced.

To start off Vietnam veterans were the offspring of present soldiers at the time causing the “baby boom“ era. Veterans of present wars coming before Vietnam were honored when returning home. Sometimes with ticker-tape parades or just with thanks and praise from civilians. For the baby boomers of previous soldiers, they were raised to do as said and to honor the ones returning and the ones who had fallen for their service no matter the circumstances. That generation then followed in their father's footsteps as they were taught to do to only to find out that they would not receive any treatment close to the one they were raised to hold for soldiers. This era was going to risk their lives just as ones before them only to encounter a time of hate for their actions. Men were being sent to fight a war that they had no insight as to why they were fighting.

Over the months of the war people started to shame the wars actions and on the men sent to help. Upon the Vietnam soldiers’ returns, many were treated with the utmost disrespect. They were called horrific names like “baby killers“, “psychos“, and “drug addicts“ since most turned to drugs when overseas and due to the news only portraying the war as a killing of innocents. The war caused American society to split. Our society went from loving our veterans and soldiers to hating them all in a split second, and there was nothing at the time to stop it. Upon the soldiers return from Vietnam they realized that no one wanted to speak about the war which then caused them more pain because all of their emotions were being held in. All they wanted and needed was to get everything off their chest but no one was willing to listen or cared to. They were denied proper healthcare upon return when present soldiers were praised above all for fighting. When the veterans finally realized how badly they were being treated, they became angry. They saw that protesters had no right to shame their actions if they were not there. Their homecomings went from parades and praise to no talk of war and complete disrespect.

When conducting my interview, I chose to interview my grandfather. My grandfather was one of the brave men to fight in this traumatizing war. He went into the service in 1966. Joining for four years which was supposed to allow him not to be sent to Vietnam, but soon after doing basic for six weeks then another six weeks for MP

training, he then realized that he was lied to and ended up going to Vietnam when he was not intentionally supposed to. He never second guessed if what they did or if what he was about to do was right or wrong. In 1967 he returned for his first homecoming, and noticed the war was starting to become more unpopular than it was in the beginning. He left again this time heading for Germany, and returned for his second homecoming in 1970 where he now faced anti-war protesters and hate from America. My grandfather told me that upon his second homecoming, a woman approached him due to him being in his uniform. When he had returned back from Germany, he was technically out of the service, but was allowed to wear his uniform for ninety days. When the woman approached him, she asked if he had just returned from the war, and he responded with “ No ma’am, I’ve just returned from Germany from completing my service “. The woman responded to my grandfather saying “well, you should be ashamed of yourself”, my grandfather returned back with a comment of “well, I’m sorry you feel that way.. bitch “. I asked him how he felt after she had said that rude comment to him, and if it made him regret his service. He told me that he had no regrets for his service. That he was only doing as he was told, he was doing what his generation was raised up to do, and what he thought was right. He continued to say that “One cannot blame the soldier for the war. One must first blame politics and politicians for creating the war, not the ones risking their lives for others “. We began to go more in depth on if he ever had regrets. Later on he explained to me that he soon did begin to have feelings of regrets for his service, because of his inability to talk with anyone about the war since all were against it. With no one to talk to he began to think that he actually had done wrong as everyone was saying. Due to this, he now faces complications with depression about the war still. He then later began to regret his regret. He realized that he was doing what he knew he had, wanted, and was taught to do. He was protecting his country even if it was seen as a pointless war.

One's service should not be looked upon as a bad action, but as a heroic sacrifice that others aren't willing to do like our past and present soldiers were and still are willing to do. He stated that he was only doing it for his country, and that he wished he and everyone who fought and who were lost in war did not have to do what they

did, but he knows his service was for a reason. We all wish that we did not have to fight wars, but sometimes we have to realize the reasons for the fight. At the time of the Vietnam War depending on your social rank you were either drafted into service or you volunteered. As for my grandfather he volunteered, and I thank him for that.

My grandfather ended our interview with a story. He told me that once while he and my grandmother were at the airport waiting for their flight everyone began clapping, because a group of soldiers had just returned from duty in a present war in Afghanistan. My grandmother began to clap along showing her respect and then turned to notice my grandfather one of the strongest men I know crying against the wall. She asked him what was wrong and he responded with “We made that happen“. To know that our society went from praising soldiers before to hating them, and then back to praising them, is crazy but amazing. Due to our soldiers who fought and who were lost in battle during Vietnam, they have made it possible for our soldiers now to be accepted more and given gratitude for serving. I would like to thank all standing and fallen soldiers for everything they have and are doing for us back at home.



Membership Application

NCVVI is proud to have you as a member.

A DD214 is required for full membership

(Last Name) (First Name) (MI)

(Spouse's name)

(Street Address)

(City) (State) (Zip code)

(____) _____ (____) _____
(Home Phone) (Work Phone) (Occupation)

_____ Full Membership (\$25 per Year) _____ (check amount) DD214 supplied ___Y ___N

_____ Associate Membership (\$15 per year)

(E-MAIL ADDRESS :) **{Need this to send the unit's monthly newsletter}**

(Signature)

(Date)

Reminder: NCVVI holds a remembrance service on the Capital grounds, Raleigh, NC, the first Saturday of each month (12:00 noon) and the monthly business meeting on the fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at VFW 7383, 522 Reedy Creek Road, Cary, NC. (6:15 PM dinner 7:00 PM meeting)

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.
7316 Ray Road
Raleigh, NC 27613

Member of: N.C. Vietnam Veterans Council, Wake County Veterans Council, National Vietnam Veterans Coalition

