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**HELPING VIETNAM VET'S**

**Supporting All Veterans**  
 SHAPING NEW GENERATIONS



Newsletter Editor: Position to be filled. Vietnam Veterans of America is a 501(c)(19) Non-Profit, Tax Exempt Organization.  
 Chapter #15 Phone: (216) 830-8515 Vietnam Veterans of America is made up of 100% War Time Veterans.

**Contributions to VVA & Chapter #15 are Tax deductible!**

Chapter #15 meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm., at PLAV Post #30, 1041 Starkweather Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44113 Meetings will last approximately 1 hour. Website Closed January 2009. Email Changed April 1st, 2009.

# CHAPTER #15

*Annual 50's / 60's Dance*



**CASH:  
 FOOD  
 DRINK  
 BAR**

*Prizes!*

# MARCH 7th, 2009

**THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HTS. COMMUNITY CENTER  
 255 TUXEDO AVE. BROOKLYN HTS., OHIO  
 6:00 TO 11:00 P.M. / \$10.00 DONATION**

**7th, MARCH 2009, SATURDAY: VIETNAM VETERANS CHAPTER 15, ANNUAL 50's / 60's Dance.**  
Music by Al Piniacki, Unique Entertainment. Entry is \$10.00 at the door. Cash for Food, Drink, Bar.  
Hula Hoop Contest. Need information? Call: (216) 830-8515. Advance tickets available.

# STOLEN VALOR?

Several months ago we published Chapter #15 member Tim "Doc" Anderson as the recipient of the Navy Cross. Someone else other than Doc, had given the information as Doc having received a letter of consideration for the Navy Cross, so it was published in our newsletter as a good deed for recognition. When Doc saw the posting he contacted us and said he never did get the Navy Cross. Someone with an ego apparently bigger than they are, and working in conjunction with the POW Network on the Internet, seemed to have an apparent grudge against Doc and reported Doc as a Stolen Valor Violator in many ways, claiming his service record was all a lie. Doc claimed to have been a NAVY Corpsman, served with the NAVY SEALS, the Marines, and many other items including many tours in Vietnam and so much more. Doc claimed his right to the SEAL TRIDENT since he was assigned to their unit and after so many years in the Navy he retired as a Master Chief. His achievements are too vast to list here, however the POW Network, including an ex, second class Petty Officer named Steve Robinson, a "so called" ex-(SEAL) who boasts upon his having written a book on SEAL imposters, plastered information of Doc's Military Ribbons and achievements, including photo's of Doc and his ribbons all over their web page to the world, claiming Doc to be a phony. They also put "one of" Doc's DD-214's on the web page as a downloadable file to the world. Then on Channel 5 News, Duane Pohlman reported Doc to the world on Nationwide TV as a fake, and Duane said in conversation that the POW Network authorized him to do so. We felt somehow obligated to help Doc clear his name on the Navy Cross issue since we were the ones' who published it, so our President wrote a letter in VVA#15's email to the POW Network explaining how it happened and asked them to remove what was actually known at the time to be in error, but Dan Engel has letters in front of him on his desk written back to him by the POW Network, calling him a liar and threatening to put him on the web site now too, to expose "their claimed" lies. While we won't say here what Dan wrote in his response, it seemed something that was in need of being done here due to the dishonesty of the POW Network in their knowingly printing lies on their web site.

Dan mulled over it for a while and decided to do more, so he wrote an extensive letter to the DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY at the PENTAGON in WASHINGTON D.C.. Dan included the letters from the POW Network in addition to his letters to them, to show the Government what the "Self Appointed Stolen Valor Police" are doing to our honorable veterans for their own personal cause. They even defamed the Disabled American Veterans who were totally innocent of any wrongdoing.

Today Dan received a letter from the PENTAGON. They Cited the POW Network reference, a Stolen Valor reference and in addition, it's being revised. They check and validate as they stated in the letter, all ribbons medals and awards. In all of Doc's embarrassment, ridicule by the POW Network, broadcast by the local television station and many people who were supposed to be Doc's friends, the only thing the NAVY found wrong with Doc's claims or shall we say alleged claims, was that no Navy Cross has been issued, but then Doc never said that it was. They assess claimed wrongdoings.

While Chapter #15 is writing this to clear Doc's name, again since we printed the Navy Cross issue, there are many out there who owe Doc a sincere apology since he had an impeccable record in the NAVY. While he was out devoting his life to protecting our freedoms with many of us, someone must be jealous because they weren't anywhere near being half the man Doc is. The POW Network and possibly the television station may now be facing litigation, but some of us are proud of having stood by Doc, knowing him as an individual.

**For the record**, the POW Network has no authorization or legal means to defame anyone. They are not affiliated with any form of government, and now we know they don't have the government clout they falsely claim. On their web site, they have a small disclaimer stating they don't guarantee the accuracy of any of their information, they are not affiliated with the government, and it cannot be used in court however we now know that it can very well be used in court, but against them. Knowing that they cannot guarantee such defamations in accuracy, they authorized the TV station? The POW Network is just an individuals' personal web site and cannot be used for verifying anyone's service records to be true or accurate. They even did this to a man who was the recipient of the Medal of Honor and it was later verified to have really been issued to the man but even when verified, they leave the false accusations on their site. The United States Government at the Pentagon is currently studying the situation.

We wish to restore the Honor to Doc and hope his Navy Cross comes through one day. While there are many real fakes out there, it now seems to be branching into some form of false glory for self appointed headhunters instigating trouble to get their penny's worth of fame, and at what cost? It seems we now know that "they are the real phonies". Now you know the truth.

We salute all Veterans who served Honorably. Thank you for your service.

## *Please Pass This On!*

If you know of something important, please send it in! We'll give you the credit!

# Ask Sarge

Inspired by Sarge, he sends us so much information. Some of it will be available on our web site soon!

## Remember our POWs



**VVA#15 UPCOMING EVENTS:** Fundraising collections at Sam's Club on Brookpark at Tiedeman. APRIL 26th, MAY 24th, MAY 31st, JUNE 7th, JUNE 14th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please turn out to help us raise funds for the upcoming year. We are Non-Profit and Tax Exempt. Donations are Tax Deductible.

**END OF THE VIETNAM WAR CEREMONY:** APRIL 30th, 2009 (THURSDAY) at MALL (A), Downtown Cleveland. Starting time of Ceremony is 4:30 p.m. until approximately 8 p.m.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Chapter #15 is in the hopes that everyone will sign up at least one member each for the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America.

**VETERANS BENEFITS:** A telephone survey commissioned by the Disabled American Veterans found that 44 percent of respondents said caring for veterans should be a top priority for this administration.

**PURPLE HEART FOR POW's:** An expansion of eligibility criteria could result in retroactive awards of the Purple Heart to prisoners of war who died in captivity and were previously deemed ineligible, the Pentagon announced. The revised policy allows retroactive award of the medal to qualifying prisoners of war back to December 7th, 1941. About 17,000 former service members could be affected. The services' award criteria previously excluded the medal for those who died in captivity if it could not be proven that they were wounded or killed by enemy action. Posthumous awards of the Purple Heart can be made to a deceased service member's representative. Family members can contact: The ARMY at (703) 325-8700, the NAVY at (314) 592-1150, the AIR FORCE at (800) 616-3775, the MARINE CORPS at (703) 784-9340.

**PURPLE HEART WON'T BE GIVEN FOR PTSD:** The Pentagon has decided it will not award the Purple Heart to war veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder because it is not a physical wound.

**NAVY CROSS:** Lance Corporal Jordan Haerter and Corporal Jonathan Yale jumped in front of the 20 foot tanker truck speeding toward the checkpoint they were manning in Ramadi, Iraq and opened fire. As Iraqi Policemen ran away, the Marines stood firm pumping the truck full of bullets as it slowed down and the driver detonated 2,000 pounds of explosives. The truck's target was a joint security station manned by dozens of fellow Marines and Iraqi Police Officers. Everyone lived to tell the story except Haerter and Yale who will be honored with posthumous awards of the Navy Cross, the nation's second-highest award for combat valor.

**ARLINGTON:** Full military honors will be granted to all enlisted soldiers killed in action and slated for burial or inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery as of January. The policy will also be available to members of other services if requested and authorized. Prior to this, such honors were only available to officers and enlisted rank of E-9. The honors include an escort platoon, a colors team, a band and a horse-drawn caisson.

**STOLEN VALOR:** Robert White, a Senior Chief Navy Corpsman wore an unauthorized Purple Heart while working at Great Lakes, claiming he was due the award from an injury in Iraq. The NAVY charged White for wearing a Purple Heart he never received, jailed him in the brig for 45 days, busted him from E-8 to E-5 and ordered him to forfeit four months pay. His light penalty was because he pleaded guilty. It's a Federal Felony offense to falsely claim awards and if convicted face jail sentences of up to one year and or fines determined by the judge, and if active duty the possibility of dishonorable discharge.

**VA BLUNDERS CLAIMS:** A lawsuit claiming the Veterans Affairs Department does not provide timely, effective care or disability compensation to veterans is shining light on potential gaps in services. While the Disabled American Veterans also sued the VA, for shredding thousands of documents necessary for veterans benefits claims at many locations nationwide, a federal contractor's mistakes have created nearly \$12 million in errors affecting thousands of disabled military veterans, according to U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich. 1,782 to 1,985 severely disabled veterans were wrongly denied their benefits, while as many as 2,514 such veterans received inaccurate payments.

**FAIR PAY FOR CORPSMEN:** When Sailors deploy with Marine units, they live in all of the same conditions, eat the same food and face all of the same dangers, but the Sailors don't get the same bonus pay. Navy Command Master Chiefs lobbied to research the possibility of giving Sailors deployed with Marine units equal assignment incentive pay. Currently there are about 8,000 Sailors serving with the Marines.

**SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS:** Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue said they have nearly 80 million baby boomers coming in and they will be coming at the rate of 10,000 claims a day for the next 20 years. They claim not to have the infrastructure to handle such a workload. You can apply for your benefits in a new program at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

# HEROE'S SCORNED BY OBAMA

Barack Obama may have stumbled over his words during his inauguration, but he made an even bigger blunder later Tuesday evening. The newly sworn-in President opted not to appear at what should have been one of the most important Balls on his agenda that evening - "The Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball."

The Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball was begun in 1953 for President Dwight Eisenhower's inauguration. The event recognized recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. There were 48 Medal of Honor recipients in attendance, who were undoubtedly disappointed by the new Commander-in-Chief's failure to show. Over the past 56 years and 14 inaugurations, no President has EVER skipped "this event" - - - until now.

Obama is obviously sending the wrong message! These BRAVE MEN fought to defend the freedoms of this nation. A SHAMEFUL day in the history of the U.S. Government.

**RECYCLED SHIPS:** The United States Navy has been recycling old and outdated ships progressively since 2001 and recently signed contracts for more as there are 24 outdated ships left in the James River fleet reserve in Virginia and 10 ships in the Beaumont Texas Fleet Reserve. The Maritime Administration stores ships at three National Defense Reserve Fleet sites: the James River Reserve Fleet, the Beaumont Reserve Fleet, and the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet in California.

**VA WARNS OF POSSIBLE CONTAMINANT EXPOSURE:** Thousands of patients at a Veterans Administration clinic in Tennessee may have been exposed to the infectious body fluids of other patients when they had colonoscopies in recent years, and now VA medical facilities all over the U.S. are reviewing their own procedures. A spokesman at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn., said the clinic is offering free blood tests and medical care to all patients whose records show they had colonoscopies between April, 23, 2003 and Dec. 1, 2008.

**NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS:** At any given time, services may activate some units and individuals while deactivating others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. As of February 10th, 2009 the total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 92,394; Navy Reserve, 6,241; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 15,010; Marine Corps Reserve, 7,349; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 733. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 121,727. This does not account for those who served and left.

**UNIFORMED SERVICES DISABLED RETIREES VISITS CAPITOL HILL:** The current leadership of the USDR agrees that they will not give up until every disabled military retiree has received their full earned retirement.

USDR MEMBERSHIP SERVICES, P.O. BOX 1121, St. Cloud, MN, 56302-1121

Email: ExecutiveSecretary@usdr.org Phone: (320) 255-1381, Fax: (320) 255-1492

**MARINE HUMVEES SEIZED BY RUSSIA:** U.S. military vehicles reportedly owned by the Marine Corps were seized during Russia's invasion of Georgia, the Georgian port city of Poti, and there's no indication Russia plans to return them according to a report by Agence France-Presse. AFP said witnesses saw five Humvees with USMC lettering taken by Russian forces. The Humvees contained satellite communications gear and had been flown to Moscow for examination.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Although the VA has 800 medical centers across the U.S., they cannot keep up with the treatment needed by so many veterans. If they would authorize any hospital to treat qualified veterans, the cost of a few clerk's to manage the paperwork seems minimal and vet's in need wouldn't have to wait a month to be seen when they are hurt or in a crisis now. Currently 1,000 veterans a month try to kill themselves and at least 17 succeed. Many appointments at the VA are spaced so far apart, some as far as 4 month's. Some doctors send you home claiming the inability to help you anyway due to the physical damage some vet's receive due to gunshot-wounds, and the VA won't give proper pain medications claiming possible addictions not understanding the true seriousness of their pain. So live with it?

[comments@whitehouse.gov](mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov)

It is already impossible to live on Social Security. If the government gives benefits to 'illegal' aliens who have never contributed, where does that leave those of us who have paid into Social Security all of our working lives? When we become disabled, we are repeatedly denied Social Security. Married couples suffer the loss of one check. Americans are very stressed and must "prove" their entitlement to get their rightfully earned and due benefits. Many have to forfeit half their back-pay with an attorney. The Senate voted again this week to allow 'illegal' aliens access to Social Security benefits. While the give-a-ways to those who have never earned it continue, there are Disabled Veterans who live in anguish, pain, discontent and even suicide due to repeatedly being denied their rightfully earned benefits, some for years while the VA BLUNDERS their files. We as veterans must "demand" equality. We must demand that the VA hires qualified people to handle the claims process so that when we have to live in ways that are uncalled for, ways unfit for any man yet alone those who were wounded or disabled while in the defense of our country. We don't want have to compete with "illegal aliens" who walk up for their FREE hand out. What's happening to the system? Our veterans deserve and must demand their respect, dignity (and benefits).

# A word of wisdom!

If you didn't earn it, don't wear it!  
If you didn't do it, Shut Up!



**PATRONS and SPONSORS:** While Newsletter patron contributions are \$10.00 or more per year, Chapter 15 will periodically print a Patron and Sponsor list expressing our most sincere appreciation. We're very proud of those who support us and help us get the word out, so that we may continue to help others.

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE:** May 25th, MONDAY from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Parma Ohio. All Military and Veterans groups wishing to participate, contact Dan Engel.

**THANKS SARGE:** A special thank you to Sarge for sending so much information for review over the past couple of years.

**AWARD RECOGNITION:** Veterans across the country are outraged when others say they "won" their awards. They prefer the words to be spoken of them as the "recipient" of such an award. They are not trying to "win" medals, but trying to do their job in a safe manner, but ultimately trying to save lives.



(216) 265-3680  
www.usocleveland.org  
Email: usocleveland@aol.com

## HELP

**VETERANS:** If you know of any veterans in need of assistance, then Please review the numbers on page 6.

**Hundreds of People  
Currently get our  
Newsletter!**

**AMERICA:** While we sometimes get dismayed at things like having to pay taxes, we understand that the system cannot operate by itself. When 300 million people contribute to the finances of our country we sometimes feel the need to be able to say where it goes and for what purpose. Military budgets are always being cut and ridiculed by some, but there are so many who have no knowledge of what it's like to live in ways other than they are accustomed to in the United States. If we didn't have armed forces for deterrence of war, occupation, and terrorism, we might find ourselves being called residents under another nations control. There are countries where the poor have to sit on the ground in the streets in hopes of a donation, but then many of them have no money, no food and no resources. The beggars are sometimes blind and sick with no hopes of medical care. In the United States the system provides ready made food available at nearby stores. Complicated but effective health care and jobs that turn over with updates in technology, but the sad part of our system is that it allows politicians to do their desires such as sending our jobs overseas and lack of incentives for American manufacturers to benefit from making their products right here at home. We give away technologies and then people claim foreign countries improved the process. Improvements by making it cheaper and then becoming throw away items since they only last a short time, due to their inferior materials and so much more. It would be nice to see fellow Americans participate in bringing MADE IN THE USA back again. We have the right to vote on many of these issues but when it seems it doesn't matter to some, we cannot then complain when we find ourselves in the unemployment line. Our governments' system even provides an income for those who have none to provide the basic necessities. To those unknowing, we fund the operation of our country through taxes, but we have the best Country in the world. Many take advantage of what they don't know. To live LIFE and in FREE-DOM cannot be understood by some who have never seen different but our government allows them this difference. Please, Support our Military and Honor our Veterans. They did it so you didn't have to.

## From the President:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm proud to have served the Vietnam Veterans of America for Greater Cleveland, Chapter #15 for as long as I have, but it's time to retire my Presidency, my position as Editor of the web site and also, Editor of this Newsletter as of April 1st, 2009.

I have serious and demanding health issues.

Furthermore, I respect every man and woman who ever signed up to defend the Freedom our Country enjoys and I wish to personally thank you for your service to The UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Have a wonderful year ahead.



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 who ever signed up to defend  
 the Freedom our Country enjoys  
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# JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2009



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**

**GREATER CLEVELAND  
 CHAPTER #15**

C/O P.L.A.V. Post #30  
 1041 Starkweather Avenue.  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
 USA  
**(216) 830-8515**

MAILING LABEL HERE

## The Short Timer...

<b>VETERANS QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE ...</b>	<b>Not Happy? Please get involved!</b>	<a href="http://www.congress.org">http://www.congress.org</a> <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov">http://www.whitehouse.gov</a>
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA (NATIONAL)	800-882-1316	<a href="http://www.vva.org">www.vva.org</a>
<b>RETURNING VETERANS</b> .....		<a href="http://www.seamlesstransition.va.gov">www.seamlesstransition.va.gov</a>
<b>SUICIDE HOTLINE (VA) 24 HRS.....</b>		<b>800-273-8255</b>
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS .....	800-827-1000	<a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a>
VA BENEFITS .....	800-827-1000	<a href="mailto:veteransbenefits@vva.org">veteransbenefits@vva.org</a>
VA LIFE INSURANCE .....	800-669-8477	
VA EDUCATION BENEFITS .....GI BILL.....	888-442-4551	
VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS .....	877-222-8387	
VA HOSPITALS ....*BRECKSVILLE...440-526-3030....*WADE PARK...	216-791-3800	...*McCAFFERTY ... 216-939-0699
GULF WAR / AGENT ORANGE HELP LINE .....	800-749-8387	<a href="http://www.VA.gov/AgentOrange">www.VA.gov/AgentOrange</a>
VA CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS .....	202-273-6193	
BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS .....	202-565-5436	
TO OBTAIN COPIES OF MILITARY RECORDS .....	866-272-6272	<a href="http://www.archives.gov">www.archives.gov</a>
DEPT. OF DEFENSE, POW/MIA AFFAIRS .....	703-699-1169	
NATIONAL GULF WAR RESOURCE CENTER .....	800-882-1316, ext. 162	
NATIONAL COALITION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS .....	800-838-4357	
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION .....	800-772-1213	<a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a>
PARALYZED VETERANS of AMERICA .....	216-731-1017	Frank Anderson
GRAVE INFORMATION .....	800-697-6947	
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION .....	216-698-2600	
VA and MILITARY FORMS: <a href="http://www.veteransinfo.org/id41.html">http://www.veteransinfo.org/id41.html</a>		

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** If you are a veteran in **EMOTIONAL CRISIS** and need **HELP RIGHT NOW**,  
 Call this toll-free number 1-800-273-8255, available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.

VVA #15 New Rep for Homeless Veterans: Paul Emmel

**ISSUES AND LEGISLATION:** Email: [govtrelations@vva.org](mailto:govtrelations@vva.org)

**DONATING USED CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS:** [www.clothingdonations.org](http://www.clothingdonations.org) [hgsp@vva.org](mailto:hgsp@vva.org)

**TO ORDER:** VVA or AVVA Decals, Pins, Flags, Clothing and Other items, [www.veteranscollectibles.com](http://www.veteranscollectibles.com)  
 "or" 800-626-8387 *Proceeds from sales help support VVA's programs!*

**NOTE!** Friends and Family of Members, of Vietnam Veterans of America, are **Eligible for AVVA!**  
 Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America. 800-882-1316 [www.avva.org](http://www.avva.org) Remember! Chapter No. #15

**FUNERAL DETAILS:** For **MILITARY HONORS:** Call the **JOINT VETERANS HONOR GUARD**

**CONTACT:** HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN; **HAROLD STEINHAUSER** at: (440) 842-1445 (48 Hours notice...Please)  
 If you would like to participate in the Presenting of Military Honors for Funerals and More, Please Call!.

Chapter #15 Web Site: **CLOSED** Email: [vva15cleveland@aol.com](mailto:vva15cleveland@aol.com) **CLOSES APRIL 1st.**  
 Email may be sent to [vva15cleveland@yahoo.com](mailto:vva15cleveland@yahoo.com) after April 1st, 2009.