

MAIL CALL



PO Box 23405
Chattanooga, TN 37422

February 2011

Meeting:

Monday,

February 21st

Dinner at 6pm

Meeting at 7pm

**American
Legion**

Post 95

3329 Ringgold Rd
East Ridge, TN



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**VVA Chapter 203's
Honor Guard is
always ready for
duty**

*Officers
and Board
of
Directors*

Officers:

President: Don Hays 706-866-4890
1st VP: Tommy Hickey 423-240-7767
2nd VP: Denney Miller 423-227-7182
Secretary: Don Hill 423-886-3875
Treasurer: Dan Lovin 423-238-5128
AVVA: Karen Carnes 423-260-9736

Board of Directors

Waterdog Bunch 423-488-5613
Vance Elliott: 423-332-5447
Larry Johnson: 423-875-3949
Ralph Price: 423-629-7242
Rick Simpson: 423-902-1359

Appointed Positions in Chapter 203

VVA

Membership Chair: Dan Taylor 423-842-0461
Chaplain: Paul Williams 706-866-2034
Historian: Ken Starry 423-875-6936
Honor Guard Coordinator: Tom Sloan 423-762-2522
Armory Sergeant: Waterdog Bunch 423-488-5613
Website: Sharon Hobbs 423-495-0202
Newsletter: David Carne 423-413-0012
Social Director: Joyce Simpson

AVVA

Membership Chair: Susan Price 423-629-7242
Chaplain: Donna Sparks 423-843-3637
Secretary: Bettye Selby 423-894-5743
Treasurer: Sandi Johnson 423-309-2703

www.vva203.org

Chapter 203 Point-of-Contacts

Area #1: Chief Tommy Hickey. 423-240-7767
Team: James McLain, Stan Brown, Robert Johnson

Area #2: Chief Ralph Price. 423-629-7242
Team: Fred Huskey, Vernon Carbine

Area #3: Chief Larry Anderson. 706-673-3458
Team: Larry Cooper, Rick Simpson, Lee Knight

Area #4: Chief Bill McClure. 423-476-5717
Team: David Bell, Larry McGehee, Bob Merritt

Area #5: Chief Vance Elliott . 423-332-5447
Team: Larry Johnson, Charles Ingle, Skip Broome

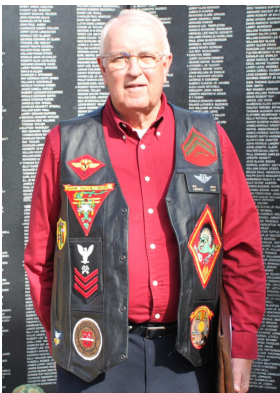
President's Message

Brothers & Sisters:

The reason for the season is now past history. Hoping we did our job with everyone at Christmas and that all received the word, had lots of fun with family, friends, & gifts for this past year 2010. But enough of that.

2011 is now thirty plus days past, so Chapter 203 has a new year and future projects that need to be addressed.

As ever, membership is the number one thing to look at this current



year and is a major job to achieve. Getting new members is everyone's job, as well as, keeping the ones that we have. In 2011, let me

ask you to extend a hand of friendship to each other and use your "Point-of-Contacts", as well as, our membership chair Dan Taylor (Ph. #423-842-0461) to achieve our efforts to increase our membership goal. We want to move from the 3rd largest Chapter to number two. For any new potential member, please double that extended hand of friendship to make them feel at home and want to become a Chapter 203 member. Thank You!!! An increase of only 12 new "guys or

gals" per quarter will go a long way to reaching this goal. Every one please give it your best!!!

The Region 3 Conference will take place March 31, 2011 to April 3, 2011. We have four members that will attend, as well as, myself and the Tennessee State President. We anticipate lot's of discussion on VVA's future. We will represent Chapter 203 and bring these topics back to discuss with our members.

Mr. Fred Huskey and his team are looking for people to fill the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary & Treasurer, as well as, the three Board of Directors. Please let Fred know at ph. #423-883-9297. The Chapter needs you. Please step up!!!

We will be setting up a couple of collections to help our bank account. Look and listen for what, when & where. We will need your help!!!

We also will have an R&R for this new year. It is not that far "up the road". Keep this in mind. We will need your thoughts.

As ever, Chapter 203 is only as good as our members. Let's make 2011 the best yet!!! **Turn & Burn!!!**

Yours to serve,

Don

"...membership is the number one thing to look at this current year ... "

Chaplain's Corner: God is Real and He is Present



Chaplain, Paul Williams

"You speak of God, have you seen him? The answer has to be "no, not physically..."

In this world in which we live people often ask the question, "Where is God?" It is a good question. Many cannot answer. It takes people of faith to give any semblance of an answer. Those of faith can assure the questioner that God is here (that location being wherever the individual is). The scripture tells on several occasions that God promised that he will never leave us nor forsake us. The promise was made by God to Joshua as he prepared to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land (Joshua 1:5). Significantly, Jesus, who is God the Son, shortly before he ascended into Heaven, again made the promise to his disciples of his presence always (Matthew 28:20).

Still the questions are frequent and often intense. It is in situations such as the chaos going on in Egypt and several others nations of Africa. The question now is: What other African nations are going to get

into this turmoil? It seems the fruit of rebellion is widespread. It is frightening! People of many nations are in these lands. Will they be able to get out? Some governments are attempting to get their people out. We hope they can at least get most out.

So, one can see the roots of fear and disorder. God, where are you? Even people of faith may have those thoughts. But that faith, especially in those of strong faith, will weather it with assurance in their hearts that God is on His throne, and He is with his people. In prayer, meditation, and devotion the faithful will gain strength and courage to weather the storm.

However, many without that faith will still fear and wonder about those who have been strong. "You speak of God, have you seen him?" The answer to that has to be "no, not physically, after all God

is Spirit." But I see the fruits of his presence. "Well, do you hear Him?" My answer to that (and I know many people of faith who will answer in the same way) is "yes." It isn't audible. But when I turn to Him in times of awe, or peril, or danger, or just filled with the beauty of His presence, I hear Him advising me, directing me, giving me peace, courage and comfort. Yes, I hear Him, and it makes me feel so strong and secure. I believe you will find much of this assurance in the community of faith.

Now, I plead with the people of faith to pour their hearts out to God that the chaos of this day can be brought to stillness and many in our world will hear his Spiritual voice calling for all to come to Him. His hands are always outstretched reaching for the lost. Trust Him! Love Him!

Paul Williams,
Chaplain



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Progress in Vietnam as of January 10, 2011

Current Status of Unaccounted-for Americans Lost in the Vietnam War

	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>Laos</u>	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>Total</u>
Original Missing	1,971	575	90	10	2,646
Repatriated and Identified	<u>667</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>944¹</u>
Remaining Missing	1,304	332	59	7	1,702

Of the remaining 1,304 Americans still unaccounted for in Vietnam, 594 are in a “no further pursuit” status. This means that as a result of rigorous investigation we have conclusive evidence the individual perished, but do not believe it possible to recover his remains.

Repatriating and Identifying Remains

- The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) plans to conduct four Joint Field Activities (JFAs) this fiscal year in Vietnam. Each JFA involves approximately 95 U.S. personnel plus their Vietnamese counterparts. Together, they work on investigations and excavations throughout the country for a period of approximately 30 days.
- American remains are transferred to JPAC’s Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for positive identification by forensic anthropologists.
- The 101st JFA began October 18 and continued through November 30, 2010. Recovery teams excavated sites in Yen Bai, Son La, and Kon Tum Provinces.
- The 102nd JFA is scheduled to begin March 7 and continue through April 9, 2011. Recovery teams plan to excavate sites in Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Khanh Hoa, and Tay Ninh Provinces.

Resolving “Last Known Alive” Cases

- Of the original 196 individuals “Last Known Alive” in Vietnam (those who might have survived their loss incidents, but did not return), DoD has determined the fate of 171, with 25 still unresolved.
- Of the 171 whose fate has been determined, the remains of 51 have been located and identified.
- Cambodia, Vietnam, and U.S. technical experts met in Hanoi in November 2004 to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Cambodia – Vietnam border. A meeting with Laos, Vietnam, and U.S. technical experts to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Laos – Vietnam border took place in Vientiane in April 2005.
- U.S. and Vietnam technical experts will meet again in Hanoi this month to discuss Last Known Alive cases in Vietnam, as well as in areas of Cambodia and Laos controlled by Vietnamese forces during the war.

Research and Investigations

- A research effort in the Ministry of National Defense (MND) central archives continues. The results of an earlier effort confirmed that additional information is contained in the MND archives.
- In addition to the interviews conducted during JFAs, U.S. and Vietnamese investigators have conducted nearly 300 oral history interviews of Vietnamese government and military officials, including General Vo Nguyen Giap.
- Since Vietnamese troops occupied portions of Cambodia and Laos during the War, we’ve asked them to cooperate in investigations there. Ninety-three (93) Vietnamese witnesses have participated in operations in Laos (79) and Cambodia (14); most of them have participated more than once.

¹This number now includes the 63 Americans who were returned and/or identified from 1973 – 1975.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.



Application for Membership to VVA

Open to all who served incountry Feb 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975
and Era Vets who served Aug 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975

Office use only
Membership # _____

Date: _____

Name: _____ Sex: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____ Apt # _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Home # [] _____ Cell # [] _____

E-Mail: _____ Recruited by: _____

Marital Status: S M D W Spouse's name: _____

Yearly Membership Dues:

1 year \$20

3 years \$50

Life Membership Options: (check all that apply)

Paid in full

50/55 yrs \$225

56-60 yrs \$200

Payment Plan

61/65 yrs \$175

Requires a \$50 Down Payment;
\$25/mo until paid in full

66 yrs and over \$150

I want to receive by mail a printed copy of the monthly newsletter.

I will receive the monthly newsletter electronically through e-mail. (no mailed copy)

Make your check payable to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 203


Mail to: Chapter 203

Vietnam Veterans of America


PO Box 23405

Chattanooga, TN 37422

Applicant must submit a DD214 or SS180 with this form.



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 203
PO Box 23405
Chattanooga, TN 37422**



**We're on the web!
www.vva203.org**

*"Never again will one generation of
veterans abandon another"*