

# MAIL CALL



PO Box 23405  
Chattanooga, TN 37422

**January 2012**

Meeting:

**Monday,  
January 16th**

Dinner at 6pm

Meeting at 7pm

**American  
Legion  
Post 95**

3329 Ringgold Rd  
East Ridge, TN



4 of the 7 "Medal" Recipients pose for a picture at the Annual Christmas Party held at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo's Imperial Ball Room on December 16, 2011  
(From left to right - Tom Sloan, Louise Sloan, Bob Miller, Tommie Miller, Larry Anderson, Sue Anderson, Debbie Brown & Stan Brown)

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### 2012 Chapter Elections

The Chapter Annual Elections will be held at the April business membership meeting, should you have a strong desire to serve your fellow Chapter 203 Veterans, and help our course. Use your time and talent to serve as an "Officer" or "E-Board Member". (The chapter needs you) The office's of President, Vice-President and Secretary "beckon". We want you to step up to keep Chapter 203 growing bigger and better(?). Two seats on the E-Board also need to be filled. Please contact Mr. Mike Myers at 706-858-0578 and/or Ms. Judy Baker at 423-432-4218 to place your name in nomination between January 2012 to March 2012.

**"You are Needed"**

**Note: To all of the members that have signed up to bring food for the "Chili Cook-Off" to the business meeting on January 16th, please remember. We need your contributions in order to have enough food to feed everyone.**

*Officers  
and Board  
of  
Directors*

Officers:

President: Don Hays 706-866-4890  
1st VP: Stan Brown 423-658-2417  
2nd VP: Tommy Hickey 423-240-7767  
Secretary: Don Hill 423-886-3875  
Treasurer: Dan Lovin 423-238-5128  
AVVA: Karen Carnes 423-260-9736

Board of Directors

Charlie Crowe 423-509-2690  
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 423-991-5628  
*Chaplain:* Paul Williams 706-866-2034  
*Historian:* Ken Starry 423-875-6936  
*Honor Guard Coordinator:* Tom Sloan 423-762-2522  
*Armory Sergeant:* Vacant  
*Website:* Sharon Hobbs 423-495-0202  
*Newsletter:* David Carne 423-413-0012  
*Social Director:* Joyce Simpson 423-987-6851

### AVVA

*Membership Chair:* Susan Price 423-629-7242  
*Vice President:* C J Cox 423-847-1299  
*Chaplain:* Donna Sparks 423-843-3637  
*Sec/Treasurer:* Sandi Johnson 423-309-2703

[www.vva203.org](http://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

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

During the month of November 2011, with Thanksgiving and a very successful eight days doing collections at the Hixson, TN. Walmart, this brought to an end that month. The Chapters people really came through. Thank you Guys & Gals.



calendar. With the Memorial Day Service, the Chattanooga Military Parade and again the Chapter 203 R & R picnic. We hope Mr. Vance Elliott will give us his knowledge and help with the picnic again. More on these as the time arrives.

*"The year  
2012  
awaits us  
with many  
projects..."*

The month of December 2011 found us with the Christmas dinner, and the celebration of Christ's birth. Along with many gifts given to those that attended the dinner and to those that had the lucky raffle tickets to receive lots of good gifts. Some Chapter 203 members were recognized for the year, with two plaques and seven medals presented. All of those that received them were very well deserved. The evening was enjoyed by all. And with that said, the year 2011 was closed, and "packed" away for the ages.

The year 2012 awaits us with many projects, with collections throughout the year. These will need to be setup and I am sure they will be.

In March 2012, Dunlap, TN., will again be having the Valley Fest. Our Tommy Hickey, Don Hill and Charlie Crowe took care of this in 2011. I am sure they will have much to say about Valley Fest again this year.

A possible formal recruitment may be upcoming in February or March of this year. The Chapter will be advised. The month of May, as always, will have a full

The trip to Washington, D.C. for the wall's 30th anniversary will take place and Mrs. Sharon Hobbs will address the what, when and where's at our January 16th business meeting. Sharon is the "Pro", so listen to her.

Last, but by no means least, the Chapter 203 annual nominations and elections for the upcoming positions of President, (2) Vice-Presidents, and Secretary will need to be filled. You will hear more about this, most importantly, by myself, as well as from the Vice-President's and Secretary Hill, at every meeting. Membership, you are needed!!! Please submit your intentions this quarter. Thank you.

There is lots to do and lots to take care of. I know that the Chapter 203 can do it.

Thanks, now let's continue to **Turn & Burn!!!**

Don

I want to thank the members of Chapter 203 for honoring me at this years Christmas party. I am one of the two "plaque" recipients that Don Hays refers to in his message. As many of you already know, I am not a Vietnam Vet but a member of the AVVA. I was of the Vietnam era, but the conflict was nearing it's end and I was never called into service. Since joining the AVVA, Chapter 203 has always treated me as if I was a veteran. The "brotherhood" that all of you have shared has also been extended to me and I am especially grateful for it. I say all of this, because the night that I was recognized, I was unable to truly express my gratitude. While it is true that my close friend, Mr. Don Hays, "drafted" me into this position, I am truly able to say that it's my honor to be the Chapters Newsletter Editor and to serve the needs of its members. Sincerely,

David Carne-Newsletter Editor

## Chaplain's Corner: The Faith of Our Founding Fathers



Chaplain, Paul Williams

Maybe I am wishing on a star, but I would love to see a spirit of revival in our nation, and our world. Something has happened that brings fear to my being, and I am tired of having to be careful about where I and my loved ones move about in our communities. I remember when it was safe for women, children and (yes, men also) to go freely in most areas. Our parks were places of joy and happiness. Oh yes, it was fun to go swimming, skating, swinging, play or watch baseball or softball, basketball, tennis and so many other good and healthy activities. But where can you find those good parks today? There are not many people there. It is rather lonely, which means they are good places for people with ulterior motives to hang around and create havoc.

It sounds bad. Yes, I know that! But there is more that I think should be of great concern. And it just might be tied into the vices of above. I grew up in a time when at school we prayed each morning, and saluted our good flag as we pledged our allegiance to it. We had chapel every week with visiting speakers, who were often ministers or missionaries. There were plays which often had religious themes. And no one complained if one of us said "God" or "Jesus Christ." How long has it been since any of us have seen such activities in our schools? There were no "barn burnings" or even threats as my children passed through those schools, but there were no prayers, scriptures and religious plays for them. Oh, they could talk about Christmas and Easter, but there were no formal events for them. I think my children and their classmates were cheated out of the good things of my days, but, at least there was no warfare, and no individuals or groups who nosed into what was going on. I did not see or hear of threats and claims of violations of the constitution.

Many people do not seem to know that the term separation of church and state is not in the constitution. It was a statement of Thomas Jefferson about a concern of his about church and state. One cannot find it in the constitution. But it is causing havoc throughout the land. By using this issue the claimants were able to get prayer removed from our schools. That was just the tip of the iceberg. Today, if one speaks of God in the schools, it may be used for punishing that person. First prayer, then God (and, of course, Jesus Christ as well) are removed. It still grows. Anything concerning Christian faith can be punishable. However, I ask you to notice how often religious events of other faiths are permitted and do, in fact, take place.

When our forefathers came to America, they came in faith. It was well established throughout the land. Churches were built. There were many faiths. Yes, most of them were Christian. But not all of them were. Even still, they were allowed to worship. There was freedom of religion. In fact, that was the reason so many of our colonists came to America. Our great leaders spoke freely of the value of our Bible and our faith, and the importance of them in life and leadership. Today, there are many supposed scholars who are naysayers who claim this is not true. However, they need to open their eyes to the inscriptions on monuments, buildings, the arts in our national capitol, and throughout this land. They might also want to open their eyes and ears to our great men and women of faith.

**Faith of our fathers living still in spite of dungeon,**

**fire, and sword, O how our hearts beat high with joy**

**Whenever we hear that glorious word! Faith of our fathers,**

**Holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!**

Don't wish on a star. Give your life and service to God. Even more, take a stand for God. Serve Him. He will love and care for you. Paul Williams, Chaplain

**Chapter 203 is  
proud to  
welcome our  
Chaplain, Mr.  
Paul Williams  
back onto the  
pages of our  
newsletter.**

**Paul was very ill  
for several  
months and  
thanks go out to  
all who prayed  
for his  
recovery!!!**

**We are saddened to have to inform the members of Chapter 203 that Mr. Bill Fry, who is one of our "Charter" members and a past Chapter President, is in the ICU at Erlanger Hospital and is not expected to recover. Please keep Bill and his family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. The Chapter is not what it is today without members like Bill who served the Chapter whenever and wherever he was needed.**

# Membership Update and Renewals

As of January 5th:

## November

James Floyd                      Joe McCoy  
William Heidle                  Terrence Williams  
Earl Inglis

## December

David Allen                      Daniel Littleton  
Kenneth Boyd                  Paul Martin  
Donald Clemens                Johnny McCullough  
Jerry Fitzgerald                Patrick O'Connor  
Terry Fowler                    Michael Reeves  
John Green                      John Sertel  
Charles Harden LMT            Don Stancil  
Darle Jordan                    Ed Zlock  
Monte Lee

## January

Richard Brackett LMT        Charles T. Nipper  
Donald L. Kell Doyle        C. O'Kelley  
Richard R. McIntyre        Chris T. Randall

Please send your renewal payments to:

VVA Chapter 203  
P.O. Box 23405  
Chattanooga, TN 37422-3405

This will be a GREAT help in tracking the renewals.

Please call me with any Change of Address or Phone Number

*Dan L. Taylor, Jr.*  
(423) 991-5628  
danjrann@bellsouth.net  
Membership Chair



Dan Taylor,  
Membership Chair

**We want to thank you if you have already paid your dues.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan.16th, 2012: Business meeting - American Legion Post 95 - 3329 Ringgold Rd. - East Ridge, TN.

February or March 2012: Possible recruitment - More details to come.

Feb.20th, 2012: Business meeting - American Legion Post 95 - 3329 Ringgold Rd. - East Ridge, TN.

March 2012: Valley Fest - Dunlap, TN. - More details to come.

March19th, 2012: Business meeting - American Legion Post 95 - 3329 Ringgold Rd. - East Ridge, TN.

## WASHINGTON DC TRIP 2012

2012 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Vietnam Memorial Wall*. Chapter 203 will be going to DC in November. It has been five years since we visited as a group, so I hope everyone will get excited about going one more time.

The plans are in place and the cost has been finalized. Once again, there will be a **\$150 non-refundable deposit** required to reserve your place. I will be sharing the details during the January Chapter meeting which will include pricing, itinerary, inclusions, and travel dates.



There will be registration forms and written information for you to take with you. Or, if you are ready to reserve your place, bring your deposit and be one of the first to sign-up.

**NOTE:** I am already getting calls and emails from across the state from VVA Chapter members who want to travel with us; however, Chapter 203 VVA and AVVA members will have the first opportunity to go. I will invite other Chapters to join us in May if there are open seats.

Sharon Hobbs, Trip Coordinator



Above: Additional pictures taken at the Annual Christmas Party held on December 16, 2011 at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Imperial Ball Room

Left picture: Chapter 203's Chaplain Paul Williams & wife Marilyn Williams pose in the foyer to the Imperial Ball Room  
Right picture: (Left to right) Chapter President Don Hays, David Carne (Being awarded with a "Plaque" for service as the Chapter Newsletter Editor & Chapter Treasurer Dan Lovin



Department of  
Veterans Affairs

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20420

(202) 461-7600

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2012

## VA Deploying 20 New Mobile Vet Centers

### *Additions to Fleet Will Expand Veterans' Access to VA Services Across U.S.*

COLUMBUS, Ohio- The Department of Veterans Affairs today deployed 20 additional Mobile Vet Centers from the production facility of Farber Specialty Vehicles to increase access to readjustment counseling services for Veterans and their families in rural and underserved communities across the country.

"Mobile Vet Centers allow VA to bring the many services our Vet Centers offer Veterans to all communities, wherever they are needed," said VA Under Secretary for Health Robert A. Petzel. "VA is committed to expanding access to VA health care and benefits for Veterans and their families, and these 20 new vehicles demonstrate that continued commitment."

In an event attended by Petzel, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio, representatives of the Ohio congressional delegation, and Veterans service organizations, VA launched the 20 new vehicles to their destinations ranging across the continental United States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

These customized vehicles--which are equipped with confidential counseling space and a state of the art communication package--travel to communities to extend VA's reach to Veterans, Service members and their families, especially those living in rural or remote communities. The vehicles also serve as part of the VA emergency response program.

The 20 new, American-made vehicles will expand the existing fleet of 50 Mobile Vet Centers already in service providing outreach and counseling services. The 50 Mobile Vet Centers were also manufactured by Farber Specialty Vehicles. In fiscal year 2011, Mobile Vet Centers participated in more than 3,600 federal, state and locally sponsored Veteran-related events. The VA contract for the 20 Mobile Vet Centers totals \$3.1 million.

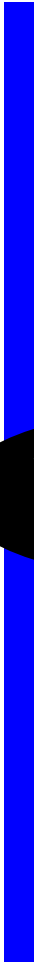
During the announcement event, Petzel also announced that Farber Specialty Vehicles recently won a competitive bid to produce 230 emergency shuttle vehicles for VA over the next five years. The shuttles will provide routine transportation for Veteran patients in and around various metro areas during normal operations, but convert to mobile clinics that will facilitate the evacuation of patients and their care teams during disasters and emergencies. The VA contract for the 230 emergency shuttles totals \$53.5 million.

VA has 300 Vet Centers serving communities across the country, offering individual and group counseling for Veterans and their families, family counseling for military related issues, bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death, military sexual trauma counseling and referral, outreach and education, substance abuse assessment and referral, employment assessment and referral, VA benefits explanation and referral, and screening and referral for medical issues including traumatic brain injury and depression.


More than 190,000 Veterans and families made over 1.3 million visits to VA Vet Centers in fiscal year 2011.

To find out more about Vet Center services or find a Vet Center in your area, go to [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov).

Among the list of new mobile Vet Centers - Atlanta, Ga., Nashville, Tn. & Birmingham, Al. are 3 cities of the 20 new mobile Vet Centers.



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



**We're on the web!**  
**[www.va203.org](http://www.va203.org)**

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