

MAIL CALL



PO Box 23405
Chattanooga, TN 37422

July 2011

Meeting:

Monday,

July 18th

Dinner at 6pm

Meeting at 7pm

**American
Legion**

Post 95

3329 Ringgold Rd
East Ridge, TN



★
★ **Gold Star Mother's Receive a Gift at the Missing**
★ **Man Ceremony held on July 3rd at the New Haven**
★ **Baptist Church**
★

(Presented by USMC Veteran SSgt. Jason Shipp)

★
★ **VVA Chapter 203 attended the Annual July 4th Military Parade in Dunlap, TN. There were 26 VVA members in attendance. We had the Big Black Bus with Tennessee State President Charlie Hobbs driving and Larry Johnson pulling the 16 foot trailer with the VVA Murals on each side. Leading the parade were 2 of our members driving restored World War 2 Willis Jeeps with 50 Caliber Guns mounted on them. As always, no where else do the VVA members feel so welcome. The folks in Dunlap, TN. really make all of us "Old Veterans" feel at home and we feel privileged to be asked to lead the Parade every year. (Pictures to follow in next month's Mail Call)**
★

Note: To all of the members that have signed up to bring food to the business meeting on July 18th, please remember. We need your contributions in order to have enough food to feed everyone.

Inside this issue:

Officer	2
Contacts	
President's	3
Message	
Chaplain's	4
Corner	
Upcoming	5
Events	
Membership	5
Update	
Pictures of Missing	6
Man Ceremony	
VVA Membership	7
Application	

*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

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,

Good old summertime is now upon all of us in Chapter 203. June 21st, being the longest day of the year, has provided us with plenty of daylight, but now it will begin to get shorter as the weeks go by. So God and Mother know what we need and require.

June 2011, another full month for Chapter 203. And we have so many Chapter 203 members to be thankful to that they have



served. So in saying that, let me name all of you and give thanks that we have you folks: Larry Johnson, Vance Elliott, Charlie Hobbs, Tom Sloan, David Bell, Ralph Price, Larry Cooper, Lar-

ry Anderson, Denny Miller, Dan Lovin, David Carne, Susan Price, Sandy Johnson, Marie Hays, Sharon Hobbs, Charlie Crowe, Karen Carnes, "Geneo", James Lowery, Waterdog Bunch, Paul Williams, Jackie Clark, Robert Johnson, Tommy Hickey, Don Hill, Lawrence Shull, Stan Brown, Bill McClure, Larry McGehee, Bob Merritt, Dan Taylor, Rick Simpson, Larry Gregory, Charlie Bean, Harvey Sartin and anyone not included in this list but should have been. We appreciate all of you, so way to go, troop's!!! Keep up the good work. Chapter 203 needs your best foot

forward.

The June projects included a Walmart collection, for our guys on the road to help Chapter 979

in Gray, TN., the Tennessee State Meeting, a Missing Man practice session at New Haven Baptist Church and an E-Board meeting with Sharon Hobbs giving us a helping hand for the National Convention upcoming August 17-20, 2011.

A big thanks for your work this very hot month of June.

In July, we have 2 Walmart collections that will need our support. On July 8th & 9th, we will be at Signal Mountain's Walmart and on July 29th & 30th, from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M., we will be at Kimball's Walmart with Product Sales. We will also be giving out the "Vietnam Poppies" at the Kimball, TN. collection.

More of July awaits. Even though it's a hot time of the year, you are needed, so let's Turn and Burn!!!

Don

"We have so many Chapter 203 members to be thankful to ..."

Chaplain's Corner: Freedom Ain't Free



Chaplain, Paul Williams

"Freedom is a wonderful part of life in America."

Here I sit at my computer. It is July 4, 2011. That means our beloved United States of America is now 235 years old. That doesn't sound old as we place it in historical perspective. However, historically the great Empires and nations have averaged about 200 years of existence. We can add and subtract these figures. Yes, our great nation is 35 years above the norm. How can that be? How should it be?

On the date of our nation's establishment it had been 169 years since the first colony was established. Then more colonies were established. Americans grew as a people and as established governments. However, the colonies were under the governance of Great Britain which took great advantage of the prosperous people in this well endowed and blessed land. The colonists were strong, enduring and capable people. They were thriving. Great Britain wanted some of their prosperity. One might call this greed as well. Those people in America can help us to maintain our empire and our livelihood in Britain. Taxes were initiated. Britain's armies could abuse the peoples of this colony with such tactics as requiring quartering of troops and such. The most prominent and well known tax was the tea tax. Enough was enough. Brave patriots slipped aboard the British ships and made a lot of undrinkable tea in Boston harbor. We know that as the "Boston Tea Party."

Great Britain began to react. Soon there were more and more British soldiers arriving. The colonists reacted as well and prepared to defend this land. The colonists began to unite. Armies were established. George Washington was selected as the commander of the colonial forces. A Continental Congress was established. Let us quickly be reminded of the courage, determination and faith of the Congressional Represent-

atives and the armies. The Representatives of the Congress faced the loss of property, wealth of every source and their lives. The armies were unorganized, untrained and poorly supplied of equipment. Fortunately, those frontiersmen owned rifles and knew how to use them. Their lives and the welfare of their families were very much at stake.

The early battles at Lexington and those who waited for the "Redcoats" after Paul Revere's great ride to warn them that they were coming showed strength and determination. Overall, the colonists had great struggles with such experiences as Valley Forge. But they held on and won the battles that counted such as Trenton, and especially at Yorktown where Cornwallis was forced to surrender which ended "The Revolutionary War."

Tough and hard times in those many decades of British rule did not end immediately after the war. So, what kept America all this time? How has our United States managed to last well beyond the norm, even with such struggles as that divided period referred to as the Civil War?

During the course of struggles in the Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress met at Philadelphia. They produced "The Declaration of Independence" which is considered the founding document of the United States. It was adopted on July 4, 1776. This great document declared that the 13 American Colonies were free and independent states. Truly, this declared all political connection between the colonies and Great Britain to be dissolved. But it doesn't end here. There were many months of war remaining. That would complete the dissolution. But it would leave the new United States without direction and adhesion.

The absolute greatness and

survivability of America was the acknowledgment of the Founding Fathers of God as the source of our rights. Be it clearly known that the Fathers had the wisdom to not separate God from state. These forefathers placed Judeo-Christian and biblical values into our founding documents and laws. Have no doubt that this was clearly intentional. One of the founders, Benjamin Rush, stated "Without [religion] there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments."

Walk around Washington, D.C. some day and take note of the many biblical statements, thoughts and scriptures engraved in building and monument stones erected there. I could wish I have more room to print quotes from American leaders concerning the importance of God and faith in welfare of our nation. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, and Ronald Reagan are three, but there are many more in both political and corporate importance who have strongly stated how important God is to our good nation.

The Compact Oxford English Dictionary states that freedom is "the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants." That surely means one is not dominated by others. Freedom is a wonderful part of life in America. It has been from the beginning 235 years ago. It has lasted because good, strong and brave people have fought and maintained it. May this freedom loving nation live on infinitely, trusting in God, and standing ready to defend that freedom against all enemies foreign and domestic. And never forget, it is precious, but "it ain't free."

Paul Williams, Chaplain

Membership Update and Renewals

As of July 1, 2011:

June

Wayne L. Adams	Jeff Maxwell
Bill Cox	Jon B. McKenzie
Jack A. Kennedy	Danny N. Tarpley
Johnny L. Martin	

July

Ronald Andrews	Roberta Heidel
Edward Austin	Larry Houser
Robert Blakeslee	Michael Prichard
Joe Camp	W.S. Scott Reed
Benjamin Conner	Paul Smith
Terry Dungan	Dennis Trapp
Edward Heidel	

August

Jeff Alverson	Dwight Ledbetter
Roy Avans	Dennis Punicochar
Anthony Bruschi	Jerry Romesburg
Thomas Condra	Larry Stewart
Clyde Evans	Willie Sutherland
Fred Ewton	Bill Vincent
John Holden	Larry Willerson
Richard Jones	

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

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.

Dan L. Taylor, Jr.
**(423) 991-5628
Membership Chair
VVA Chapter 203**



Dan Taylor,
Membership Chair

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 8th & 9th (Friday & Saturday): Walmart Collection - Signal Mountain, TN.

July 12th: E-Board meeting - Ryans Steak House - Hixson, TN. - Will be discussing upcoming trip to the National Convention in Reno, Nevada - August 17th thru 20th.

July 18th: Business meeting - American Legion Post 95 - 3329 Ringgold Rd. - East Ridge, TN.

July 29th & 30th (Friday & Saturday): Walmart Collection - 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. - Kimball, TN. - Will set up Product Sales.

August 15th: Business meeting - American Legion Post 95 - 3329 Ringgold Rd. - East Ridge, TN.

August 17th - 20th: 15th Biennial National Convention - Silver Legacy Hotel - Reno, Nevada



Missing Man Ceremony held on July 3rd at the New Haven Baptist Church

(Below: Left to Right: Larry Cooper, Don Hays, Larry Anderson & Tom Sloan)



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.



In Service to America

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



Date: _____ Membership # _____

Branch of Service - _____

Name: _____ Sex: _____ DOB: _____

Place OB: _____

Address: _____ Apt # _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Home # [] _____ Cell # [] _____

Work # [] _____

E-Mail: _____ Recruited by: _____

Marital Status: _____ Spouse's name: _____

Life Membership Options: (check all that apply)		<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Year	\$20.00
VVA Member number _____ change to Life Member		<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Year	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid in full		<input type="checkbox"/>	50/55 yrs	\$225
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Plan		<input type="checkbox"/>	56-60 yrs	\$200
Requires a \$50 Down Payment;		<input type="checkbox"/>	61/65 yrs	\$175
\$25/mo until paid in full		<input type="checkbox"/>	66 yrs and over	\$150


() Receive Printed copy of the monthly newsletter

() I will read the the monthly newsletter at www.vva203.org (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 37422-3405**

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"*