



# Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
December News Letter 2015



Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month @ 7pm at  
VFW Post #7232, 2900 W. Folsom St., Eau Claire, WI

**Volume 1 Issue 12 Editor – Julie McBee Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/02/15** Chapter Meeting @ 7 p.m.  
Guest speaker Brian Wright, Circuit Court Judge  
Eau Claire County Branch 1; learn more about  
Judge Wright at his website: [www.judgebrianwright.com](http://www.judgebrianwright.com)  
or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/JudgeBrianWright](http://www.facebook.com/JudgeBrianWright)
- 12/04/15** VFW Christmas Party @ Veteran's Home
- 12/05/15** State VVA meeting @ Waupaca
- 12/11/15** Chapter #5/DAV Christmas Party @  
Veteran's Home from 3 to 5 p.m.
- 01/06/16** Chapter Meeting @ 7 p.m.

*NOTE: Shirts and hats are in and will be available at the  
Dec. meeting. For those who have not paid, please bring \$.  
Shirts, depending on whether color guard or not, \$20 or \$40  
with \$2-4 more for XL sizes; braids \$12.50; hats \$21.50*

## COMMITTEES

- Finance: Joe Heil 715-839-7089  
Govt. Affairs: Bob Laguban 651-285-8518  
Membership: Joe Heil 715-839-7089  
Public Affairs: Joe Graff 715-579-0192  
Minority Affairs: Roger Schuh 715-926-6052  
Veterans Affairs-Benefits: Peter Breed 715-827-0359  
Women Veterans: Julie McBee 715-202-0181  
POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0192  
Agent Orange/Incarcerated & Veterans Health Care:  
Peter Breed 715-827-0359  
Fundraising Chair: Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106  
Fundraising Co-Chair: Julie McBee 715-202-0181  
Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, D. Werlein, L. Wrycza  
Welcome Home Picnic: R. Pettis, B. Laguban, E. Laventure, P. Breed, D. Johnson

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President: Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514  
VP: Bob Laguban 651-285-8518  
Treasurer: Joe Heil 715-839-7089  
Secretary: Mike Korger 715-726-3918  
Chaplain: Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Joe Graff 715-579-0192  
Ken Lenstrud 715-556-9440  
Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158

**Founding principle,  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
"Never again will one generation  
of veterans abandon another."**



**God Bless All Veterans**



**"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."**

**To be given slow and deliberate, not a speed test!**



To Chapter #5 Members,

By the time you get this report it will be after Thanksgiving and right in the middle of the deer hunt. Hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving and good luck with the hunt!

Veterans Day is past too. Our Chapter members attending it did well and were received warmly by the Regis High School staff and students. There were a lot of thank yous and happy Veterans Day comments. The different veterans' organization's flags were carried in as well as the American flag with the rifle toting honor guards beside it. Next year hopefully we can get into the public schools in the same fashion.

Speaking of getting vets into the schools, the Eau Claire County United Vets Council has formed a patriotic education committee to have local vets talk to the students in the classroom about patriotism, their military experiences and about the parts of the history of their wars that may have been missed in the textbooks. We will be able to come to the school ahead of time to review their textbooks and take notes so we can fill in the gaps of what may have been missed and to possibly tell "the rest of the story". It will be an excellent opportunity to create a friendly link to the schools and student's education. The committee of veterans has an invitation to one school already and the Eau Claire area school district's Executive Director of Teaching and Learning is meeting with all the other schools to notify them of our committee's availability. We are both excited to get programs scheduled. If anyone is interested in being on that committee, contact myself as I am the Chairman of it. An example of what could be presented and explained to the students is printed in the newsletter this month. The Memoirs of North Vietnam General Giap is a "rest of the story" article. General Giap's biography by Peter McDonald substantiates every word of the memoir. Fact is much of the US media got it wrong in reporting the results and consequences of the Tet Offensive. They abandoned us, the Vietnam soldiers, and the power of media swayed public opinion against our efforts. After this revelation of the memoir of General Gaip, another lesson is learned from the Vietnam War: constantly fact check the media. After you read it maybe we can all take more seriously our role as patriotic Americans and get more involved in the political process by delving more in depth into what all these candidates for office really would do to improve our country and not rely on some of these so called journalists to sway our thinking by taking out of context quotes and spinning them to a completely different intent or to make them look bad. We have to follow our conscience and get the facts from different sources to make a reasonable decision on someone who is going to affect the future of our country. Important Stuff!

On a lighter note, other important fun activities to remember; our Chapter is having a Christmas party for the residents of the Vets Home in Chippewa on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Our Chapter will be providing food, beverages and music for the event. Mark it on your calendar to come and help give the vets a happier Christmas. They appreciate the camaraderie. Try to get there a little early to help set up.

As far as our December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting agenda:

1. Distribute the rest of the color guard shirts and discuss the possibility of ordering jackets.
2. Circuit Court Judge Brian Wright will be speaking first thing—come early.
3. Discuss possible dinner dance party.
4. Updates on next year's Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day/Agent Orange symposium and Welcome Home Picnic.

See you at the meeting Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at VFW Post 7232 at 7 o'clock

Dennis Werlein  
Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5 President

### **VVA Meeting of 11/4/2015**

President Dennis Werlein called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Larry Wrycza led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Dan Ziegler gave the opening prayer.

Richard Ottum was introduced as a new member.

A motion passed to accept the Secretary's Report by Mike Korger as emailed and mailed out.

A motion passed to accept the Treasurer's Report given by Joe Heil. Joe said the window decals for our fundraiser supporters are now in. The final fundraiser report is still not final as there are some extra expenses for advertising and plaques and some extra income. Joe also said that \$1700 will be put in a scholarship restricted account.

Dennis gave the President's Report. He reported on the Patriotic Council Meeting held last month. They were told there are 8,000 veterans in the Eau Claire County and unbelievably 700 are homeless. They approved an addition for the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls and discussed who to contact and where to send this approved request. It was mentioned that the State Representative from our area, Kathy Bernier, said that an addition to King is first and then Chippewa should be next. Dennis gave an update on the Welcome Home Picnic next summer. The Eau Claire Express baseball schedule has been delayed till November 10<sup>th</sup>. Dennis will call for a committee meeting after the schedule is out and he will call for a meeting with the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce. Dennis then talked about the Veterans Home in Chippewa. He said there are 274 on the waiting list of which 92 are pre-approved. There was then a lot of discussion on the Veterans Home. Peter Breed said we should go through our VSO's and area politicians. Pete said 13 VSO's already have formally supported the addition.

Rory Schutte brought up that our VSO, Tim Moore, needs to know how many vets go to Minneapolis and how many go to Tomah. Volunteer drivers need to be lined up and the DAV might have a van

for Eau Claire County to use. Dennis said that Eau Claire County might have to use funds to support the vets van.

President Dennis then brought up that six guys will be needed for the Veteran's Day program at Regis High School at 9:30. Because the program is at a private school Dave Zien said he was concerned that this was the third year in a row that no Veteran's Day program has been in a public school in the Eau Claire School District, even though it was announced that the program will be in a public school next year, Dave said he has his doubts.

There was nothing to report for National Meetings Council.

For State Council Meeting Report, Joe Heil said there is a meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Waupaca. We should ask for an Agent Orange presentation to be given in Eau Claire County. We should probably tie it in with our annual Vietnam Veterans Day.

Peter Breed gave a very brief VA Claims and Benefits report.

Roger Schuh gave a short Minority Report. Roger said that we should probably have a disabled veterans building accessibility committee. It was agreed to table that idea until next meeting.

Membership Report was given by Joe Heil. We have 95 members at the end of last month and five are in the process now. That should put us at our goal of 100. Joe reminded us that we have to send in our DD214 for life membership dues. The special deal for \$100 is in effect until 12/31/15.

Veterans Home Report: This was mostly already covered earlier in the meeting. A reminder about the Chippewa Veterans Home Christmas Party on 12/4 sponsored by the VFW and the Christmas Party on 12/11 co-sponsored by the DAV and our Chapter was given.

Highground Report was given by Joe Graff. There is a bowling tournament on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Marshfield Lanes as a benefit for the Working Dog Tribute. Joe said there is a grand total of 83,086 missing in action, including 1,596 from Vietnam.

Under New Business it was brought up that we should given an appreciation plaque to Litchfield Auto for the van rental deals they have given us. That motion was amended to also include Willie's Military Store on Highway J in Chippewa Falls for their donations to our fundraisers the last two years and also the August Quilt League for making the military quilt for the raffle at our fundraiser. The motion passed.

Pat Moore brought up that some people who purchased chicken dinners at the fundraiser were upset with the small size of the chicken they received. It was discussed to check other sources such as the VFW to get our chicken for next year.

Clothing Report was given by Joe Heil. Joe said that there has been a delay getting our shirts done, but they are coming. Hats and berets are currently available. Contact Joe to arrange to get one. Joe asked who we should contact to get prices for jackets with our emblems put on them. Dan Ziegler said we should get multiple bids. Joe then asked what we should do with the shirts and caps that former VVA President Dave Johnson had brought to the last meeting. These were leftovers from years ago. A motion passed to sell the caps for \$5.00 and give a free cap to a new VVA member and a free t-shirt to a new VVA associate member.

Under Good of the Order, Rory Schutte mention the “Hairica” benefit on 11/14 where the proceeds go to the DAV. Dave Zien said there has been very little action on the Highways of Honor state legislation. Dave gave handouts with the details on it. A motion passed to draft a letter from our Chapter to support this legislation and Dave said he would have the pages at the State Capitol deliver 170 copies of his letter to the editor/guest column commentary for Veterans Day covering a number of issues concerning veterans. Dave also handed out copies of his “Maxin” for Action/Pride in Patriotism (11/3/2015) for the attention of all veterans’ organizations, auxiliaries and patriotic groups listing five veterans’ issues for the state lawmakers to vote on now. Dave also mentioned and passed around a newspaper clipping about WW2 Marine veterans who was finally sworn in as a U.S. citizen at Bruce High School on 10/31/15. Dave said there will be a gun permit concealed carry class on 11/14. Rory also said that there will be a “Debt of Honor” program on PBS on 11/10 at 8 p.m. Joe Graff said to wish all Marines a “Happy Birthday” on November 10<sup>th</sup> for the Marine Corps birthday. President Dennis mentioned at in the book *Giap*, the North Vietnamese general said that the Americans totally won the TET offensive. Dennis suggested that we stage a victory celebration for that be it was tabled until the next meeting. On Veteran’s Day there will be a breakfast for vets at Minnesota Wire from 6:30 – 8:00 a.m. and a program at 10:00 a.m. Dan Ziegler said there will also be a free stew feed here at the VFW on Veterans Day.

Bill Anderson won a gift certificate in the 50/50 drawing and Richard Quick won \$10 in the monthly membership drawing. Richard was present so next month’s drawing will be for \$10.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:34 and Chaplain Dan Ziegler gave the closing prayer.

### **General Vo Nguyen Giap**

**General Giap was a brilliant, highly respected leader of the North Vietnam military. The following quote is from his memoirs currently found in the Vietnam War Memorial in Hanoi.**

**“What we still don’t understand is why you Americans stopped the bombing of Hanoi. You had us on the ropes. If you had pressed us a little harder, just for another day or two, we were ready to surrender! It was the same at the battles of TET. You defeated us! We knew it, and we thought you knew it. But we were elated to notice your media was definitely helping us. They were causing more disruption in American than we could in the battlefields. We were ready to surrender. You had won!”**

**General Giap has published his memoirs and confirmed what most Americans knew. The Vietnam War was not lost in Vietnam – it was lost at home. The exact same slippery slope, sponsored by the US media, is currently well underway. It exposes the enormous power of a biased media to cut out the heart and will of the American public.**

**A truism worthy of note: Do not fear the enemy, for they can take only your life. Fear the media far more, for they will destroy your honor.**

**CHAPTER MOTO: “HONOR THE DEAD AND FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING”**



