

# The Dragons Jaw



## The Official Voice of VVA Chapter 480 Owego New York

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Well Gentlemen, It is almost time for our Catfish Derby again. Please mark it on your calendars for June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and hopefully you will be able to help us out for at least one day of the event. The Catfish Derby is our only fundraiser of the year and our only source of revenue. I will be running it again this year! If you would like to volunteer to help this year please give me a call.

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Election time is coming up soon; we will be nominating officers at our next meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> so please attend. I am really impressed by how many members that have been attending our meetings lately. I guess we must be doing something right. Keep it up gentlemen. We have 88 members now working on 89 as we speak. As my time winds down as president I reflect back on when I attended my first chapter meeting. There were three members present and Vinnie Trawinski and I. The other three members were buzzed up. Most people would have said To Hell with these guys! I said to myself, these poor Mothers need my help. I am very glad that I became a member. It was very hard to get the acceptance of the local vets, because my way of running things is different from most. Sometimes a leader must make hard decisions to make things right, luckily everything worked out alright. In the beginning my biggest supporter was Bob Spawn (May God Rest his Soul)! Then came my best pal Vinnie Trawinski taking over as Treasurer when Harry quit two weeks before my first CFD. I couldn't have done it without either one of those gentlemen especially Vinnie. The Chapter and I owe a great debt of gratitude to former Chapter President Chet Harding for bringing our Chapter back from

losing the Charter (before I came) and for helping me greatly with the Catfish Derby. Thanks Brother!!!

**Somebody sent me this and I tried very hard to find this guy to get his permission to print it, but to no avail. I figured some of you guys might relate!**

### The Perimeter

The Perimeter, in the infantry, is a circle of men. It is half a squad, platoon or company. One half is on guard, staying vigilant, watching for the enemy, while the other half rests, sleeps and carries on with life as it is. They are more than just men; they are a brotherhood in uniform. They share their plans, dreams and hopes with each other. In hard times, they share their sadness, fears and pain. They face the enemy together, some like brothers, others like fathers and sons, and always as true friends. They find a spirit in each other than binds them to one another in a bond that lasts forever. As time passes, they will leave the service and each other. They will travel many different paths of life, some to prosper well and others not so well. Somewhere in life's travels, these men find themselves lost in the world, confused, dazed, scared, unhappy and searching for something; something they are not even sure exists. They are not soldiers anymore, they are called veterans. Somehow, in their search, they once again find others like themselves. They find brothers of the past, brothers of the Perimeter, that circle of safety, where someone else shares their pain, their confusion and their fear. That Perimeter where that fear is eased, where there is less confusion. They share each other's pain in stories, in tears and in silence. Inside the

Perimeter, eye contact can say it all. This Perimeter is a circle of life and a circle of death; it is a circle of wounded warriors, with wounds of both flesh and spirit. This Perimeter is a circle of iron that has never broken. It is a circle of common duty that knows no color, no creed and no religious ground. The circle will last forever, through the best of times and the worst of times. The Perimeter is a place warriors will always seek - even for eternity. Just gaze out at our national cemeteries. For out there, on the outer edge, ever so vigilant, are those on the Perimeter.

By James R. Lawson



Since you guys won't give me pictures of you when you were in the service. I will put up one of mine AGAIN! This picture was taken in mid 1967 taking a break from a patrol, hamming it up for my Mom.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the Owego Little League Parade; I will post more info later.

**VA INFORMATION**

If you have a VA Disability rating of 10% or more you are eligible to receive Hearing Aids and Eye Glasses at the VA Hospital. However, in certain circumstances you may still be eligible without a disability rating. **The Tioga**

**County Veterans Service Agency number is: 607-687-8227.**

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**MILITARY RECORDS**

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following website for veterans to access their DD-214 online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov> This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. Please see the details below.

The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which can be downloaded from the online web site. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

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**If anyone has a picture from your time in the service that you'd like in our newsletter. E-mail it to me or give it to me at a meeting, along with a little info and I will insert it into our newsletter! I will safeguard it and return it to you!**

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While I have your attention, please start looking for and signing up new members! Remember, we are all Vietnam Era Veterans, Some of us served in Nam and some of us didn't! We All Served Honorably! So don't let the Veterans that weren't in Nam get away! They need our Camaraderie and we need their membership. Sign Them Up! I want our Chapter to have 100 members before I die!

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**Chapter Officers**

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|-----------------------------|--------------|
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