

The Dragons Jaw



The Official Voice of VVA Chapter 480 Owego New York

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L to R Suz McManus, Jack Hartzel, Ken Wolf and Susan Hartzel and Vince Trawinski not pictured

On November 21st we shopped for our adopted unit in Iraq. Here are four of the people who participated in that shopping adventure! Chapter member Burt Baldwin also dropped off three boxes of crackers for us to send to the troops. The next day Warren Center, PA Postmaster Tina Tottle and I boxed up and mailed out 113 lbs of sundries and candy. Vince showed up and took this picture!



Members Jack Hartzel, Rick Deubler, Dean Morgan, Vince Trawinski and Assoc. Member Susan Hartzel taking the picture.

This is a picture of us delivering food and other needed items to the Tioga Rural Ministries on November 30th.



Here is a picture of the members and family that showed up at our last meeting to wrap presents for our Oxford Veterans and to share in some of the great food we had!

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.

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DISABLED VET JOBS: Disabled veterans are participating in a new virtual program that not only pays them for training on their home computers, but places them in jobs that allow them to work from home. The veterans are earning in the range of \$15 to \$22 an hour, with benefits, working from home in the information industry. They are trained for jobs such as market researchers, data managers, hot-line responders, Web site order processors, help-desk managers, customer care and service coordinators, administration and billing clerks. Training consists of 15-weeks 600-hour program of web based, on-line classroom and practical training. Students report in to the virtual classroom each morning, and as the instructor presents the material, he or she will stop if any of the students have a question. The training, accredited by Northern Virginia Community College, pays \$11 an hour for a total of \$6,600. At the conclusion of the training program, each veteran trainee will have a thorough understanding of a very complex, VOIP predictive dialing web-based system that is utilized world-wide. About 100 veterans who have completed the training so far have all been placed in jobs with companies such as The Home Depot, FedEx, JetBlue, Dell Computer, and financial services company PNC. The program is provided by the nonprofit Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation. To qualify, a veteran must have a disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and a copy of his or her DD-214. A Purple Heart award is not required. Those involved in the program range from veterans of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the Korean War, age 19 to 74. To complete the training, a high-speed Internet connection is needed. According to Ken Smith, the program director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, they are preparing to train another 350 veterans who

have applied from all over the country. Those interested should call (800) 720-9596 or go online at

www.purpleheartfoundation.org/job_training.asp. to fill out the On-line Application. For additional information contact

ksmith@purpleheartfoundation.org. Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, praised the program in a 27 JUL press conference. He said that when private-sector programs are combined with government

programs and opportunities we can be all that we need to be for our veterans. [Source: Navy Times Karen Jowers article Aug 6 ++]

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Our next meeting will be on January 2nd at 7pm at the Owego VFW Post 1371, Upstairs Hall! Some of you members out there might try attending our meetings! There are many new faces and we average from 7 to 12 members almost every meeting. We now have 84 members and we are growing fast! My personal goal is to have 100 members by the next election. We now have a Chapter Website:

www.vva480.org

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On Saturday December 9th our Treasurer Vince Trawinski had a stroke. At the present he is in Room 622 at the Packer, but not for long. He is very quickly recuperating and from what I heard he was using a walker today!

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Our New Riders of the Purple Sage concert DVD/CD set will be available very soon so start taking orders now! \$20 each. This will help pump up our Treasury!

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COMING EVENTS & FUNCTIONS

We will be going to **Oxford Veterans Home** for our Annual Christmas visitation on December 17th! We will meet in the Owego VFW parking lot at 8:30 am and then carpool to Oxford. Anyone wishing to go with us just show up at this time!

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