

The Dragons Jaw



The Official Voice of VVA Chapter 480 Owego, New York

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Diane Avery accepting our check from Chapter Secretary Ron Traue

On November 22nd member Ron Traue presented the Donald Grier Memorial Fund Scholarship for 2004 of \$1000.00 to Mom's House in Endicott NY. Our scholarship fund was named after deceased founding President Donnie Grier who was a great supporter of our youth. Mom's House is a non-profit, state-licensed day care center for low income single parents who are in school full-time. Mom's House opened its doors in 1988 and has graduated 148 students from High School, College and Technical Schools. Mom's House accepts any single, divorced or legally separated parents, with a child between eight weeks and four years old and who is already in school full-time or who would like to be. High school, college, and high school equivalency students are eligible. There are no restrictions of race, creed, sex or national origin. Mom's accepts no government funds! It is entirely funded by the generosity of the people that believe in their program. I was really impressed with their operation. If you know anyone who would like to apply call 607-785-5220 Monday-Friday 7:30 am to 3:30 pm or fill out and online application at www.momshouseny.org



Dave Honnick, Burt Baldwin, "Doc" Joe Santiago (nurse), Harry Lashiew, Tom Hooko & patient Harvey Batchelor & Tom Clifford back row.

On December 19th 7 members of our Chapter visited the New York State Veterans Home in Oxford NY with Christmas gifts for 22 Vietnam Era Vets. It was a rewarding experience for all involved, plus we got to hear some war stories from the patients. It was the cleanest, brightest, veteran's hospital I've ever visited. The staff was caring, knowledgeable and very helpful. We'd like to thank the Activities Director Mr. Allan Hopson for helping us navigate around the hospital.



Venison/Food Program

Members of Chapter 480 started working on the annual Vietnam Veterans venison program in early September. On December 1st we concluded another fine year of our Venison program in which we helped 6 families. This program has been in existence since the late 80's and offers assistance to needy families in Tioga County during the Holidays. This program requires hundreds of hours of volunteer work and money to make this a reality each year. It provides venison, hams, turkeys, canned goods and fresh fruit to those in need. It is based around referrals and requests from our

community. The goal of this program is to provide each family with the necessities to sustain that family for one week during both the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Individual members of Chapter 480 provide all of the funding, administration, materials, permits, hunting parties, processing, packaging and delivery needs. A thank you goes out to all of the fine people that made this program a reality. Thanks to Chet and Anita Harding and anyone else that helped.

Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service



Harry Lashiew, Richard Hopkins, Lester Dunham & Charles Kennedy

On December 7th three Chapter 480 members attended a service held at VFW Post 1371 to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec 7th 1941. Our Chapter Treasurer Harry Lashiew seen here posing with the three honored Pearl Harbor survivors. This was a very moving and patriotic service to honor the heroes of the beginning of WWII. This service was very well attended.



VA INFORMATION!!

The VA just Ok'd Korean DMZ Veterans for Agent Orange compensation. If you would like more info contact me. I have a list of the units that will be considered. If you served from April 1968 to July 1969 in the DMZ you qualify. If you would like more info contact me.....Jack



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.



I asked at the Sayre VA about **New ID Cards** and if they will be issued! I was told you may have your new ID card made if you wish, but your new card will be mailed to you at a later date. If anyone has current news from the NY VA please let me know so I can inform our members. **The NY & PA VA**

hospitals are giving Flu Shots to Vets 65 years of age and older and all high risk patients.



If you have a computer the VA has a new Website. <http://www.myhealthvet.va.gov> In the near future if you have a doctor outside of the VA he will be able to check your medical records. You must go to the site and register and please read the directions for your password carefully!



Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Jack Hartzel and I recently joined your Chapter. I will be attempting to publish a newsletter for our Chapter every quarter. My wife and I recently moved from Smyrna, DE to Warren Center, PA. I was founding president of Chapter 850 in Smyrna. I also published a newsletter monthly for the VVA Dept. of DE. I really like living here and really like being away from the city. It is an honor to be a member of your Chapter and I am really impressed with all that you do for the community and local veterans. Semper Fi!.....Jack



I can use help writing short articles of interest as long as they are in good taste. Please, No Political Stuff! Any constructive criticism will be greatly appreciated. Remember, I am not a professional and I will make mistakes. Please let me know if your address is incorrect and I will change it. You may contact me by calling my phone number or e-mailing gunsup@cyber-quest.com. We are always soliciting donations to help defray the cost of the newsletter. If you would like to donate to our newsletter fund, please make your donations payable to: VVA Chapter 480, PO Box 491 Owego, NY 13827.

Upcoming Events

On Sat March 12th from 8am to 5pm our **State Council of NY** will be meeting at the **Owego Treadway Inn**. If you have question about the workings of the Council please attend.

Our Next Chapter Meeting is on January 4th at 7pm at VFW Post 1371, 207 Main St. Owego, NY.

Please start thinking about how you can help our Chapter this year with our **Annual Cat Fish Derby**. **PLEASE ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING!!**



Chapter Officers

- President-Tom Hooke 607-624-6642
- Vice President-Joe Kinney
- Treasurer-Harry Lashiew 607-687-1792
- Secretary- Ron Traue 607-699-3464
- Newsletter-Jack Hartzel 570-395-0227
- VFW Post 1371 607-687-1371