

The Dragons Jaw



The Official Voice of VVA Chapter 480 Owego New York

Volume 2 Issue 11

www.vva480.org

January 2007



In October I asked Alan Hopson of Oxford Veterans Home to get us a list of the presents our Vets wanted. At our November meeting I asked for volunteers to go shopping for gifts. Three days later Vince Trawinski, Joe Kinney, Ron Traue, Bob, Patrick and Wayne Spawn and I went shopping at Wal-Mart. At our December 5th meeting we wrapped presents and had a small Christmas party. On December 17th we did our Annual Oxford Christmas Visit and the gang above delivered the presents. We all felt great after we left there! It was an honor to take care of our brother and sister Veterans.



After the Oxford visit a few of us headed on over to see member Vince Trawinski at the Packer who had previously had a stroke. It was the last time we would get to see him before he left for Tennessee and his Rehab! At the present time he is residing with his daughter in Telford TN. He is taking therapy twice a day and said his therapists say he is 150% better then when he arrived. When I get a phone number or email address I will let you all know. We all wish Vinnie the very best and will have him in our prayers! We all love and miss you Brother!

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.

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 ++]

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Aid and Attendance Benefit!

The Veterans' Administration offers a Special Pension with Aid and Attendance (A&A) benefit that is largely unknown. This Special Pension allows for Veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing, undressing or taking care of the needs of nature to receive additional monetary benefits. It also includes individuals who are blind or a patient in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. Assisted care in an assisted living facility also qualifies. Many families overlook this most important benefit for Veterans or surviving spouses who need additional monies to help care for ailing parents or loved ones. This is a "pension benefit" and is not dependent upon service-related injuries for compensation. Most Veterans who are in need of assistance qualify for this pension. Aid and Attendance can help pay for care in the home, nursing home or assisted living facility. A Veteran is eligible for up to \$1,470 per month, while a surviving spouse is eligible for up to \$945 per month. A couple is eligible for up to \$1,743 per month*. For more info go to:

<http://www.va.gov/index.htm>

A friend of mine named Garry Adams who fought in the Vietnam War in the Australian Army wrote the article below!

Life in Vietnam is interesting to say the least and in these teeming cities one sees both the good and the bad...Sadly begging is one of the traits that some use to stay alive, there are those that are genuine while others are not and I have seen some very enterprising efforts to gain some money..

Earlier today we had a couple of beggars wander into our quiet little street, one leading the other, the one being led was playing a bamboo flute which he

could play so very well. He was blind, or so it seemed as his partner would lead him from house to house in the street where they would stand in front of the gate, where he would play a sad tune and they would wait for some small tip.. I noticed the others in the street were not at all interested in them so I decided to play the same game and soon they wended their way out of the street and headed up towards the main road..I had to go to the market so I followed them for a short distance, noticing that the "blind" musician seemed to be negotiating the street rather well without assistance once he was out of sight of our street. Then a policeman pulled up next to them on his motorcycle to ask a few questions and the transformation from a blind beggar to someone who could run like a hare was complete.. he sprinted off in one direction, flute clutched tightly in his hand, dodging between the morning rush hour traffic, motorcycles, cars and trucks with the ease and the grace of a ballet dancer before vanishing up a side street.. The other half of this dynamic duo fled in the other direction with equal speed and agility while the policeman just sat on his motorcycle laughing, knowing to chase them would be pointless.. I guess it will be a while before they wander back our way again which is a pity because he could play so very well. But there you go, just another day in paradise.

Regards, Garry

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Our New Riders of the Purple Sage concert DVD/CD set is still coming!!!!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Our next meeting will be on February 6th at 7pm at the Owego VFW Post 1371, Upstairs Hall! Some of you members out there might try attending our meetings now! There are many new faces and we average from 7 to 12 members every meeting. We now have 85 members and we are growing fast! Now that our Chapter has cleaned up a few troublemakers our meetings are fun! So give us a chance again!

COMING EVENTS & FUNCTIONS

Owego Fire Co and Chapter 480 will be putting on a Monty Carlo Night at our VFW in Owego on March 24th from 6 to 11pm. Admission is \$5 at the door! Must be 21 to attend! If you would like to help us, give one of us a call or e-mail me at president@vva480.org.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Chapter Officers

www.vva480.org

President -Jack Hartzel 570-395-0227

Vice President-Bob Spawn 607-642-5260

Sec/ Treas-Ken Wolf 570-888-2376

VFW Post 1371 607-687-1371