

The Dragons Jaw



The Official Voice of VVA Chapter 480 Owego New York

Volume 2 Issue 7

Editor Jack T. Hartzel

May 2006



On May 6th members of Chapter 480 marched in the Owego Little League Parade and participated in the Opening Day Ceremony. Nine members participated and six members were in uniform. Even though it was a rainy cloudy day I saw a lot of smiles from our members.



VVA Chapter 480 member Burt Baldwin raises the American Flag and the POW/MIA Flag as VFW member Joe Cueter and the Little League Vice President salute the flag during the Opening Day Ceremony.

Below is a picture of members of our Chapter that participated in the Parade and Ceremony along with our T-Ball Team and Coaches.



L to R Rick Deubler, Joe Brown, Jack Hartzel, Burt Baldwin, Bob Shuta, Gary Rogers, Ron Traue, Dave Honnick & Dean Morgan not pictured and our T-Ball Team and their Coaches



Front: Tres. Vince Trawinski, VP Bob Spawn, Chaplain, Gary Rogers Back : Pres. Jack Hartzel & Sec Ron Traue
On December 18, 2005 the gentlemen above and Marine L/Cpl Chrissy Traue (taking the picture) visited 16 of our members residing at Oxford Veterans Home in Oxford, NY. We walked in the

door carrying two Giant Bags of gifts that the patients actually requested. You should have seen the smiles on the patient's faces when L/Cpl Traue came walking in with their presents. L/Cpl Chrissy Traue is a tribute to the Marine Corps and a great source of pride for her father member Ron Traue. I hope she will come along with us again next year.

VA INFORMATION

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a special outreach campaign to inform veterans about VA's disability compensation program. During the month of May, VA will be conducting outreach efforts in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey and Connecticut to reach those veterans who may have a disability related to their military service, but are not currently receiving VA benefits for their disabilities. "Our goal is to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits they have earned through their service to our nation," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This effort reaffirms our commitment to provide full, fair and equitable compensation for veterans." Under the VA compensation program, monthly tax-free payments are made to veterans who have medical conditions that are determined to be the result of their military service. VA was recently directed by Congress to undertake this special outreach in response to concerns that the average amount of VA disability compensation received by veterans in the six states is lower than in other states. VA emphasized that all veterans with the same degree of disability should receive the same amount of VA compensation, regardless of where they live. However, historical differences in the average amount of VA disability compensation received by veterans from one state to another have existed for decades and appear to relate to such factors as the wartime period served, the branch of a veteran's service, the number of officer and enlisted personnel in a state, as well as the number of veterans who apply for benefits and the number of disabilities claimed by veterans in certain areas. To help get the word out, VA is distributing informational brochures and enlisting the support of veterans service organizations, state and county veterans offices, and congressional offices throughout the state. Veterans already receiving VA disability compensation benefits, and for whom VA therefore has a current address, will receive a letter from VA advising them of the steps to follow if they want to reopen their disability claim. About 326,000 veterans in the six states are included in the letter-mailing effort. These letters will be mailed over the next two weeks and will include a special

flyer advising veterans how to submit a claim for increased benefits if they believe their service-connected conditions have worsened or they have an additional disability not previously claimed. Information will also be provided on what is required if a veteran believes an error was made in an earlier decision and wants VA to review the claim. VA has established a special Internet site to provide information for veterans interested in applying for VA disability compensation benefits or for an increased disability rating: <http://www.vba.va.gov/SpecialOutreach> Veterans may also visit their local VA Regional Office or call toll-free 1-800-827-1000 for assistance.



Our next meeting will be on May 16th at 7pm at the Owego VFW Post 1371, Upstairs Hall! Some of you members out there might try attending our meetings! You might be surprised! Never know, you might even like it! Our Chapter has truly changed for the better! We now have 80 members and we are growing fast! We have a Chapter Website now: www.vva480.org

On May 17th at 6pm our Chapter will be meeting at Post 1371 to put flags on the graves of Vets in local cemeteries. The rain day will be on May 19th. On May 29th our Chapter will be marching in the Owego Memorial Day Parade and we will be meeting at Post 1371 at 9am. Any of our members that would like to participate in the future please contact me and we will get you a uniform.

If anyone knows of a legitimate Vet In Need let us know and we will attempt to help!

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