

# The Dragons Jaw



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

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On September 9<sup>th</sup> on behalf of our Chapter I presented a check to Lou Sauerbrey Executive Director of the Tioga County Boys and Girls Club as Chapter Vice President Bob Spawn and Secretary Ron Traue looked on and took pictures. The cash will be used to buy software to help teach kids how to use computers. Lou gave me a tour of the facility and enlightened me on how he runs the place. He runs a tight ship and demands that the kids respect one another. I was very impressed with the program and very encouraged by Lou's commitment to the kids. I encourage anyone with money to donate and to come and let Lou give you a tour. Thanks Lou for all you do. Our kids are in great hands!

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On September 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 Life Member and Marine James N. Hatch passed away. During his time in the service Jim also served in the Army and Navy. Jim retired from the service as a Gunnery Sgt. in the Marine Corps. At his viewing there were Marine Corps League Detachments from Tioga County and Binghamton who did an impressive service. A large group of members and friends from VFW Post 1371 were present and four members from our chapter that took turns guarding his casket. The next day at his funeral he received a great send off. I have never seen so many military people at a

funeral except maybe a dignitary. Ten riflemen from VFW Post 1371 and Candor American Legion Post participating in his honor guard not to mention 5 color guard members plus 5 more VFW members that participated in his burial ritual. Another member and I also participated in the funeral. Jim was loved by all. May he Rest in Peace!  
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During our August meeting we voted on and passed to sponsor an Owego Little League Tee-Ball team this coming year and to purchase two signs in the outfield. One sign will have our Chapter Logo on it and the other sign will have our new Catfish Derby mascot "Sammy" the Catfish on it. This will be great for our community image and also give us some advertising for our Annual Catfish Derby. At our September meeting we voted on and passed a motion to donate \$125 to the Owego Jr. Football League again this year. I've been informed by some of the older members that this is a great organization. If it has to do with kids I'm all for it.



Bob Shuta Sam Thomas and his wife Linda

Our Chapter Clam Bake was a success. We had 27 people attending. I'd like to thank Vince Trawinski for cooking and shopping to get all of the food. I'm glad he bought more food than we thought we would need. Thanks to my wife Susan. I'd like to thank everyone that helped out and the couple of people that brought food and stuff. Thanks to Jeff & MaryJo Rudler for letting us use their clam steamer again this year and for donating a giant bottle of water to steam them. Thanks to Ron Traue for bringing a stereo and his horse shoes. Thanks to Bob Spawn for his help and to Dean Morgan for

cooking most of the clams. There were a few of our older members that attended, Bob Shuta and Sam Thomas and his wife Linda. We also had a former Chapter 480 officer Rick and his wife who belongs to Chapter 896 now. I left before dark but the party kept right on going for quite a while after. I hope everyone had a good time, I did! Next year will be better; we will have more help I hope.



VVA 480 member's Dean Morgan, Jack Hartzel, Carl Perkins, Ron Traue and Gary Phelps  
 On the morning of 9/11/05 a remembrance service was held by the Owego Fire Co. at the Fireman's Fountain in Owego to honor those who lost their lives on 9/11/01. They also laid wreaths and lit candles to honor local Fire Fighters and Policemen who have died in the line of duty. There was also a wreath laid for our Military men and women that have died in the line of duty. Dan Lasky played the Bag Pipes to add additional class to the service.

**VA INFORMATION!!**

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.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> our Chapter did a Roadside Clean-Up on Rte 17-C! LtoR Vince Trawinski, Bob Spawn, Jack Hartzel, Tom Clifford and Ron Traue in the back. Thanks Gentlemen!



On September 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> a POW/MIA Vigil was held on the Village Square. The Owego American Legion coordinated it and many organizations attended. Nine Chapter 480 members were present!  
 Back: Tom Clifford, Jack Hartzel, Franklin Williams, Chet Harding, Dean Morgan, Gary Phelps front: Gary Rogers, Dave Honnick & Bob Spawn



**There are vets out there that have been receiving our Newsletter for about a year now. I was hoping when I started to send it out that maybe you might actually pay your dues and join. However, this has not happened. So this will be your last Newsletter. If you would like to keep getting the newsletter and become a member of our chapter please send a check or money order for \$20 and a copy of your DD-214 along with your name, address and phone number to VVA Chapter 480, PO Box 491, Owego NY 13827. If anyone knows of a legitimate vet in need let us know and we will attempt to help them!**  
 Our next Chapter meeting will be on October 4th at 7pm at the Owego VFW Post 1371, Upstairs Hall!

**Chapter Officers**

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