

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 437 REPORT

MARCH 18, 2023

JAN TO MARCH 2023

In January at our chapter meeting, we talked about what we want to do for the year. We will still be doing the lineup for the Memorial Day Procession as we are in charge until next year when the VFW will be taking over the Oshkosh Patriotic Council. We will be having some Orange Blossom Drives, in charge of the 4th of July parade, the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony and our annual donations at Christmas to name some of the things we will be doing.

Our chapter donated to Terri Jackson for her calligraphy for our Bibles this past year for three of our members that passed away.

Our AVVA members for the winter months provide meals at the Day by Day Homeless Shelter and a few of our VVA members help. This month will be the last one they will be doing until this next October when they will be in their new building.

Also, in January our chapter had our annual Christmas party and with a good turnout and everyone had a great time. Our President, Duane Canon presented a plaque for the member of the year to Marica Glaica on behalf of her late husband, Tom Galica. It was very emotional for Marica to receive this award for him. Betty Canon our AVVA Representative presented a plaque to DeeDee Freund for the member of the year.

In February, our chapter didn't have a meeting because it was so close to our Christmas party. Our President, Duane Canon did attend the Fox Valley Veterans Roundtable event at the EAA Museum in Oshkosh. It was very well attended by many veteran organizations and other businesses in Winnebago County. The Wisconsin Hmong Lao Veterans of America, Inc had 6 members attending. At the start of the event, we did a roundtable, and everyone introduced themselves and what veteran organization and businesses they belonged to. One of the EAA employees had a power point presentation on the Huey helicopter that was on display from the Vietnam War. After the event we went out into the hanger to see the Huey and it looked like it was still in Vietnam.

Our chapter oversees the Patriotic Council for two years that started last Veterans Day. We started to meet to get the Memorial Day Procession and program organized. We will be meeting for the next three months to get it organized.

At our March meeting we talked about donating to the Old Glory Honor Flight from funds from one of our Orange Blossom Drive. Getting a plaque made and present it to Reinke Monument for the work he did for the monument he worked on for the three service members from Oshkosh the died between the Gulf War and the end of The War on Terrorism.

For our 4th of July parade for this year our theme is: "The Pride of America - The American Flag". We have sent out letters to those that have been in our parade in the past.

Last year, one of our members, Bill Bendict passed away and his wife had me come over to get some of Bill's cloths, jackets, hats, picture of "Reflection", and other items. She wanted any of our members to have it to remember Bill.

In May, our President, Duane Canon will be the Master of Ceremony for the Memorial program at Lakeview Memorial Cemetery and Mike Hert, one of our AVVA member will be the chaplain. This program is to remember all from last year that passed away for those that served our country and the civilians. This program has been going for many years and our VVA chapter has always been part of it.

The Disable American Veterans, Chapter 17 of Oshkosh on March 15, 2023 is having a fund raising event and our chapter made a donation of \$500 to be one of the sponsors. Their goal is to raise funds that would specifically go toward local veterans enhancing their mental health due to participation in therapeutic recreation programs. The Master of Ceremony will be Kevin Hermening, U.S. Marines (Ret.), Prisoner of War from the 1979 Iran hostage crises. Their speakers will be Major General Daniel Ammerman (Ret.) U.S. Army Reserve, Commander for multiple combat deployments overseas. LTC (Ret.) Hal Fritz, Medal of Honor from the Vietnam War.

Duane Canon, President

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Oshkosh, WI.