

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 437 CHAPTER REPORT

JUNE 24, 2023

APRIL TO JUNE

We have been very busy these past three months. Starting in April we oversee the Oshkosh Patriotic Council for the Memorial Day Procession and the program. Our chapter has one more year to oversee the Veterans Day Program next November and then the 2024 Memorial Day Procession and program.

At our April meeting, our chapter presented a check to the Oshkosh North High School students for their Veterans Courtyard flagpoles project. The Oshkosh North High School students are in the process of a new project by the Veterans Courtyard by placing flagpoles for the American flag, the Wisconsin flag, each of the six branches of the military and the POW/MIA flag. We paid for the POW/MIA flagpole of \$1,000 and will provide the POW/MIA flag when they need a new one.

A local author, Ron La Point wrote a book called "Oshkosh Veterans of Foreign Wars" where he interviews veterans from Oshkosh that came out in April. He interviewed four members of our chapter and our president; Duane Canon had his picture on the front cover.

Our AVVA members made the last meal for the winter for the Day-by-Day Warming Shelter in April for the homeless and with some of our VVA members helping. They will be starting once again in October in a new building that was just built and has an up-to-date kitchen.

In May we had our first Orange Blossom Drive for the season at a couple of Kwik Trips in Oshkosh and we had another one in June at a different Kwik Trip convenience store. Our chapter will be doing a few more Orange Blossom Drives this year at some different Kwik Trips and at three grocery stores.

The Oshkosh North High School on May 19th once again had a brick laying in their Veterans Courtyard, and we were asked to be the Color Guard again. The bricks are for veterans that attended their school or were teachers or staff members that served in the military.

At our May meeting, we presented a plaque to Bob Reinke from Reinke's Monument for their work on the monument for the South Park War Memorial for the monument for the three service members from Oshkosh who were killed between the Gulf War and the War on Terrorism. Our chapter paid for the monument, so they won't be forgotten.

Lakeview Memorial Park Cemetery has a Memorial service on Thursday, May 25th to remember those that had passed away from this past year for veterans and civilians. Our president, Duane Canon was the Master of Ceremony once again and others from different veteran organizations were in attendance and presented the wreath. The United Veterans Honor Guard did a rifle salute at the end of the program.

On Memorial Day, our chapter lined up the participants for the Memorial Day Procession. We are usually one of the last groups in the Procession as we have been in charge for many years with the lineup. We received many "Thank You" and clapping as we passed by the crowds.

On June 7th, one of our members, George Gunther went on the Old Glory Honor Flight and some of our members were at Appleton airport to greet him at his return. He was surprised to see us.

The Oshkosh North High School students are in the process of a new project by the Veterans Courtyard. The school has collected donations for all the flagpoles except for the U.S. Coast Guard flagpole. At our May meeting, our chapter voted on to pay for the U.S. Coast Guard flagpole. At our next meeting, June 26th, we will be presenting a check for \$1,000 to the students.

Our next project will be the 4th of July parade which we started in 1991 when the 1157th Transportation Company came back from the Gulf War.

Duane Canon, President

Chapter 437, Oshkosh