



# Western New York Chapter 77

Tonawanda, New York

## Mail Call:

April - June 2021

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*By Tom Thompson*

I hope all have had a healthy spring. Most of the guys that come to the Chapter have had their COVID vaccinations and can't this pandemic, antisocial manor of living and Government mandated masking behind us. Prayers for all that are having health issues.

The Chp.77 BOD has decided to cancel the April 24, 2021 Fools Day Dance due to COVID restrictions.

On a better note due to the success of last Septembers Chivetta's Chicken BBQ we have decided to have another BBQ on May 23, 2021 at Tonawanda Veterans Park. There will be a volunteer signup sheet at the Chapter.

The Wall That Heals (VVMF traveling wall) committee has been meeting and has had a great response with fund raising donations. Norm Murray is in the process of setting up a website for volunteers. There are several categories for volunteer service that we need to fill. The chapter members, wanting to help have the first choice for jobs and time slots.

This year's joint Fill the Helmet fund raiser event with the VVA Chp.77 and Legion Post 264 is on June 26, 2021, 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. More volunteers from both organizations are needed.

The Canal Fest 2021 has been officially cancelled.

### **HOSTING THE WALL THAT HEALS**

*By Joe Pasek*

Chapter 77 is proud to have been selected to host The Wall That Heals at Veterans Memorial Park in the City of Tonawanda from July 22nd to July 25th 2021. This is an opportunity to pay respects to our fallen heroes of which over 450 are from WNY, many of whom we personally knew.

Some of us have never had the opportunity to visit the original Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. This may be the last chance to see it's replica.

A committee has been working on the arrangements which consist of a motorcycle escort for the 53 foot trailer that carries "The Wall That Heals", promotion and marketing the event, site layout, outreach with law enforcement and fire departments, opening and closing ceremonies. This will be open to the public 24 hours a day from Thursday July 22nd to Sunday afternoon July 25th at 2 PM.

Chapter members will be able to participate by volunteering on line starting April 20 at this link:

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10c0c4ea8a62da3fac34-thewall>

On March 16 members of TWTH committee met with Scott Bieler owner of West Herr Auto Group and his Executive Assistant Tracey Duffy. They presented to Chapter 77 a donation in the amount of \$ 10,000 to help pay for the expenses related to bringing TWTH to Tonawanda. As a result West Herr Auto Group became the title corporate sponsor for our event. Mr. Bieler has also offered to assist us by other means to ensure this occasion will be one that Chapter 77 will always remember. We will forever be grateful to Mr. Bieler for his support.

# VVA CHAPTER 77 LEADERSHIP

(Terms of office are from April 2018 to April 2020)

## OFFICERS

President	Tom Thompson	693-4479
1st Vice President	Bill Paton	693-4479
2nd Vice President	Tom Konopka	693-4479
Secretary	Joe Rajnisz	693-4479
1st Treasurer	Paul Pietrowski	693-4479
2nd Treasurer	Mike Walker	693-4479
Service Officer	Dee Garcia NYS Council	

## DIRECTORS

Ed Bodine	693-4479
Dan Brady	693-4479
Peter DiVergillio	693-4479
John Heffernan	693-4479
Tim Hughes	693-4479
Dennis Jordan	693-4479
Norm Murry	693-4479
Joe Pasek	693-4479
Bill St Jean	693-4479
Dale Zdrojewski	693-4479

## SPECIAL DUTIES

NY State VVA	Tom Thompson	Bill Paton
Council Delegates	Paul Pietrowski (Alternate)	Tom Konopka (Alternate)
Newsletter Editor	Mike Walker	

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Agent Orange /Veterans Affairs	Joe Pasek	693-4479
	Bill Paton	
Color Guard	Paul Pietrowski	693-4479
Community Affairs	Paul Pietrowski	693-4479
Scholarship	John Heffernan	693-4479
Employment Training & Business Training	Tom Konopka	694-0857
Golf Tournament	Paul Pietrowski	693-4479
	Dale Zdrojewski	693-4479
Government Affairs		
Web Master	Mike Walker	693-4479
Membership	Mike Walker	693-4479
	Paul Pietrowski	693-4479
Museum Curator	Paul Pietrowski	693-4479
POW/MIA Affairs	Paul Pietrowski	693-4479
PTSD		
Public Affairs	Patrick Welch	693-4479
Nominating Committee	Mike Walker	693-4479
Veterans Benefits	Tom Konopka	693-4479
VA Hospital Reps.	Tom Konopka	693-4479
	Ed Bodine	693-4479

## FUND RAISING

April Fools Dance	Pete DiVergillio	693-4479
	Tom Thompson	693-4479



# THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND  
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

## July 22-25, 2021

### VETERANS PARK

777 Niagara Street

Tonawanda, NY



**ATTEND • HONOR • VOLUNTEER • DONATE**

- **Welcome Home Ceremony**  
July 22nd at 12 noon
- **Educational Exhibits**
- **Free Admission & Parking**
- **Open 24 Hours a Day**
- **Closing Ceremony**  
July 25th at 12 noon

The Wall That Heals is a 3/4 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The Wall That Heals travels throughout the United States allowing thousands of Vietnam Veterans and their families to see The Wall and honor their service. The 53-foot trailer that carries The Wall That Heals transforms to become a mobile Education Center. The exterior of the trailer features a timeline of “The War and The Wall” and provides additional information about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Additional exhibits give visitors a better understanding of the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the collection of items left at The Wall.

For more information 716-693-4479

 [The Wall That Heals, VVA Chapter 77](#)

Presenting sponsor



**WEST HERR**  
NEW YORK

**VIETNAM VETERANS  
OF THE TONAWANDAS**



**CHAPTER 77**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP 6PM PIZZA AFTER THE MEETING. MEETING AT SIKORA POST

### MAY 20

BOD MEETING 5PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP 6PM. PIZZA AFTER THE MEETING. MEETING AT SIKORA POST

### MAY 23

CHIVETTA'S CHICKEN BBQ, VETERANS PARK 12-4PM TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE CHAPTER

### MAY 30

TONAWANDA UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL SERVICE ON THE RENISSANCE BRIDGE 12 NOON

### MAY 31

CHAPTER SERVICE AT THE NAVAL PARK, VIETNAM MEMORIAL 1PM

### JUNE 12

STREET DANCE WITH CRASH CADILLAC 6-10PM GATEWAY PARK, NORTH TONAWANDA SIDE, CHAPTER SELLING HOTDOGS

### JUNE 17

BOD MEETING 5PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6PM PIZZA AFTER THE MEETING. MEETING AT SIKORA POST

### JUNE 26

FILL THE HELMET WITH POST 264, MEET AT THE CHAPTER 10AM – 2PM

### JULY 15

BOD MEETING 5PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6PM. PIZZA AFTER THE MEETING. MEETING PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

### JULY 22-25

THE WALL THAT HEALS, VETERANS PARK, THERE WILL BE A SIGN UP ONLINE WHERE MEMBERS CAN PICK A DAY AND TIME TO VOLUNTEER.

## CONTACTS FOR VETS

### E-Benefits Portal Site

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>

### Enrollment/Eligibility

<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility>

### Health Resource Center

1-877-222-8387 (VETS)

### OEF / OIF

<http://www.oefoif.va.gov>

### Women Veterans

<http://www.va.gov/womenvet>

**Benefits Line:** 1-855-829-6636

### Dental Care

[http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/IB10-442\\_dental\\_benefits\\_for\\_veterans\\_2\\_14.pdf](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/IB10-442_dental_benefits_for_veterans_2_14.pdf)

### Copays

<http://www1.va.gov/CBO/brochures.asp>

### Health Resource Center

1-877-222-8387

### Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

### Prosthetics

<http://www.prosthetics.va.gov>

### My HealtheVet

<http://www.myhealth.va.gov>

### Homeless Veterans Hotline

1-877-424-3838

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 77  
Tonawanda, New York  
Presents



*SUNDAY May 23, 2021*

**VETERANS PARK** *From 12 till 4*  
*or sold out*

**777 Niagara St, City of Tonawanda**

Tickets \$11.00 pre-sale or \$12.00 day of BBQ

Tickets available at VVA Chapter 77  
47 Main St. Tonawanda, New York  
Wednesday & Saturday from 9am to 12pm

**All Covid-19 guidelines will be in effect including mask**



### **NEWSLETTER BOOSTER FORM**

Fill out and submit with a check for \$12 payable to the chapter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEWSLETTER BOOSTERS

Booster	Branch of service	Unit	Years
RON ADAMCZYK	USA	6TH BN 33RD ARTY MEDIC	68
JOE ALAJKO	USA	101ST ABN ARTY	70-71
RICHARD BAILEY	USA	2/8 INF (MECHANIZED) 4TH INF DIV	68-69
JOHN BAKOWSKI	USA	25TH INF 2/22ND INF	67-68
FRED BANSMER	USA	121ST AIR MOBIL	67-68
TOM BARDEN	USAF	352ND T.F.S.	70-71
DAVID BARR	USMC	1ST BN 5TH MARINES 1ST MAR DIV	70-71
TOM BARDEN	USAF		53-75
LANCE BECKER	USA	5TH MAINT. BN	70-71
MATT BENNETT	USA	1ST AIR CAV	71-72
JAMES BEYEA	USAF		62-66
RICHARD BAILEY	USA	2/8TH MECHANIZED 4TH INF DIV.	68-69
ED BODIN	USA	HHC II FIELD FORCES	68-69
JIM BOLIBRZUH	USA	C CO. 1/8TH CAV.	69-70
GEORGE F BOLVIN	USA	1ST AIR CAV	68
DAN BRADY	USA	25TH INF.	68-70
JOHN BRENCHLEY	USAF	438 MAW	72-76
GEORGE A. BROOK	USMC	FLC	68-69
JIM BURNS	USA	193RD AIRBORN A CO 1ST BN	68-69
ARTHUR F. CAGNEY	USA	101ST AIRBORN AB HHC	68-69
KEN CARSTENS	USA	4TH / 47TH 9TH INF	68-69
JOE CARTONIA	USA	1ST AIR CAV	65-66
JIM CEDERMAN	USA	321ST ARTY 101ST AB	69
PAUL CHLEBOWSKI	USA	CAPITAL MILITARY COMMAND	69-70
DAVID A. CHESTER	USN	USS ESTES AG 12 USS CHICAGO GL11	59-67
KATHY CORMWELL	USAF	MEDICAL CORP	63-65
ANTHONY CUSMANO	USA	ARTY	66-68
BUCK DAY	USAF	12TH SPS	71-72
BOB DICKERSON	USA	1ST BN. 37TH FA	67-69
RUSS DEVESO	USN	USS DAMATO DD871	67-68
PETER DIVERGLIO	USA	132ND HAC	69
DENNIS DRAGAN	USMC	1ST ENGR. BN. 1ST MAR. DIV.	66-67
DARRELL FIELD	USA	1ST SIG BN 379 BN	70-71
ED L. FRANKIEWICZ JR.	USN	VAH-10/CV38	70
GARY M. FREDENBURG	USA	18TH MP BRIGADE	72-73
BOB GARRISON	USA	121ST SIGNAL	64-68
PHILIP MICHAEL GRAY	USA	552ND MP CO. II FIELD FORCE	69
JAMES E. GOETZ	USAF	136TH T.F.S 107TH	68-69
JOHN GROBE	USA	23RD S & T AMERICAL	70
KEITH GROMER	USMC		
BOB GROSS	USA	4TH 39TH 9TH INF.	68-69
JIM GRUBKA	USA	1ST -52ND 198TH INF RECON	69-70
ROBERT HENDERSON	USN		63-66
JOHN G. HERNANDEZ	USA	1ST BN 14TH INF	68-69
JIM HUGHES	USA	D 1ST / 8TH 1ST CAV	69-70
CHARLES INFANTION	USA	1ST INF DIV	69
DENNIS JORDAN	USA	PHU CAM	69-70
JERRY KASPEREK	USA	CO. A 1/52 198TH	70
PATRICK KAVANGH	USA	1ST BN. 11TH INF.5TH MECH	68-69
STEPHEN E. KELLER	USMC	K COMPANY 4TH BN 12 MARINES	68-69
DAVE W. KING	USN	USS BARBEL SS-580	65-69
JOHN V. KONESKY	USA	119TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER CO	67-68
TOM KONOPKA	USA	ADVISORY TEAM #99	67-68
MIKE KREGE	USA	101ST AB INF	69-71
ADAM KUBIAK	USAF	8TH BOMB SQ. B-57	65-67

Booster	Branch of service	Unit	Years
JERRY LAGENOR	USA	B TROOP 3RD/4TH CAV 25TH INF	
BILL LOCK	USA	6/27 FA	68-69
ALBERT J. MAGGIOLI	USA	1ST / 2ND 1ST INF DIV	65-66
ROGER P. MAZIKOWSKI	USMC	V MO-6	65-69
DAVID MCGEEIN	USAF	107TH	67-69
BOB MCTIGHE	USAF	35TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING	67-68
ROBET METZGER	USAF	6922 SECURITY WING DET 7	67-68
DAVID A. MILLER	USA	MACV SEARCH & RECOVERY	70-71
VICTOR G. MISH	USMC	1ST MARINE DIVISON 1ST FSR	73-75
CHARLIE MIXON	USA	522 MAINT	71-72
NORM MURRAY	USA	635TH MI DETACHMENT AMERICAL DIV	69-70
TOM NELSON	USA	6TH BN. 32ND ARTY.	70-70
PAUL NEUPERT	USN	USS REPOSE AH-16	69-70
NATHAN NORDIN	USA	A CO. 1ST BN. 50TH MECH INFANTRY	66-68
JONH O'CONNOR	USA	82ND AIRBORNE DIV	68-70
TIM OLDENBURG	USA	516TH MP CO.	70-72
TODD OLDENBURG	USA	228 SIG. CO. 362 BN.	70-72
JIM O'MALLEY	USA	362ND SIGNAL CO	62-63
MICHAEL PANZICA	USAF	107TH	67-70
JOE PASEK	USA	101ST ABN MED	68-69
DENNIS PASIAK	USA	I CORPS ROK/US GROUP	71-72
BILL PATON	USA	101st AB	69-71
PIERRE E. PELLETIER	USA	1ST CAV.	66-69
JOHN T. PENDERTHY	USAF	61ST FMS	62-66
PAUL PIETROWSKI	USA	5TH MAINT. BN 1 ST LOG COM	66-67
JOSEPH RAJNISZ	USA	DTO-SAIGON	69-70
JIM RING	USA	362ND SIGNAL CO. 1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE	67-68
ANTHONY RIZZO	USA	84TH ARTY. 8 INCH - 175	66-68
VINCENT J. ROBERTO	USA	44TH MEDICAL BRIGARD	67-68
PAUL RUDNICKI	USA	JUDGE ADVOCATE LONG BINH	69-70
BOB RUETTIMANN	USA	HHT 7/1 AIR CAV	68-69
JOHN SASSIAN	USA	C&D CO. 2ND /60TH 9TH INF.	68-69
JIM SCHALLER	USA	A Co. 1/8 1st AIR CAV	68-69
JOHN SCHROEDER	USA	CO. D 2ND/ 16TH INF. 1ST INF DIV RANGER	68-69
DAVID SHARP	USAF	12TH AMES	67-68
HOWARD SLAVSON	USMC	CHU LAI	65-69
TERRY STRASSBURG	USMC	A CO. 1ST BN 1ST MARINES	67-68
ED STRICKLAND			
FRED SZTUKOWSKI	USN	USS LEONARD F MASON DD852	67-71
WALTERSUTER	USA	545TH TRNS. COMPANY	64-65
EMERY SWAN	USA	1ST AIR CAV 165TH TRANS	71-72
CLYDE TANNER	USA	P CO. (AIRBOURNE RANGER 75TH INF	67-70
MIKE TARGON	USMC	3RD MARINE DIV.	68-70
TOM THOMPSON	USA	CO. B 504 MP BN.	67-68
GEORGE THOMSON	USMC	1ST MAR DIV	69-71
RICK TOPOLSKI	USA	25TH INF	
BILL VINCENT	USA	173RD ABN HHC CO D	70-71
DAN WALDECK	USA	C TROOP 7/1 AIR CAV	68-69
MIKE WALKER	USA	2/1 CAV	69-70
JACK WALTER	USA	1ST AIR CAV	69-70
PATRICK WELCH	USMC	1ST & 3RD MARINE DIVISION	64-67
JOHN ZAGARA	USMC	1ST MARINE BRIGADE 4TH REGIMENT	61-65
ADAM ZLOTEK JR.	USMC	"C" 3RD TANK BN 3RD MAR. DIV	66-67

**NEED TO  
RENEW**

RICHARD BAILEY, TOM BARDEN, DAVID BARR, JIM BOLIBRZUH,  
GARRY FREDEBURG, PHILIP MICHAEL GRAY, ADAM KUBIAK,  
NORM MURRAY, TODD OLDENBURG, JIM RING

Vietnam Veterans of America  
WNY Chapter 77  
47 Main St.  
Tonawanda, NY 14150  
Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #2  
Tonawanda, NY 14150

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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please send this application, with your dues payment and a copy of your DD-214 to: VVA Chapter 77, 47 Main St., Tonawanda, NY 14150

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**Life Member:** \_\_\_ \$50 (Only Membership Available)

Eligibility: Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975. You must submit a copy of your DD-214 with this membership application.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a spouse, family member or friend of a Vietnam veteran and would like membership information about the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America.

I would like information on membership for permanently hospitalized Vietnam veterans.

I would like information on membership for incarcerated Vietnam veterans.

I want to help Vietnam veterans and their families. Please accept my tax-deductible donation: \_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\$20 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_

*(VVA is a non-profit, veteran's service organization. Programs and services are funded by member dues and public donations.)*