



# Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

[www.vvachapter1.com](http://www.vvachapter1.com)  
OCTOBER 2017



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## MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2017

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors took place. Directors present included President Andy Megrath, Treasurer Richard Reed, Secretary Jack Crowther, Bill Whitney and George Henry. No business was conducted.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Richard Reed reported \$45,607 in the chapter's accounts. The sharp drop in the balance reflects: 1) The recent \$10,000 payment to the City of Rutland to establish the trust fund for perpetual care of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and 2) An \$8,000 payment to marble sculptor Don Ramey for purchase of the stone for the new centerpiece of the Vietnam memorial (\$7,100), plus \$900 for Don's initial work on the carving.



Richard Reed asked if the Vermont State Fair (i.e., the Rutland fair) had given us a report on our contribution of \$500 toward a free day for veterans at this year's fair. We have not received a report, though it was noted that the free day for veterans was held and that Chapter 1 was recognized as a sponsor.

**Rutland Mayor David Allaire addresses the Board of Aldermen on Oct. 2, when the city officially established a memorial trust fund for perpetual care of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.**

It was noted that a celebration was to be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington in the multipurpose room at noon to honor John Miner of Bennington. The celebration will honor John for his many contributions to veterans. These include many years of service to VVA as president of the Bennington chapter and the VVA State Council, and Region 1 VVA director. The Veterans Outreach Center in Bennington and the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council were created with John's encouragement. He also helped start the Vermont Veterans Fund, which takes voluntary contributions made on the Vermont state tax return and distributes them in grants to veterans' causes.

In addition, John was responsible for Chapter 1 Treasurer Richard Reed becoming the VVA service officer for the state. Richard went on to become the first service officer working for the state of Vermont.

Andy Megrath reported that the chapter has 141 members, of whom 124 are life members. There are five associate members, all of them life members. Two new members of the chapter include Pete Hults of Poultney and Richard Baker.

Chapter 1 will dedicate the new marble sculpture for the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m. The sculpture by Don Ramey was nearly complete as of the time of the



West Rutland Sculpture Don Ramey was photographed Oct. 11 as he neared completion of the replacement sculpture for the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland.

meeting. Don carved the original sculpture, working from beginnings made by John Reno. The chapter made the decision to recreate the sculpture because the original was showing signs of deterioration. The replacement uses a high-quality block of Danby Imperial marble and should last indefinitely with periodic sealing.

Following the meeting, Andy Megrath secured a commitment from Rutland Mayor David Allaire to speak at the dedication. The ceremony will also include an updating of the Honor Roll of veterans of Rutland County who served in Vietnam. Those who wish to have their names added need to submit their DD 214 by the

end of October. To be eligible, a veteran must have entered the service from Rutland County and have served in the war, as verified by the DD 214. This usually means the award of the Vietnam Service Medal. Paperwork can be sent to VVA Chapter 1, 15 Wales St., Rutland, VT 05701. Questions can be directed to President Andy Megrath at 802-775-1745, or [vtvogman@gmail.com](mailto:vtvogman@gmail.com); or Secretary Jack Crowther at 802-775-1182, or [jack\\_cr2@yahoo.com](mailto:jack_cr2@yahoo.com).

We will also distribute chips from the new sculpture to those who attend the ceremony and want a memento. Still to be decided is the fate of the old sculpture. We are unsure how well it will survive the removal process, and that will be a factor in deciding what happens to it. Options include simply breaking up the old sculpture or preserving a part of it for display in a protected location.

A name was suggested for a chaplain to preside at the ceremony, and Jack Crowther will follow up. Besides Mayor Allaire, there will be remarks from Andy Megrath and others, as appropriate. Post 31 of the American Legion will be holding its traditional Veterans Day program beginning at 11 a.m. at the post on Washington Street, so there should be time to attend both events.

In other business, Richard Reed announced that a special town hall event for veterans and members of the community will take place on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 1 p.m. at the Contois Auditorium in Burlington. The event, inspired by author Sebastian Junger, is a community forum aiming to establish a greater understanding between local veterans and the friends and neighbors they fought for.

“In the tradition of warrior storytelling, veterans are invited to describe the pride, grief, rage, or quiet appreciation of life that the war bestowed upon them,” notes the announcement of the event. “Veterans are invited to share what their service means to them through a story, summary of service, message, letter home, excerpt from a war journal, or even the story behind a photograph. Non-veterans are invited to attend, to listen, and to learn.”

John Tracy, an aide to Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy and a Vietnam veteran himself, will lead the event.

George Henry, who lives in Granville, N.Y., noted that on Friday, Nov. 3, beginning at 7 p.m., the Pember Museum in Granville will have a display of art from veterans in rehabilitation.

Andy Megrath mentioned that progress continues on the new Chapter 1 website, which is being created by LMW Design Inc., operated by Laurie Musick Wright. The site, as it has been developed to date, may be viewed at [www.vietnamvetschapter1.org](http://www.vietnamvetschapter1.org). In the meantime, the old website may be found at [www.vvachapter1.com](http://www.vvachapter1.com).

Jack Crowther won the \$50 drawing among those who attended.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Crowther, secretary,

**THE CHAPTER WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15,  
AT 6 P.M. AT THE CHAPTER OFFICES AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND.  
A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL PRECEDE THE REGULAR MEETING.**