



Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

APRIL 2017



MINUTES OF CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

April 12, 2017

A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors took place. Directors present included President Andy Megrath, Bill Whitney, and Joanne Reynolds. New member Richard Reed was also present.

Richard Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance

There were no secretary's or treasurer's reports, as both officers were absent.

Note: We report with sadness the unexpected death on April 13 of our Chapter 1 Treasurer John McLaughlin. John had served as treasurer of Chapter 1 since 2014. He was 71 and died from natural causes. John had experienced heart problems.



John McLaughlin

An engineering graduate of Cornell University, he served in the Army in Vietnam from August 1967 to August 1968.

He is survived by his sons Mark, Peter and Christopher McLaughlin; brother Hugh McLaughlin of Groton, Mass.; and sister Kathryn McLaughlin Montgomery of Costa Mesa, Calif.

Representatives of Chapter 1 and members of John's veterans support group attended calling hours April 21 at the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home in Middlebury, along with other friends. Hugh McLaughlin shared reminiscences of his brother with John's fellow veterans and others.

Jack Crowther played taps on the harmonica.

It is expected that a memorial service will be held sometime this summer at John's camp on Lake Dunmore.

Memorial contributions may be made to the People for Porter Annual Fund at Porter Medical Center (www.portermedical.org/donate/index.html). Online condolences can be offered at sandersonfuneralservice.com.

The conduct of the annual meeting was turned over by Andy Megrath to Joanne Reynolds for the presentation of the slate of officers and the election of officers, directors and state delegates. There being no slate of officer changes from 2016, Bill Whitney moved to cast a vote for acceptance of the slate of officers, and Richard Reed seconded the motion. Richard Reed made a motion to vote on the slate of officers, and Bill Whitney seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Officers and directors for the coming year include Andy Megrath, president; Dave Mathis, vice president; Jack Crowther, treasurer; and Dick Doyle, Joanne Reynolds, George Henry, Bill Whitney, and Mike Divoll, directors. (Since the meeting and news of John McLaughlin's death, Richard Reed has agreed to serve as treasurer.)

Following the elections of officers and directors, the meeting was turned back over to Andy McGrath, president, with a discussion of the following items.

- All chapter money matters will be changed over to the Heritage Family Credit Union.
- Sgt. Major Lloyd Rahlf of Nevada, a Chapter 1 member, sent a letter, a picture, and a copy of his membership card from 1995. He recently underwent surgery and is doing well. Joanne Reynolds will send a thank-you note.
- The Dodge House received \$2,250.00 from Chapter 1, and \$825.00 from members who accepted a challenge to donate money for replacing the furnishings at the facility for homeless veterans in Rutland. Many furnishings have been replaced, and painting has been done as part of the refurbishment of the Dodge House.
- Andy Megrath shared a Rutland newspaper clipping from March 28, 2000, regarding the Vietnam Memorial. He is going to go to Staples, and get it copied and will give Joanne a copy to be included in the scrapbook. He will also get a copy of the Vietnam Moving Wall memorabilia, and the original postage stamp from Oct. 17, 1997. The Moving Wall visited Rutland in 1991.
- Current membership stands at 139 members, including 120 life members, and 19 others. There are also five associate members.
- Vietnam Memorial: The marble carving of the prone soldier at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be replaced, as discussed at previous meetings. Sculptor Don Ramey of West Rutland has been notified of Chapter 1's acceptance of his quotation, previously reported, for the work. He is expecting to start work in June.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Reynolds, acting secretary

**THE CHAPTER WILL HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 10,
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.**