



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vietnamvetschapter1.org

APRIL 2023



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING APRIL 12, 2023

At Chapter 1's Annual Meeting, held on the Zoom app, attendees included Andy Megrath, president; Tim Lonergan, vice president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Directors Dick Doyle, Bill Ellwood, Michael Murphy, and Cliff Adams. A nominal meeting of the Board of Directors was held; no business was transacted.

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

Treasurer Richard Reed's report was approved unanimously.

Andy Megrath reported on a meeting of the Governor's Veterans Advisory Committee. The committee discussed a bill, H. 168, dealing with a veterans database, a waiver of certain motor vehicles registration fees and taxation of military retirement income. The chances for the legislation aren't good, Andy said. Details on the bill and its current status can be found here

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/H.168>

Andy urged vets to register with the VA health insurance program, even if you do not currently need it, before an Oct. 1 deadline. Being registered will help in applying for a military service disability in the future, as well as securing the insurance coverage itself. There are no income limits to sign up, Andy said. The form for enrollment and instructions on where to send it can be found online by searching for VA Form 10-10ez.com/.

The 11th Annual Veterans Summit will be held on June 14 at Northern Vermont University's Lyndon Campus from 2 to 9:230 p.m. Details can be found by searching online for "veterans summit northern university." Veterans, military families, and anyone who cares about veterans' issues are invited to attend. The Summit will feature speakers, breakout sessions, and more than 60 veteran service organization exhibitors.

Chapter 1 members are invited to be present at Tomasi's pizza restaurant in Fair Haven Wednesday, April 19, at 1 p.m. for a thank-you gathering with the owners, Danielle and Shaun Tomasi. Tomasi's sale of break-open tickets has been the major source of revenue for Chapter 1 for many years. This visit is planned as a small gesture of appreciation. We will present a modest gift. We hope a bunch of you can make it. An RSVP to me, jack_cr2@yahoo.com, isn't required but would be appreciated. Tomasi's is located at 2 Liberty St., just off the center of town.

Jack Crowther, chair and sole member of the nominating committee, placed the following names in nomination to serve as officers and directors of Chapter 1 for the coming year: Bill Ellwood, president; Tim Lonergan, vice



Tom Reardon headed the Chapter 1 Color Guard for a number of years.

Word has been received of the recent passing of Tom Reardon, lately of Middlebury, Indiana. Tom was an active Chapter 1 member, led the Color Guard for a number of years, and chaired the 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Annual Recognition Day in 1997. Further details were not available.

president; Richard Reed, treasurer; Jack Crowther, secretary; and Andy Megrath, Dick Doyle, Mike Murphy, Carl Baldwin, and Cliff Adams, directors. No other nominations were placed before the meeting, and the slate was unanimously elected. Members thanked retiring president Andy Megrath for his 19 years of dedicated service.

Jack Crowther reported that Save the Children, the charity the chapter has been supporting with monthly \$200 donations directed to Ukraine, can no longer segregate donations to go exclusively to that country's children. It was agreed to make a final \$200 donation in April, fulfilling a decision made in October to continue the donations for six months. In total, Chapter 1 will have donated \$4,400 to Save the Children.

The chapter will explore other avenues to use its resources for good. World Central Kitchen, rated four stars (the highest rating) by the Charity Navigator service, which evaluates charities, was one suggestion. World Central Kitchen is doing extensive work in war-torn Ukraine to feed people.

Cliff Adams gave a brief description of a program he initiated using Homer's *Odyssey* as a discussion theme for small groups of veterans. The ancient Greek epic poem, a staple of college humanities classes, details the return of the main character, Odysseus, or Ulysses (in Latin), from the Trojan War. The parallels to soldiers' return from more modern wars make the study of the *Odyssey* appropriate. Cliff has been involved with three sessions of the discussion group, with prospects good for a much wider program. He said he would like to see a link with Chapter 1 as part of the enterprise, but was specifically not asking for financial support.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THE NEXT CHAPTER 1 MEETING WILL BE BY ZOOM WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, AT 5 P.M.

Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88557887505?pwd=T2RGbWxXcWd4ZldDTWQvZWE3ZTBzZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 5788 7505

Passcode: 997983