

May 2006



# NORTHLAND VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 16975  
Duluth Mn. 55816  
WWW.NVVA.US



"Dignity Thru Unity"

Meetings 4th. Monday of month at the Depot 6:30 PM 4th. floor

**Board of Directors**

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## DULUTH COMBINED HONOR GUARD CEREMONIAL AND CEMETERY TIME SHEET FOR MEMORIAL DAY MAY 29, 2006

	SQUAD LOCATION	TIME
1	PARK HILL	8:30 AM
1	FOREST HILL	9:00 AM
1	CALVARY	9:45 AM
1	POLISH	10:00 AM
1	SUNRISE	10:45 AM
1	MAPLE GROVE (JEWISH)	11:15 AM

To add an article to this newsletter contact

Mike Hanson 624 4474  
[Noisyguy@chartermi.net](mailto:Noisyguy@chartermi.net)

**NWA Memberships**  
177 Members  
133 Associates

**Don't Forget Party**  
**Barkers Island**

March 10, 2007

To be announced

Happy Hour 6:00 P.M.  
Dinner @ 7:00 P.M.  
Prizes and Fun for all

2	CANAL PARK	8:00 AM
2	GREENWOOD (Chris Jensen)	8:45 AM
2	UNION	9:30 AM
2	BETHANY	9:45 AM
2	ONEOTA	11:00 AM
2	WADE STADIUM	AFTER PARADE

NORTHLAND VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL on the LAKE WALK.  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM

## **Banquet, 2006**

**Sorry if you missed our annual banquet March 11<sup>th</sup>.** The meal was excellent and we had a terrific band – Rock A Billy Revue. Our attendance was wonderful and the number of no shows was down considerably (only 2 couples). We believe that was in part from the last newsletter that we mentioned you would not be invited to the next banquet if you did not respond BEFORE the banquet that you could not attend. *We really appreciate every effort in contacting us in a timely manner.*

We want to take this opportunity to thank the people and businesses that have donated items for our event and hope that you will remember to support them also:

Ray's Bar & Grill Marine General H & H Lumber  
Mr. D's Duluth Lawn & Sport Better Brands  
On The Limit Miller Hill Car Wash Wal-Mart  
Sip of Class Italian Village Superior Beverages  
BlackWoods Grainger Michaud Distributing  
Rolfing Distributors Griggs Cooper Buffalo House  
Wok N Inn Grill

and also to the members who were kind enough to donate:  
Bob Langsdorf, Kevin & Phyllis Pederson AND of course the NVVA.

### **RUN DOWN OF PEOPLE AND \$\$\$\$ (2006)**

126 total number of who sent their cards

2 just showed up

128

-7 didn't call or show

121

-2 called and cancelled the week of the banquet

119

***We look forward to seeing you next year at Barkers – March 10, 2007!***

>> OK, which would you prefer. . . a hand salute or hand over the heart?

I gathered some 16 of my old military friends who agreed to sponsor a movement for Veterans to salute rather than place their hands over their heart when honoring the flag, fallen comrades, and/or the country. I have some from each of the four principal services. Three of them were former Vice Chiefs or Assistant Commandants of their services, and several were former CINC's.

We refer to saluting when we do the pledge to the flag, when the National Colors pass or are presented, when the National Anthem or honors are played, or when taps are played and firing squads or guns render honors. We got MOAA magazine to ask veterans what they preferred, hand over the heart or saluting. When last I looked, some 583 veteran respondents had voted 81% in favor of the salute. In addition, my email address was in the questionnaire and I've had about 150 responses, with all but a dozen or so in favor of the salute. Obviously an overwhelming majority of the veterans want to salute.

There are no regulations telling us veterans what we can and can't do in this matter. If we decide we want to salute, who will dare to tell us "no"?

It is a matter of personal choice. We've earned the right to render a salute. Now the challenge is to get the word out. I believe the unit and branch associations are the best way. The commanders of the American Legion and VFW never answered my emails, presuming they even got them. If we can get this started it will take on a life of its own. Those who object can continue the hand over the heart thing. Gradually the custom will change, as well it should.

Just imagine thousands of fans saluting at NFL, NBA, and Major League Baseball games when the National Anthem is played. It will telegraph a message to all others of how many have served this country in the Armed Forces---it will be a positive and patriotic message.

You can help by putting the word out in your organizations, which are made up of patriots like you and me.



April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006

To our supporters,

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) has been assisting veterans dealing with homelessness for over 14 years, helping over 3,000 veterans and their families by providing supportive services in the areas of employment, housing, and legal counseling. The objective is to return these past soldiers to society as productive, independent citizens. On average every month MACV provides supportive services and/or transitional housing for over 100 veterans and their families. We make referrals to connect another 400 veterans to services already provided by one of our community partners.

Our mission is to provide assistance throughout Minnesota to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing other life crises. MACV is a statewide organization with regional offices in Duluth, Mankato, and the Twin Cities. Our metro area facilities include a 13 bed residential facility for single male veterans. We also have 9 transitional residences used as transitional housing for another 26 male veterans. These facilities allow Twin Cities clients to make maximum use of services available from the VA. The homes provide a structured semi-independent environment in which clients are supported in a sober living environment and assisted with employment. In addition, this summer, we are opening 11 new units of permanent housing for disabled veterans in Mankato.

MACV-Duluth just celebrated its eighth anniversary on April 1<sup>st</sup>. After the first Stand Down event twelve years ago there was a small group of dedicated individuals that came together to develop a program that would address the needs of the veteran community at that time. In May of 1997, the proposed idea of what was then known as the Veterans Outreach North Development Committee was presented to the Board of Directors of Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV). The MACV Board gave us one year to organize, build start up funding, and seek local support. There were many in the community that said that we would never get this or any program off the ground. That is why we opened on April Fools Day 1998. They said it would never be done and we fooled them.

We opened with funding from the Northland Vietnam Veterans Association (NVVA), Northland Foundation, and Ordean Foundation. Since then, multiple veterans' service organizations have provided additional support. These groups include: NVVA (our greatest veterans service organization support) and various VFW's, American Legions, DAV, and VVA chapters as well as many Post Auxiliaries. With government grants from HUD, CDBG, ESG, MN Department of Veterans Affairs and private foundations, along with individual donations and the support of many local businesses, MACV- Duluth has been able to assist over 945 veterans and their families since our offices opened eight years ago.

Since we began, we have developed our local Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) program, our van service to the VA Medical Center at St. Cloud, the pilot program of a Homeless Veterans Court that has led to VETLAW (Veterans Employed Through Legal Advocacy Work), a MACV statewide program. We continue to support the Stand Down North event, have developed a program for families that serves the six counties that surround St. Louis County, and we now outreach to veterans as far away as Brainerd, Bemidji, and Pine county. Our clients have volunteered thousands of man hours for the community. During National Hunger and Homeless week each November, MACV-Duluth is well known for the display of 3,500 red, white, and blue flags that makes up an American Flag that illustrates how many homeless veterans there are in Minnesota each year. We have and continue to represent the needs of veterans as a resource for both public and private organizations.

Where is MACV going from here? We are reaching out to all veterans in crisis, which includes the current returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. MACV is in the process of acquiring Memorial Park Apartments in Spirit Valley, which is planned to be our future home for MACV-Duluth offices, HCHV program, and transitional and permanent housing for veterans.

MACV is committed to serving veterans statewide and MACV-Duluth will continue to be our outreach point for northern Minnesota, assisting those men and women, and their families who have served our country honorably and are now in need of our support. No veteran or family member should be turned away when in need. We want to thank all of you that have made this possible.

Kindest Regards,

Durbin M. Keeney  
Regional Director

Kathleen Vitalis  
Executive Director

## *Memorial Day 2006*

By

Durbin M. Keeney

Memorial Day in the veteran's calendar is one of the two most important dates among the dates related to veterans, military, and our country. However, I am always disappointed with the response by most veterans and the country as a whole. Ever since it became a "Nixon Holiday" it has lost much of its meaning. Some of us are very busy on the Monday with ceremonies all over the city Northland Vietnam Veterans Association (NVVA) is part of the ceremonies at Bethany (9:30 am) and Sunrise Cemeteries (10:30) followed then the wonderful Northland Memorial Day parade (12:30) in West Duluth. We will officially end our day at Wade Stadium for the citywide ceremony and a great concert with a Chicago cover band free and open to the public. It will be a great day full of meaning for those of us that will be on hand and we hope to see you there.

NVVA has chosen to honor our Memorial Day on May 30<sup>th</sup>. I always appreciate a very early decision that we made that NVVA will always celebrate this very important event on the real Memorial Day. We do this for many reasons. This is the anniversary of the 1992 Dedication of the Vietnam Memorial. I also believe that deep inside of us is a desire that we wanted to keep the day pure to the real meaning of Memorial Day as declared by General Logan in 1868 in his eleventh general order to honor the fallen soldiers.

The program will have much the same trappings as it has in the past. Its true meaning is found in the personal relationship that we have with the words of President Lincoln who said that we are to remember those who, "borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." Understanding those word this day becomes special and we must take time to focus on the why we are, who we are, and who is not amongst our ranks on that day. We all have our personal memories of fallen comrades who have answered the Great Commander's call over the years. Our numbers of those from the past are shrinking, and yet, we are a Country at war and we need to remember those we have lost in battle this past year.

I would leave you with this thought. While preparing for different events for this year that I will be speaking at I found a song. This song it was written by a young southern woman and published in New Orleans. It has been said that this was the inspiration for General Logan to issue the now famous "General Order 11" that declared Decoration Day that has now become Memorial Day. If you do nothing else on Memorial Day please read these words and maybe share them with another and reflect of the true meaning of the day.

The year was 1867. The country was still trying to sew the pieces of our national fabric back together from the Civil War when a piece of music came out. It was written by Nella Sweet, and its dedication simply reads..."To The Ladies of the South who are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead". She wrote it after watching Southern widows placing flowers on the graves of those who had died in that horrible conflict. Hear the words:

Kneel where our loves are sleeping, Dear ones days gone by,  
Here we bow in holy reverence, Our bosoms heave the heartfelt sigh.  
They fell like brave men, true as steel, And pour'd their blood like rain,  
We feel we owe them all we have, And can but weep and kneel again.

### CHORUS

Kneel where our loves are sleeping, They lost but still were good and true,  
Our fathers, brothers fell still fighting, We weep, 'tis all that we can do.

### VERSE 2:

Here we find our noble dead, Their spirits soar'd to him above,  
Rest they now about his throne, For God is mercy, God is love.  
Then let us pray that we may live, As pure and good as they have been,  
That dying we may ask of him, To open the gate and let us in.

### CHORUS

Kneel where our loves are sleeping, They lost but still were good and true,  
Our fathers, brothers fell still fighting, We weep, 'tis all that we can do."

## **A Personal Invitation to you, your family, friends, and the Community from NVVA**

Hope to see you at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Lakewalk, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1800 hours. During the program the Northland Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation (NFFMF) will announce the recipients of the scholarships. Following the ceremonies at the Memorial they will read their award winning essays at the reception that NVVA will host at Grandma's in Cannel Park.

### **The Gray Ghost**

I have heard that Dave Talbot finally received his lung transplant on Saturday April 8th at about 1:00 p.m. They have him sedated for a few days. The address where he is now is Fairview Medical Center, SICU-4D, 500 Harvard Street S.E., Mpls, MN 55455.

Anna (his son's girlfriend) said to Lori Fedo and it sounds like he will be in intensive care until at least Tuesday and then they will send him to another room for an additional week or so. He will then have to get an apartment near the hospital for anywhere from 1 to 3 months. I am sure cards would be greatly appreciated but they will not let him have any flowers or plants because of the pollen. Lets cross our fingers and say a prayer for him that all goes well.