



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

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OCTOBER 2008



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING Oct. 8, 2008

Three members attended.

President Andy Megrath reported the chapter has 138 regular members and three associate members, including 83 life members. John Walker of Keene, N.H., is our newest life member.

Dick Doyle noted that the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act contained a section related to "Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag." The new language in the law allows out-of-uniform members of the armed forces and veterans to salute, rather than place their hand over their heart (and remove their hat) during flag ceremonies. The language is as follows:

"During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

Carl Baldwin of Santa Fe, N.M., formerly of Danby, wrote the chapter thanking it for recognizing the contribution of Rutland County's Vietnam veterans. Carl, who served in the 366th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Da Nang Air Base in 1967 and 1968, included a generous donation to the chapter.

Andy Megrath reported that he had applied to the local GE plant, from which he recently retired, for help with replacement of the garage roof at the Dodge House in Rutland, Vermont's only facility for homeless veterans. GE made a corporate donation of money and will supply volunteers to put on the roof, which is scheduled for Oct. 11. Larry Young, who is Chapter 1 vice president, a member of the Dodge House board and a builder, will supervise the work.

Dick Doyle moved to donate \$50 to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation, which in 1993 erected the memorial in Washington dedicated to women veterans of the war. Seconded by Jack Crowther. Passed without dissent.

Andy Megrath presented a copy of the Vermont directory listing veterans of the Vietnam War. This should be a help in continuing to verify and add names to the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans

Memorial, although the chapter will continue to require submission of a DD 214 service record to insure the qualifications are met.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

**THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12, AT 6 P.M.
AT THE CHAPTER OFFICES AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND, VT.
WE WILL SKIP THE DECEMBER MEETING**