



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

NOVEMBER 2008



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Nov. 12, 2008

Six members attended.

The secretary's report was approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer Dave Mathis reported a total of \$16,240.31 in the chapter's accounts. The report was approved unanimously.

Dick Doyle moved that the chapter contribute \$200 to the local Fleet Reserve Association Green Mountain Branch 235 Wounded Heroes Project. Seconded by Dave Mathis. Approved unanimously. The project benefits servicemen and women at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. These service people are often separated from their gear in the process of being evacuated for treatment, and the Fleet Reserve project attempts to fill the need for clothing and personal items, the latter including such things as phone cards. This is the fourth such shipment assembled, with 250 pounds sent so far. Contributions may be sent to the Fleet Reserve Association, 30 Madison St., Rutland, VT 05701. Donations should note they are for the "Wounded Heroes Project."

Membership chairman Dick Doyle reported that Chapter 1 has 139 regular members. We have a new life member, John Walker of Keene, N.H. We also have three associate members.

Sam Bunge, a charter member of Chapter 1 who now lives in Petersburg, Alaska, visited Vietnam last April with a team of vets to work on a school construction project. Sam reports by e-mail: "I found the visit to be a fascinating and healing experience." His photo-narrative blog of the project, containing many photos and extensive notes, may be found in two parts at the following sites: <http://rakkasan68.blog.com> and <http://rakkasan682.blog.com>.

With sadness, we report the death of Lt. Cmdr. David Woodcraft of Essex, England, on Oct. 25. Lt. Cmdr. Woodcraft was retired from the Royal Australian Navy. He and his wife, Elaine, visited Chapter 1 in October 1999 and shared a meal with us at the VFW. A citizen of the UK, he had joined the Royal Naval Reserve in 1961 and transferred to the Royal Australian Navy in 1964. His service on the aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney included two trips to Vietnam in 1965. After joining the Royal Australian Navy Reserve in 1975, he worked for Lloyd's Register of Shipping and worked in several locations. He was active in an Australian charity that looks after the widows and dependents of Australian servicemen living in the UK, France and Belgium.

Jack Crowther passed on an invitation from Valerie Cleary of the Rutland Garden Club to wives of members to

assist with the Garden Club's projects, in particular the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The club generously maintains a host of garden projects around the city, including the memorial. Anyone interested can contact Jack at 775-1182 or jack_2@yahoo.com, and he'll put you in touch with Valerie.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

**THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14, 2009 AT 6 P.M.
AT THE CHAPTER OFFICES AT THE VFW, 15 WALES ST., RUTLAND, VT.
WE WILL SKIP THE DECEMBER MEETING**