

# VVA 311 FRIENDLY FIRE

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 311

Jan/Feb  
2016 EDITION

Chapter 311, Vietnam Veterans of America was formed in late 1986. Our purpose in forming this organization was to provide the camaraderie that we felt in the Chicago parade to local Vietnam veterans and to become part of a national organization whose goals meet our special needs. Chapter 311 continues to meet the needs and wants of our veterans and have continued to keep the family spirit we all experience with our "brothers and sisters" in Vietnam. Today we work together to provide help for veterans, our communities and our families. We provide services to the community, and help for all veterans and many family social events.

## President's Message

I hope your holiday festivities were as joyful and precious as mine. I want to wish all of you a Happy and a prosperous New Year.

Those of you who didn't make the holiday party really missed out. Food of all kinds and everybody brought a dish or dessert to share. Fred Wilhelm had his name chosen for the chapter jacket.

I'm still working on the speaker from North Chicago VA to talk to us about Hepatitis C.....can't make it this month but I'm trying to shoot for February. If anybody wants to hear or do something that the chapter would like to do please mention it at the next meeting. That's it for now

*Bill Christiansen*

## Willow Springs

We, finally made it to a Willow Springs City Council Meeting to present Certificates to the Mayor and Recording Secretary. It is because of them, that we received a check for \$1000.00 last August and \$500.00 in 2014, at their annual car show. It is the biggest that I have seen. I would hope, that at next years show, more of our membership would attend. If you do go, and are in color guard, please wear your uniforms. They will recognize you



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Adena Baskovich receiving her certificate of appreciation from Chapter President, Bill Christainson

Willow Springs Mayor Alan Kowaczyk receiving his Certificate of Appreciation from Chapter President, Bill Christainson



## Friendly Fire

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# Winnebago County, Illinois unveils Agent Orange Victims Memorial

The Winnebago LZ Peace Memorial in Rockford, Illinois honors citizens of the county that died in Vietnam and those that have died as a result of Agent Orange since the war. It is the first Memorial in Illinois honoring casualties from Agent Orange illnesses.

The Memorial took over 20 years to complete. The Vietnam Memorial has the names of 76 Winnebago County service members that gave the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. Their names are etched in black granite with their branch of service and the city or town they were from. There is a separate display with each of their photographs. The Memorial also has a Huey on display.

On Sunday, October 4th 2015 the Agent Orange Memorial was dedicated. There are 18 names of Winnebago veterans who died years after their service of illness from their exposure to Agent Orange. Unfortunately names will be added as time goes on. A plaque will soon be added.

Any resident of Winnebago County that dies from an Agent Orange illness is eligible to have their name engraved on the Memorial. Donations for the Memorial can be sent to V.V.H.S., P.O. Box 4304, Rockford, IL 61110.





## Ridgewood High School Memorial

There were 3 alumni of Ridgewood High School that were killed in Vietnam: CPL Donald Warren Bollman, USMC, PFC Neil Joseph Cacciottolo, USMC and SP4 James Chris Shukas, US Army. On Monday, November 16th 2015 they were honored with a Memorial at the school. Chapter 311 supplied an Honor Guard consisting of Alan Van Bladel, Tom Newton and Gary Siroslawski. Art Ellingson, John Maloney, Tony Siciliano and Jack McCabe were also in attendance.

The memorial project began in 2012, with the sale of brick pavers. Contributions from private individuals the American Legion Post #974 and Vietnam Veterans Chapter 311 helped in the fund raising effort.

Secretary of State, Jesse White spoke to those in attendance. Refreshments were served after the dedication ceremony.

**OUR REBELS WHO MADE THE  
ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR THEIR  
COUNTRY**



CPL Donald Warren  
Bollman  
USMC '64



SP4 James Chris  
Shukas  
US Army '66



PFC Neil Joseph  
Cacciottolo  
USMC '65



Cacciottolo  
in Industrial Arts at  
Ridgewood



SERRITELLA, JOSEPH  
SHRY, LINDA  
Riding Club 1; GAA 1; Secretary Soph.  
CLASS: Student Council Representative 4  
FUTURE PLANS: College  
SHUKAS, JAMES  
FUTURE PLANS: College

Shukas's Senior  
Yearbook Picture and  
Quote



Bollman's graduating  
class at Ridgewood



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## **“Thank you for your service to our Nation”, 4th Annual Veterans Celebration and Breakfast**

A ceremony saluting area veterans was held on November 7th 2015 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Arlington Hts. It was a great event with many local veterans in attendance including members of Chapter 311. Approximately 200 veterans attended the event.

*The program consisted of:*

- Free breakfast will be provided to all veterans and caregivers;
- Special talk by Major General (retired) James Mukoyama, US Army about Moral Injury
- Special celebration and cake cutting by the Northwest Suburban Marine Corps League in honor of the 240th birthday of the USMC;
- Military Flag Ceremony by the Color Guard of American Legion Post 208;
- Annual “Remembering Our Veterans” photo (after the event at 11:00 am in front of the giant US flag).

Our own Greg Padovani, Chairman, Veterans Memorial Committee of Arlington Heights, IL was in a large part responsible for this event.





## Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #311



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We meet on the 3rd Wednesday  
of every month at 7:30 PM.

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can guarantee delivery of your news-  
letter via e mail.