



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

www.vvachapter1.com

APRIL 2007



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

April 11, 2007

Six members were present.

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

Dave Mathis presented the treasurer's report, showing a total of \$15,038.58 in the chapter's two accounts. The report was unanimously approved.

President Andy Megrath read two letters asking whether the chapter might assist a Vietnam vet who was fined \$1,000 for ripping a peace symbol off an American flag that an Iraq war protestor was holding. This happened in Rutland some months ago. Four members spoke, all feeling that the veteran had acted improperly and that under the circumstances financial assistance was not appropriate. "I'd like to help the guy, but I just think we're helping him for the wrong reason," was a typical comment.

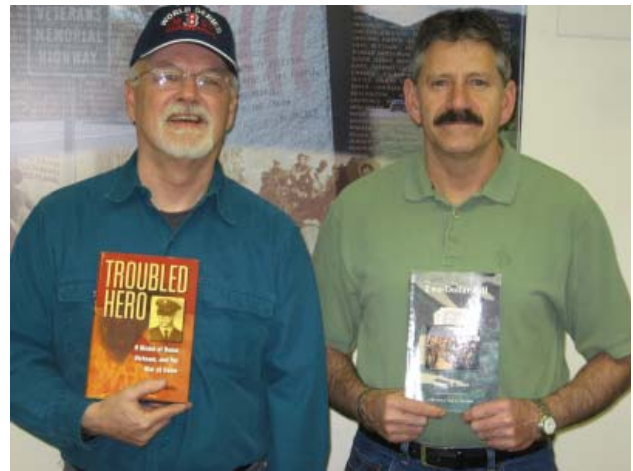
Andy will speak to Joe Donaldson, who has taken an interest in the veteran, who happens to be 100 percent disabled.

Also turned down was a request from a chapter member for 25 American flags to give to military retirees in Italy. Andy will send a note to the member who made the request.

Dick Doyle made a motion to accept the slate of officers and board members as nominated last month. Seconded by Bill Whitney. No other names were put forward.

Motion passed unanimously.

New officers are: Andy Megrath, president; Larry Young, vice president; Dave Mathis, treasurer; and Jack Crowther, secretary.



Chapter 1 board member Dick Doyle (left) of Bellows Falls and chapter treasurer Dave Mathis of Rutland with books about the Vietnam War in which they appear. Doyle holds Troubled Hero, by Randy Mills, about Ken Kays, a medic in Dick's unit who won the Medal of Honor only to commit suicide later in life. Mathis holds Two Dollar Bill, an account by his platoon leader, Lt. Roger Soiset, of a year in Vietnam. Although Soiset changes the names of the soldiers in the account, Mathis appears in the picture on the front cover and is identifiable in the text as "Matson."

Board members elected are Dick Doyle, Bill Whitney, Bub Crosby, Fred Hellmuth and Mike Divoll.

Commenting on the March newsletter's note that both he and Larry Young are on the Dodge House board of directors, Andy Megrath stated that Shaun Branon is also on the Dodge House board. The Dodge House on Crescent Street is a place for homeless veterans in Rutland.

An item at next month's meeting will be whether to meet every other month, instead of monthly. There is a question as to whether that is within the bylaws.

Scott Wheeler of Derby — that's up on the Canadian border near Newport — wrote us to say he and his family are hosting an event May 26 between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Derby as a way to remember the veterans who served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. To quote Scott's letter: "Veterans and the community are encouraged to attend. This event will serve as a time to honor the veterans, and for the veterans to educate us about the wars that helped shape who they are today. In some cases, it will also serve as a time to heal and to bring closure to a painful chapter of their lives.

"Although plans are to invite a number of dignitaries to the event, this is not a political event or a time to debate. It is a time for community spirit, and a time to recognize those who served in these two conflicts. Plans are to also provide each veteran, if they wish, space to bring mementos from the countries in which they served, to exhibit to fellow veterans and visitors.

"Veterans of these two conflicts who plan to attend the event are encouraged to call Scott or Penny at (802) 334-5920 or e-mail to northlandjournal@gmail.com. You can also call Dennis Beauchesne, the commander of VFW Post 798 in Newport, who is also helping out with the event, at (802) 766-2847. In addition, we plan to keep people abreast of the evolving event on our website, www.northlandjournal.com.

Submitted by Jack Crowther, Secretary

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 9, at 6 p.m.
at the chapter offices at the VFW, 15 Wales St., Rutland.**