



## **McHENRY COUNTY CHAPTER**



## **"The Chapter with a Heart"**

**APRIL 2010**

**2009 – 2010 MCHENRY COUNTY CHAPTERS**

**\*\* BOARD OF DIRECTORS \*\***

PRESIDENT:	Joe Lewis	815-568-8939	DIRECTORS:	Rick Cross	815-403-3613
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SECRETARY:	Tony Bilus	815-648-2826		Joe Kotarba	815/616-2116
TREASURER:	Steve Rucki	847-458-9850		Bill Richards	815-344-9591
				John Sorensen	815-338-2063

**Advisors:** All Past Chapter Presidents

**\*\*COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS \*\***

AGENT ORANGE:	Bobby Jones	847-409-1947	NOMINATION/ELECTION:		
BYLAWS:	Joe Lewis	815-568-8939		Joe Kersten	815-338-1796
PROGRAM GRANTS:	Joe Lewis	815-568-8939	POW/MIA:	Steve Rucki	847-458-9850
CONVENTION:	Joe Lewis	815-568-8939	PTSD:	Alan Belcher	815-334-0411
"JIM TOBER BASKETS":	Rose Lewis	815-568-8939	"RAP" GROUP:	Jim Masella	815-344-3352
MEMBERSHIP:	Rose Lewis	815-568-8939	SERVICE OFFICER:	Ted Biever	815-338-9292
NEWSLETTER:	Rose Lewis, Editor	815-568-8939	VAC: Delegate:	Joe Kersten	815-338-1796
	Billie Blair, Asst.	815-385-2905	Alternate:	Tony Bilus	815-648-2826

**“VETERANS HELPING VETERANS”** - This is more than our national motto this is the ViêtNow way of life.

**“THE CHAPTER WITH A HEART”** is our chapter’s motto. We adopted this motto to reflect the positive of ViêtNow and not the negative another chapter had adopted.

**Our Chapter’s Beginning** - In the early 1980’s there was a group of Vietnam Veterans attending “Rap” group meetings in the McHenry County Health Department building. As time went on some of the vet’s began to deal better with the war but enjoyed the bond that they had come to trust and cherish. Some of the veterans wanted to start an organization because they enjoyed the camaraderie that was in the group. These veterans wanted to stay together because of the bond they had developed. Yet most did not want to be a part of the traditional veterans’ organizations.

Someone had heard of a new group that had formed in Rockford Illinois that called itself ViêtNow. A couple of the vets went to their meetings and liked what they saw. They brought back information on ViêtNow to the group and explained their motto of “Veterans Helping Veterans.” Most everyone liked the idea of starting a chapter here in McHenry County.

It took a lot of work to get this going. In November of 1983, the State of Illinois issued the “McHenry County Chapter of ViêtNow” their State Charter as an Illinois Not-For-Profit Organization. This gave a distinction to the McHenry County Chapter of ViêtNow as being the **first** ViêtNow expansion chapter.

In our Chapter’s beginning, we would break into small groups and continue the “Rap” group setting. This was founding roots our YOUR Chapter and remained a part of the meeting. This is what brought us all closer together as a chapter. This was our common bond with each other during those early days as a chapter.

**\*\*NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS\*\***

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Rich Sanders (Mary)	<b>DIRECTORS:</b>	
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Jim Stepanek (Marcia)		John/Augie Augustynowicz (Katie)
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			Gary Eisenhower (Sue)

National Office Telephone: 815-227-5100 and E-mail: [nationalhq@vietnow.com](mailto:nationalhq@vietnow.com)

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**EDITORIAL POLICY:** The Newsletter Staff will evaluate all articles submitted as to appropriateness and relevancy to the goals of ViêtNow. Newsletter items must be submitted to the editorial staff by the Chapter meeting each month.

**President's Ramblings for April 2010**  
**Joe Lewis, Your Chapter President**

So what is everyone doing on April 27? This is the night that we are having the chapter and national elections. We will start the meeting at 7:30 pm and Joe Kersten will hold the elections for both of these levels of our great ViêtNow organization. Come on out and cast your vote and be heard.

**Flag Retirement Program** - For those of us whom need some advanced notice, mark June 14, 2010, on your calendars as busy. The McHenry County Chapter of ViêtNow and the Woodstock AmVets Post 269 will be holding a Flag Retirement Ceremony. This held at the Woodstock AmVets Post at 12320 Davis Road, Woodstock, IL 60098.

If you have any tattered or soiled flags, bring them out and we will give them the proper retirement they so justly deserve. This ceremony is not for just the US Flag. Any flag deserves the same respect and should be retired properly. Bring out your soiled US Flags, State Flags, County Flags, any foreign nation's flags, POW/MIA Flags, and even your NASCAR and sport teams flags. Every flag should be retired of properly. This is the purpose of our two units working together to meet this goal.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chicago Welcome Home Parade** – In this month's newsletter there is an update on the plans for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion of the Chicago "Welcome Home" Parade. For those who were at this great event, this will be a great experience. For those who were not at the "Welcome Home" events, this will be a great way to see what you missed.

Bob Kolling helped with the first Chicago parade and was on the committee that put together the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Springfield. Bob is a member of the DuPage County Chapter of ViêtNow, is past National Treasurer for National Headquarters, and is the past Hep-C Chair for the National Headquarters. We thank Bob for his dedication to helping all veterans no matter where and when they served. As more information becomes available, we will keep you updated.

**Agent Orange Update** – The following article discusses the retroactive claims for the three newly added presumption diseases for Agent Orange exposure. Read through this carefully because this might have an effect on some of us or other veterans we might know. For those who have had claims for any of these three diseases denied, get out there and contact your service organizations power of attorney about your claim for disability compensation.

I, for one, do not believe that your previously denied claim will automatically be reinstated. I may be wrong, and I do hope that I am, but I think that you may be told that you will have to file a new claim. This is why I ask you to contact your Power of Attorney immediately. Even better yet, call Ted Biever at 815-338-9292 and see what he has to say.

#### **Chapter Committee Review**

- **POW/MIA Committee** – Continuing with describing the functions of our various chapters committees this month, I'll explain the purpose of the POW/MIA Committee. The primary purpose of the POW/MIA Committee is to keep the membership up on the latest information of our nation's POW/MIAs. Short, sweet, and to the point isn't it. Early on in our chapter's history, we were all active in educating the public on this issue. For whatever reason, our chapter has been limited in putting the word out to the public. As you will see in this month's issue, we do provide our membership with the latest on the POW/MIA issue, for all wars and conflicts since 1900 up to the current Missing In Action and Prisoners Of War.
- **State Flag Program** – The purpose of the State Flag Program was to have available National and State Flags for various organizations to use during a veterans or military event. Our intent was to charge a minimal fee to use the "Tribute of Honor" to other than ViêtNow organizations. On paper, this looked and sounded great. Everyone it was for this when presented to the membership a few years ago. I just ran out of steam to put everything together. What still needs to be done is to contact each state and request a flag that has been flown over their capital building. This was the intention of how we were going to get the flags.

**McHenry County ViêtNow** – The news from around the chapter is bright but a little murky. The murky part is all of our members and their families who are not doing so well. We all have a tendency to get involved with our own problems and not listen to our friends and members of our chapter who are not faring so well. I am not thinking or referring to any one person specifically. I am simply talking in general. If you happen to hear that one of our chapter members of an immediate family member is having a health problem, pass the word along. We are all family and care about the well being of our ViêtNow family members.

**Chapter Newsletter** – As an FYI to everyone out there, during the next year we are planning some changes in the distribution of our newsletter. We will be sending it to as many of our members who have email as possible. We are doing

this in order to save the chapter money. In the next month or so, you will be contacted to see if you have an email address, so that we can email it to you each month instead of by regular mail delivery.

**McHenry County Chapter Yahoo-Groups Update:** About two years ago, Rose, and I set up a yahoo group's web site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/McHenryCountyVietNow/> for posting chapter happenings, photos, communications, and just about, what ever you would like to share with here is the chapter. When you visit the site, you will be asked if you would like to join the group. When you request to be a part of the group, an email is sent to us letting us know that you are requesting to be a member of the group. It will be up to Rose and me to accept or deny membership to the site. This is a security measure put in place so that nonmembers cannot access our chapter site.

When a message or pictures is posted on the site, a notice will go out to all members of the group, only if you chose, letting members know that something has been posted. As a member, you can post a message, add pictures, find a members email to talk with them directly if you would like to. It is sort of like Facebook from what I have been told by Rosie.

Stand Tall and Be Proud  
*YOU* are the Best of *YOUR* generation, *YOU* are ViêtNow

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**McHenry County Independent Riders  
ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST – COST  
\$7 PER PERSON – UNDER 5 EAT FREE**

**😊SEE YOU ALL THERE 😊**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT !**

**😊SEE YOU ALL THERE 😊**

**😊SEE YOU ALL THERE 😊**

**SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2010**

**SERVING FROM 8 AM TO 11 AM**

**WHERE – WOODSTOCK MOOSE LODGE  
CLAY STREET, WOODSTOCK IL**

**😊SEE YOU ALL THERE 😊**

## Agent Orange Retro Claims Allowed

Tom Philpott | April 01, 2010

### New Agent Orange Rule to Allow Retro Claims by 86,000

About 86,000 Vietnam War veterans, their surviving spouses or estates will be eligible for retroactive [disability compensation](#) from the Department of Veterans Affairs -- an average of 11.4 years for veterans and 9.6 years for survivors -- under a draft VA rule to expand by three the number of diseases presumed caused by herbicide exposure in the war.

The 86,000 are beneficiaries who can reopen previously denied claims for these conditions: ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's disease, and chronic B-cell blood cancers including hairy cell leukemia. But, another 29,000 claims are expected to be approved this year for Vietnam veterans suffering from these diseases but applying for benefits for the first time.

The projected cost of this dramatic expansion of claims linked to [Agent Orange](#) and other defoliants deployed four decades ago is \$13.6 billion this fiscal year and \$42.2 billion over 10 years. VA plans to hire 1772 new claims processors, starting this October, to be able to handle these claims "without significantly degrading the processing of the non-presumptive workload."

In the proposed rule published March 25 in the Federal Register, VA officials explained that Secretary Eric Shinseki has cut the usual 60-day public comment period by half "to promote rapid action" on these claims.

When a final rule is published, soon after April 26, VA claim offices across the country can begin making payments. Veterans with these diseases will need to show they set foot in Vietnam during the war. Those who served aboard ship just off the coast remain ineligible.

John Maki, assistant national service director for Disabled American Veterans, said DAV was glad to see the comment period cut to 30 days. Otherwise, the draft regulation contains no surprises. "It basically is going to take those three conditions and just add them to disabilities already listed as presumptive diseases for Agent Orange," Maki said.

One surprise still might be the thoroughness of the draft rule's analysis of the beneficiary populations and the costs facing the department from this wave of claims for both retroactive payments and new benefits. Adding ischemic heart disease to the list of presumptive Agent Orange illnesses is by far the most significant part of the new rule, accounting for 82 percent of additional expected payments to beneficiaries.

The rule defines ischemic heart disease as a condition causing inadequate supply of blood and oxygen to the myocardium, the middle, and thickest layer of the heart wall. "IHD" can include, but is not limited to, acute, subacute and old myocardial infarction; atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease including coronary artery disease (or spasm) and coronary bypass surgery, and stable, unstable and Prinzmetal's angina.

Because IHD is a heart disease it "does not include hypertension or peripheral manifestations of arteriosclerosis such as peripheral vascular disease or stroke," the draft regulation explains. Of 86,000 beneficiaries eligible for retroactive claims, VA estimates that nearly 70,000 of them are living Vietnam veterans, their average age now 63. Of those, 62,200 previously were denied compensation for IHD, 5400 were denied for B-cell leukemia and 2300 for Parkinson's disease.

About 53,000 who previously filed claims for these diseases already are receiving VA compensation for other service-related diseases. Of those, roughly 8350 are rated 100-percent disabled and therefore might not be eligible for retroactive pay.

VA assumes that veterans with Parkinson's disease or for B-cell leukemia will be awarded a 100-percent disability ratings. The average rating for ischemic heart diseases is expected to be 60 percent.

In calculating VA costs from this change, VA assumes that 80 percent of the eligible population will apply for benefits and 100 percent of those who do will be approved. But eligible vets and survivors must file claims to be paid; nothing will happen automatically. To file claims online visit: <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>. Veterans without a computer can call a toll-free helpline at 1-800-749-8387.

VA maintains a directory of veterans' service organizations with trained staff to help in filing claims. The website is <http://www1.va.gov/vso/>. Many state, county and local governments also have personnel to help. Find information on these agencies at: <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>

#### About Tom Philpott

Tom Philpott has been breaking news for and about military people since 1977. After service in the Coast Guard, and 17 years as a reporter and senior editor with Army Times Publishing Company, Tom launched "Military Update," his syndicated weekly news column, in 1994. "Military Update" features timely news and analysis on issues affecting active duty members, reservists, retirees and their families. Tom also edits a reader reaction column, "Military Forum." The online "home" for both features is [Military.com](#).

Tom's freelance articles have appeared in numerous magazines including The New Yorker, Reader's Digest, and Washingtonian. His critically acclaimed book, *Glory Denied*, on the extraordinary ordeal and heroism of Col. Floyd "Jim" Thompson, the longest-held prisoner of war in American history, is available in hardcover and paperback.

VA also expects many ineligible veterans to file claims. They will be found ineligible because they cannot show they ever set foot in Vietnam though they suffer from one of the qualifying diseases. Many claims will be filed by veterans with hypertension but those will be rejected because that condition is not a "heart disease" under the VA draft regulation.

In total, VA expects claims volume from presumptive [Agent Orange](#) diseases to hit 159,000 this year and to exceed 270,000 by fiscal 2019.

Maki noted that entitlement to benefits only occurs with final publication of the regulation. Retroactive payments usually will be made back to the date a claim was filed for a presumptive disease.

"It is possible, since this is a liberalized law, that somebody may be able to get the retroactive date [moved back] to one year prior to the effective date in the regulation, if they can show they had the claimed condition prior to that year," Maki said.

The growing list of Agent Orange diseases stems of a court case, *Nehmer v. Department of Veterans Affairs*, filed in 1986. The class action lawsuit won by veterans, and reinforced by legislation, requires VA to direct the National Academy of Sciences to report every two years on any positive association between new diseases and exposure to herbicides in Vietnam.

In 2007, the Bush administration went to court to challenge the legal need for NAS studies on presumptive AO diseases to continue. It lost. The NAS reports are to continue through Oct. 1, 2014, with the possibility that more diseases will be found to have an association with herbicide exposure.

The above article was received from Sam Veer, Freeport Chapter of ViêtNow – Thanks Sam

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[Robert Kolling](#) sent a message to the members of [Chicago Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade 25 Year Reunion](#).



**Robert Kolling** April 12, 2010 at 6:10am - Subject: Update from April 10 meeting

The Anniversary Committee met on April 10<sup>th</sup> and plans are falling into place for the weekend events of June 17-19, 2011 in Chicago. Tentative plans include:

The weekend will begin with an open house at the Chicago Cultural Arts Center Friday afternoon where artwork and photographs by veterans will be on display. Refreshments will be served and discount family destination packets will be available

There will be a rally at Navy Pier on Saturday morning at 10:00 with information booths, unit reunion information, benefits info, refreshments, and musical entertainment.

Saturday evening will be a Heroes Dinner with Mayor Daley being the guest of honor.

There will be a concert at Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park Sunday afternoon and evening. Some of the entertainment will include Dennis DeYoung (Styx), Kimo and Carol Williams (Lt. Dan Band), ARRA (cover band), and Joe Cantafio and the 101st Rock Division.

Art and photo displays will be set up at various locations throughout the city all weekend. The City of Chicago Special Events Committee will be providing a variety of discount coupons for activities and food for the entire family for the weekend.

The Palmer House Hotel will be the HQ hotel. Rate and registration information will become available for the Palmer House as well as alternate hotels at a later date.

Special guests as well as other surprises are being added all the time. Our web site at <http://www.facebook.com/l/c4a7e;ServiceandHonor.org> will be updated as needed with the latest information. Volunteers are needed.

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By THE WASHINGTON TIMES

## **NORTH KOREA**

### **U.S. warned on war remains**

**SEOUL** | North Korea accused the United States on Monday of ignoring its efforts to return remains of American soldiers who were killed in the Korean War in the 1950s and threatened to stop collecting and returning the bodies.

The North's military said it informed the U.S. twice this year of "a number of" remains of U.S. troops found during land realignment and farming preparations in 10 different locations. But the U.S. Defense Department has not offered a concrete response and asked the North to wait, it said.

About 8,000 U.S. servicemen are listed as missing in the conflict. The U.S. and North Korea had previously been involved in a joint project to recover remains in the North, but the effort was halted in 2005 after Washington said security arrangements for its personnel were insufficient.

This info was received from the POWNetwork, Bill Kessler, and Sam Veer. Thank you all for sharing

We get a lot of information through the internet about all sorts of veteran issues. There is just so much that we can put into the newsletter each month due to the size of restrictions for mailing. So Rose and I go through what comes across our inbox and we send out as much as possible. We both hope that you enjoy everything that goes out. We do know that some of you might see the same thing before, yet some of it is new to some of you. That is what we try to do. Get the word out there for all of our members and to the veteran community in general that does not have access to the internet.



**U.S. Department of Defense**  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)  
News Release

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**No. 279-10**

**April 08, 2010**

## **U.S. Soldiers MIA from Vietnam War Identified**

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of four U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

A group burial for U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth L. Stancil, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Chief Warrant Officer Jesse D. Phelps, Boise, Idaho; Spec. Thomas Rice, Jr., Spartanburg, S.C.; and Spec. Donald C. Grella, Laurel, Neb., as well as Rice's individual remains burial will be tomorrow at Arlington National Cemetery. Stancil, Phelps, and Grella were buried individually last year.

The four men were aboard a UH-1D Huey helicopter, which failed to return from a mission over Gia Lai Province, South Vietnam to pick up special forces soldiers on Dec. 28, 1965. The exact location of the crash site was not determined during the war, and search and rescue operations were suspended after failing to locate the men after four days.

From 1993-2005, joint U.S.-Socialist Republic of Vietnam teams led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command attempted unsuccessfully to locate the site. But in April 2006, a joint team interviewed two local villagers, one of whom said he had shot down a U.S. helicopter in 1965. The villagers escorted the team to the crash site where wreckage was found. In March 2009, another joint team excavated the area and recovered human remains and other artifacts including an identification tag from Grella.

JPAC's scientists employed traditional forensic techniques in making these identifications, including comparisons of dental records with the remains found at the site.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo) or call 703-699-1169.

Submitted by Steve Rucki – Treasurer McHenry County ViệtNow

## **Bill Mauldin stamp honors grunts' hero.**

The post office gets a lot of criticism. Always has, always will. And with the renewed push to get rid of Saturday mail delivery, expect complaints to intensify.

But the United States Postal Service deserves a standing ovation for something that's going to happen this month: Bill Mauldin is getting his own postage stamp.

Mauldin died at age 81 in the early days of 2003. The end of his life had been rugged. He had been scalded in a bathtub, which led to terrible injuries and infections; Alzheimer's disease was inflicting its cruelties. Unable to care for himself after the scalding, he became a resident of a California nursing home, his health, and spirits in rapid decline.

He was not forgotten, though. Mauldin, and his work, meant so much to the millions of Americans who fought in World War II, and to those who had waited for them to come home. He was a kid cartoonist for Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper; Mauldin's drawings of his muddy, exhausted, whisker-stubbed infantrymen Willie and Joe were the voice of truth about what it was like on the front lines.

Mauldin was an enlisted man just like the soldiers he drew for; his gripes were their gripes, his laughs were their laughs, his heartaches were their heartaches. He was one of them. They loved him. He never held back. Sometimes, when his cartoons cut too close for comfort, his superior officers tried to tone him down. In one memorable incident, he enraged Gen. George S. Patton, and Patton informed Mauldin he wanted the pointed cartoons -- celebrating the fighting men, lampooning the high-ranking officers -- to stop. Now.



The news passed from soldier to soldier. How was Sgt. Bill Mauldin going to stand up to Gen. Patton? It seemed impossible.

Not quite. Mauldin, it turned out, had an ardent fan: Five-star Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. Ike put out the word: Mauldin draws what Mauldin wants. Mauldin won. Patton lost.

If, in your line of work, you've ever considered yourself a young hotshot, or if you've ever known anyone who has felt that way about himself or herself, the story of Mauldin's young manhood will humble you. Here is what, by the time he was 23 years old, Mauldin had accomplished:

- He won the Pulitzer Prize.
- He was featured on the cover of Time magazine.
- His book "Up Front" was the No. 1 best-seller in the United States ...

All of that at 23. Yet when he returned to civilian life and he grew older, he never lost that boyish Mauldin grin, he never outgrew his excitement about doing his job, he never big-shotted or high-hatted the people with whom he worked every day. I was lucky enough to be one of them; Mauldin roamed the hallways of the Chicago Sun-Times in the late 1960s and early 1970s with no more officiousness or air of haughtiness than if he was a copyboy. That impish look on his face remained.

He had achieved so much. He had won a second Pulitzer Prize, and he should have won a third, for what may be the single greatest editorial cartoon in the history of the craft: his deadline rendering, on the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, of the statue at the Lincoln Memorial slumped in grief, its head cradled in its hands. But he never acted as if he was better than the people he met. He was still Mauldin the enlisted man.

During the late summer of 2002, as Mauldin lay in that California nursing home, some of the old World War II infantry guys caught wind of it. They didn't want Mauldin to go out that way. They thought he should know that he was still their hero.

Gordon Dillow, a columnist for the Orange County Register, put out the call in Southern California for people in the area to send their best wishes to Mauldin; I joined Dillow in the effort, helping to spread the appeal nationally so that Bill would not feel so alone. Soon more than 10,000 letters and cards had arrived at Mauldin's bedside.

Even better than that, the old soldiers began to show up just to sit with Mauldin, to let him know that they were there for him, as he, long ago, had been there for them. So many volunteered to visit Bill that there was a waiting list. Here is how Todd DePastino, in the first paragraph of his wonderful biography of Mauldin, described it:

*"Almost every day in the summer and fall of 2002 they came to Park Superior nursing home in Newport Beach, California, to honor Army Sergeant, Technician Third Grade, Bill Mauldin. They came bearing relics of their youth: medals, insignia, photographs, and carefully folded newspaper clippings. Some wore old garrison caps. Others arrived resplendent in uniforms over a half-century-old. Almost all of them wept as they filed down the corridor like pilgrims fulfilling some long-neglected obligation."*

One of the veterans explained to me why it was so important:

"You would have to be part of a combat infantry unit to appreciate what moments of relief Bill gave us. You had to be reading a soaking wet Stars and Stripes in a water-filled foxhole and then see one of his cartoons."

Mauldin is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This month, the kid cartoonist makes it onto a first-class postage stamp. It's an honor that most generals and admirals never receive.

What Mauldin would have loved most, I believe, is the sight of the two guys who are keeping him company on that stamp.

Take a look at it. There's Willie. There's Joe.

And there, to the side, drawing them and smiling that shy, quietly observant smile, is Mauldin himself. With his buddies, right where he belongs. Forever.

Submitted by Bob Gutsche - VietNow National VA Chair

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#### **Misc. Comments and Items –**

- Did you know that if you are an Illinois resident veteran with a 75 to 100% service-connected disabled you are eligible for \$5000.00 off your assessed value of your principal residence? To get this reduction, visit the county assessor office annually to file the paperwork to receive it. If you are 50 to 75% service-connected disabled, you can receive a \$2500.00 reduction in assessed value. To be on the safe side, take a copy of your award letter with you. This will save time for during the verification process. The verification here in McHenry County is at the McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission Office. However, the paperwork first goes through the Assessor Office.
- The state of Illinois has changed the criteria for veterans to get Disabled Veteran License Plates. It used to be that you simply took in a copy of your 100% award letter to the Secretary of States office, fill out the application, and you would receive it. Starting January of 2010, there is now a form for your VA doctor to fill out. You can get this form and application at the Secretary of States office. Once the application and form are filled out, take these along with a copy of your awards letter to the Secretary of States office, and file for your plates. A 100% service-connected veteran may apply for two Disabled Veteran Plates.

- Chapter and National Elections are at this month's chapter meeting. So make plans to be at the April 27, 2010 meeting. We look forward to seeing you all there.
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Dear Veterans, (We received the following from Nick Skyba – The SVA is “Student Veterans Association which Nick helps out.)

I have access to Cubs tickets for Wednesday April 28, <sup>at</sup> 1:20. The Cubs donated 2000 tickets to the SVA for this game.

Each Veteran will get a ticket for him/her and a ticket for a date or friend, so two tickets to each! You must confirm with us within the next three weeks of this email and ATTEND THE GAME. Email [uicveterans@gmail.com](mailto:uicveterans@gmail.com) to confirm your name and email address!

We do not want to distribute tickets and have people not go. We would like to do this again, so let's not ruin it for the next set of Veterans who get this opportunity! Distribution of tickets will be on UIC campus April 24 from 9am-4pm at the Illinois Warrior Summit. You must email us to get the tickets... you cannot show up and expect to receive tickets unless you confirmed with a name and email address... IT'S PRETTY EASY! When you pick up tickets you must provide some form of Military Identification (i.e. VA card, Military ID, DD 214, Dog Tags w/State ID)

On another note, the SVA is hosting one of the largest Veteran events in Illinois State. [www.illinoiswarriorssummit.com](http://www.illinoiswarriorssummit.com)  
The Illinois Warrior Summit is being held April 24 from 9am-4pm at the UIC Forum.

We are hosting the only "One Stop Shop" for Veterans. We have everything from on site registration for free health care to VA Home loans. We have: 100 Veteran Organizations providing FREE services; 50 employers looking to hire Veterans; 20 Universities with GI BILL and POST 9/11 workshops; Children's play facilities with Jumbo Moon Bounce; Magic show and Bull Whip Performances; 3 LIVE Rock Bands; FREE Food for 2500 people; Free Raffles to include sporting event tickets; 6 FREE Vacations for Veterans to Huatulco, Mexico and Door County Wisconsin; \$4000 in gift certificates and book scholarships; FREE massages; and much much more!



# **McHenry County Independent Riders ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST – COST \$7 PER PERSON – UNDER 5 EAT FREE**

**😊SEE YOU ALL THERE 😊**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT !**

**😊SEE YOU ALL THERE 😊**

**😊SEE YOU ALL THERE 😊**

**SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2010**

**SERVING FROM 8 AM TO 11 AM**

**WHERE – WOODSTOCK MOOSE LODGE  
CLAY STREET, WOODSTOCK IL**



Postage

McHenry County Chapter  
P.O. Box 998 McHenry, IL 60051

Next Meeting  
Tuesday, April 27, 2010  
7:30 @ Woodstock AMVETS Post 269  
12320 Davis Road, Woodstock, IL 60098

McHenry County Chapter of ViêtNow Membership Application

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SEVICE BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_ DATES OF DUTY (1957-CURRENT) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an honorably discharged veteran and want to be a FULL MEMBER OF ViêtNow

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not a veteran but want to be an ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF ViêtNow

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues and Fees are \$15 annually - renewable June 30 of Each Year  
Veterans must enclose a copy of their form DD214 that will be reviewed, copied, and returned

For a sum of ten (10) times the yearly dues, (\$150.00) you can become a ViêtNow **LIFE MEMBER.**

Send with check payable to: **McHenry County Chapter of ViêtNow**

Our Address is **PO Box 998, McHenry, IL 60051**