

**SCUTTLEBUTTE
DECEMBER 2013
Vietnam Veterans of America
Dogwood Chapter #991**

Well as many of you know I have been pretty busy with Bonnie the last week or so and the recovery is going very slow. Guess she and I both did not believe the surgery would as severe as it was. But she is progressing and we thank the Good Lord for getting us through it. Bonnie said she is very grateful for the plaque the chapter gave her. She said she would start sewing on patches when she recuperates.

Your Chapter #991 Honor Guard conducted services down in Elkhart for US Army Veteran Horace {Pupie} Lee Robins. I want to thank all the members who participated at the services. The thing that caught my attention the most was at the end of almost all the family members came out from the tent and went straight to the Honor Guard for handshakes and hugs. Myself like the rest of the Honor Guard were deeply humbled by that show of gratitude.

Well the Chapter meeting was held the 10th and we drew for the AR-15 and the Kember Pistol. Want to congratulate Henry Kitchens on winning the Kember pistol. As a past winner, I know the feeling of owning such a fine hand gun. As of this writing, I don't know what the story is on the other winner, as I get the news I will forward to members. And lest I forget I want to send out a big thank you to everyone who brought groceries to the last meeting. That was certainly a very fine meal.

In other business the Chapter voted on motion to change the by-laws on length of term for Officers and Directors. We can't vote on the change until our next meeting. The motion was to change the term to one year from the two year in an effort to attract members into seeking these positions. After many hours of discussion with almost all the officer and directors it became apparent that the Chapter is in need of fresh ideas and new approaches in order for the chapter to continue to grow and forward the mission of the Vietnam Veterans of America. I would urge each and every one of you to consider seeking these positions with the chapter.

Brother Rod Skelton has been busy with our veteran families who are sick at this time, some in area hospitals and some at home on the road to recovery. We need to keep Brother Dan in our prayers during his recovery time from shoulder repair. Having been through that twice, it's a long slow road with a lot of pain. Dan get well soon, who am I going to complain to if you are not around.

President Ayo advised the new 2014 four weapon drawing is running right on schedule, weapons are paid for and ordered as well as the 1,000 tickets to be sold, along with advertisement and posters. If past history is any indication these tickets should sell very rapidly. According to President Ayo the drawing date must be on the ticket however the Attorney General has advised that once all the tickets are sold we can hold the drawing. I think the choice of weapons by the membership will appeal to collectors, shooters, as well as Vietnam Veterans and supporters. Want to remind everyone the meal for the next regular meeting will be provided by the Greenbriar Nursing home. The nursing home wanted to do this to show their support for the chapter and for the Veterans housed in their facility. I hope to see all of you around 5:30PM on January 14, 2014. Let's get this New Year off to a good start with lots of participation and fellowship.

On a personal note I would like to announce that I will not be seeking the position of Secretary during the upcoming election. It is my desire to seek the Vice President position and do all I can to assist the new president in taking chapter #991 to the next level. To anyone who would desire the Secretary position I want to assure you I will help you in every way I can assist you in your transition into the position of secretary. I will with the Chapters consent, continue the Scuttlebutt.

Since we are talking about the upcoming election after talking too many of you on lots of occasions many of you indicate you just want to be an Indian not a chief. Well many great men have noted you can change nothing from the outside it must be changed from the inside. All things remain the same until acted on by another force. As an officer I would tell you we will continue on the same path until we are led in another direction, I know that all the members of Chapter # 991 have the ability to be that force, for change and innovation.

I want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and all of God's blessings for the New Year.

If I can assist any of you in any way Please call me and let me know. I thank you all for your prayers and best wishes for Bonnie.

Steve Severn Secretary

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