

Gamewardens of Vietnam – Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Hi Everyone!

The 3rd Quarter meeting of the GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter was held on Saturday, August 18th, 2007 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm (+/-) at:

VFW Post 392, located at 2408 Bowland Pkwy, Virginia Beach, VA.

The gathering for lunch prior to the meeting didn't work out so well because the Warrior's Grill was closed.....

We'll have to do a little better job of picking a place to get together in the future.

There were (18) of us signed in, including:

Bob Fred, Pat Doyle, Larry Weatherall, Clarence Cooper, Rob Worthington, Vaughn Schuler, Monte Blackwell, Roger Alston, Milt Larkin, Tom Glickman, Fred Olds, Don Steigel, Bill Ferguson, Tanya Delpriore, Gary Grahn, Norm Giroux and Gary Marker.

Don Steigel drove all the way up from South Carolina and it was great to have him in the group!

The meeting kicked off with the pledge of allegiance and the following agenda items were covered.

1. Guest Speaker #1: NECC Chaplin, Capt. Debra McGuire.

Chaplin McGuire started with a prayer and then gave us a briefing on how her organization fits into the NECC Community. She has (5) Religious Ministries Teams (RMT's) within the overall NECC structure. Each RMT is a two person team consisting of a Commissioned Chaplin and a Senior Enlisted RT rate. "Lay Readers" within some of the groups augment the RMT's when they are not available. Each RMT is assigned to an individual section of NECC such as RIVRON, NCWS, EOD, etc. Some are currently deployed with their groups and others are home working with the "Warriors In Transition" program.

The Chaplin Corp is currently represented by Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and other faiths. They are responsible for accommodating the needs of all faiths, regardless of their own. The Navy Chaplin School is merging with the Army School and will be collocated at Fort Jackson in Columbia, SC. There were some very interesting discussions regarding how things were back in the Vietnam era compared to how they are now and the 15 minutes that we had allocated for Chaplin McGuire stretched into at least 45.....

At the end of our discussion period, Coop presented Chaplin McGuire with a print of a WW II Shipboard Religious Service (see photo)



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Personally, I can't thank Chaplin McGuire enough for coming out to talk with us. It was a great presentation and very well received by the group. She also took time from her schedule to visit the MK I at Little Creek on Friday and now has a much better understanding of the type of boats we used and the conditions we served under. BZ to Coop for arranging for Chaplin McGuire to visit us.

2. Guest Speaker #2: Retired Chief Steve Herring from Vel Tye, LCC. - Information on GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter VESTS:

Retired Chief Herring was a guest of Bob Fred and is in the business of producing ballistic protection load carrying vests for various Navy SPECWAR and NECC groups. Bob has convinced him to manufacture our Chapter Membership Vests!



There was much discussion about styles, colors, etc. and the members present voted to purchase (3) examples as trial samples and to try and have them available at the upcoming GWVN Leadership Excellence Award ceremony. They will have an embroidered logo on the back, will be in a "tan/green" color, will have buttons and our samples will be ordered in Large, XLarge and XXLarge sizes to accommodate those of us who can no longer get into our old uniforms.....

The ultimate cost will be determined once we review the samples and decide whether we want any changes. MORE INFO TO FOLLOW on this subject as we see the finished products. BZ to Bob for finding Steve and bringing him to the meeting!

3. Active Duty Attendees: CMDCM Norm Giroux, RIVGRU ONE, CMDCS Tanya Delpriore, NCWS FOUR and CPO Rob Worthington, NSWG FOUR.

Norm had to leave early but I asked Tanya and Rob to fill us in on what was going on within their organizations:

CMDCM Norm Giroux, RIVGRU ONE, wants everyone to let John Woody know if they are coming to the award ceremony on SEPT 7. Please let John know if you are planning on attending by no later than 8/22 so he can let the RIVGRU group know by 8/24. John's email address is: jwoody@texas.net

CMDCS Tanya Delpriore, NCWS FOUR, is currently deployed on a training exercise at Little Creek and has her group spread over three separate areas on the base. They are preparing for deployment in the near future and advises that we can follow them on their web site at: WWW.NCWRONFOUR.ORG

Tanya was at the MK I on Friday measuring the armor for replacement with aluminum at a later date to help us cut down on the maintenance requirements on the boat. We'll probably get kicked off on this project sometime in October, after NCWS FOUR is back from their next trip.



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Tanya also presented A. Billy Ratt, Jr. with his official Certificate indicating that he is a fully qualified member of the NCWS community. I'm thinking that Billy Sr. must be proud of how Jr. is working the system back here on the East Coast.....

CPO Rob Worthington, NSWG FOUR, is back from traveling to "interesting places" on several continents and encouraged us to watch the newspapers for improvements in the capabilities of several other countries small boat navies. Rob headed up getting several of us together at the MK I at Little Creek on Friday and had SN Robyn Gerstenslager (from the NSWG FOUR Public Affairs Office) come out to the boat to take some pictures and talk with Coop, myself, Tanya and Rob while we were looking over the boat. She contacted me later and is putting together a short article that may make it to the Navy News. Robyn has been added to the Mid Atlantic Chapter mailing list so she can keep up to speed on what we have going on.

4. General Info from Coop:

41 cent Purple Heart stamps now available at USPS, A. Billy Ratt, Jr's official certificate of qualification to wear the Enlisted Expeditionary Specialist Breast Insignia presented by Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron Four.

5. Report on the towing incident and Change of Command (not related) aboard the USS J.E. Williams.

CMDCM Willie Burnett, USS Williams, sent a picture of what their starboard shaft looked like with the towing line fouling it. The line was cut off at the pier when they got back into Norfolk after the incident and they were underway again in a day or so. Master Chief Burnett also advised that they had a change of command just before deployment and that CDR Tim Trampenau is the new Skipper of the USS Williams. We'll have to wait till they return to pay our respects and meet CDR Trampenau. They are on their way to their patrol area off the East coast of Africa and may end up in the Northern Arabian Gulf later in the deployment.



6. Info on 2007 PBR-FVA Reunion in Seattle, August 2nd through August 5th.

Jerry Gandy and I were in attendance at the reunion and as usual, whenever a bunch of PBR guys get together, a great time was had by all. One of the events was a visit to the waterfront where we were able to go aboard the USS Cleveland, LPD-7. (<http://www.cleveland.navy.mil/>) They had an assortment equipment in the well deck including several Marine vehicles and a Navy LCAC that we were able to board.

7. A proposal was raised to solicit interest from the membership in having a PURELY SOCIAL GATHERING.

This is a D-E-A-D issue within the Mid Atlantic Chapter. Several attempts have been made to make it work but Coop ends up being the only person doing anything with it and he got Z-E-R-O answers to his last request for info from those who had indicated they were interested. If members of the Mid Atlantic Chapter want to get together apart from the quarterly meetings, GREAT! I'll just ask that they do it on their own and not try to make it a Chapter function.

8. A question was asked about the interest in acquiring a Mid Atlantic Chapter Banner (to

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use for parades and other gatherings of Veterans Groups). **Pat Doyle** is taking on the Banner and will get it made FOR FREE! Newell Butts indicated in an email note that he had a contact that could get one made for us but Pat has a better price.... BZ to Pat for taking this one on and just DOING IT! We'll see the banner at the next meeting....

9. GWVN Leadership Excellence Award Ceremony:

The ceremony will be held on **Sept. 7th** at Little Creek and there will be a B-B-Q associated with it that the Mid Atlantic Chapter attendees will be invited to. Coop has made a motion that the Chapter contribute to the B-B-Q fund and I think it's a great idea. The motion was seconded and passed at the meeting and the Mid Atlantic Chapter will be contributing \$100 toward the fund.

Vaughn Schuler suggested that for people coming from out of town for this event, that the NAVY LODGE is one of the best lodging bargains in the area. Go to <https://www.navy-lodge.com/> for more information.

10. MISSING CHAPTER MEMBERS:

I forgot to mention it at the last meeting but I'm getting "returned" emails from the following people. FYI, Bill Wood has surfaced and is back in the fold!

- A. Ron Ritter
- B. Robert Tippins

If any of you know any of these guys, can you please call them and have them send me their current email addresses? Thanks!

11. Possible Trailer for MK I coming to East Coast:

Coop told the group that John Woody had told him that the Naval Historical Center was now trucking the MK II across country and that it would not be coming on a trailer that we would end up with. Oh well, it was a nice thought while it lasted.....

12. 2008 GWVN National Reunion will be in Norfolk:

Coop advises that the Holiday Inn Executive Center on HWY 264, at the Newtown Rd. exit, is where the reunion will be headquartered. The dates are July 16th through July 20th. The event will be coordinated through a professional Reunion Management Co. and more details will be out to the membership as the plans are firmed up.

NEW BUSINESS:

13. Mid Atlantic Chapter Shirts:

Pat Doyle will get some more shirts made up for those of us who want them. The vast majority of those present at the meeting want the grey IZOD short sleeve with the Chapter Identification in GOLD LETTERING instead of the RED. It's too hard to make out what the RED lettering says.... If you are interested in getting another shirt, or two, or three, contact Pat at pdoyle44@msn.com and work out the details with him.

14. We have another AUTHOR amongst us!

GWVN Mid Atlantic Chapter Member **Bill Ferguson** has had his book published and had some available at the meeting. The title is: "Laughter on the Rivers of Death, One Sailor's Humorous Experiences in Vietnam". It's a paperback, 147 pages long, and promises to be a look at the lighter side of a serious chapter in most of our lives.... Contact Bill directly at thebillferguson@earthlink.net for information on how to get a copy.

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15. 25th Anniversary of Vietnam Memorial in D.C.:

Vaughn Shuler reported out that November 10th is the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Memorial in D.C. and that those who would like to attend could contact him for more info at: saltycpo@aol.com. Bob Fred is going to get the Mid Atlantic Chapter wreath from Ken Meek and get it to Coop. Coop will get it to Vaughn or take it to D.C. himself.

16. Information Plaque on the MK I at Little Creek:

Please see the attached photo to see what the information plaques (one on each side) look like. **Gary Marker** got them made and **Coop** got them installed. BZ to both for a great job!

17. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on 11/17/2007, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, at the VFW Hall. In other words, new date, same time, same place. Please make plans to attend if at all possible and as always, if there are any "pet projects" that the membership would like to see the Chapter involved in, as always PLEASE make your voice(s) heard!



Larry Weatherall

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