



# Nam Express

The Official Newsletter  
**VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA CHAPTER 377**  
Chapter Established November 2, 1987  
2272 Dryden Road, Dryden, New York 13053



*"Here's to us who fought for it, the sheltered shall never know the price, or glory, of freedom."  
by an anonymous Vietnam soldier.*



September 2020



## VVA Chapter 377 August Meeting



## Minutes

Chapter 377 meeting 8/4, start 7:10, end 7:45pm

VVA members in attendance 22, AVVA in attendance 5, 1 guest, (mask & social distancing)” One grenade would not get us all!”.



Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting dedicated to following fallen Vietnam/Vietnam Veteran Era Veterans:  
Donald L. Parshall. 78, USN (Ret); Walter W. Protas, 72, USAF; George L. Sutfin, 72, USA;  
Donald J. Sheldon, 93, USMC 1945; USAF (Ret), 3 tours Vietnam; Richard L. Dobson, 86, USA;  
Wesley K. Inman, 77, USA; Blair G. Jamison, 76, USN; Frederick A. Updike III, 79, USA/SF;  
Frederick A. Ink, 74, USN; Max J. Goehner, 72, USN Seebees.

Additionally we lost Chapter Family Members: Rodney Parker, 73, active friend of Dryden Veterans Memorial Home

Rona S. Waldman, wife of David Waldman, new Member

Marianne K. Margrave Wife of Tom Margrave, Chapter Member.

Prayers were given by Holly Hollingsworth for the Fallen and the ill; John Dexter, Ron Pluck, Kathy Barnes. Special Guest was Frank Proto, a longtime supporter of the Chapter

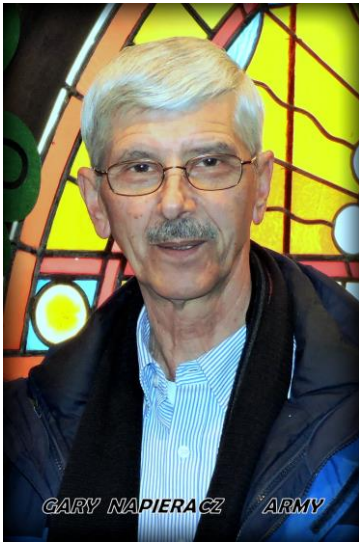
**Announcements:** an Honor Guard for Marianne Margrave in Cortland on 8/7,  
Color Guard for the “Ride for the Memories”, a Twin Tiers Honor Flight fundraiser in Dryden on 8/8.

**POW/MIA National Recognition Day Watch Fire in September is canceled.**

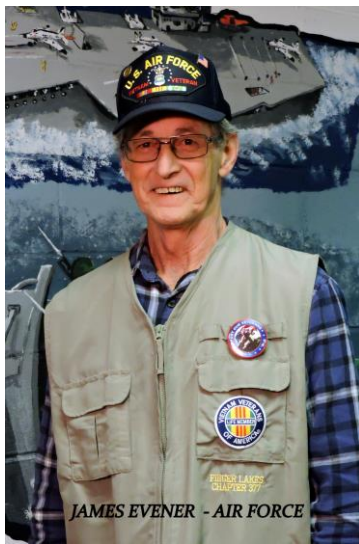
We will work on alternatives. Suggestions to President appreciated.

**Elections** were held for Officers and Directors. Motion was made & passed to retain present Officers; Pres. Gary Napieracz, VP James Evener, Sec. Mike Moran, Treas. Harvey Baker.





GARY NAPIERACZ - ARMY



JAMES EVENER - AIR FORCE



MICHAEL MORAN - ARMY



HARVEY BAKER



**Nominations were made for Directors:**

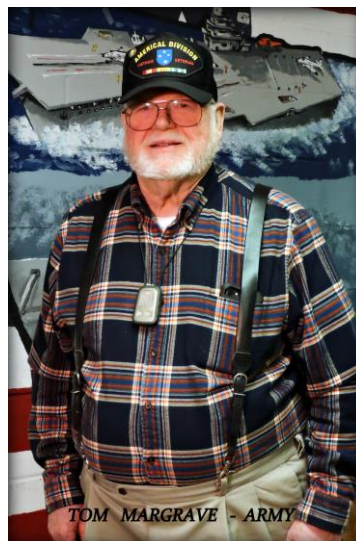
Dan Rose, Tom Margrave, Ron Dexter, Fran Moore, Carl Bullock, Gene Barnes, Mike Portzline, Charles Harrington, Dale VanBenSchoten, Paul Pagliario, Ralph Moss and Larry Housel were elected as Directors.



FRAN MOORE - NAVY



RON DEXTER - USMC

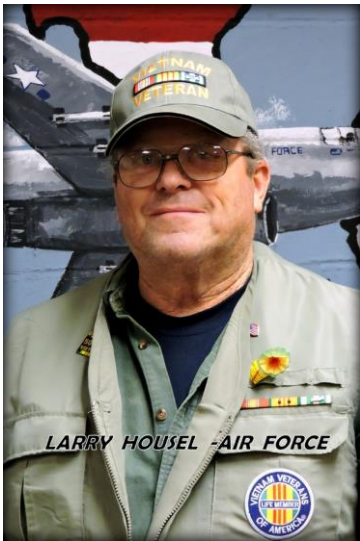
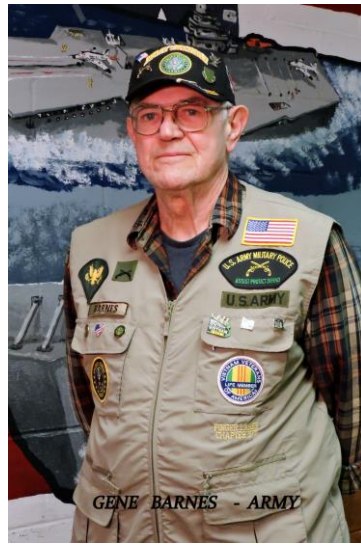
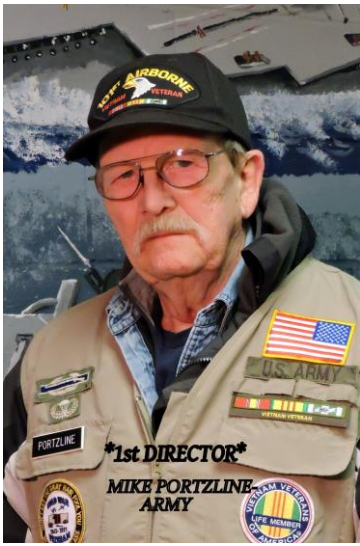


TOM MARGRAVE - ARMY



DAN ROSE - ARMY





A special Birthday cake was provided by Pat Hollingsworth for "Holly" and the rest of the August Birthdays. All felt it was great to see each other & visit.





AVVA helped with Pizza provided by "Pappa John's" with a Veteran's discount as usual.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.







In the early spring of 2015 the director of Twin Tiers Honor Flight asked if we would put together a benefit motorcycle ride to benefit their organization. Now I've never put together a motorcycle ride before but had plenty of experience going to them, honoring fallen soldiers and other veterans support organizations. So using the knowledge I've learned from them we decided to go ahead with it and of course said yes.

We only had a short time to prepare and promote the event so we got right to work.

I called on our friends at Finger Lakes Harley Davidson to ask to use their facilities for the venue and they graciously said yes and even offered to help promote it thru the local radio stations. They even let us use their bbq pit to cook chicken in. The Inaugural ride brought us about 40 motorcycles and 75 participants.

We learned allot that year getting our feet wet





putting together a motorcycle ride and with the help of some professional organizers we did much better the 2nd year. We started working on the ride in late January for a late July event. We found scheduling was very important not to hold one at the same time as other popular events within the local area. We decided on a date just after the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor Ride" and the "Troop Ride" that supports the USO. This also gave us an opportunity to participate and hand out fliers promoting our ride. The difference was amazing. This was also the first year we started our Honorary Ride Captain program. We chose a young man from the community whom had terminal brain cancer, his name was Colin. We also learned that some of the most incredible opportunities drop in our laps in the last weeks of preparation. An acquaintance of my best friend asked us to do him a favor in our opening ceremony. His God son, a U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Sgt and wounded warrior would be attending that year to ride with us. He had bought a Harley Davidson motorcycle for this soldier and asked us to honor this soldier for his service and present him with this motorcycle. Of course we said yes and what an incredible event it made making this young soldiers day. Total bikes the 2nd year totaled 157 with over 200 cheering participants.

The third year we started to realize all the Veteran and First Responder Support Organizations out there and what a tremendous impact they played improving the lives of our people in uniform. In an effort to help them get recognized we asked them to come and set up a booth and get the word out about who they are and what support they offer to the community. The Organizations included Hero's Home Advantage, Wounded Warrior's In Action, Truckin for Troops and Twin Tiers Honor Flight. Most of the proceeds after the bills were paid was split between these organizations as to help them continue their great work for our men and women in uniform. We also spent the year raising funds and bought a Harley Davidson trike for a career soldier (Wounded Warrior) and very active Patriot Guard Riders member and presented the bike to him so he could ride with his brothers and sisters to missions and funeral escorts. It was a great day drawing many of the PGRNY members from across the states. Unfortunately the trike didn't work out as our Wounded Warrior's left hand became unusable, the next year we ended up getting the trike back. This year we also honored another Honorary Ride Captain, a young lady with considerable health issues by the name of Page.

The 4th Annual Ride For the Memories brought some changes to the organization. We decided to be able to help more support organizations that privatization of the ride was necessary. We also partnered with one of my great friends, a Gold Star Family in an effort to help keep their sons name alive and honor his and his families sacrifice. Thus we changed the name to the "Ride for the Memories and U.S Army SP4 Ryan P Jayne Memorial Remembrance Ride. By now our event had made a reputation as one of the premier rides in the region garnering live radio coverage and bringing riders from all across the state and Northern Pennsylvania. I'll never forget about the time the 200th bike rolled in I looked over at Gold Star dad Kent Skeens walking over to me, put his arms around me and gave me a great big bear hug and with a tear in his eye said " I just can't believe all these people are coming to honor my son". It was at that point I knew we were headed in the right direction. By the start of the Opening Ceremony we had over 270 bikes jammed into the parking lot and over a dozen cars from various car clubs parked in the infield.

It was a great day. We honored a member from every military organization as well as Retired Law Enforcement and Fire and Ambulance Services. We were able to reconnect a severe heart attack patient with the crew that saved his life and brought him back from death's gate 7 times on the way to the hospital. We had Veterans Search and Rescue and Groton Cycle Center unveil a 3 year project bike with a side car to offer Veterans an opportunity to go for a ride in it. We had Marine Veteran Justin Cogswell with "Operation Buildup" present a young female veteran and breast cancer survivor with a motorcycle just like the one she had to sell to help pay for her operation. Once again we crowned another Honorary Ride Captain, Mason a young boy struggling with Fredricks Ataxia.

But the grand finally came as we pulled Gold Star Dad Kent Skeens close to me as our crew rode a beautifully custom painted motorcycle (air brush painted by the famous Nubby of Nub Graffix). It had an eagle perched upon the helmet of a soldier down insignia on the front fender, a dedication to Kent's son Ryan on the right side of the tank with the Combat Engineers emblem and his unit patch and unit crest painted on the battery side cover. On the other side of the bike tank was an image of the USS Saratoga, one of the Navy Ships that Kent served on as a Search and Rescue diver. The whole family was in tears. And to end it, my daughter brought forth the 3x5 Gold Star flag which we mounted on the back of the bike. Never saw anyone so proud to ride up front with us honoring the image and legacy of his son. US Army SP4 Ryan P Jayne.

The 5th Annual Ride came with many challenges; in fact we weren't even sure we would be allowed to have one given the so called environmental crisis. We knew we had completely out grown our venue at Finger Lakes Harley Davidson and had to look for a bigger home that could accommodate us and the hundreds of participants this event draws. Then the Corona Virus shut the entire world down. Hundreds of events automatically canceled. But we stayed strong, waited patiently and weathered the storm. June started to look optimistic, July came and the nation started opening up. Slowly

rides started up with great painstaking work to comply with the Covid 19 protocols, we decided it was now or never so we went for it. Our graphic designer updated our ride posters and we went to work promoting on every platform we could get on. We knew that Ryan wouldn't give up on us, and we damn sure weren't giving up on him! We got permission from Dryden Fire and Ambulance to utilize their facility to hold the event. Billboards were updated and erected, awards ordered and the "Flying High Freedom Award" commissioned. The trike we had sitting in my garage went to a local garage to be repainted and the seat to a local auto upholstery shop to be redone. Finally everything came together and we got our ride in. We had so many bikes we had to stage them in 3 different locations in order to comply with the county environmental health department regulations. We crowned another Honorary Ride Captain, Wade Kirkey brother of last year's Honorary Ride Captain, Mason Kirkey who was also diagnosed with Fredricks Ataxia.

We honored a member from the Army, Air Force, Marines and 2 from the Navy. We also honored the Dryden Fire and Ambulance Department, Dryden's Police Department, Tompkins County Sheriff's Department and Ithaca's Police Department. Dave Denniston, Risk Manager for McNeal and Company who insures all the Fire and Ambulance vehicles in New York State received a beautiful wooden flag as well as the Owner of Page Transportation Dan Titus along with VP Chris Jerolymn for their dedicated support of the Wreaths Across America Foundation. National Veterans Resources won the "Flying High Freedom Award. Norm Stinzal, founder of Veterans Search and Rescue and Don Titus from Groton Cycle Center unveiled their "Last Ride Bike".

We memorialized a young local soldier who did 2 tours in Afghanistan and lost his battle with PTSD, US Army Captain Tim Nield.

And the final act was presenting the 2008 Harley Davidson Trike. We chose a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran who was also a very loyal and active member of the Patriot Guard Riders and a retired Tompkins County Deputy Sheriff. He had lower limb surgery which he was unable to recover from very well which made it very difficult for him to use his 2 wheel motorcycle. He dearly loves to ride and this will also now allow his wife to ride with him and participate in many events we go to every year. The trike was presented to US Army Vietnam Veteran Paul Pagliaro. It was the very first time we had been able to witness this great Veteran and retired Tompkins County Deputy Sheriff speechless, it was awesome!!!

Kent L. Tryon  
Region 2 Ride Captain  
PGRNY  
Founder the "Ride for the Memories "









Photo Credits: Charles Harrington







## MEMBER PROFILE

**Gene A. Barnes. US Army, 12/1965-/12/1967**

Basic Training at Ft. Dix, NJ. Military Police AIT at Ft. Gordon, GA. Assigned to 30th MP Battalion, San Francisco, CA.

Civilian Occupations: At Cornell University both Fire Service and Warehousing; Trooper with NYS Police for 23 years; Division of Law Enforcement with Bureau of Indian Affairs for 5 years; worked at Pall Trinity, Cortland for 15 years.

He lives in Cortland NY, is married, with a son & 2 grandkids. He's the "roadie" for the family band, the "Von Barnes Band".

He enjoys traveling, especially National Parks, Monuments, and Battlefields. He is an avid target shooter. He's in the Homer Living History Center as a baseball player for the Cortland Huskies, 1970. As a golfer he brings a bag of grass seed along with his clubs.







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[www.ItacaFlowerShop.Com](http://www.ItacaFlowerShop.Com)

### CHAPTER INFORMATION

President	Gary Napieracz	315-730-7726
Vice-President	James Evener	315-283-3637
Treasurer	Harvey Baker	607-898-3507
Secretary	Mike Moran	607-539-7728
Directors	Dan Rose, Fran Moore, Ron Dexter, Mike Portzline, Carl Bullock, Tom Margrave, Paul Pagliaro, Dale VanBenschoten, Gene Barnes, Charles Harrington, Larry Housel, Ralph Moss	
<b>CHAPTER CALENDAR</b>		
September 8,	7:00	Chapter Meeting
October 6,	1:00	Chapter Meeting
November 10,	1:00	Chapter Meeting
MEETINGS ARE HELD AT DVMH, DRYDEN RD.		

**Dryden Veterans Memorial Home (DVMH)**

### CALENDAR:

**Next Board meeting will be Sept 22, 2020 @ 5:30 PM**

**\*\*\*a full menu is available every day (closed Mondays)\*\*\***

The director for the Home is Michelle Morse; she can be contacted at 844-9900, or [selba3@hotmail.com](mailto:selba3@hotmail.com).

### September's Calendar

- Sept. 2 VJ Day
- Sept. 7 Labor Day
- Sept. 11 Patriots Day
- Sept. 17 Constitution Day
- Sept. 18 USAF Establish, 1947
- Sept. 18 POW/MIA Day
- Sept. 22 First day of autumn
- Sept. 29 Gold Star Mother's Day

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**AUGUST 7, 2020: 9 Chapter 377 Members and 3 AVVA Members attended, and formed an Honor Guard, at the Calling Hours for Marianne Margrave in Cortland. She was the wife of Member Tom Margrave**

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### WRITERS' FORUM

If you've read or written *something you'd like to share* in the Nam Express, please send it to [gsmith1264@comcast.net](mailto:gsmith1264@comcast.net) or to 1264 Glatco Lodge Rd., Hanover, PA 17331, or call 717-698-1343.

### Heartland Farm Horse Supplies

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### STORIES & NEWS

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### 5th annual "Ride for the Memories"

Chapter 377 was asked to provide a Color Guard for the opening ceremonies of the 5th annual "Ride for the Memories" motorcycle ride on 8/8 in Dryden. The Ride is to honor Ryan Jayne, US Army, killed in Afghanistan 11/03/12. The funds raised during the ride go to helping the Twin Tiers Honor Flight organization. It takes Veterans to Washington DC to visit our Memorials. Chapter 377 member Paul Pagliario was recognized by the Patriot Guard at the ceremony for his long time contributions to the Patriot Guard by being given a Harley Davidson Trike Motorcycle! Mixes of 14 VVA/AVVA members were at the ceremony, and 6 VVA/AVVA rode in the ride.

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### Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipients

*One or more Vietnam Medal of Honor recipients will be memorialized each month until all recipients have been acknowledged.*



### William A. Jones, III, Colonel, United States Air Force

**Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Col. Jones distinguished himself as the pilot of an A-1H Skyraider aircraft near Dong Hoi, North Vietnam. On that day, as the on-scene commander in the attempted rescue of a downed U.S. pilot, Col. Jones' aircraft was repeatedly hit by heavy and accurate antiaircraft fire. On one of his low passes, Col. Jones felt an explosion beneath his aircraft and his cockpit rapidly



filled with smoke. With complete disregard of the possibility that his aircraft might still be burning, he unhesitatingly continued his search for the downed pilot. On this pass, he sighted the survivor and a multiple-barrel gun position firing at him from near the top of a karst formation. He could not attack the gun position on that pass for fear he would endanger the downed pilot. Leaving himself exposed to the gun position, Col. Jones attacked the position with cannon and rocket fire on 2 successive passes. On his second pass, the aircraft was hit with multiple rounds of automatic weapons fire. One round impacted the Yankee Extraction System rocket mounted directly behind the headrest, igniting the rocket. His aircraft was observed to burst into flames in the center fuselage section, with flames engulfing the cockpit area. He pulled the extraction handle, jettisoning the canopy. The influx of fresh air made the fire burn with greater intensity for a few moments, but since the rocket motor had already burned, the extraction system did not pull Col. Jones from the aircraft. Despite searing pains from severe burns sustained on his arms, hands, neck, shoulders, and face, Col. Jones pulled his aircraft into a climb and attempted to transmit the location of the downed pilot and the enemy gun position to the other aircraft in the area. His calls were blocked by other aircraft transmissions repeatedly directing him to bail out and within seconds his transmitters were disabled and he could receive only on 1 channel. Completely

disregarding his injuries, he elected to fly his crippled aircraft back to his base and pass on essential information for the rescue rather than bail out. Col. Jones successfully landed his heavily damaged aircraft and passed the information to a debriefing officer while on the operating table. As a result of his heroic actions and complete disregard for his personal safety, the downed pilot was rescued later in the day. Col. Jones' profound concern for his fellow man at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Air Force and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

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**Happy Birthday:**

- Sept 14, Gary Napieracz
- Sept 17, Harvey Borchardt
- Sept 18, US Air Force
- Sept 19, Dave Young
- Sept 26, Philip Tennant

*Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another]*



Veterans in immediate crisis may call the Veterans Crisis Line at (800-273-8255 then press 1, text 838255 or chat online at [veteran Crisis Line.net/get-help/chat](http://veteran Crisis Line.net/get-help/chat). For more information on VA's mental program, visit ([www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov))

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Thank You!



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