

MOPH Chapter 700 Newsletter



January 2012

Greetings Chapter 700 Members!

It's time for our next newsletter. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year celebration, and may we all have many more.

As I have in the past, I'll review what has happened since the last newsletter, which covered up to and including the Warren County Fair.

In September, there was a memorial event for MIA Major Bruce Lawrence. He was one of only 3 MIAs from Phillipsburg from Vietnam. An Air Force member, he was shot down over North Vietnam in 1968. His remains were located and returned to the USA. There was an outstanding memorial ceremony at Walters Park in Phillipsburg. Several of us attended and participated in the event.

In October, we participated in an Oktoberfest at Mountain Lake Fire Department in Belvidere. Five of us were there – a nice event – but the weather was not cooperating – RAIN. In late October, there was a formal dinner and entertainment event at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Clinton to honor WWII Vets. A wonderful dinner, plus a vocal trio, The Manhattan Dolls, provided a musical tribute to the music of the WWII era. Four of us WWII Chapter 700 members attended and had an enjoyable evening.

November was a busy month. Chapter 700 furnished and placed wreaths on the 3 Purple Heart Memorial Stones: Belvidere, Flemington and Phillipsburg. There were Veteran's Day events at the Belvidere High School, the Great Meadows Middle School, an event at The Chelsea home in Belvidere, and a Veteran's luncheon at the Independence Manor in Flemington. Howard Housel participated in a special event at the French High School in New York City, but more on that later in this newsletter.

In late November, we had a fund drive at the Shop Rite of Washington and then in December, another one at the Phillipsburg Mall. Several members, plus Associate members all participated. Both fundraisers were beneficial despite our economy. People are quite generous!

Throughout those events, we also had our annual Christmas "social" dinner and the distribution of our Christmas gifts to our Veteran friends at the "homes" in both Hunterdon and Warren counties. Our Christmas dinner was on December 1st to start the Christmas season. Some time ago, necessity forced us to establish ground rules to encourage more

participation in our activities. It is required that a member attends at least one monthly meeting or participates in one event throughout the year in order for the Chapter to pay for their dinner. That's not really asking too much. We are all members. Let's all get involved.

Twenty four attended the dinner and we were honored to have as guests, NJ State Department Commander, Neil Van Ess, along with NJ State Department Finance Officer, Jim Vitale. Both spoke a bit and it was good to hear a few nice words about our Chapter and the good work that we are doing for our local Veterans.

Then our big event was upon us – our Christmas gift program. Our gift to our Veteran friends was a wrist watch and an embroidered pillowcase. One small home had closed recently, but that left 21 other homes that we delivered to. We provided 260 gifts for our Veterans this year. We received a number of "Thank You" cards and notes – some from the Veterans, some from the Veteran's families, and a few from the homes. Our gifts and the actual endeavor to deliver them and spend time with our Veterans are so well received that it makes the program so worthwhile, and adds to our personal Christmas celebration.

I mentioned previously that Howard Housel had a special event at the French High School in NYC. He was awarded the French Legion of Honor for his participation during WWII. He was in Patton's 3rd Army in the Battle of the Bulge as a sergeant, and received a battle field promotion to Second Lieutenant. He spent a total of 38+ years in the Army and the Reserves, and retired as a Colonel. The award he received included the title of "Chevalier", the French equivalent of "Knight". Congratulations Howard....move over Sir Lancelot....here comes Sir Housel!

Our new trailer looks good! Now we have room enough to store all our material, with a drop side partition. It will be our booth for fund drives and future involvements at parades and school events. Since we now have the room, we would like to assemble all of our material in one place. If anyone has any Chapter material, flags, banners, money, etc., please bring them to any Chapter member, or to a meeting.

Now I would like to introduce a new member, Francis Giaquinto, Marine, Afghanistan, residing in Hackettstown. Welcome Frank! It is good to have you as a member. At an earlier date, Rhonda Shandor joined us as an Associate Member. Now we have two ladies as Associate Members, who are very active and eager to participate. It's so good to have some young people with us.

That was the plus side of membership. But the down side – we lost 6 members these last few months:

- ❖ James O'Donnell, WWII
- ❖ William Hickey, WWII
- ❖ Harry Loveless, WWII
- ❖ William Schwede, WWII
- ❖ Paul Stillman, WWII
- ❖ George Wyker, Korea

William, Harry and George lived here in NJ and were active and participated during their membership. They will be missed. The others resided out of state and while we did not actually know these heroes, they too will be missed. To all,

"Till we meet again, we salute you!"

Our membership is now 62, but 5 are out of NJ, so that reduces the number to 57. Of that, 16 are WWII, the oldest being 97 and the youngest being 86.

Well, what's coming up?

There will not be any meetings in February or March. We will resume our monthly meetings in April. There will be parades on Memorial Day and the 4th of July (locations to be determined). I'm sure there will be other Memorial Events, school events, etc., and everyone will be advised and invited.

Election of Officers for the 2012-2013 season will be conducted at our April 5th meeting. I have nominated our existing officers:

Ron Adams, Commander
Richard Zuschlag, Senior Vice Commander
Peter Adamski, Junior Vice Commander
Adam Mackow, Sgt. at Arms
Jay Hunter, Finance Officer
Jacki Ceaser, Assistant Finance Officer

The positions of Chaplain and Adjutant are appointed (not elected) at the discretion of the Commander. Both positions are available, so speak up! Incidentally, I feel the individuals nominated are outstanding people, very capable, each an asset to our Chapter.

In closing, we are small in numbers, but as active as any other Chapter. We have been acknowledged as an outstanding Chapter by our Department Officials. Let's keep up the good work. We do need more participation, new ideas and new faces will be welcomed.

Until next time....April 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., VFW Post 5119, 179 Main Street, Glen Gardner, NJ.....hope to see you all! Stay warm and well. God Bless!

Richard Betts

MOPH Chapter 700

Commander Ron Adams
P.O. Box 23
Washington, NJ 07882



Meetings are held at the VFW Post 5119, 179 Main Street, Glen Gardner, NJ 08827, at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. Upcoming meetings are:

April 5, 2012

May 3, 2012

June 7, 2012

July 5, 2012

August 2, 2012

September 6, 2012

October 4, 2012

November 1, 2012

December 6, 2012 (dinner)