



Charles B. Morris Memorial Chapter 710 Newsletter July 2011

Vietnam Memorial in Hillsville, Va.

Members of Chapter 710 VVA let us not forget those Veterans who “Gave their All”. On 30 May 2011 we had nine members to show up at the memorial service in Hillsville, Va. at the Vietnam Memorial. Memorial Day comes once a year to Honor the Men & Women in our Armed Forces who “Gave their All”. One day out of the year will not hurt any of us to attend a Memorial service for those men & Women who die in service. Chapter 710 holds this service every Memorial Day at 2:00 pm.

Our Flag

The American flag does not fly because the wind moves past it. The American flag flies from the last breath of each military member who has died protecting it. American soldiers don't fight because they hate what's in front of them, they fight because they love what's behind them.

Virginia State Council Meeting 25 & 26 March 2011

The following letter can explain how the council meeting went, better than I can.

Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 11:16 AM

Subject: Thank you for a great VVA Virginia State Council Meeting

Frank,

On behalf of Chapter 227, we want to thank Chapter 710 for being a great host for the VVA Virginia State Council meeting this past weekend.

The council meeting was informative and educational.

The Friday night reception and the Saturday evening social were really great and entertaining especially the chicken wings on Friday night. Byron may not agree with me on the chicken wings.

I think that you missed your true calling as a game show MC since you got Martha to do her dance.

The meeting was a special occasion for me since it provided the opportunity for Diane and I to have dinner with my company commander from Vietnam and his wife, who live in Draper, Va.

During Saturday dinner, it was discovered that my CO and Byron Sheldon grew up only miles from each other in Nashville, TN. It is a small world indeed.

The ride home was safe and speedy since the snow storm did not materialized along the way on the highway.

Overall, it was a great weekend with fellow Vietnam veterans and their families.

Wish you and the chapter the best for the coming year.

I may be back in the neighborhood to do some fly fishing.

Welcome Home,

Len Ignatowski
VVA Chapter 227
Chapter State Council Delegate
Chapter Director

The members of VVA Chapter 710 who help at the Virginia State Council Meeting at Galax, Va. On the 25 & 26 March thank you for a job well done.

June 29, 2011

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anne Atkins

[\(804\) 371-0441](tel:8043710441)

New legislation provides vital records to veterans at no cost, hunting licenses at reduced cost

RICHMOND—Two pieces of legislation passed unanimously by the 2011 General Assembly and signed into law by Governor McDonnell will provide veterans with copies of vital records at no cost and hunting licenses at a reduced cost.

Vital records at no cost

Veterans and their survivors may receive a certified copy of vital records, such as birth, death, and marriage certificates, from the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Vital Records at no charge if the records will be used to obtain military service-connected benefits. The legislation was patroned by Delegate Massie and Senator Northam. To obtain more information, veterans or their survivors should contact the Division of Vital Records at [\(804\) 662-6200](tel:8046626200).

Hunting licenses for disabled veterans at a discounted cost

Beginning July 1, discounted hunting licenses will be available to disabled veterans. Resident veterans rated by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a 70 percent service-connected disability may purchase an annual state resident basic hunting license at half price. Veterans with a 70 percent service-connected disability residing out of state may purchase an annual non-resident basic hunting license at half price. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries already offers a lifetime hunting and fishing license and a life-time trapping license to disabled veterans at a reduced cost. The new law was sponsored by Delegate Armstrong. An application for the license is available on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' website at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Although not part of the legislative package, earlier this year Governor McDonnell granted veterans free access to all state parks through the end of 2011.

June 28, 2011



News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anne Atkins

[\(804\) 371-0441](tel:8043710441)

In-state tuition residency requirement waived for veterans at public colleges and universities

RICHMOND—Legislation patroned by Delegates Anderson and Stolle and Senator Edwards during the 2011 General Assembly session will grant veterans in-state tuition rates at Virginia colleges and universities without waiting the normal one-year period. “Coupled with their G.I. Bill benefits, this is a huge benefit for veterans that can save them thousands of dollars and help them kick-start their higher education,” commented Paul Galanti, a former Vietnam POW and Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

Ordinarily, to qualify for in-state tuition rates, students must have been domiciled in Virginia for at least one year prior to the school year. To verify domicile, colleges typically review whether the student has lived continuously in Virginia for one year prior to the school year and, as applicable, paid income taxes, held a Virginia driver's license and motor vehicle registration, registered to vote in Virginia, been employed, or owned property in the Commonwealth.

Under the new legislation, the one-year residency requirement will be waived for veterans and their dependents. Once veterans establish proof of Virginia domicile, they will qualify for in-state tuition rates as of the next semester.

Eligibility for in-state tuition rates is determined by the college or university during the enrollment process. Veterans should contact their prospective college or university for additional information.

June 27, 2011

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anne Atkins
[\(804\) 371-0441](tel:8043710441)

This year's state legislation favorable toward veterans

RICHMOND—The 2011 General Assembly passed, and Governor McDonnell has signed into law, a number of bills and budget amendments favorable toward veterans as well as active duty military members. Legislation focused on education, vital records, judicial procedures for veterans and military members, and a tax exemption for veterans with a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability. Budget amendments provided additional resources for the Virginia Department of Veterans Services benefits services, cemeteries, and care centers, and resources for the Virginia War Memorial. The new legislation waives the one-year residency requirement for veterans to qualify for in-state tuition rates, provided other steps are taken to establish domicile intent. And, the Commonwealth's Bureau of Vital Records will provide records free of charge to veterans filing for veterans disability benefits.

The General Assembly passed enabling legislation allowing (but not requiring) counties and cities to establish special judicial procedures for veterans and military service members. The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program will work with cities and counties who request assistance with implementing these procedures.

Legislators passed enabling legislation implementing the constitutional amendment requiring localities to grant a real estate tax exemption for veterans with a 100%, permanent and total, service-connected disability. Voters overwhelmingly approved the amendment this past fall and the legislation took effect January 1, 2011.

Budget amendments approved by the Governor and General Assembly included \$402,403 to fill seven vacant benefit services positions in the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS), and \$82,306 to establish a county veterans service officer liaison program. Other amendments included \$387,164 to support cemetery operations.

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services received authorization to apply for federal grant funds to construct a care center in Southwest Virginia and for renovations to the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Roanoke. The agency received \$3.3 million to fund the state's portion for building a 40-bed addition to the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond.

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program received a \$250,000 increase. This program waives tuition and required fees at state colleges and universities for the spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service in an armed conflict. An annual stipend of up to \$1,500 per student is also provided to offset costs such as room, board, books, and supplies.

Finally, the Virginia War Memorial received \$100,000 in funding for additional security costs. The Memorial is one of the premier veterans memorials in the United States.

Schedule:

4 Aug. 2011 Business Meeting at 6:00pm

18 Aug. 2011 Meeting at 6:00pm
1 Sept. 2011 Business Meeting at 6:00pm
15 Sept. 2011 Meeting at 6:00pm
13 Oct. 2011 Business Meeting at 6:00pm
27 Oct. 2011 Meeting at 6:00pm
13 Nov. 2011 Business Meeting at 6:00pm
11 Nov. 2011 set up tent & poppy donations at Wal-Mart
17 Nov. 2011 Meeting at 6:00pm
1 Dec.. 2011 Business Meeting at 6:00pm

President Corner

#I would like to thank the few members that show up at the Thursday business meetings & our other Thursday gatherings. Seems like any more it's a struggle to get anyone to show up, especially when we need help with fund raisers , memorial services & parades that we do the same time & same place every year. No one should have to be reminded of these events. It would be different if the time & location changed every year, but they don't. If anyone want's to be a part of these event's, come to our Thursday meetings or let me or Bill know. Again, thanks to all that help keep the Chapter going.

FRANK

