



FLORISSANT VALLEY VVA CONNECTION

a quarterly newsletter for members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 794

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: OPPORTUNITIES

We all have a common bond. That common bond is that we all served in the United States Armed Forces at a time when that service was not appreciated and frequently disdained. We were in different branches with different jobs and in geographically diverse locations. Those differences were established by the orders we received "to meet the needs of the service". The only place that we may have had any say was in the choice of our branch. The orders that we received determined all else. We are the same, even though our experiences are different. We served our Country when it was not popular to do so. We are unique! This uniqueness leads us to many opportunities.

Over time I have come to appreciate how beneficial it is to talk with these unique individuals who "are the same". That does not mean that we must talk about "the same" part of our lives. The bond means is that there is a deeper understanding between us that transcends whatever we are talking about. Family, jobs, cars, or even favorite scotches; there is something magical about the bond.

In recent weeks, we have had three opportunities that highlight this bond. Times to talk together and share the rich heritage that each of us brings to the world.

First was Relay for Life. The impact of cancers on the Vietnam era veterans is truly devastating. Relay gives us an opportunity to help others while we may be helping ourselves. It also gives us a time to chat and better know each other.

The second was Birds on a Wire. Birds is a time of remembrance and reflection of when we sponsored The Moving Wall. This is a time when more barriers are breached and innermost thoughts shared than any other. It is a time to reflect quietly or share our uniqueness.

Third was a Boot and Helmet for Jerry's Kids. This, and other Boot and Helmets, gives us exposure in the public eye, allows us to benefit the community, make new friends and visit with each other. What an incredible way to accomplish several goals in a single event.

Another unique feature of our Chapter brings up another opportunity for one or more (committee) members to do something for the rest of us. We have the very special circumstance that every member who has served as President of this Chapter is still an active member. That is a very unusual happening.

We need a Chapter Historian or History Committee. I envision one of their first jobs as to capture the Chapter information and personal recollections of the Past Presidents along with any Charter Members who are still available.

If you would like to be part of this opportunity, please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard L. Ellwanger

Florissant Valley
Vietnam Veterans of
America Chapter 794
www.vva794.org

Chapter President
DICK ELLWANGER

Vice President
RICH OTTEN

Secretary
DON VOSS

Treasurer
GORDON (SKIP) BROWN

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The Chapter extends condolences to Skip Alfred, daughter Denise and family on the death of Enid on July 1, 2009. Enid was a great part of many people's lives and will be missed.

PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT REGISTRY BEING FORMED

Military Retiree Report - Scott Air Force Base

Contributed by Walter Kaiser

A registry of Purple Heart recipients is being formed from all branches of service, all wars for which the Purple Heart was awarded, and from all across the nation. In order to verify receipt of the medal documentation is requested. This can include a variety of materials including the DD-214 or other discharge form listing awards, medical forms, a photograph of the back of the medal bearing the recipient's name, or other supporting materials. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is also looking for photographs, telegrams, letters home, news articles or other materials that help put a face and a story with each recipient's name. Please complete the enrollment form and return to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor with proper documentation. (*The enrollment form can be found at <http://www.thepurpleheart.com/docs/Enrollment.pdf>. The Purple Heart Web site is www.thepurpleheart.com.)*

How do I obtain DD-214 or other discharge papers?

To obtain a copy of the necessary documentation, please contact the National Records Center at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>.

If you are not a veteran or the next of kin, you must complete the standard Form 180 (SF180). This form is available at <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf> on

the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Web site.

How many Purple Hearts have been awarded?

The hall of honor can guess at the exact number because no consistent record was kept since the award was established in 1932, and they estimate the number at 1.7 million. The award was first retroactive to those who received "wound chevrons" and "certificates of merit" during World War I and to those from earlier wars who chose to apply for the award. From 1942 on it was limited to service men and women wounded or killed in combat against the enemy.

Records were sometimes lost during wartime when headquarters were overrun and unfortunately many were lost during a fire at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973.

Where is the National Purple Heart located?

The New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site in New York's Hudson River Valley is the setting for the Hall of Honor. Just 60 miles north of Manhattan and ten miles north of the United States Military Academy at West Point, the cantonment was an extensive military post housing some 7,500 soldiers and 500 civilian dependents in the closing years of the Revolutionary War. Officers met here in a chapel and meeting hall called the "Temple of Virtue" to review candidates for the Badge of Military Merit, the inspiration for today's Purple Heart. In 1932, 138 veterans of World War I received some of the nation's first Purple Hearts on Temple Hill near the site of the "Temple of Virtue".

How do I locate a Purple Heart recipient in the Roll of Honor Online?

First select "Roll of Honor" from the links at the top of the page. Second, type the name of the individual you are looking for in to the first and last name boxes on the search page. Select the search button. If you are unable to find the recipient you are looking for try varying your search: Conduct a search using the recipient's last name leaving out their first name. Then, you might want to try alternate spellings of the name you are using for your search. If you are still unable to locate the recipient you are looking for, are you certain that this recipient has been registered with the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor?

For more information about registering at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, please refer to "How do I register a Purple Heart Recipient?" on the Web site.

What is the "Roll of Honor"?

The Roll of Honor is a database created to preserve and present the stories of Purple Heart recipients. It can be accessed at ten interactive computer kiosks at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Visitors to the Hall of Honor can learn about individual Purple Heart recipients by reading the stories, and looking at the photographs and other documents that have been submitted to the Hall of Honor. Registration is voluntary. If you are interested in learning more about the registration process please refer to "How do I register a Purple Heart Recipient?"

What is the "Roll of Honor Online"?

The Roll of Honor Online is an abbreviated online version of the Roll of Honor. You can use it to search for and learn about the Purple Heart recipients who have been enrolled with the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

BOOT AND HELMETS

The chapter held two successful Boot and Helmets this summer. The one held in August enabled the chapter to donate \$600 to the MDA "Jerry's Kids" Telethon. Rich Otten and Kim Oglesby presented the check to Heidi Glaus. Thank you to everyone who participated.

9/11 OBSERVANCE

The city of Florissant will hold a 9/11 Observance Ceremony on Sunday, September 13th, at 1:00 p.m. The location is the Eagan Center.

POW-MIA CEREMONY

A POW-MIA ceremony will be conducted Friday, September 18th, 7:00 p.m. at the monument in Koch Park. The Florissant Police Honor Guard will be present, laying of a wreath and lighting of candles will take place.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Mark your calendars to join the group as the men in the chapter take their spouses or significant others out for dinner. This special event will take place on September 20th at Deavers Restaurant and Sports Bar, 2109 Charbonier Rd. The time will be announced at the chapter meeting.

CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Yes, it is only September; however, plans are underway for the chapter Christmas party. As in the past, the party will be held on the regular December meeting day, December 15th, with a potluck dinner.

There will not be a Veterans Day dance this year so the planning committee thought that it would benefit the chapter if we included a silent auction. Donations of gift baskets will be accepted. You have three months to be creative.

More details about the party will be available in the next newsletter.

MARINES TOYS FOR TOTS

Toys will be collected for presentation to the Marines for their "Toys for Tots" program. Bring your donations to the November meeting. In the past, the toys were brought to the December meeting. This year we want to make sure that the Marines have them in plenty of time to distribute them to needy children.

VETERANS DAY PARADE

The chapter will participate in the Florissant Veterans Day Parade on November 8th with the help of Mark Behlman. He has once again offered to provide the truck and trailer. More details will be available as the date gets near.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Plans have not been finalized yet; but, the chapter is working on an October ice cream social for the Missouri Veterans Home, 10600 Lewis & Clark Blvd. Attend the chapter meeting for more details.

CREDIT CARD ADVICE

*Military Retiree Report - Scott Air Force Base
Contributed by Walter Kaiser*

1. Do not sign the back of credit cards. Instead, put "photo ID required".
2. When writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, do not put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone number on checks instead of your home phone. If you have a P.O. Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a P.O. Box, use your work address. Never have

your social security number printed on personal checks.

4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. It is also a good idea to carry a photocopy of your passport when traveling either here or abroad.
5. If you lose your credit cards, you should immediately cancel them. But the key is having the toll free telephone numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation.
7. Most importantly, call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. Here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, if it has been stolen:
 - Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
 - Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
 - Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289
 - Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

CONGRESSIONAL VOTES

The following is information provided through emails dated 6/8, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29, 7/14, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, and 8/10 by vva.org "MegaVote, How is Congress Voting".

Recent Senate Votes

- **Cloture Motion; Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act - Vote Agreed to** (84-11, 4 Not Voting) With this vote the Senate chose to open debate on a bill that would give the FDA regulatory authority over tobacco, but would not allow the agency to ban cigarettes or other tobacco products.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **NO**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act - Vote Passed** (79-17, 3 Not Voting) The Senate passed this bill that would give the FDA regulatory authority over tobacco, but would not allow the agency to ban cigarettes or other tobacco products.
Sen. Christopher Bond **Not Voting**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 - Vote Agreed to** (91-5, 3 Not Voting) The Senate gave final passage to this \$106 billion bill providing funds for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, sending the bill to the President.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Nomination of Harold Hongju Koh to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State - Vote Confirmed** (62-35, 2 Not Voting) The Senate confirmed Yale Law School Dean Harold Koh as Legal Adviser of the State Department.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **NO**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2010 - Vote Passed** (67-25, 7 Not Voting) The

Senate passed this \$3.1 billion bill to fund the legislative branch, which includes a provision to post Senate expenses online for the public to access.

Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**

Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **NO**

- **Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010 - Vote Passed** (84-6, 10 Not Voting) On Thursday, the Senate passed this \$42.9 billion bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2010, which includes a provision requiring at least 700 miles of a border fence with Mexico be completed by 2010.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **Not Voting**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Cloture Motion; Nomination of Robert M. Groves, to be Director of the Census - Vote Agreed to** (76-15, 9 Not Voting) The Senate agreed to this procedural vote allowing a vote on the nomination of Robert Groves to be the Director of the Census, who was later confirmed by a voice vote.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Cloture Motion; To provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes - Vote Agreed to** (63-28, 9 Not Voting) The Senate agreed to end debate on this amendment to the Military Construction authorization bill that would include gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability in the definition of hate crimes. The amendment was later approved by voice vote.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **Not Voting**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 - Vote Passed** (87-7, 6 Not Voting) The Senate passed this bill that sets

funding levels for the military and authorizes Department of Defense programs, which includes reduced funding for the F-22 fighter jet.

Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**

Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**

- **Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 - Vote Passed** (85-9, 6 Not Voting) On Wednesday, the Senate passed this \$34.3 billion bill funding the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers and related agencies and programs.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **NO**
- **To restore sums to the Highway Trust Fund - Vote Passed** (79-17, 4 Not Voting) The Senate approved this bill providing \$7 billion to the Highway Trust Fund, ensuring it will stay solvent through the rest of fiscal year 2009.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 - Vote Passed** (80-17, 3 Not Voting) On Tuesday, the Senate passed this \$124.3 billion bill funding the USDA, FDA and other related agencies and programs.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Nomination of Sonia Sotomayor, of New York, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States - Vote Confirmed** (68-31, 1 Not Voting) The Senate confirmed Judge Sonia Sotomayor to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for the**

Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program - Vote **Passed** (60-37, 3 Not Voting) The Senate passed this \$2 billion bill to replenish funding for the "Cash for Clunkers" program, sending it to the President for his signature.

Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**

Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **NO**

Recent House Votes

• **Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act** - Vote **Passed** (397-25, 11 Not Voting) This bill would authorize programs, advisory groups and spending to improve security at U.S. airports and rail systems. It also prohibits the TSA from using whole-body imaging machines at primary security checkpoints of airports.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act** - Vote **Passed** (258-154, 1 Present, 20 Not Voting) The House approved this bill that would provide paid leave to federal employees for 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave available to them.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011** - Vote **Passed** (235-187, 11 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that would authorize funding for the Department of State and the Peace Corps through fiscal year 2011.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement (PEACE) Act** - Vote **Passed** (234-185, 14 Not Voting) The House approved this bill to authorize democratic, economic and security assistance to Pakistan.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act** - Vote **Passed** (307-97, 30 Not Voting)

The House gave final passage to this bill granting the FDA regulatory authority over tobacco, sending it to the President.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009** - Vote **Passed** (226-202, 6 Not Voting) The House approved this bill funding the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (259-157, 17 Not Voting) The House passed this \$64.4 billion bill to fund the Departments of Commerce and Justice, science agencies, and other related agencies for Fiscal Year 2010.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (232-178, 23 Not Voting) The House approved this bill to fund the legislative branch, including salaries and expenses of member offices, committee offices, the Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol and the Library of Congress for Fiscal Year 2010.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (389-37, 7 Not Voting) On Wednesday, the House passed this bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2010.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Department of Defense Authorization, FY 2010** - Vote **Passed** (389-22, 1 Present, 21 Not Voting) The House approved this bill to authorize funding for military activities and prescribe military personnel strengths in Fiscal Year 2010.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (254-173, 6

Not Voting) The House passed this bill funding the Department of Interior, Environmental Protection Agency and related agencies for Fiscal Year 2010.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **American Clean Energy and Security Act** - Vote **Passed** (219-212, 3 Not Voting) This climate and energy bill, which includes a cap-and-trade program, was passed by the House on Friday.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act** - Vote **Passed** (386-41, 5 Not Voting) On Wednesday, the House voted to reauthorize two federal programs that provide research and development grants to entrepreneurs.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (266-160, 6 Not Voting) The House approved this \$123.8 billion bill to fund the USDA, FDA and other related agencies and programs.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriation, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (318-106, 8 Not Voting) This \$48.8 billion bill funding the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for Fiscal Year 2010 was passed on Thursday.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (415-3, 14 Not Voting) The House passed this \$133.7 billion bill funding veterans programs and military construction.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**

• **Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (219-208, 1 Present, 5 Not Voting) On Thursday, the House voted on this \$24.1 billion bill funding the

Treasury Department, the executive branch, the judicial branch, the District of Columbia and independent agencies.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted YES

- **Restore Our American Mustangs Act** - Vote **Passed** (239-185, 9 Not Voting) On Friday, the House passed this bill that intends to improve the management and long-term health of wild free-roaming horses and burros.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted YES

- **Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (320-97, 16 Not Voting) The House approved this \$33.3 billion bill funding the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers and related agencies and programs.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted YES

- **Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (265-166, 3 Not Voting) On Wednesday, the House voted to reinstitute and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory

spending legislation.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted NO

- **Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (256-168, 9 Not Voting) The House passed this \$123.1 billion bill funding transportation and housing programs for the next fiscal year.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted YES

- **Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (264-153, 16 Not Voting) The House approved this \$160.7 billion bill funding the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and other related agencies and programs.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted YES

- **Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010** - Vote **Passed** (400-30, 3 Not Voting) On Thursday, the House approved this \$636.3 billion bill funding the Department of Defense.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted YES

- **Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (283-142, 8 Not Voting) The House passed this food safety legislation, which would give the FDA more oversight and expand its role in inspections.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted YES

- **Supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program** - Vote **Passed** (316-109, 2 Present, 6 Not Voting) The House approved an additional \$2 billion for the "Cash for Clunkers" program, which had run out of funds.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted YES

- **Corporate and Financial Institution Compensation Fairness Act** - Vote **Passed** (237-185, 11 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that intends to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation and to prevent certain incentives in the compensation practices of financial institutions.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted YES

Calendar of Events

The Moving Wall (Vietnam Combat Vets), Warrenton, MO. Sept. 10 - 14, 2009
 Chapter Meeting - 1900, VFW Post 4105. Sept. 15, 2009
 9/11 Observance - 1300, James J. Eagan Center. Sept. 13, 2009
 POW-MIA Ceremony - 1900, Koch Park. Sept. 18, 2009
 Ladies Night Out - Deavers Restaurant Sept. 20, 2009
 Chapter Meeting - 1900, VFW Post 4105. Oct. 20, 2009
 Ice Cream Social - Missouri Veterans Home (October TBA)
 Veterans Day Parade Nov. 8, 2009
 Chapter Meeting - 1900, VFW Post 4105. Nov. 17, 2009
 Chapter Meeting Christmas Party - 1900, VFW Post 4105 Dec. 15, 2009



Catering To You

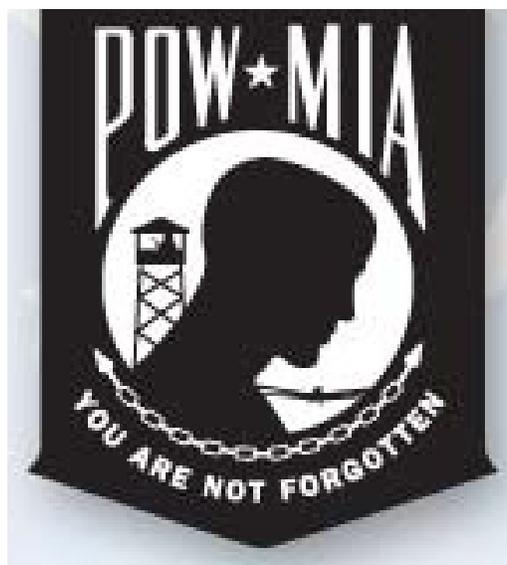
Located in New Halls Ferry Plaza
 12775 New Halls Ferry Rd.
 Florissant, MO 63033
 Phone: 314-839-3244

Frank's Home and Building Repair

Carpentry Painting

Small Electrical Small Plumbing

Frank Demos 314-322-7119



**POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY
CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009

7:00 P.M.

MONUMENT - KOCH PARK

**CORNER OF HOWDERSHELL AND CARBONIER ROADS
FLORISSANT, MISSOURI**

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that in the past Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag.



In Service to America®

VVA Chapter 794
P.O. Box 2700
Florissant, MO 63032

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 794



*Chapter meetings are held every third Tuesday
of the month at:*

*VFW Post 4105
410 Rue St. Francois
Florissant, MO 63031
314-831-6121*