



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Tom Corey, national president of the Vietnam Veterans of America, chats Saturday night at The Palms in Rutland with Olive Pettis of Castleton, mother of Steven Pettis, who was killed in Vietnam. Below is Jack Crowther of Rutland at Lai Khe, Vietnam, in the mid-1960s and Adrian Megrath (bottom) in Pleiku, Vietnam, in April 1970.

Veterans group observes milestone

VVA commemorates 25 years renewing plea for recognition

By GORDON DRITSCHLO
Herald Staff

With their war 30 years in the past, a small group of Vermonters were asked to keep in mind a new generation whose war has not yet ended.

As Chapter 1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America celebrated their 25th anniversary at The Palms Saturday night, a number of speakers extolled those present to keep the people currently fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan in their thoughts, and to make sure they do not face the same struggles Vietnam veterans did upon returning home.

About 60 people turned out for the event, including Rutland Mayor John Cassarino and Vermont Gov. James Douglas.

Conversations at the tables drifted from people's jobs and their children, eventually to where they trained, where and when they served, people they knew, things they saw and heard about. There were few, if any, stories of personal heroism, just sober remembrances of the things seen decades ago, half a world away.

Chapter president Adrian Megrath of Rutland Town kept his own remarks brief, and spent much of the evening reading

communications from others, including VVA founder Bobby Muller.

When Muller first created VVA in the late 1970s, it was a nebulous, loosely organized group. He said he was initially opposed to the formation of local chapters, but in hindsight he is glad the Vermonters won him over.

"It should be remembered that the traditional veterans organizations, the House and Senate veterans affairs committees and the VA itself were unsympathetic to our situation," he wrote.

Muller went on to observe that with a new set of veterans returning home from a new war, many of the same issues were cropping up again.

"We all learned that the benefits and services that we needed and deserved were only realized as a result of fighting for them," he said. "We also learned that the local network of support was critical in the actual delivery of those programs."

Muller closed by saying he hoped the anniversary would mark a renewal of the group's energy and commitment to Veterans issues.



Veterans: Want U.S. to do the right thing

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Megrath recognized Olive Pettis of Castleton, whose son Steven Pettis was killed in Vietnam. He urged every veteran in the room to give Pettis a hug.

"She's earned it," he said.

The gathering also paid tribute to Lt. Col. Mark Truhan. One of the founding members of the chapter, Truhan is on active duty with the Army reserve in Iraq. His mission is training officers of the Iraqi army in American military doctrine.

In a series of e-mails read to the gathering, Truhan sent greetings from Iraq. He said he wished he could have been in the company of his fellow members that night.

"Instead, I find myself with another bunch of great guys, albeit much younger guys, who are still wearing helmets and carrying M-16s to work like we used to," he wrote. "They look at me like I'm a dinosaur escaped from a museum display ... I ask them if they're toilet trained yet."

Truhan said he saw little difference between the young men he is serving with in Iraq and the young men he once served with in Vietnam.

"Like us, they represent what is best about our country," he said. "They still think senior officers suck pond water and their favorite word starts with an 'f.' And like us, they feel boredom and fear, joy and loneliness, and yet share that unique comradeship that can only be forged between soldiers under fire together."

The keynote speaker was VVA national president Thomas Corey, who was left a paraplegic from wounds suffered during the war.

"Whoever thought something would have started out of Rutland?" he asked the crowd. "A lot of good things have come out of Rutland. A lot of people per capita are serving from this town, this state. I see a lot of flags flying from here to Burlington. People here are



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

John Bergeron, with his brother, Chucky, in 1968 prior to Bergeron's departure for Germany. Below is Bill Whitney at LZ Center in Vietnam, July 1968.



proud of their people who are serving."

Corey said he hopes that pride will translate into a will to preserve veterans benefits currently under attack on Washington.

"We're \$4 billion short of what is needed to take care of those in the system today and those serving today," he said.

Corey also blasted the admin-

istration for recent remarks he said showed a gross insensitivity to veterans.

"When we have an undersecretary of the Department of Defense make the statement that we're taking up money that should be spent fighting the war, that is shameful," he said. "It's unconscionable for him to say something like that. There still hasn't been an apology from him or from the administration."

Corey said he hoped everyone in the room would urge their representatives to fully fund veterans programs.

"Those that served should be taken care of," he said. "We did what we were asked to do when we were asked to serve. Leave no veteran behind. Don't keep asking us to come and beg for money. We know there's money. We don't want to take away from anything else. We just want what's right."

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CORRECTIONS

The Rutland Herald corrects all factual errors. Corrections and clarifications are published as soon as possible on the back of Section A.

If you see an error, call the newsroom at 747-6133 or 1-800-498-4296.

11-12-10 Rut. Herald

More names go on Vietnam honor roll

By **GORDON DRITSCHILO**
STAFF WRITER

Nicholas Duprey said he never really thought about adding his name to Rutland's Vietnam Memorial.

"It's just one of those things, 40 years later," said the Rutland man who served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1969 to 1972 and spent the middle of his stint in Vietnam. "Is that awful?"

Duprey said his brother-in-law and fellow veteran Roland Faucher talked him

into it, and Duprey's was one of 13 names added to the memorial's honor roll during a brief ceremony Thursday.

Joining Duprey on the list were Thomas Allen, Douglas Bora, Raymond Courcelle, Arthur Griffin Jr., Nicholas Lafaso Jr. and Thomas Thompson of Rutland, Raymond Cook of Pittsfield, John Hughes and Frederick Lester of Pittsford, Hayden Jones of Poultney, James Perry of Fair Haven and David Ther-

rien of Shrewsbury.

Dedicated in 2000, the memorial lists every known veteran of the Vietnam War who entered the service from Rutland County. Lacking a comprehensive list like the one compiled after World War I by the Vermont Adjutant General's office, organizers have relied on self-reporting by veterans, using discharge papers to verify their status.

"Believe it or not, there's a lot of people who didn't want their names on there,"

said Andy Megrath, president of Chapter 1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. "Family members are coming forward now and having their names added because they've passed."

The organization gathers names through the year, Megrath said, and adds them in batches. He said he already had a couple of names for the next addition.

"We had one woman approach me — she wanted

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Honor

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her brother's name added," he said. "He committed suicide when he came home."

The memorial started with 125 names and had 312 at the close of the ceremony Thursday. Megrath said the group had to make more room.

"We actually had the text reduced," he said. "They went to a smaller font size and added another column. We could add roughly 30 more names."

The small crowd that gathered around the memorial strained to hear Megrath's remarks over the passing trucks, then placed their hands over their hearts or saluted as a bugler played taps.

"We actually had the text reduced We could add roughly 30 more names."

Andy Megrath, president of the Vietnam Veterans Association, Chapter 1

Earlier that morning, Christ the King School held a Veterans Day service. As the names were added to the memorial, firefighters hoisted the massive American flag outside the American Legion in preparation for the annual event there.

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The Co~op
Natural Foods Market

Local Vietnam vets organization commemorates 25th anniversary

By GORDON DRITSCHILLO
Herald Staff

Adrian Megrath said he was never interested in joining a veteran's group.

Today, he is president of the Rutland County chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America — the first chapter of the national organization — and will preside over the group's 25th anniversary dinner Saturday.

Megrath said VVA was born out of the sense of alienation felt by a number of Vietnam veterans returning home to the United States.

"We didn't get treated all that well when we got back from Vietnam," he said. "We got looked at as the troublemakers of that particular time period. I'm glad the people coming back now aren't getting treated like we got treated."

Prior to 1980, Megrath said VVA was a loosely organized group, but that changed when founder Bobby Muller met with Rutland veteran Don Bodette. Bodette, who died of cancer in 1997 at the age of 48, was inspired by the idea of an organization for Vietnam veterans, but felt it needed to fol-

low a local-chapter model.

"Because the guys here wanted to have a chapter, it forced the issue in Washington that they had to start a national organization," Megrath said.

Chapter 1 of the VVA received its charter in Rutland on April 13, 1980. Today, the group has 525 chapters with 50,000 members. Seven of the chapters are in Vermont. The Rutland County chapter has 126 members from all over — 43 Vermont communities, 18 other states, England,

See Page B3: Veterans



JON OLENDER / RUTLAND HERALD

Jack Crowther (right), secretary of Chapter 1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America addresses a group at a 2003 ceremony at Main Street Park in Rutland to add 18 new names to the Vietnam Memorial as treasurer Andy Megrath (to the left of Jack) installs the newly updated list of names. Other veterans from left to right are: David Beard, Dave Mathis, Edgar "Bub" Crosby, and Leo Bathalon.

Veterans

Continued From Page B1

Germany, Paraguay and Guam, according to Megrath.

"For some of these folks in different areas, it's more the prestige of being in Chapter 1," Megrath said.

Megrath was with the Army in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. He said he served as an artillery surveyor. His job was determining the exact map co-ordinates of an artillery base, ensuring accuracy of fire once the guns were in place.

When he came home, he took a job at General Electric, where he continues to work as a tool maker.

"I was very fortunate to get a job at GE," he said. "When I applied, it was when a lot of industries in Vermont here hiring Vietnam vets. There was some benefit the federal government was giving them."

Megrath said he was eventually convinced by friends to sit in on a VVA meeting.

"I had the same opinion a lot of people had," he said. "A lot of people don't belong because they think

all we do when we get together is talk about the war. It's not true. We're very community-oriented. We give to the Boys & Girls Club, the Dodge House. We've given to other individuals in the community who need something."

Recently, the VVA has worked with other organizations helping the families of local reservists and Guardsmen deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Eighteen people from Rutland County died in Vietnam, and the Rutland County Vietnam Honor Roll bears 270 names.

"You have to remember that the draft was in place at that time and we lost a lot of people," Megrath said. "The war went on for quite a period of time over there and there were a lot of people involved. I think if you went to just about any other community, you'd see they had a lot of people there, too."

The group has strict standards for who is added to the list.

"You have to have served in country," Megrath said. "We have a few belligerent people who get mad at us because they figure since they served during the Vietnam era, they should've got-

ten on it. You also have to have entered the service from Rutland County."

Megrath said service records are checked before anyone is added. Twenty-six names are being added to the list this year.

At the dinner at The Palms in Rutland Saturday, Megrath said roughly 90 people would be in attendance, including members, other local veterans and people from the area. Guest speakers include VVA national president Thomas Corey and Gov. James Douglas.

The dinner will also include a tribute to Lt. Col. Mark Truhan. A founding member of the group, Truhan is on active duty with the Army Reserve, training Iraqi military officers.

Megrath, starting his second term as the chapter's president, said he is glad he overcame his initial misgivings.

"It's allowed me to get involved with some of the other guys who were over there," he said. "There's a camaraderie. We were all in the same situation. It helps ... I guess I'll just leave it at that."

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Vietnam Vets Support Youth Group



Andy Megrath, Treasurer of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1 presents a check to Nikoa Kmetz-Derr, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County, while a group of the club's regular members looks on. The donation entitles the VVA Chapter 1 to join the ranks of the corporate sponsors of the youth organization which includes Carris Reels, Central Vermont Public Service Corp., Avery/Spring Foundation, Crow Hill Companies, Key Bank, Rutland South Rotary and Vermont Store Fixture Corp.

Sam's Good News photo by Rosemar

Returning a salute

Herald 2000

On May 29 I attended the dedication of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Main Street Park. My hat is off to John Bergeron and all those who made it a reality. And where better than my old hometown?

Although the ceremony and the size of the crowd were moving, and I met many of

Commentary

John Gilligan

my old
Mount
St.

Joseph
class-
mates

there, I've been happily sad this evening after returning home to Barre. It was on my mind throughout my drive home, and if I don't write it now, I never will.

Toward the end of the ceremony, I was moving along the back of the crowd with my camcorder. As I moved along, I had to excuse myself often as I cut in front of several people. At the edge of the guest tent, there was a family with small children.

When I said excuse me, a little boy with curly reddish-brown hair, probably no more than 4 or 5 years old, threw me a somewhat nervous salute, and our eyes met for a brief moment. It was probably my Vietnam Veterans of America cap or jacket that prompted his reaction.

With my hands full of camcorder, I didn't return his salute and moved on to take more pictures. However, the picture of this little boy continued to develop in the dark-

**'Then in a park in
Rutland today a lot of that
hurt vanished in a
moment with a little boy's
salute.'**

room of my mind and hasn't left.

It reminded me of an old family picture of myself and my uncle, Bernie Riter, in 1945, standing in our front lawn across from Mount St. Joseph. Bernie in his master sergeant uniform and Bronze Star recently returned from service with the Mountain Division in Italy and me at age 4 holding a nine iron upside down like a flag in salute – so proud and in awe of my brave uncle.

Years later my brother Mike and I came home to Vermont from Southeast Asia as Bernie had and many uncles from World War II and Korea before us. Our return in 1969 was reminiscent of a Kingston Trio song of that era, "Doesn't Anybody Know My Name?"

The hurt and spiritual pain inflicted on so many returning veterans by their countrymen was far more devastating than any NVA rocket or bullet could inflict. And many like me buried it, were sickened by

it, and carry those invisible wounds to this day. Jaded, cynical and often self-destructive, we coped and lived out our lives as best we could with varying degrees of success. Brother Mike never said much. He died four years ago.

Then in a park in Rutland today a lot of that hurt vanished in a moment with a little boy's salute. In that brief twinkling of a chance encounter, much happened within me.

I felt a renewed optimism that the future of our country and our state need not cause worry and concern. In that young face, I saw a faith in the present, a hope for the future, and a respect for the past.

I looked around for the little family afterwards but was unable to find them. I wanted to return his salute, belatedly, and to thank them for something even better than a parade or monument. Perhaps his parents will read this and give him a hug for us. They must be very fine parents to have taught him that.

So I am returning that salute with this letter, and although my eyes might be a little damp when I retire tonight, I want to thank Vietnam Veterans of America No. 1, Rutland, and a tousle-haired little guy for a wonderful day. You have done good. And the terms duty, honor, country aren't just words. They live on with you.

John Gilligan of Barre is a retired U.S. Air Force captain and a retired state purchasing agent.



On May 24th the Rutland Herald will publish a special page honoring Vietnam Veterans of America and promoting a special dedication of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 29, 2000.

We will also publish our traditional Memorial Day page honoring all veterans on May 29th.

If you would like to be a sponsor please call 747-6121.

Vietnam Veterans of America Make Good on Pledge to Dodge House

By Rosemary Finley

According to Andy Megrath, Treasurer of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1 in Rutland, a few years ago his chapter pledged financial support of \$1,000 per year to the Dodge House, a residential center for veterans. But, due to financial commitments required by the establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park, payment of the pledged funds was slightly delayed. Thanks to a financial boost, on Wednesday, May 16, Megrath presented a check in the amount of \$2,250 to Robert Lefter, Executive Director of the Dodge Development Center in fulfillment of the VVA pledge.

The Dodge House is a residential facility for veterans in need of housing and other support. It is located on Crescent Street in Rutland. The property was obtained eight years ago after the residence had been declared unfit for habitation by the City of Rutland. Robert Rummel who is the Homeless Coordinator for the Veterans Administration in White River Junction was instrumental in the establishment of the center. Despite many hardships and over a period of years the building was completely renovated and the first residents moved in in 1998.

Vietnam Veterans are famous for being close mouthed about their wartime

experiences and the public is well aware that many of them came home drastically different from when they went. Dodge House was conceived as a home for homeless Vietnam Veterans who needed assistance to readjust into the American culture. However, the scope of the facility has expanded to welcome veterans of all branches of the military service who may need its support.

The facility was named in memory of Michael Timothy Dodge who served in Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division from 1966 to 1968. Dodge was born November 21, 1948, and unfortunately passed away on March 18, 1986. Michael Dodge returned home after serving in an unpopular war with many problems that were not understood or even well-tolerated by the public at that time. Fortunately the public is now more understanding of the tribulations suffered by veterans of all wars, and more supportive of providing assistance to help them overcome those difficulties.

There are currently five veterans in residence at Dodge House and the facility can accommodate up to 14. The normal period of residency is six months to a year. After that residents usually are ready to move on to more permanent housing and more favorable living situations.

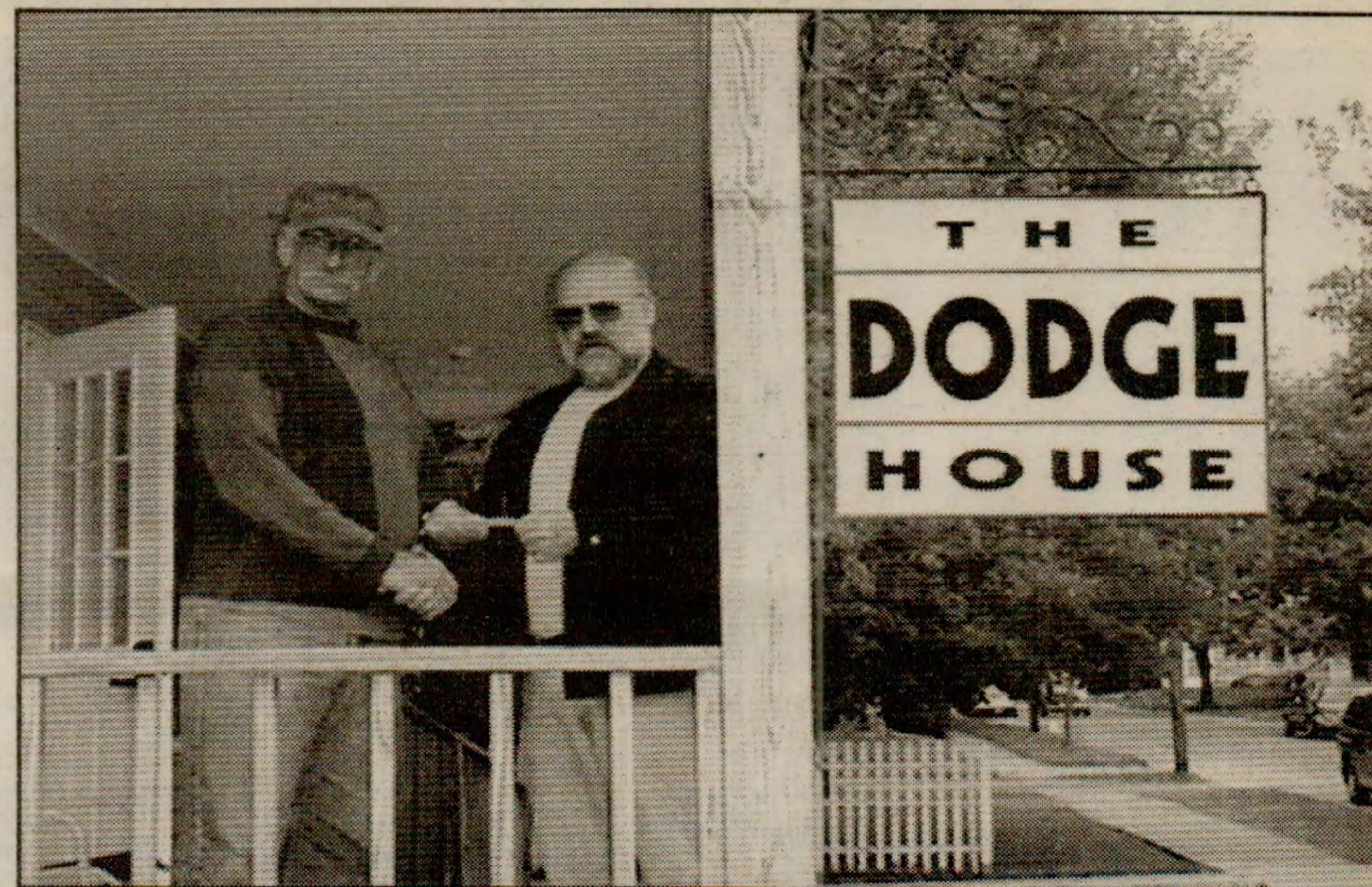
The Dodge House pro-

vides totally renovated modern living quarters with all the comforts of home. Laundry facilities are available as well as telephone service. When asked who does the cooking, Lefter replied that the chore is shared by all and he said, "We have had some pretty good cooks." Dodge House provides computers so that the residents can become familiar with that technology. Workshops are held to prepare residents for life on their own and counselors help residents with their various problems and concerns. Arrangements are under way for a workshop to be conducted by a medical professional to educate residents in nutrition, diet, personal hygiene and other aspects of good healthy living.

Robert Lefter serves as House Manager and Tom Neary, President of the Board of Directors, is on hand to help with services and support. The staff works closely with the Vermont Department of Employment and Training to find appropriate occupational training and placement for residents.

Upon receiving the check from the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1, Lefter said, "Thanks to the efforts of the local VVA the facility is able to continue to deliver the services and support the veterans need." According to Andy Megrath, Rutland's Chapter 1 of the VVA is noteworthy in itself, being the

VETERANS HELP VETERANS



Standing on the front porch of the Dodge House on Crescent Street in Rutland, Andy Megrath, Treasurer of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1 (on right) presents a check to Robert Lefter, Executive Director of Dodge Development Center. The funds are part of pledge by VVA to donate annually to support the residential center for veterans. Sam's Good News photo by Rosemary Finley.

very first chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Since Chapter 1 was formed in 1980, six other chapters have been established.

The Dodge House receives funding from various sources and does quite a bit of fundraising on its own. In addition to the VVA, the Sons of the American Legion has been a major support. Lefter especially praised the efforts of Tony Morgan, SAL Commander, whose brother Ralph was a Vietnam Veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart.

If you would like more information on the Dodge House or if you would like to help them accomplish their mission, please call Robert Lefter at 773-0251.

Give them their space

For Vt. Guardsmen, getting home might not be the end

By **GORDON DRITSCHLO** Herald 12-13-05
Herald Staff

Vermont Guardsmen return from service in Iraq and Kuwait this week, but it may be some time before they completely leave the war behind.

"These guys get off the planes, they've got smiles on their faces, but they're carrying some baggage they'll have to deal with," said Robert Helm of Castleton.

Helm, Castleton's representative to the Vermont House of Representatives, served in Vietnam with the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968-69. When he came home, he said, it took him a long time to adjust to civilian life, a difficulty shared by a number of veterans of all wars.

As soldiers return home from the Persian Gulf, some are saying the adjustment may be even harder for them.

"There aren't really studies, but there's speculation, anecdotes," said Dr. Andrew Pomerantz, chief of mental health at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in White River Junction. "There's speculation based on the level of constant stress that some of the symptoms may be worse."

Pomerantz said a study recently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that 17 percent of the people serving in Iraq were suffering from clinical symptoms of what's called post-traumatic stress disorder, but that it was the first study of its kind, so there was nothing from previous wars to compare it to.

"The military screens people when they get out," he said. "This is the first time there's been a study while people are still in the military."

Vietnam veterans said that one major difference between the two wars is how people are reacting to returning veterans, with Guard and Reserve units that have served in Iraq returning to warmer welcomes.

"I was thinking about it today. We never had any receptions," Helm said. "We went in on a one-on-one basis, not as a group from Vermont. That's how you served and that's how you came home."



Guard

Continued From Page A1

Helm said that while he knew many veterans who got a hostile reception returning from Vietnam, that was never his experience.

"We in Vermont were received well," he said. "Once you got home to Fair Haven or your local town, your community would pat you on the back."

Adrian Megrath, president of the Rutland chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, said he did encounter hostility on his return and that the more-civil reception he expects today's veterans to get will make a difference.

"I think people learned a lot from us coming back and the guys coming back today won't have the same trouble," he said. "They're

getting the respect for being over there that we didn't get. Unfortunately, they're still going to go through the same things we went through."

Megrath and Helm said the change in mindset brought about by war is hard to describe.

"You were in a setting where, basically, life and death were the two issues heavily on your mind," Helm said. "It gets to a point where that's what you're there for, to survive. You get a little different mindset than in civilian life. Then, one day, poof! You're back at the local garage."

Helm said some made the adjustment better than others, and when he was recovering from his injuries in a Massachusetts naval hospital, he saw a number of those who were having a harder time.

"There was a whole ward of guys, 40 or 50 guys, that there was nothing physically wrong with them,

but they couldn't mentally adjust to not killing or not treating an argument in a live-or-die way," he said. "They could not get their minds back in civilian order. I don't know what happened to them all."

The difficulties can appear suddenly. Pomerantz told of one returned Guardsman who had driven convoys in Iraq freezing at the sight of a small child in the road while he was driving to the dump.

"Life is different on the streets of Rutland or Barre," he said. "There are no bombs waiting to go off. People are used to living in an environment filled with tension and the likelihood that, at any moment, something could happen. You're still wound up. It doesn't relax overnight."

Helm said he spent a year without direction.

"I did a lot of drinking and just generally not giving a darn," he

said. "I know my parents were having a tough time with me. I did some stuff that was kind of stupid. I didn't know where I was going or what I was doing or who I was. After a year or so of carrying on, I finally decided this wasn't going to be conducive to longevity."

Helm said he decided he had to put the war behind him.

"If you linger on what happened, you see things you wish you hadn't, but you did," he said. "These guys coming back have done all that. They've lost friends. That stuff doesn't go away. You have to mentally forge forward. I don't think I've said this to many people, but that's the way I dealt with it and I think a lot of vets did the same thing."

Even then, Helm said, the adjustment took time.

"I didn't totally straighten out for quite a while, but I got my act together a little, went back to school, got friends," he said. "I was

19 years old. These guys are 30 and 40 with families. That may make a difference in how they're able to handle it."

The fact that the returning Guard members had lives under way before they left could also create a whole different set of issues, according to Pomerantz.

"They're coming home to a family situation or an employment situation that perhaps has changed," he said. "It's not the environment they've been remembering for the past year. The kids are a little older. Their spouses have learned to manage without them. Similar things may have gone on in their job."

Despite all the challenges and pitfalls, Pomerantz said the majority of those coming back will do well.

"Most people will recover," he said. "Most people will not get PTSD."

The best thing people can do to

help returning veterans adjust, Pomerantz said, is give them room.

"I think it's just a matter of being understanding and not being surprised if someone's irritable or a little bit leery of going out and doing things," he said. "Back off and be understanding. Don't pressure them for war stories. They'll talk about things at their own speed. Just give them space."

Megrath said that when they are ready, talking will be the best thing the veterans can do for themselves.

"The biggest problem a lot of us guys had is we didn't talk about what happened," he said. "I talked to one of the guys in the Guard and told him he can't hold it back. The one person you really have to talk to is your wife, so she understands. It's something they've got to do. You can't hold stuff in because it eats at you."

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County Journal

Memorial Day events abound

Rutland County will conclude a weekend of Memorial Day observances today.

Banks, schools, town and city halls, and federal offices — including the Postal Service — will be closed today.

State offices and all Vermont district, family and superior courts will be open today and closed Tuesday, as they celebrate the holiday annually on May 30.

As for local events:

◆ Chittenden will hold a Memorial Day parade today as part of the town's millennium celebration.

The march will start at 10 a.m. at Town Hall and proceed to the Civil War monument and then to Barstow Memorial School.

◆ Pittsford will hold a Memorial Day parade today.

The march will form at noon near the Congregational Church and proceed at 12:30 p.m. on Route 7 to town historical society headquarters at Eaton Hall.

A ceremony there will include a speech by parade coordinator Larry Smith, a World War II naval reserve officer.

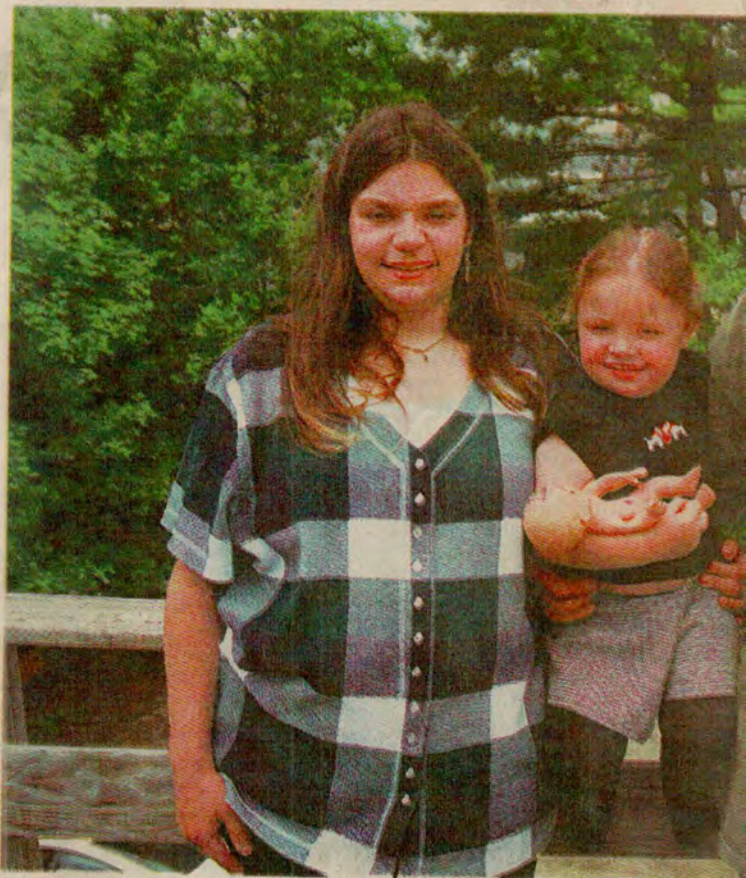
◆ Proctor will hold a Memorial Day parade today.

The march will start at 10 a.m. at Main Street Park and proceed to the high school, where a ceremony will follow.

◆ Rutland City will hold two Memorial Day ceremonies today.

An annual program at Evergreen Cemetery on Route 4 will start at 11 a.m.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1 will dedicate a county Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 2 p.m. at Main Street Park. The event will feature a musical performance.



Crystal, Elxa and Elmer Clark are anticipating the arrival of three incoming triplets in October.

Triple

Good things come in threes

By CALEB DANILOFF
Herald Staff

Having survived cervical cancer and a miscarriage some five years ago, Crystal Clark always considered her 3-year-old daughter, Elxa, to be her miracle.

So Clark, 27, was elated when she learned this past February she had conceived again. But fate, it seemed, wasn't finished yet. In April, she received even more startling news: triplets.

"We were surprised," said Crystal Clark, leaning against the railing of her back porch, little Elxa at her side. "All we wanted was a little boy, and now God's really graced us."

Clark's due date is Oct. 18, but she said she'll probably only last until September.

"There's no way I'm going full term," said Crystal Clark, who must climb several sets of outdoor stairs to reach their small attic apartment on State Street. "It's all if not...

triplets of the for 1999. "U birt Nyla the Hea sma tent EL run twin

Rutland observes somber holiday

By BRENT CURTIS

Herald Staff

Honor the dead but don't forget those who live with the wounds of war.

That was the message delivered Monday during Memorial Day Services in Rutland, where guest speaker Dr. Matthew J. Friedman, executive director of the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, addressed a somber crowd that gathered at the Vietnam War Memorial in Main Street Park.

"For those who didn't come home, we can never honor them enough," said Friedman, who is also a professor of psychiatry and pharmacology at Dartmouth Medical School. "But we must also remember the living, those who survived did not all return home the same person they were when they left."

"I have a good friend who stepped on a landmine in Vietnam and who lives with the pain of that wound to this day. He said to me, 'As long as I feel that pain, Vietnam will be with me. I can't leave it and it won't leave me,'" he said.

For 30 years, Friedman has worked with veterans and published numerous works on the enduring effects that combat stress entails. Recent studies have shown that one in five soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from some form of PTSD or depression.

In Vermont, where the state's National Guard units have endured the highest number of casualties per capita compared with the rest of the nation, Friedman said the number of veterans in need of help and support services is high.

Under a Military Family Network established four years ago, Friedman said veterans and their families have had access to a growing community of supporters.

The 45-minute long ceremony in the park was attended by more than 100 people who, despite the



Pomp and solemnity

Photos by Vyto Starinskas

U.S. Army veteran Rutland City Mayor Christopher Louras (above) sits down after making his remarks and, at left, the color guard stands at attention during Memorial Day ceremonies at Main Street Park in Rutland on Monday morning.

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Holiday

Continued From Page A1

fine weather and bright sunshine, mostly maintained stoic demeanors and speaker after speaker reminded listeners that the freedoms they enjoy were bought with the sacrifices of others.

"Memorial Day is a tough one for me," said Rutland Mayor Christopher Louras, himself a veteran of the Gulf War. "It's not about picnics, the Indy 500 or what to do on a beautiful day. It's about remembering and honoring those who

paid the ultimate price and remembering the mothers and fathers who had to bury a child or the son or daughter who wept at a grave in Arlington Cemetery."

Hillary Smith, a Rutland Middle School student and one of four young writers invited to read essays about the meaning of Memorial Day, talked about the liberties she and other Americans wouldn't be able to enjoy without the freedom that others have fought to defend.

She noted that such fundamental choices as what clothes she can wear, what kind of education she can receive and what career opportunities she has in the future have

all been protected by America's armed forces.

"It's important to remember those people who died because they fought for the freedom of my country," she said.

The Vietnam War Memorial in Rutland, where the names of veterans from that war are enshrined, grew by 19 names on Monday to a total of 299. The ceremony ended with the laying of a wreath before the white marble memorial at the site, the lowering of the stars and stripes to half-mast and the distant echo of Taps.

Contact Brent Curtis at brent.curtis@rutlandherald.com.



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Chapter 1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America gratefully acknowledges the following businesses, organizations and individuals for their significant contributions to the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial and to the many other donors.

Please attend the dedication of the memorial Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day) at the south end of Main Street Park at 2 p.m.

Advance Music Centre	John and Elizabeth Gilligan
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Staff Photo by Christian Wideawake

Ron Fabian (left) and Jason Skaza (center) of Fabian Earth Moving and Ray Parker of Smalley Construction set a post Monday as they begin construction on a Vietnam War Memorial in Main Street Park in Rutland.

Ground broken for Vietnam memorial

By BRENT CURTIS
Herald Staff

The wait was monumental, but ground was finally broken Monday for a memorial to honor Rutland County's sons lost in the Vietnam War. A stone-sculpting project, which started nearly 20 years ago, will soon emerge as a 3-ton marble statue of a soldier at rest, according to John Bergeron, president of the local chapter of Vietnam

Veterans of America. The 6½-foot statue will be set upon a marble base engraved with the names of those who died in the war.

"People have been asking when we were going to begin," Bergeron said. "We decided we had to start construction now or we'd have to wait a whole year."

While groundwork is just beginning at the site just south of Main Street Park, the roots of the

project are traced back to a local veteran who began carving the statue in 1981, but who died before it was complete.

The white marble piece was moved to a home in Fair Haven where it sat untouched for more than 10 years, until Bergeron found it in 1993.

He moved the slab, which had only the hel-

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Memorial

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met and part of the soldier's face carved out at that time, to The Carving Studio in West Rutland. Bergeron said VVA members wanted to use the marble piece as part of a memorial, but couldn't find anyone to carve the slab.

The unfinished statue gathered more dust until a West Rutland stone carver named Don Ramey told the group two years ago that he would carve it for free.

Now, nearly finished, the statue is scheduled to be set in its final resting place by Memorial Day in May, Bergeron said.

It's been a long wait for Vietnam veterans.

But, as veteran John Bintello observed, it's not the most overdue monument to veterans.

"It will be built before World War

II veterans get one in Washington," he said. "These kinds of projects take time, that's all, especially when most of the help is volunteered."

Jake Jacobsen, a Vietnam veteran who represented Vermont during construction of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., said he was glad the Rutland memorial was almost done. It would give veterans a focal point for moving on from the war, he said.

"I lost 13 friends and my commander in the war," he said. "For a long time after, I had no place to put them mentally until 'The Wall' was built. It gave me a place for my comrades to shine."

Construction of an appropriate bed must be made for the statue and its base, which weigh a combined 5 tons.

Construction crews on Monday excavated a hole 640 square feet wide

next to the sidewalk on the west side of Main Street. The hole will be refilled with gravel and a cement platform will be poured in the center to support the monument's weight.

Around the monument, Bergeron said plaques and display cases will be erected containing the names of all Rutland County residents who served in the war. Display cases with information about the war will also be included, he said.

"We hope teachers will use the monument as an educational tool," he said. "Even today, if you look in most school books, they only have a paragraph or two about a war that lasted 10 years."

A concrete walkway leading from the sidewalk around the memorial is also expected to be built, he said.

Memories in Marble Vietnam Veterans Will Dedicate Memorial May 29th

Rutland County Vietnam War veterans will soon have their own memorial. Rutland Chapter #1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America will conduct a dedication service in Rutland's Main Street Park on May 29th at 2 p.m. The public is invited to this long-awaited memorial dedication which has been timed to coincide with the federal Memorial Day holiday.

The monument, made of marble, will be surrounded by a memorial garden in order to provide "peace, reflection and solitude," to visitors. The memorial was carved from marble by a Vietnam War veteran after the marble was donated by Rutland businessmen.

The garden was designed and planted by the Rutland Garden Club, according to Andrew Moschetto, a veteran of the war in Vietnam and the memorial committee chair.

Those participating in the event will include
Continued on Page 7



Rutland Chapter #1 of Vietnam Veterans of America will dedicate its memorial in Main Street Park May 29th. Preparing for the event at a recent meeting were Ernie Smalley, member and contractor, Valerie Cleary of Rutland Garden Club member, Jack Crowther, veteran and VVA secretary, and Veteran and Memorial Committee Chairman Andrew Moschetto, veteran and memorial committee chair. *Sam's Good News photo*

Sam's GOOD NEWS 773-4040 May 10, 2000 7

...Memorial

Continued from front page

John Bergeron, president of VVA Chapter 1, Ernie Smalley, a contractor and veteran, Jack Crowther, veteran and communications director for the group, and Valerie Cleary, of the Rutland Garden Club, and other club members.

The roots of the project actually go back more than 20 years, according to Crowther, and the memorial dedication ceremony will trace links to early self-help efforts by local Vietnam veterans.

In fact, the centerpiece of the project is a marble sculpture begun in 1981 by a Vietnam veteran named John Reno who had used sculpting as a form of therapy. Reno died in 1982.

The ceremony itself will include a color guard, reading of the honor roll, and a speech by James Ryan, a local veteran of the war who now teaches at Norwich University. Ryan served with the U.S. Air Force.

The names of the 18 men from Rutland County who died in the Vietnam War are being engraved on the marble base of the sculpture and will be noted with the placement of flowers by family members. Mary Margaret Ryan, a nurse who served in Vietnam in 1967-68, is in charge of the honor roll portion of the memorial dedication event. Students from Rutland High School and Mount St. Joseph

you know of a veteran who may be eligible for such a listing, submit the information to VVA Chapter #1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301. You may also contact John Bergeron, president of Chapter #1, at his shoe repair shop on Center Street in Downtown Rutland. A copy of the veteran's DD 214 is required to substantiate Vietnam service and town of record, according to Crowther, who served in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division, "the Big Red 1."

"This spring marks the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon to the North Vietnamese, as well as the 20th anniversary of Chapter #1 of Vietnam Veterans of America, making the dedication of the memorial especially timely," writes Crowther in a special story for Sam's Good News.

"Most local veterans are probably aware that the efforts of Marine veteran Donald Bodette were greatly responsible for the very first Vietnam Veterans of America chapter being located in Rutland, he states. "Bodette convinced the founder of the organization, Bobby Muller, that it needed to have a structure of local chapters. Rutland's thus became the first."

Bodette, who died of cancer on Aug. 10, 1997, will have his pioneering efforts commemorated on one of the display panels being created for the memorial. VVA has

50,000 members, including about 400 in six Vermont chapters.

Rutland County residents killed in action in Vietnam were: Allen Archer, Edward Birmingham, Richard Dexter, Joseph Fish, Joseph Silva, and David Underhill, all of Rutland.

Also, Edward Henry and Joseph LaRose, both of Clarendon, Phillip Greene and John Sweeney, both of Poultney, Gilford Dashner and Gary Hall, both of Shrewsbury, and Roger Clark of Pittsfield.

Also, Harvey Howard of Danby, Bruce Morrison of Proctor, Steven Pettis of West Haven, Kenneth Weightman of Wallingford, and Dennis Wilbur of Sherburne.

Crowther noted that many have contributed to the completion of the memorial project through donations of time and services. He cited the VVA memorial committee, chaired by Andrew Moschetto of Pittsford, Don Ramey of West Rutland, who completed the marble sculpture, Ernie Smalley of Smalley Contractors, who served as general contractor, and the Rutland Garden Club for its landscaping of the memorial site.

The Vietnam Veterans have planned their memorial service for the afternoon of May 29th, a Monday, so that it will not interfere with the traditional Memorial Day ceremony that is held in the morning at Evergreen

Cemetery on Route 4 in Center Rutland.

Rutland's Main Street Park is located on South Main Street, Route 7 within city limits, between West Street and Madison Street, about three blocks from the city's Downtown Shopping area.



ALBERT J. MARRO / RUTLAND HERALD

Jack Crowther works on the descriptions surrounding the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Friday in Rutland's Main Street Park. The Rutland chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America provided the money and services for the memorial.

Due respect

Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be unveiled on Monday

By DAMIAN PAGANO
Herald Staff

Joe Lynch was at work at the Rutland Post Office recently when a young co-worker pointed to the Purple Heart license plate on his car and asked him what it was.

"She didn't know what a Purple Heart meant," he said Friday. "I couldn't believe it."

Lynch, a Vietnam veteran, told her it was a medal given to people wounded in battle. He received his after being hit by shrapnel from a Viet Cong anti-tank rocket

in February 1968.

"She just didn't know," he said.

But he hopes that the new Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is scheduled to be unveiled Monday at 2 p.m. just south of Main Street Park in Rutland, helps to educate young people about the country's longest war and those who served in it.

"I think it's something we need," Lynch said. "We have to get some of the younger people involved."

The memorial has been several years in the making. The monument itself is a 3-ton block of marble carved with the relief of a soldier lying at rest. A Vietnam vet-

eran named John Reno started the project as a way to work through the anger and grief caused by his war experience.

But Reno died in a boating accident in 1982 and his vision went unrealized for several years.

The barely begun sculpture was moved from Reno's Fair Haven home to a sand pit in Castleton. John Bergeron, president of the Rutland Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, heard about Reno and the marble block and set about tracking it down.

"I was curious about what happened to

Memorial: New Rutland monument honors veterans of Vietnam War

Continued from Page A1

it," Bergeron said. "So I started knocking on doors ... and one thing led to another and I found it."

To make a long story short, Bergeron took the marble block to the Carving Studio in West Rutland. Don Ramey, a sculptor there, agreed to finish the project for free.

"We talked about what we were going to do with it," Bergeron said. "John Reno had carved the soldier's face and part of a helmet, but it was pretty much unfinished. So we decided to do a relief of this soldier lying at rest. Sort of like a simple tomb."

The next step, Bergeron said, was to compile a list of Rutland County residents who served in Vietnam. The memorial was for

them, he said, and he wanted to include everybody.

He wanted to include people like Mary Margaret Ryan and Barbara Gleason — high school friends who enlisted together as nurses on Memorial Day 1967 and who saw the horrors of war while working at an Army field hospital.

He wanted to include people like James Ryan, who earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and flew

more than 200 fighter and bomber missions over Southeast Asia.

He wanted to include David Underhill, Joseph Fish, Gary Hall and all of the other Rutland boys who were killed in action.

Bergeron didn't want to miss anyone.

"It took a little longer than we thought, but none of us are in the business of building monuments," he said.

And according to those whose names will appear on the monument, the wait was worth it.

"I am just so amazed at what they've done," Mary Ryan said. "I went to see 'The Wall' and 'The Women's Memorial' in Washington, but this has moved me more. And I think it's because of the sense of community that did this."

After returning from a one-year tour of duty, Ryan said she quietly settled down in Rutland — the city she was raised in. Her medical training as an Army nurse served her well and she got a nursing job at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Though she was not subjected to front-line combat in Vietnam or the taunts of protestors when she returned to the states, she said she still had a hard time talking about her experience.

"There's just some things you keep inside," she said.

But when high school teachers later asked her to speak to classes about the war, she decided she would start to let some of those things out.

She also got involved with the Vietnam Veterans of America a few months ago. Her job, she said, was to call the families of the 18 Rutland men killed in action and tell them about the dedication ceremony.

"I didn't know how to begin," she said. "I almost had to hang up the phone, because I thought I was going to burst into tears."

James Ryan is slightly more stoic about his experience. He wanted to go to war, he said, because he wanted to see what it was like.

"I'd heard about it and wanted to see for myself," he said. "But once I got my first taste of it, I wanted to leave."

Ryan spent eight years in the Air Force, including several years flying missions over Vietnam.

He will be the keynote speaker at Monday's ceremony, and he said his speech was tough to put together because of the wide range of emotions associated with the war.

"But the thing I learned was that each individual did their duty to the best of their ability over there. There is nothing to be ashamed of in that," he said. "And that can go for the people on both sides."

SATURDAY EVENING MAY 27, 2000		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
BROADCAST STATIONS												
WCAX CBS	3 3	Entertainment Tonight (N)		Early Edition Gary tries to bring some joy back into the life of a poor Irish immigrant. (N)		Martial Law Sammo helps a Texas Ranger look for a colleague's killer in Los Angeles. '14		Walker, Texas Ranger Walker and Sammo return from L.A. to capture the Ranger's killer. '14		News		ER "Dr. Carter, I Presume" Carter's first day as a full-fledged doctor proves hellish. 'PG'
WPTZ NBC	5 5	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Movie *** "Timecop" (1994, Science Fiction) Jean-Claude Van Damme, Mia Sara, Ron Silver. A time-traveling police officer tackles a corrupt senator.				World's Most Amazing Videos (N) (PA) '14		News		Saturday Night Live '14'
WVNY ABC	4 22	Judge Joe Brown	Judge Joe Brown	Best TV You've Never Seen (And Some You Have) 'PG'		Movie ** "Assassins" (1995, Drama) Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas, Julianne Moore. A wild newcomer draws a bead on a veteran hit man.				(11:12) News		(11:42) Baywatch Hawaii Dawn's new love shares some similarities with her ex-boyfriend. 'PG'
WVER PBS	22 28	Good Neighbors	Are You Being Served?	Keeping Up Appearances	No Place Like Home	Ballykissangel "Births, Deaths and Marriages" 'PG'		Austin City Limits "Songwriter's Special" 'G'		Movie *** "Pretty Woman" (1990) An executive plays Pygmalion to a young streetwalker.		
WNNE NBC	14 31	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Movie *** "Timecop" (1994) A time-traveling police officer tackles a corrupt senator.				World's Most Amazing Videos (N) (PA) '14'		Paid Program		Saturday Night Live '14'
WBZ CBS	4	Entertainment Tonight (N)		Early Edition "Luck of the Irish" (N)		Martial Law "Honor Among Strangers" '14		Walker, Texas Ranger (Part 2) '14		News		Howard Stern Radio Show 'MA'
WRGB CBS	6 6	Drew Carey 'PG'	Home Improve. 'G'	Early Edition "Luck of the Irish" (N)		Martial Law "Honor Among Strangers" '14		Walker, Texas Ranger (Part 2) '14		News		WCW Wrestling
WHDH NBC	7	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Movie *** "Timecop" (1994) A time-traveling police officer tackles a corrupt senator.				World's Most Amazing Videos (N) (PA) '14'		News		Saturday Night Live '14'
WMTW ABC	8	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Best TV You've Never Seen 'PG'		Movie ** "Assassins" (1995, Drama) A wild newcomer draws a bead on a veteran hit man.				(11:12) News		(11:42) NYPD Blue "Up On the Roof" '14'
WTEN ABC	16 10	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	Best TV You've Never Seen 'PG'		Movie ** "Assassins" (1995, Drama) A wild newcomer draws a bead on a veteran hit man.				(11:12) News		(11:42) Outer Limits "Descent" '14'
WPIX WBN	21 11	Xena: Warrior Princess "Punch Lines" 'PG'		Major League Baseball New York Mets at St. Louis Cardinals From Busch Stadium in St. Louis. (Live)						News		Seinfeld "The Note" 'PG'
WMHT PBS	2 17	Ballykissangel 'PG'		Antiques Roadshow "Des Moines, Iowa" 'G'	Red Green 'PG'	Keeping Up As Time Goes By	Vicar of Dibley	Ice Cream Show 'G'				Austin City Limits 'G'
WTBS IND	17 17	(6:05) WCW Saturday Night		(8:05) Movie *** "Point Break" (1991, Drama) Patrick Swayze, Keanu Reeves, Lori Petty. An FBI agent infiltrates California's surfing subculture.				(10:50) Movie *** "A View to a Kill" (1985) Agent 007 fights a genetic superman bent on world conquest.				
WSBK UPN	38	Seinfeld 'PG'	Frasier 'PG'	Movie "The Punisher" (1990) A presumed-dead policeman wages a one-man war against crime.				Movie ** "The Greatest" (1977) Chronicles Muhammad Ali's life from child to champion.				Trek: Voyager 'PG'
WCVB ABC	5	ER "Dr. Carter, I Presume" 'PG'		Best TV You've Never Seen 'PG'		Movie ** "Assassins" (1995, Drama) A wild newcomer draws a bead on a veteran hit man.				(11:12) News		(11:47) Paid Program
WEKW PBS	52	Lawrence Welk Show		Antiques Roadshow 'G'		Hidden Worlds "India's Other Paradise" 'G'		Masterpiece Theatre "Monsignor Renard" (Part 1 of 3) '14'				Antiques Road 'G'
WFFF FOX	18 44	(6:30) Popular '14'	Drew Carey 'PG'	Cops (PA) 'PG'	Cops (PA) 'PG'	Guinness World Records: Primetime (N) '14'		Angel "To Shanshu in L.A." '14'		Mad TV '14'		Movie Stars (N) 'PG'
WBVT		Star Trek: Voyager		Total Recall 2070 "Machine"		WWF Smackdown! 'PG'				Comedy Showcase		Total Recall

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This Week in

Veterans Day ceremony

2003



T.J. HOOKER / RUTLAND HERALD

Area veterans unfold a flag at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park in Rutland Sunday morning. Chapter 1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America now has 226 names on its honor roll at the site.

A day to remember



RICK RUSSELL PHOTO

Paul Post #24 in Woodstock march up from the Legion hall to a memorial in front of Veterans Day.



ALBERT J. MARRO / STAFF PHOTO

Andy Megrath (center) welcomes people to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for Thursday's Veterans Day celebration in Rutland's Main Street Park. Megrath is president of the Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 1. At left is Jon Pintello of Castleton.

ber satisfaction