themselves,” he said. “Income is a factor, too. We’ll put a lot of weight on need.”

939 represents. When evaluating scholarship applications, it isn’t necessarily the students

Brendon Zweifel and Marlena Guzman are now attending branches of the North Central

Community Assistance Center.

VV A Chapter 939

in Hays, Kan., recently raffled 170 lbs. of beef
displaced by November’s deadly Camp Fire. Local chapters of the VFW and Disabled American Veterans helped generate donations of

AFTER THE FIRE. CALIFORNIA

using proceeds from last year’s raffle, the chapter awarded four $1,000 scholarships

using proceeds from last year’s raffle, the chapter awarded four $1,000 scholarships

Applicants must be high school seniors and live in one of the 18 counties Chapter

The chapter has supported the Lamb Center continuously over the years,

Left, Doris Paul, volunteer manager for the Lamb Center, accepts the donation from

InService

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

HELPING VETERANS, COMMUNITIES, AND THOSE SERVING IN HARM’S WAY

SPOTLIGHT: VETERANS HEALTH CARE

HAPPY & HEALTHY. Veterans with physical or mental problems related to their military service don’t always know that

they’re entitled to compensation and health care services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). That’s why the

Veterans Health Care Committee works with the VA and other VVA committees to ensure that veterans who qualify for benefits can take

full advantage of them.

The Veterans Health Care Committee’s goal is to improve health care by providing information to veterans about accessing VA

benefits, educating patients and providers about health issues related to military service, preparing materials on veteran-specific

health issues for medical schools and other educational institutions, and advocating for initiatives related to veterans’ health with legislative bodies.

The committee recently contributed to a new information resource to help veterans better access health benefits and discuss health issues with medical professionals. “Have You Ever Served” (www.haveyoueverserved.com) offers links, information cards

and other resources to assist medical professionals in determining whether patients exhibit common veteran health problems, as well as links and downloads for veterans seeking care.

“We give veterans tools they can take with them when they go to see a doctor, empowering them to be their own advocates.” — Dr. Linda Schwartz

The Veterans Health Care Committee has also been influential in promoting legislation that guarantees care to veterans, and continues to monitor issues related to PTSD, suicide prevention, Agent Orange exposure and more. “The Health Care Committee responds to immediate needs and makes recommendations,” Dr. Schwartz says. “Our work has made a big difference in the way VA provides care and the way veterans receive it.”

Chapter news inside ->

VOLUME 7 ★ ISSUE 1 ★ 2019

HAPPY & HEALTHY. Veterans with physical or mental problems related to their military service don’t always know that they’re entitled to compensation and health care services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). That’s why the Veterans Health Care Committee works with the VA and other VVA committees to ensure that veterans who qualify for benefits can take full advantage of them.

The Veterans Health Care Committee’s goal is to improve health care by providing information to veterans about accessing VA benefits, educating patients and providers about health issues related to military service, preparing materials on veteran-specific health issues for medical schools and other educational institutions, and advocating for initiatives related to veterans’ health with legislative bodies.

The committee recently contributed to a new information resource to help veterans better access health benefits and discuss health issues with medical professionals. “Have You Ever Served” (www.haveyoueverserved.com) offers links, information cards and other resources to assist medical professionals in determining whether patients exhibit common veteran health problems, as well as links and downloads for veterans seeking care. “Not every veteran is using the VA,” says Dr. Linda Schwartz, former committee chair and special advisor to the president for health. “The Health Care Committee is working very hard to interface with health care, because a lot of the exposures Vietnam veterans have are not necessarily quantified. We give veterans tools they can take with them when they go to see a doctor, empowering them to be their own advocates.”

The Veterans Health Care Committee has also been influential in promoting legislation that guarantees care to veterans, and continues to monitor issues related to PTSD, suicide prevention, Agent Orange exposure and more. “The Health Care Committee responds to immediate needs and makes recommendations,” Dr. Schwartz says. “Our work has made a big difference in the way VA provides care and the way veterans receive it.”

Chapter news inside >>
Chapter 966 helped veteran Ethan Young and his wife Kate with a heat pump.

**VVA CHAPTERS ACROSS AMERICA**

**ALABAMA**

**SUPER SERVICE, VVA Chapter 1067**

board member John Perry recently accepted the Capt. Gary Michael Rose Humanitarian Award for his service to veterans. Medal of Honor recipient Mike Rose presented the award at a ceremony in Huntsville in November.

Perry is a retired sergeant major who has championed Alabama veterans’ causes for nearly 20 years. He served on the board responsible for building a Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville; helped create “Operation Christmas Bear,” which helps comfort children of deployed soldiers with stuffed animals during the holidays; and chaired the committee that brought The Wall That Heals to Huntsville.

“It’s in giving that we receive,” Perry told AL.com. “The more we give to these veterans, the more we receive back.”

**GEORGIA**

**SUPPLY RUN, VVA Chapter 1030**

in Cumming recently delivered two vanloads of supplies to the Northeast Georgia Homeless Shelter to support Georgia’s homeless veterans. Member donations included backpacks filled with personal care items, clothing and food service items such as paper plates, napkins, plastic cups and utensils.

Located in Winder, Ga., the 49-bed facility offers transitional housing and vocational and career development services to veteran residents. The facility also works with the VA to ensure that veterans receive health care and benefits earned through military service.

Chapter members drop a vanload of backpacks off at the shelter. Photo: Chapter 1030

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**FROM HOOPS TO TROOPS, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 542**

and the Central Pennsylvania Roundtable recently hosted a viewing of the Vietnam documentary All Were Lost ... Then Along Came John. The 90-minute documentary tells the story of Harrisburg legend John Travers from his youth as an all-state basketball player to Vietnam, where he rescued more than 2,000 wounded soldiers as an MVP and was decorated for bravery.

Mike Rose (left) presents the award to John Perry.

Photo: Chapter 1067

**MINNESOTA**

**BLANKET STATEMENT.**

Minnesota’s Grateful Hearts Quilters recently presented members of VVA Chapter 684 in Mora with 26 quilts. The group presented the quilts — each handmade by volunteer quilters — to the veterans in conjunction with the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

“I’ve been quilting since 2000, and in the last three years, the majority of my quilts have been for the Quilts of Valor,” quilter Linda Novotny told the Isanti County News. “Being able to do this for the veterans and active military lets me show my gratitude and appreciation for everything they’ve done for our country.”

Most quilts are assembled by multiple volunteers, and all are labeled with the names of the creators. Each measures 60 by 80 inches, and the group made and presented more than 150 quilts in 2018.

Chapter 684 President Rod Leick helped ensure that every member of the group was presented with a quilt. “I really appreciate all the time and effort that the volunteers put into sharing their love for the veterans and making these blankets for all of us,” he said. “It really means a lot to all of us to be recognized and appreciated all these years later.”

“I got my quilt about two months ago,” said Army veteran Gene Okerlund. “I thought it was a really nice gesture, because back in the 1960s, very few people thanked you when you came back from Vietnam. Now being presented with the quilt feels almost like being presented with a medal — it really makes you feel good and lifts your spirits.”

Mike Rose (left) presents the award to John Perry.

Photo: Chapter 1067

John Travers, upper right, was an all-state basketball player before he was a war hero. Photo: Chapter 542

Grateful Hearts made more than 150 Quilts of Valor last year. Photo: Isanti County News.

Above, Vietnam-era photos from the Shadows of an Era Collection.

This month’s chapter contributors