



In Service to America

FLORISSANT VALLEY VVA CONNECTION

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

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Due to computer problems, this issue does not contain a column from the Chapter President. Be sure to watch for the next newsletter to catch Dick's enlightening words.

Calendar of Events

- Flag Day June 14, 2009
- AARP Driver Safety Class - 1300, Bellefontaine Neighbors . . June 16, 2009
- Chapter Meeting - 1900, VFW Post 4105. June 16, 2009
- Boot and Helmet - 900, Schnucks, 8200 N Lindbergh June 20, 2009
- Father's Day June 21, 2009
- Veterans Day at the Ballpark, St. Louis vs San Francisco July 2, 2009
- VFW Post 4105 40th Anniversary Open House - 1300 July 12, 2009
- Chapter Meeting - 1900, VFW Post 4105. July 21, 2009
- Relay for Life - Hazelwood Central High School July 31, 2009
- The Moving Wall (Vietnam Combat Veterans), Freeburg, IL .Aug 6 -10, 2009
- Chapter Meeting - 1900, VFW Post 4105 August 18, 2009
- The Moving Wall (Vietnam Combat Vets), Warrenton, MO.Sept10 - 14, 2009
- Veterans Commission 911 Ceremony - 1300, Eagan Center . Sept. 13, 2009
- Ice Cream Social at Missouri Veterans' Home - date and time in Fall TBA

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



The Chapter gathered at the monument in Koch Park for VVA Recognition Day.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

The Chapter extends condolences to Herbert Carpenter on the death of his wife Judith Carol Carpenter on May 17, 2009. They were married 40 years.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Steve and Jan Vogt on the marriage of their daughter Cathryn Vogt to KC Juengst on Saturday, May 30, 2009. We wish Cathryn and KC many happy years together.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to chapter member David Miller. He was recently elected and sworn in as the new Post Commander of VFW Post 4105.

WELCOME HOME

Dan Daab, son of John and Barb Daab, has left active duty after 12 years in the Navy. Among his duty stations, he served aboard the USS Hampton and the USS Connecticut.

He has recently accepted a position at the new power plant being built in Lively Grove, IL. Dan, his wife Jewel and their son Peyton will reside in Illinois.

BOOT AND HELMET

A Boot and Helmet will be held on Saturday, June 20th, at 9:00 a.m. at Schnucks, 8200 N Lindbergh. Come and spend a couple of hours or as long as you can with the group. This is a great way to promote and identify ourselves within the community. It is also a great way to raise some funds for future projects.

MARK BEHLMAN PROVIDES TRAILER

Mark Behlman was very generous in providing the trailer for the chapter to ride on in the Valley of Flowers Parade. He has also offered to furnish it again for the Veterans' Day Parade. The chapter unanimously voted to purchase a Chapter 794 shirt for Mark.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASS

By Walter Kaiser

An AARP Driver Safety Program class will be conducted 16 June (Tuesday), 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (1300 to 1700 hours) at the Bellefontaine Neighbors Community Center, 9669 Bellefontaine Rd. (about 2 miles south of I-270). Contact Cpl Vassalo at 314-867-0080, ext 242 to register for the class. If you are an AARP member, the cost is \$12.00. If not a member, the cost is \$14.00. Participants will need their AARP membership number (if member) and all will need their drivers license number. Note: your insurance company may reduce the cost of your auto insurance for your participation in the class. All necessary books will be furnished and will be yours to keep for future reference. Any other questions, call Walter Kaiser 314-921-2132.

VETERANS DAY AT BALLPARK

Veterans will be honored at Busch Stadium on July 2nd when the Cardinals play the San Francisco Giants. Tickets are \$18.00 each. Please see Don Voss to get your tickets.

MISSING BANNER

A chapter banner and two buckets are missing. If someone took them home from a recent event, please let Dick know that they are in your possession.

GET TO KNOW CHAPTER MEMBERS

As Dick mentioned at the last meeting, we would like to resume the "Get to Know Chapter Members" segment in the newsletter. If you would like to share a little bit about yourself and your family, please send a paragraph or two to bdaab@sbcglobal.net.

VVA SERVICE OFFICER

A new VVA service officer sponsored by VVA Chapter 310 is located in Manchester.

THROUGH OUR EYES (T.O.E.)

By Ron Goodhart

On April 27, 2009, 794's team of veterans visited Lafayette High School in the Rockwood School District. We met with the afternoon Junior History classes. Our team consisted of Ron Goodhart, Gordon "Skip" Brown, Jimmy Woods, and a new member to the T.O.E. team Bob Newberry.

This was our fifth year to visit with teachers and students at Lafayette High School. In previous visits to Lafayette, we have also had other members of 794 as part of the group. They include Doug Baker, Larry Edwards and Rich Otten.

On May 4, 2009, we went to Eureka High School. We met with Sophomore and Junior classes. This visit included Ron Goodhart, Rich Otten, Skip Brown, Bob Newberry and Jimmy Woods. In seven class periods, we met with 14 classes, approximately 350 students. The questions are becoming more interesting every year we do the classes.

We have been invited back for the next school year at both Lafayette and Eureka High Schools. I would like to thank the members of our chapter involved in this program.

Ron G., Semper Fi

CONGRESSIONAL VOTES

The following is information provided through emails 3/16, 3/19, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/27, 5/5, 5/11, 5/18, and 5/26 by www.vva.org "MegaVote, How is Congress Voting".

Recent Senate Votes

- **Cloture Motion; Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 - Vote Agreed to (62-35, 2 Not Voting)**

The Senate reached the necessary sixty votes to end debate on this bill funding government programs. The bill was later approved by voice vote.

Sen. Christopher Bond voted YES

Sen. Claire McCaskill voted NO

- **Confirmation of Ronald Kirk to be U.S. Trade Representative** - Vote **Confirmed** (92-5, 2 Not Voting) On Wednesday, Ron Kirk was confirmed as U.S. Trade Representative.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **NO**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (77-20, 2 Not Voting) The Senate passed this package of legislation related to public lands, national parks and water development.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act** - Vote **Passed** (79-19, 1 Not Voting) The Senate passed this national service bill which would increase the number of AmeriCorps volunteers from 75,000 to 250,000 and designate September 11 as a national day of service and remembrance.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY 2010** - Vote **Agreed to** (55-43, 1 Not Voting) The Senate passed their version of the national budget for fiscal year 2010.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **NO**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Confirmation of Christopher R. Hill to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq** - Vote **Confirmed** (73-23, 3 Not Voting) The Senate confirmed Christopher Hill to be the Ambassador to Iraq.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **NO**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (92-4, 3 Not Voting) The Senate passed this bill intended to combat fraud at financial institutions that receive federal money.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Sen. Christopher Bond** voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Confirmation of Kathleen Sebelius to be Secretary of Health and Human Services** - Vote **Confirmed** (65-31, 3 Not Voting) The Senate confirmed the nomination of Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to head HHS.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Budget Conference Report** - Vote **Agreed to** (53-43, 3 Not Voting) The Senate approved the conference report for the 2010 fiscal year budget resolution.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **NO**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Amendment to Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009** - Vote **Rejected** (45-51, 3 Not Voting) This amendment to let judges cut the mortgage principal of homeowners failed to garner the 60 votes needed to approve it.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **NO**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (91-5, 3 Not Voting) The Senate passed this bill intended to prevent foreclosures and improve mortgage credit availability.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Cloture Motion; Nomination of David Hayes to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior** - Vote **Rejected** (57-39, 3 Not Voting) The Senate failed to get the sixty votes required to bring the nomination of David Hayes to a full vote, making him the first Obama appointee whose nomination has been stopped on the Senate floor. The nomination will likely be brought up again later in the year.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **NO**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (90-5, 4 Not Voting) The Senate passed this bill that would impose restrictions on credit card issuers, including their ability to raise interest rates and charge late fees.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**
- **Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009** - Vote **Passed** (86-3, 10 Not Voting) The Senate passed this \$91.3 billion bill providing funds for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The bill now goes to a conference committee with the House.
Sen. Christopher Bond voted **YES**
Sen. Claire McCaskill voted **YES**

Recent House Votes

- **Omnibus Public Land Management Act** - Vote **Failed** (282-144, 6 Not Voting) Because this bill required a 2/3 majority vote, the House failed to pass this package of legislation related to public lands, national parks and water development.
Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**
- **Water Quality Investment Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (317-101, 13 Not Voting) The House passed this legislation to authorize funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which helps states build water treatment facilities.
Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **Yes**
- **Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act** - Vote **Passed** (321-105, 6 Not Voting) The House passed this bill to reauthorize and reform national service programs.
Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **YES**
- **To impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients** - Vote **Passed** (328-93, 10 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that would enact an additional income tax

on bonuses given to employees or former employees of companies that received Troubled Assets Relief Program money.

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

- **Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (285-140, 6 Not Voting) The House agreed to the Senate amendments to H.R. 146, sending this package of public lands, national parks and water development legislation to the president.

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

- **Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act** - Vote **Passed** (274-149, 8 Not Voting) The House agreed to the Senate amendments to this national service bill, sending it to the president.

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

- **To amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008** - Vote **Passed** (247-171, 1 Present, 12 Not Voting) On Wednesday, the House passed this bill intended to curb bonuses of executives at financial institutions that receive Troubled Asset Relief Program money.

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay voted **Yes**

- **Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act** - Vote **Passed** (298-112, 21 Not Voting) The House 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.

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

- **Congressional Budget for Fiscal Year 2010** - Vote **Passed** (233-196, 3 Not Voting) The House passed their version of the national budget for fiscal year 2010.

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

- **COPS Improvements Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (342-78, 12 Not Voting) The House authorized this five-year, \$1.8 billion bill funding the Community Oriented Policing Services grant program.

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

- **Congressional Budget for Fiscal Year 2010** - Vote **Passed** (233-193, 7 Not Voting) The House passed the conference report for the 2010 fiscal year budget resolution.

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

- **Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act** - Vote **Passed** (249-175, 10 Not Voting) The House approved this bill that would provide local jurisdictions with funds to prosecute hate crimes.

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

- **Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009** - Vote **Passed** (357-70, 7 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that intends to place new restrictions on credit card companies.

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

- **Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act** - Vote **Passed** (367-59, 1 Present, 6 Not Voting) The House passed this fraud

enforcement bill with an amendment to create a commission to investigate the causes of the financial crisis, sending the bill back to the Senate for its approval.

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

- **Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act** - Vote **Passed** (300-114, 19 Not Voting) The House approved this bill to reform mortgage lending practices.

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

- **21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act** - Vote **Passed** (275-155, 3 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that intends to modernize, renovate, and repair public school facilities.

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

- **Supplemental Appropriations, FY 2009** - Vote **Passed** (368-60, 5 Not Voting) The House approved this bill to provide funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, security improvements in Pakistan and the national pandemic flu response.

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

- **FAA Reauthorization Act** - Vote **Passed** (277-136, 20 Not Voting) This bill authorizes \$70 billion in Federal Aviation Administration funding through September 2012.

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

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VFW POST 4105

40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2009
1:00 P.M.**

Everyone is invited to attend VFW Post 4105's 40th anniversary open house. Bring your families, friends and neighbors to help celebrate with your local veterans organization. Come and find out how the veterans are involved in the community.

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



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*