



**Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.**  
Clermont County, Chapter 649  
P O Box 426, Batavia, Ohio 45103  
[www.vva649.org](http://www.vva649.org)



## **Key Accomplishments of Chapter 649 in 2014**

People may ask members of our Chapter what our mission is, why we don't contribute to this or that veterans' group, and what we do with the money we raise. The activities our Chapter initiates and sponsors flow from our mission statement, see [http://www.vva649.org/who\\_can\\_join/missionstatment.htm](http://www.vva649.org/who_can_join/missionstatment.htm). This mission statement reflects the purposes as enumerated in the VVA constitution, see <http://www.vva.org/documents/VVA-Constitution.pdf>.

The expenditures Chapter 649 are targeted to help veterans in our community. Specifically, in the past year proceeds of money raised from the Golf Scramble, Memorial Brick sales, member dues, split-the-pot drawings at meetings, household goods proceeds\*, and general donations were used to:

- Provide gift cards plus three large boxes of groceries and household goods at Christmas to each of twelve families of needy Clermont County veterans. Due to increased donations, our Chapter was able to increase its assistance to families by 33% over 2013.
- Sponsor several "Bingo/Horse Race" nights at the VA Medical Center in Cincinnati. In addition to providing food, refreshments, and prize money, our members also chatted with and offered fellowship to the patients.
- Contribute to other veterans' organizations to strengthen their efforts in our community. For example, in 2014 Chapter 649 contributed to the Clermont County Needy Kids project which was sponsored by American Legion Post 72 and to the Joseph House for homeless and drug dependent veterans.
- Cohost the Buckeye State Convention where all VVA Chapters in Ohio meet to keep abreast of current legislation and issues affecting Vietnam Veterans. This 3-day event was capped off with a town-hall meeting to increase public awareness about the health issues concerning Agent Orange.
- Hold several "Meet and Greets" at Sam's Club, the Clermont County Fair, and the "Pumpkin Run" car show. At these events, VVA members talked with area veterans, from WWII to Afghanistan, and checked to see if they are aware of the many VA benefits to which they may be entitled. The success of these events can be measured by the fact that we exceeded the 200 active members mark.
- Host volunteer speakers at our monthly meetings to keep members informed of issues relevant to them. In the past year we had Ohio 2<sup>nd</sup> District US Congressman Brad Wenstrup update us on legislative issues, a CPA discuss income taxes, a financial advisor discuss retirement accounts, a representative from the Legal Aid Society, a war historian who compared the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and a representative from Cincinnati State and Technical College talk about its Veterans Upward Bound program.

***"Never Again Will One Generation Of Veterans Abandon Another"***



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- Sponsor our 21<sup>st</sup> annual Memorial Day vigil at Veterans Memorial Park. Each hour we “called the roll” of area deceased veterans from all eras and placed a small American flag on a sea of white crosses by the helicopter monument.
- Repair and repainted the visitor benches at the Veterans Memorial Park and repaint the helicopter support pillars and the VVA logo at this park.
- Speak at several area schools about our service in the military.
- Meet, chat, and sing with residents of the Veterans Home in Georgetown OH.

*\*Household goods are a portion of the proceeds from the sale of items donated to the Vietnam Veterans of America.*

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