

## ***The Bugle***

### **Ocean Hills Village Vets**

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#### **Commander's Corner**

**Captain Bob Bechill, SC, USNR-R**

With the recent storms, some of our Old Glory's are looking a little more like Faded and Battered Glory's. With that in mind, I would like to pass along some information on displaying, and if needed, disposing of your American flag. Most of my information comes from the Veterans of Foreign Wars website.

#### **Displaying Your Flag**

Per Federal Flag Code, Section 2, paragraph (a), it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours

a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. We realize it's pretty tough to hold morning and evening colors here at OHCC. If you can illuminate your flag overnight, please do so. However, if that can't be done, please look at your flag daily. If it's all wrapped up, please either unravel it or get a neighbor to help you. Now, if it's faded and battered to where it needs to be retired, please read on.

#### **Disposing of Your Flag**

Actually, the proper method for disposing the American Flag is to properly fold it and completely burn it. However, there are many local alternatives. As a service of OHCC, you can drop it off at the front desk at the clubhouse. The libraries in the area also have flag drop off boxes. So do Home Depot and nearby American Legion and VFW posts.

#### **Replacing Your Flag**

Contact our resident flag expert, Bob St. Laurent, at [bobchar101010@aol.com](mailto:bobchar101010@aol.com) or (336) 509-8788 for more information about replacing your flag or getting a flag for the first time. The Village Vets will request a donation to cover our costs.

#### **No meeting this month**

There will be no Village Vets general meeting in February. The next meeting will be on March 28 at 3 PM in Abravanel Hall. The guest speaker will be Tim Mathues, the S.D. County Veteran Outreach Coordinator.

## ***A VET IN OUR VILLAGE***

**Steve Broadway**



Steve Broadway grew up in a small town in Nebraska. He would note in the news the statistics of American casualties in the war in Southeast Asia, but he didn't concern himself with it too much until late 1971 when he received his draft notice. Suddenly all that carnage Walter Cronkite was reporting every night became real. Steve visited an Army recruiter to find out what it all meant for him. The recruiter said Steve would likely be in an infantry unit and would be shipped to Vietnam. But he offered Steve a deal where if he enlisted for a three-year obligation, he wouldn't be sent there. He took the deal.

After basic training, Steve was posted to Fort Carson, CO, as an infantryman. A year

or so later he got orders – to Vietnam. But before he got there, he was ordered instead to the Third Infantry Division in Würzburg, West Germany. It seems President Nixon was drawing down the force level in Vietnam and so some forces were being redirected elsewhere. Steve was not eligible to have his family go with him, but he paid their way and obtained off-base housing. He loved Germany but things were tense near the border – the US forces watched the West German forces watching the East German forces who were watched by the Red Army. When it came time for Steve to re-enlist, the infantry was shrinking but the Army needed help in Personnel, and when he got there Steve found his true calling.

After working as a company clerk in the St. Louis Recruiting Battalion, Steve went to D.C. as an assignment manager for the Signal Branch, then to Camp Zama, Japan, as a personnel Sergeant. Steve still admires the Japanese people, all so very nice. Afterwards he was First Sergeant at the Presidio in San Francisco and became Sergeant Major (E-9) at the Retirements and Separations Branch in D.C. Steve then received orders to South Korea, unaccompanied. He was a single parent having custody of a couple of teen-agers, with no feasible way to have someone else

take care of them, so he elected to retire from the Army after 26 years and 4 months. He was immediately offered a position with Army Emergency Relief in D.C. as a Loan Officer, a position he found very satisfying, helping soldiers and sometimes their survivors when they were in financial difficulty, many times with grants rather than loans.

Steve remarried and his wife Lisa found OHCC through some on-line research, and they bought here in 2016, moving in August. Steve and Lisa do a lot of RV travel and Steve is a very accomplished photographer. He's in the Photo Club, RV Club and Village Vets. He has four children and three grandchildren.

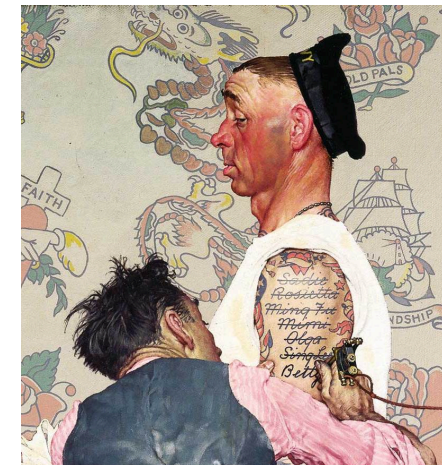
### **Dark Days for Recruiting**

These are dark days for military recruiting. The Army, Navy and Air Force have tried almost everything in their power to bring in new people. They've relaxed enlistment standards, set up remedial schools for recruits who can't pass entry tests, and offered signing bonuses worth up to \$75,000. Still, this year the three services together fell short by more than 25,000 recruits.

Military leaders say there are so few Americans who are willing and able to serve, and so many civilian employers competing for them, that getting enough people into uniform is nearly

impossible.

Tell that to the Marines. The Marine Corps ended the recruiting year on Sept. 30 having met 100 percent of its goal, with hundreds of contracts already signed for the next year. The corps did it while keeping enlistment standards tight and offering next to no perks. When asked earlier this year about whether the Marines would offer extra money to attract recruits, the commandant of the Marine Corps replied: "Your bonus is that you get to call yourself a Marine. That's your bonus." (Dave Philipps, The New York Times).



In 1894, illustrator Norman Rockwell was born. When Rockwell tried to join in the U.S. Navy during WWI, he was rejected for being 8 pounds underweight for a man of his height. After spending the night gorging on bananas and doughnuts, he was able to enlist the next day. (U.S. Naval Institute)