

August 2023

Our mission is to educate the Veteran community and support quality care and benefits for all Veterans in the VA Healthcare System.

Next Meeting: Saturday October 14, 2023 10-11:30 AM

Oak Park Public Library

Speakers: Cyd Smillie ~ "Letters from my Father: WW2 Veteran"

Claudia R Bautista, Veterans Service Officer, IL Dept of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Room ~ 2nd floor 834 Lake Street Oak Park, IL 708-383-8200

Wheel Chair Accessible ~ parking in Basement Garage

Light Refreshments



In Memoriam: Diana Fecarotta 1947 - 2023

Veterans for Unification extends condolences to the family and friends of Diana Fecarotta. Diana was a US Marine Corps veteran: she was trusted treasurer of Veterans for Unification and first woman Commander of the Italian War Veterans Guido Belmonte Post #4. She was employed by the Chicago Public School System for almost 40 years, including teaching GED and English in the Chicago City Colleges. Diana and her brother Martin together were a great team in VU.

Diana ~ Rest in Peace with Martin. We will miss you both.

Pritzker Military Museum and Library ~ 104 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago IL 60603 ~ 312-374-9333
Permanent Exhibit: **Medal of Honor** highlights those who have received the United States' highest award for valor in combat.
Upcoming exhibit: **Tet and the Battle of Hue ~ May 16 - October 2, 2023**

Veterans for Unification is a not for profit 501c (3) organization. Address: 805 Lake Street, #198, Oak Park, IL
Wash your hands ~ wear a mask ~ practice social distancing. ~ get vaccines if appropriate

Check out our website:

veteransforunification.org

For more info: 773-736-1941



June 3, 2023: Veterans for Unification Membership Meeting ~ Oak Park Public Library

Guest ~ Father Filbert Ngwila, Catholic Chaplain at Hines VA Hospital and Army veteran. "Father Fil" served two tours in Iraq before accepting a position at Hines VA where he mentors veterans and facilitates groups. VU was quite honored to hear his story, beginning as a child growing up in Tazania, Africa. Another hero walking among us.

Update on HR 2413 (formerly HR 914 / 117th Congress) ~ Dental Care for Veterans Act : This dental care bill, originally HR 96 (2019), was reintroduced in the House of Representatives on 4-14-2023 by Julia Brownley (D-CA) with currently 9 co-sponsors. Please call your Congressman/woman **today** to request their co-sponsorship.

This bill expands eligibility for veterans for dental care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Specifically, the bill makes all veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system eligible for VA-provided dental services. Currently, only veterans who have a service-connected dental issue or meet other narrow criteria are eligible for certain dental services.

The bill phases in eligibility over four years based upon existing eligibility, degree of service-connected disability or other disability, prisoner of war status, award of Purple Heart, financial need, or VA health care eligibility.

Call 866-220-0044 Toll Free number to Congress: Either a live operator or automated voice will ask you for your zip code and then give you options of the congressman whose district includes that zip code. When you are connected to your congressman, ask for the legislative aide and tell them you request that your congressman co-sponsor Bill HR 2413. Please contact family and friends out of state and other veterans' organizations to which you may belong regarding this bill: we need co-sponsors. Help us get the word out. And make that phone call now!

HR 2413 would furnish dental care in the same manner as medical care in the VA.

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Oak Park Public Library

Veterans Room 834 Lake Street Oak Park, IL

Phone 708-383-8200

1 blk west of Oak Park Ave and about 3 blks east of Harlem
Street & indoor parking/WC accessible/Public transportation: contact RTA

Veterans for Unification: For more information~ 773-736-1941

Veterans for Unification is a not for profit 501c (3) organization:

All donations are tax deductible

Dues are only \$20 a year for a great organization: please join us today.
This organization welcomes all veterans and those who support veterans.

Send your check or money order to:

Veterans for Unification, 805 Lake St. #198, Oak Park IL 60301

VeteransforUnification.org



Membership Form

I wish to: (Check one) Apply for a new membership to Veterans for Unification.
Renew my membership to Veterans for Unification.

Name: _____ Referred by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

(Cell) _____

Check one: Veteran
 Associate (non-veteran)

Membership fee:

\$20/Year

Membership fee: \$ _____

I would also like to make a tax
deductible donation to VU:\$ _____

Total enclosed.....\$ _____

Please make checks or money order payable to:
Veterans for Unification

Please mail your completed membership application form and
payment to:

VETERANS FOR UNIFICATION
805 LAKE STREET #198
OAK PARK IL 60301