

December 2024

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

Next Meeting: March 8, 2025

Speaker: Maj. Lorenzo Fiorentino (Ret) ~ Illinois Military Monuments

Message from the Executive Board

The Veterans for Unification Board ~ Irv, Steve, Larry and Francine ~ wishes a healthy, happy and peaceful 2025 to all its members. We hope to see you at our next meeting on March 8 to hear Maj. Fiorentino who has written a book about Illinois military monuments. He is extremely active in Illinois veteran organizations, including the Italian American Veterans Museum (Stone Park IL) and the new Chicagoland Combined Veterans Museum (River Grove). Come for comradery, conversation and cheesecake.

Legislative Update: HR Bill 2413 Dental Care for Veterans Act was introduced in the 118th Congress by Julia Brownley (CA) on 3-30-2023. There is a new Congress in January 2025 so we await results of this important bill to be reintroduced. We will then request our members and friends of veterans to contact Congress once again. This seems an endless project, but so very important to our veteran population. Thanks once again for your tireless efforts these past years.

PILOT VACCC shuttle: PILOT begins on 12-3-24. Initial pickup at 9 AM from Hines VA to the VACCC (Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County) at 1100 S Hamilton, Chicago IL. For more information: contact 312-433-6012. VACCC office is open Monday thru Friday 830 AM-3 PM.

National Veterans Art Museum: VP Steve and Director Francine attended a conversation with artist **Steven Luu: A Path to Healing & Transformation** last month at the Chicago museum. Steven Luu, USAF medic and wounded veteran with both childhood and military trauma, creates sculptural installations using concrete, epoxy resin, and medication bottles, among other materials, to express his "second battlefield in the heart". This exhibit is "for those who still struggle"; Steven continues to process his art every time he completes a piece and wishes other vets to "honor their emotions". He shared that "making art 19 hours a day saved my life" as a patient at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Steven feels that the National Veterans Art Museum provides a safe place for veterans: he offers others ~ both vets and civilians~ access to healing with his own life testimony. Contact: 312-683-9778 / info@nvam.org for more information. Location: 4041 N Milwaukee, Chicago IL 2nd floor with elevator. Street parking available.

Veterans for Unification is a not for profit 501c (3) organization. Address: 805 Lake Street, #198, Oak Park, IL 60301.

Wash your hands ~ wear a mask ~ practice social distancing.~ get vaccinated

Check out our website:

veteransforunification.org

For more info: 773-736-1941

Hines VA: Veterans Day Celebration ~ November 8, 2024

Parade: Emerald Society drum and bagpipes; Maj Gen Rodney C Boyd;

Prosser JROTC Drum & Bugle; Clemente JROTC



Steven Luu with Steve and Francine at National Veterans Art Museum, Chicago

Exhibit: *A Path to Healing and Transformation*



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:
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Please mail your completed membership application form and
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