

To: Mr. Harvath
Date: May 6, 2004
From: Sean Yager
Subject: Graduation Project

Thank you for agreeing to participate in my presentation scheduled for Tuesday May 11, 2004.

Additionally, the following is provided:

I. My presentation will only focus on the memorials and services at the LaRosa Boys and Girls Club and at the Wall in Washington and not necessarily the background of the Club or the actual background on the war activities involving Vietnam itself. It will involve photographs and other visual aids.

II. Update for Mr. LaRosa passing away.

A. Through November 11, 2002 Mr. LaRosa continued his 36 year tribute each Veterans and Memorial Day to honor his Boys. Mr. LaRosa missed the Memorial Day services in 2003 due to ill health but was represented by his wife and children. The Club's Board and Administrative Staff conducted the service on his behalf.

B. Mr. LaRosa passed away at age 90 on October 9, 2003 still holding the title as Chairman of the Board of the McKeesport Boys and Girls Club. The Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11, 2003 was also held in his memory. His family was presented with two plaques dedicated in Mr. LaRosa's memory: One that lists him as a community leader during the World War II years is to be added to the National World War II monument when it is dedicated this May 2004 in Washington D.C. and the other recognized him as member of America's Greatest Generation.

III. Reasons why I selected this topic.

- A. A tribute to the 11 Boys Club members killed in Vietnam
- B. They were fellow Club members of my father
- C. A tribute to Mr. LaRosa
- D. Mr. LaRosa was a father figure to my Dad since my grandfather was killed in action in World War II.
- E. A tribute to Tom Maglicco, Club Executive Director – Called to active duty in Iraq
- F. Tom got me interested in the Club as a member and also got me involved in both Dapper Dan Golf and Flag Football.
- G. Because of the Various Vietnam Veterans services and recognitions. That I have been involved in over the years.

IV. My personal involvement in Vietnam Veterans activities and recognitions:

- A. I have been attending the ceremonies at the Boys Club since I was 8 years old
- B. I have visited the "Wall" in Washington, D.C. twice
- C. I have made name rubbings of Boys Club members from the "Wall" twice
- D. On July 25, 1998 I removed rubbings of all 11 Club members and helped create a poster that was – presented to the Club In 1999

- E. I visited the "Traveling Wall" at Irwin Park in 2000 and helped to dismantle it and repack it for travel to another site.
- F. I am a member of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
- G. I have done internet searches to familiarize myself with various Vietnam Veteran websites
- H. My project paper has given me a more in depth background of the conflict itself as well as the cost and sacrifices affecting these Veterans.

V. Additional coordination and future possible benefits associated with my project

Done

- A. Participated in services at the Boys Club
- B. Visited the "Wall" in Washington, D.C.
- C. Visit the "Traveling Wall"
- D. Took rubbings from the "Wall"
- E. Presented rubbings to Boys Club
- F. Search Internet websites

VI. Future Considerations/Coordination with Boy's Club Staff

- A. Turn copies of all project items over to them
- B. Set up a website to contain pertinent information
- C. On the Virtual wall website add
 - 1. a personal message from the club for each of the 11
 - 2. add their photo
- D. Establish a personal profile for each member – add more biographical information
- E. Find the location of each grave for perpetual upkeep
- F. Develop/ suggest a process to preserve the club's historical scrap books as hard copies and through electronic media.
- G. Arrange for the "Traveling Wall" to visit McKeesport
- H. Consider a possible day tour to the wall in Washington, D.C. for Club members, staff and families.
- I. Add Mr. LaRosa's portrait to a building wall mural in East End McKeesport