

1941 EDWARD CHOW, JR. 2016

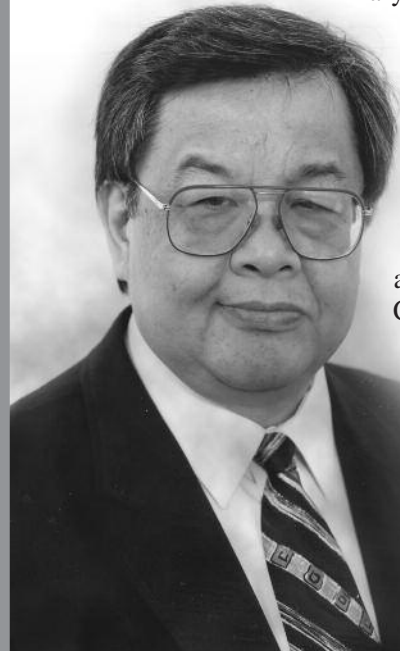
Former VVA Vice President Ed Chow lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on July 22. His career in public service—especially working with veterans—is well known (*see* “The Chow Doctrine,” May/June 2016). The capstone was his six years serving as Maryland State Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Along the way, he served as Director of the Washington Department of Emergency Services, City Administrator of Kent, Wash., Deputy Assistant Secretary in the VA’s Office of Policy and Planning during the Clinton administration, VVA Washington and Maryland State Council President, and VVA National Board member.

Ed Chow served with the U.S. Army’s 590th Transportation Company in West Germany, then earned a Bronze Star in 1966 while serving with the 504th Field Depot in Vietnam.

He had an impressive resume by any measure, but more significant was Chow’s humanity. Those who met him will not soon forget his famous warmth and *infamous* wit.

He never seemed to be without a joke or anecdote ready for any occasion. ■

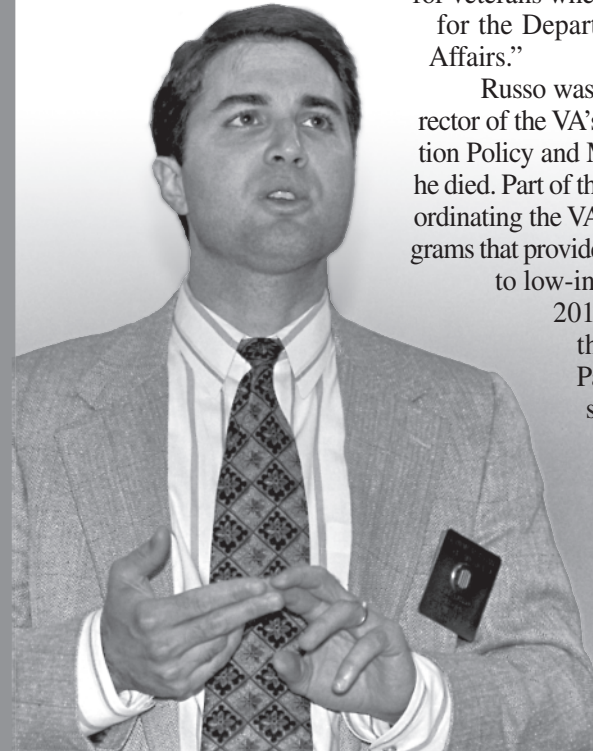


1963 WILLIAM F. RUSSO 2016

William F. Russo, who served as the Director of VVA’s Veterans Benefits Department from 1994-99, died June 24. Russo, 52, had brain cancer. “Bill came to us just five years after law school, and proved to be an extremely effective veterans legal advocate,” said VVA President John Rowan. “And he continued his diligent, dedicated legal work for veterans when he went to work for the Department of Veterans Affairs.”

Russo was serving as the Director of the VA’s Office of Regulation Policy and Management when he died. Part of that job included coordinating the VA’s support for programs that provide free legal services to low-income veterans. In

2014 Russo received the Medical-Legal Partnership Leadership Award for developing a program to help veterans gain access to legal services at VA Medical Centers. ■



1937 SUTONTA THUMPRASERT 2016

Sutonta Thumprasert was the first of thirteen children born to poor farmers in a remote province of Thailand. But he was keenly competitive without being aggressive, humble yet authoritative, and had an abiding interest in education and knowledge.

He came to the United States in 1971, where he launched several businesses and married Kai, whom he had long admired. Together, they worked hard. They opened two Thai restaurants, the better-known is the Thai Derm in downtown Silver Spring, Md. For more than thirty-five years he and Kai ran the Thai Derm, a popular site during VVA Board meetings.

Known to all as Sutton, he worked at VVA as a staff accountant for seventeen years, and served as a financial adviser to the Thai community in the Washington area. He also was the president of the Thai Golfers Association in America. In 2013 he received a medal from King Bhumibol Adulyadej in recognition of his work for the Thai people. All the while he pursued his education; he received a doctorate in business administration in 1988. He died July 23.

“I was very saddened to learn of Sutton’s death,” VVA President John Rowan said. “He was a great man and was very welcoming and generous when we visited his restaurant.” ■

