

# VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK INC. NEWS

BARRY G. CAMPBELL FOUNDER/PRESIDENT

**V.Q.L.A.N**

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# THE LINE NEVER ENDS



## FOR THE FORGOTTEN ONES - WHICH ARE MANY

# TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

**NEW MILLENNIUM ORGANIZATION**



# New York State Assembly Citation

***Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis***

*is pleased to recognize*

***BARRY G. CAMPBELL***

*on*

***May 7, 2011***

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Assembly publicly acknowledges individuals and organizations who have made continued contributions to their country; and

**WHEREAS**, Barry G. Campbell has dedicated himself to protecting America's freedoms through his service in the United States Army from the years of nineteen hundred and seventy-two to nineteen hundred and seventy-five; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Campbell never wavered in his commitment to his fellow veterans since his time in uniform has ended, having served for the Department of Veterans' Affairs for twenty-eight years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Campbell continues his involvement with our nation's proud veterans as the creator and Chief Executive Officer of the Veterans Quality of Life Access Network, offering free assistance to his fellow veterans and their families by providing resources and information regarding benefits to which every veteran is entitled; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that as a duly elected member of the Assembly of the State of New York, I recognize Mr. Barry G. Campbell for his continued contributions to the United States of America and its Veterans in his capacities with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Veterans Quality of Life Access Network.

*May 7, 2011*  
Date

*N. Malliotakis*  
Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Assembly  
60<sup>th</sup> District



## FROM THE DESK OF BARRY G. CAMPBELL FOUNDER/PRESIDENT

### PROJECTS ALREADY IN THE WORKS



1. To strategically establish VQLAN offices in communities which can benefit from its services throughout the United States of America.
2. To continue providing an online resource library that will benefit Veterans regardless of where they are located globally.
3. To join in unity with other Veteran organizations and put an end to perceived prejudices and separatism.

***We are all in this together.***

4. To establish a Reference, Information and Resource center in the NYC area which will serve to keep all Veterans current, informed and updated with news on a community, city, state and federal level. e.g.
  - \* Veteran Benefits
  - \* Compensation and Pension
  - \* Survival Benefits
  - \* Burial Benefits
  - \* etc
5. To ensure that ALL Veterans are treated with courtesy and respect.
6. To assist those who are unable to complete their forms and applications so that their paperwork is processed correctly and on time.
7. To offer networking opportunities and workshops to other Veteran organizations - coach them to quickly and efficiently navigate their way through the system; wellness & nutritional workshops, life and business coaching and financial counseling.
8. To work towards restoring pride and dignity to our Veterans.
9. To establish a community center dedicated to the health and well being of our female Veterans.  
It will be a **center run by women.**

To some the future may appear to be dark and bleak. I see a world that is full of possibilities and I know that together we **CAN** make a difference.

## Now, let's get to work!

# VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK INC.

‘Helping Vets others want to forget’

**At VQLAN** we realize that the historical changes which are taking place the world over are merely a ‘clarion call’ for all of us to wake up and be responsible for our **QUALITY OF LIFE**.

**At VQLAN** we realize that changes is just an **OPPORTUNITY** waiting to happen.

**At VQLAN** we are learning to work **SMART** and not waste time working hard.

**At VQLAN** we recognize that there is great strength in **UNITY** and only weakness in separation.

**At VQLAN** we realize that we must **BECOME** the change we want to see in our lives.

**At VQLAN** we understand that no one can give us back our dignity, **WE MUST CLAIM IT**.

**At VQLAN** we are **JOINING FORCES** to fight for the same causes domestically that we fought for internationally. Our right to **LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS**.

**At VQLAN** we are remembering what it means to **BE AN AMERICAN!**

**Happy New Year**

**FIRST GENERAL MEETING OF 2012**

**Veterans Quality of Life Access Network INC.**

**PRESENTS**


**A Resource & Networking**

**EXTRAVAGANZA**

**UNITY**

Veterans & Community Resources

**EDUCATE**



**ADVOCACY**

Bring A Friend

**EMPOWERMENT**

**Start your year off right by having RESOURCES to sustain you and your family and NETWORKING to know what's available. We can STOP the suffering....**

**Date: March 3, 2012**

**Place: Harriet Tubman School  
250 West 127th St.  
N.Y.N.Y.—10027**

**Time: 11:00 AM PLEASE be on time (BIG AGENDA)**  
**Visit us at: WWW.VQLAN.ORG**

**CEO: We will NEVER give up on helping the people who need it the MOST!**

Prayer	
11:15	VQLAN Master of Ceremony Mr. Donald Hogan
11:35	City College of Psychology - Mr. Glen Milstein, PHD - Associate Professor
11:55	Law Office of Sherman, Federman, Sambur McIntyre Reps Mr. Scott Salmonson and Kenneth Baskins - SSI and SSD Lawyers
12:15	Harlem Transformation Project Mr. Akil Rose - Founder
12:35	VQLAN Donations and Membership - Jay F. Johnson Mr. Westley Thomas and Mrs. Campbell
12:55	Energy Medicine - Ms. Halcyon Isaac
1:15	Grandparents Resource Center - Dept. of the Aging Mrs. Helen Flowers, Deputy Director
1:35	Per Scholas - Computer School - Mr. Michael Golden
1:55	Global War on Terror Outreach (specialist) Mr. Mathew Desrosiers, B.S.
2:15	Devry School - Mr. Thomas Fay
2:25	As Needed Interim Labor Source Provider (Jobs) - Mr. Marcus Roberson
2:35	JMS Direct Inc. (IDT Energy) - Mr. John Coleman (Help with bills, gas, electric, Jobs)
2:45	Closing Remarks - Mr. Barry G. Campbell, Founder/President VQLAN

RESOURCES AND NETWORKING FOREVER  
MAKING SURE ALL VETERANS ARE INFORMED PROPERLY  
VQLAN - IN A CLASS BY ITSELF

# A CALL TO ACTION

## Be Heard!

**VQLAN** is sending out a nationwide call for ALL VETERANS to stand and to be counted,

We are reaching out to ALL of America's Veterans from past and present wars ( we are 21,000,00+ strong ) to remind them of why they became members of America's armed forces and ask them to put that same **DESIRE** and **DEDICATION** into the **MOVEMENT** that we are currently engaged in on our own home front.

(We), America's Veterans are in a national **SOCIAL FIGHT** and this fight is no different from any other fight. This is a **FIGHT FOR OUR VERY SURVIVAL**, a **FIGHT FOR JUSTICE** and a **FIGHT FOR PEACE AT HOME**.

It is time for **AMERICA'S VETERANS** to **STOP** being reactive and start being proactive. It is time for us to **STAND UP AND BE HEARD**.

We were 'trained' to **SERVE** and to **PROTECT**. Well, it is time for us to **SERVE** and **PROTECT**:

- \* our homes
- \* our families
- \* our communities
- \* our very way of life

VQLAN is issuing this **CALL TO ACTION** under the full understanding that **NO ONE IS GOING TO HELP US**, therefore, **WE MUST HELP OURSELVES**.

### PLAN OF ACTION:

1. **ECONOMICS** — Make our dollars count, (If each Veteran donates just \$1 we can begin to leverage our financial power community by community. Learn the **ABC's of \$1 POWER!**)
2. **POLITICS** — Become a registered Voter and unite to become a mighty **VOTE FOR CHANGE**.  
(There is strength in numbers. Make the numbers work in our favor).
3. **SOCIAL** — We are ready to **RECLAIM** our **HONOR** and our **DIGNITY**.  
(Reinvest in our lives, our families and our community)
4. **CULTURAL** — We are more alike than we are different. Let us start celebrating our **SAMENESS**.  
(There is no longer any such thing as cultural diversity, we are now all in the same boat and that boat is sinking **FAST**).

**VQLAN** is Committed to becoming a '**FORCE**' TO BE RECKONED WITH!

## VQLAN Rep Jay F. Johnson

### OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS' DAY 2011

#### "But For the Grace of God, There Go I"

November 2011

Let me start by saying "I am proud to be an American." Additionally I am proud to be an American Veteran of the United States Army, 1965 to 1968 (Vietnam 1967 to 1968).

For me, this year's Veterans' Day Parade 2011 observance was more significant than others. I sensed and felt greater recognition, appreciation, respect and honor from the general public towards our United States military members, both men and women, past and present.

A teacher named Miss Lavern White invited me to speak to a group of students at the 'Fellowship of Learning Center. The Fellowship of Learning Center is located at the Saint Ambrose Episcopal Church, 9 West 130th. Street, New York, NY 10037.

Miss White conducts and instructs classes in a one room school house setting, patterned like ole' school operations. There seems to be no other school like this in New York or anywhere else. (if any, not many)

My presentation began with a personal introduction that included the dates of my military service in the U.S. Army and Vietnam (1967—1968). I informed the student group about the existence and purpose of the volunteer organization known as VQLAN (Veterans Quality of Life Access Network Inc.) and about my past and present day affiliation with the organization, which is now twelve (12) years in operation.

My discussion also included a history lesson about 'Veterans' Day' observed every year on November 11th., and previously referred to as Armistice Day. (November 11, 1918 to June 1, 1954)

As of June 1, 1954, then President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation which changed the name of the legal holiday from

Armistice Day to Veterans' Day.

At the conclusion of my presentation, the students were given a chance to ask questions. Most, if not all the student's questions were about my Vietnam experience or the country itself. Things like the dangers of war, the weather, food, the Vietnam people and the animals were discussed.

I would like to thank the staff and students of the Learning Center for allowing me the opportunity to speak on the history of Veterans' Day and my own experience as a Veteran.

Please note: In addition to the school presentation, I also had the opportunity to accompany the **VQLAN Founder/President, Mr. Barry G. Campbell** to the Veterans' Day celebration, of the Transit Workers Union Local 100-AFL-CIO New York City, and the Mid-Manhattan, New York Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P.

The Veterans' Day Parade, as always is a big event in the life of VQLAN. This year 2011 was the best of all. For the first time that I can remember, Veterans Quality of Life Access Network Inc. was televised nationally while the parade was in progress.

## VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK INC., SPREADING OUT!



VQLAN members Jay F. Johnson and Sheila M. Medley from New York reunited with former New York members Carlton Willis and Della Mullins who have now relocated their membership to Fort Lauderdale, Fl.

The importance of the reunion goes far deeper than our membership in VQLAN. Calton and I are bonded by a brotherhood (Brothers For Ever) as Combat Veterans of the Vietnam (War) Conflict.(?) Our reunion and re-bonding allowed us the opportunity to formally welcome each other home, to give thanks to our Father, God who sits and looks low. God has saved us for such a time as this and has given us strong and supporting significant others whom through it all are still by our sides. We acknowledge VQLAN's hopes and visions of a better quality of life for all Veterans.

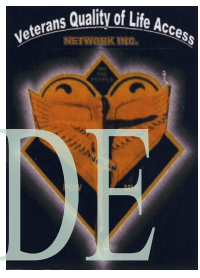
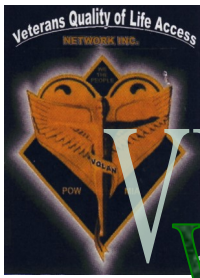
Our time together was special indeed and complemented by a steak dinner.

From the Officers and Members of Veterans Quality of Life Access Network Inc., and the Johnson Family, We all say to you and yours, **'HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A BLESSED, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!'**



**VETERANS' DAY PARADE New York Nov. 2011**





# VETERANS' DAY PARADE



2011



## A SOLDIERS STORY

This page is dedicated to telling the hard truth of a serviceman's story while on active duty in the military. In his own words, as he stated it, as he lived it.

### AMERICA'S MOST HIDEOUS CRIME

When I was growing up I was over protected by my grandmother. She made me come home when the street lights came on. I was very naive when I left home to join the U.S. Navy to become an independent man. My first two years were great. I bonded with my shipmates. Playing basketball for my ship, I met David Hendrix, who seemed to be a cool guy through my friend Butch. This was about my 2nd year in the Navy when my life became a living hell. I went to a concert and was excited to go back stage to meet Patti Labelle. David knew her and we went to the hotel where she was staying. I thought that life couldn't get any better. I had a few beers, just to be sociable. I wasn't a drinker. Beer was enough. We went back to our hotel. I had a few more beers. David bought liquor, so I tried to fit in.

The next thing I remember is that he (David) was performing oral sex on me. I panicked, started fighting, got dressed and left. I felt dirty, ashamed and alone. I got back to the ship and cried. He tried to make up for what he had done, but I didn't want any part of him. One day after work while on the ship, I took a shower and changed clothes. Then I saw a picture of me and him without any clothing. I didn't know what to do. 'The Navy discharges people for being gay.' I thought that the commander would not believe my story. Therefore, I kept it to myself. I work in the store room. My job was store keeper. One day while working in the ship's store room, he came down and threatened me. He said if I didn't get sexually involved with him, he would spread the photo all around the ship. For two years I was raped and sodomized. Because of that I started acting out, drinking, drugging, stealing, disobeying lawful orders, missing ship movement and I lost my pay grade. I didn't want to be there anymore. I didn't know back then, but through counseling I learned that I didn't have to be a victim. It wasn't my fault. I tried to believe what the counselor told me, but with the nightmares, not wanting to be around men or any people, I isolated myself. Sometimes I wanted to die. I questioned my sexuality. I can't have a relationship with a woman. My relationships don't last. I can't get close to a woman. I've tried with three different women. At best, they only last two years. The women keep asking me why can't I hold them. The misery of not being able to talk to them is overwhelming. I used drugs and alcohol just to escape. I only hurt myself. I cry a lot being 51 years old and not being able to love someone.

I have had plenty of unhealthy relationships with hookers and drug addict women. I don't have to have feelings for them. I just sleep around. I didn't tell anyone that I have genital herpes. I caught it from David. I use protection now. Women think that I have HIV because I never have sex without a condom. My family suffers because I can't get close to people. I work on it every day. I hate when I hear voices and those dam headaches. I feel like putting a gun to my head and pulling the trigger. There are so many problems. I can go on and on.



To: Mr. Barry Campbell, CEO  
 Veterans Quality Of Life Access Network Inc.  
 St. Ambrose Church  
 9 West 130th Street  
 New York, NY 10025

March 21, 2010

"A Plea For Assistance."

Dear Mr. Campbell:

First, I want to commend you for the assistance and wealth of knowledge that you shared with me. On October 13, 2010, I was awarded 70% for PTSD, my bilateral knee problems and for removal of anatomical organs. Unfortunately, I still have four (4) existing claims pending: depression, individual un-employability, Agent Orange, and alcohol and substance abuse in relationship to my PTSD.

Needless to say, the VA claims to help Veterans by saying, "Putting the Veteran first", or "We're on your side," which happens to be lies. In fact, they are no more than Public Relations campaigns, geared to white-washing the public's perception. In my case, I'm up against a bureaucracy that has no one's interest at hand, but its own. Enclosed is some highlighted material. I would be grateful if you could supply me with the same information and send me a bill for the postage.

The New Orleans VA Regional Office is nothing like the New York VA Regional Office. The south is pure racist, and institutional racism is ingrained in its fabric. You better believe I am against the devil down here. I am in their substance abuse program. Soon as it is over, I am out of here... and will be coming back to NY City.

There's nothing here, no hospital, no reputable libraries, and no computer banks like in New York to do one's research. If you can, please help me, I would appreciate it.

Respectfully yours,

Disabled American Veteran

**NEW GI BILL FOR UNEMPLOYED VETERANS** - A new GI Bill program, now known as Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), will offer up to 12 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits for older unemployed Veterans. The program is part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act which also includes tax breaks for companies that hire Veterans. That means that pre 9/11 Veterans who often feel left out, may soon qualify for as much as \$17,600 (\$1473 a month) for education and training. Learn more about this new VRAP retaining and education benefit. (Monday March 26, 2012)

<http://www.military.com/veterans-report/new-gi-bill-for-unemployed-vets?ESRC=vr.nl>



## U.S. MILITARY DANGEROUSLY OVER-MEDICATED WITH ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS

Friday, August 05, 2011

by S.L. Baker, featured writer

As if American soldiers sent to fight America's undeclared wars in Iraq and Afghanistan haven't suffered enough, now it turns out many are being prescribed powerful, side-effect laden drugs to treat their post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These big pharmaceutical mind altering concoctions are ineffective and can be downright dangerous.

Multiple studies show around 30 percent of American soldiers who have served in combat now suffer from PTSD. It's not surprising when you consider these facts. Imagine being so young you might still be a "kid" by some. Only you are a soldier and instead of going to college classes and rock concerts you are watching friends your age die (about 20 percent of those killed in the U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are between 18 and 21).

You may also be killing people yourself out of self—defense, and sometimes by mistake. Even more traumatizing, you may have witnessed your fellow soldiers torture and kill civilians. Although it is often considered "unpatriotic" to even suggest such possibilities, even the U.S. Pentagon has officially apologized about American soldiers forming a so-called 'death squad' to randomly murder Afghan civilians, mutilate their corpses, and keep their body parts as trophies.

PTSD typically occurs after someone has experienced a situation like the one described above — it results when a person has the severe shock of feeling their life was in danger or there was a sense of extreme hopelessness or helplessness.

The condition is characterized by re-experiencing the painful memory, trying to avoid anything that remind them of the traumatic events, and being kept in a state of hyper-arousal when reminded of the trauma. Earlier this year, research published in the *JAMA Archives of General Psychiatry* concluded that those who experienced post-traumatic stress disorder during combat in Iraq were also more likely to suffer long-term health problems including depression, headaches, tinnitus, irritability and memory problems than soldiers who experienced only concussions without PTSD.

Now comes a new and disturbing study just published in *JAMA* (the Journal of the American Medical Association) that reveals patients with military-related, chronic PTSD are typically treated with antidepressants known as serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SRIs, such as Prozac). The drugs don't often work and doctors are now using a heavier drug — the antipsychotic medication risperidone, also found to be ineffective.

Background information in the JAMA report notes that PTSD is among the most common and disabling psychiatric disorders among soldiers who have faced combat and according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), among 90 percent of Veterans diagnosed with PTSD are prescribed SRIs.

***The authors of the study stated that SRI studies in Veterans produced negative results so antipsychotics (SGAs) are now commonly used medications for PTSD symptoms 'despite limited evidence supporting this practice.'***

In other words, without data showing this is a good, reasonable way to treat PTSD, doctors are routinely drugging tens of thousands of U.S. Veterans with these mind altering drugs.

John H. Krystal, M.D., of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, Conn., and colleagues conducted a study to see whether risperidone (an antipsychotic drug often used for the treatment of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder), when added to an ongoing big pharmaceutical drug regimen, would be more effective than placebo for calming chronic military-related PTSD symptoms in Veterans who had already been subjected to at least two treatment regimens with SRI drugs.

The randomized, placebo-controlled trial lasted six months and involved 367 patients who received either risperidone (up to 4 mg once daily) or placebo and other psychosocial mental health therapies. Symptoms of PTSD, depression, anxiety and other health outcomes were measured with a variety of scales and surveys.

After analyzing their data, what did the scientists find? Absolutely no statistically significant difference between risperidone and placebo in helping reduce PTSD symptoms after 6 months of treatment. What's more, risperidone was not statistically superior to placebo in any other way — including improving quality of life, depression, anxiety, or paranoia/psychosis.

"Overall, the data did not provide strong support for the current widespread prescription of risperidone to patients with chronic SRI-resistance military-related PTSD symptoms, and these findings should stimulate careful review of the benefits of these medications in patients with chronic PTSD," the authors concluded in their study.

Meanwhile, countless Veterans continue to receive this powerful drug which does not help PTSD. The drug also causes a host of other problems, including these side effects: confusion, inability to control body movement, heart problems, dizziness, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, weight gain, stomach pain, anxiety and agitation, restlessness, vision problems, difficulty urinating, inability to perform sexually, and seizures.

Learn more:

[http://www.naturalnews.com/033241\\_soldiers\\_antipsychotic\\_drugs.html#ixzzIXrULxYYM](http://www.naturalnews.com/033241_soldiers_antipsychotic_drugs.html#ixzzIXrULxYYM)



## DEPLOYED?

### FACEBOOK PUTS FAMILY IN YOUR FACE

*Social media tools keep the home front closer than ever to ease transition - by Mike Chalmers USA TODAY*



During his year in Iraq, Army Maj. Thomas Murphy would video-chat on Skype with his wife and two daughters almost daily.

"You could break away the monotony of everyday stress and feel like you're back home a bit," said Murphy, who is now stationed at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

The connection made his deployment more bearable and eased his return home about a month ago, especially with the couple's 2- and 4- year-old daughters, he and his wife, Blanca, said.

"He was part of their day-to-day life, so there was no adjustment that this was some stranger in a uniform," Blanca Murphy said.

Social media networks and fast internet connections in remote parts of the world are revolutionizing what it means to be deployed in a war zone or other post, experts say. Researchers are only beginning to assess the impact on the military and the home front, both during and after deployment. Although some see the access to family as a positive, there is some concern that it can also be a distraction.

"No other military in the history of warfare has had that level of access to their families," said Benjamin Karney, a social psychologist at the University of California-Los Angeles, who studies marriage and family relationships in the military.

Karney and three other researchers recently began a three-year study for the Department of Defense to track how 8,000 military families handle stress before, during and after deployment.

Karney said the Pentagon wants to know whether such a connection strengthens family bonds and eases the post-deployment transition, or whether it might distract servicemembers from their mission and expose fractures in their personal relationships.

Until about two years ago, the military had blocked most access

to Facebook and similar sites because of concerns over security breaches, said Don Faul, vice president of online operations for Facebook. Now, military commanders advise troops and their families on how to keep themselves and their units safe online.

Use of these sites has boomed, said Tara Crooks, co-founder of the Army Wife Network, an Oklahoma-based company offering support and advice for military spouses. "I don't know a military family member who isn't on Facebook," she said.

Katelyn Rowley, a 24-year-old Senior Airman with the Delaware National Guard, said she used Facebook and Skype to keep in touch with her fiancé and family during her six-month deployment to Kuwait last year.

"I was able to talk to family every day if I wanted to, which is awesome," said Rowley, of Smyrna, Del. "You don't feel like you're missing out on things. I can't imagine deploying for long periods of time and relying only on letters."

In previous deployments to Iraq and South America with the Delaware Air National Guard, Master Sgt. Clifford Snyder relied on letters and brief phone calls to keep in touch with his wife and three children in Camden, Del.

"The kids grew so much during those times," Snyder said. "You felt when you first got home like a visitor in the house."

During his most recent six-month deployment to Iraq in 2009-2010, he checked in with them on Facebook and video-chatted with them on Skype almost daily.

"I was able to see the kids, and they were able to give me updates on how school was going and stuff," Snyder said.

"I felt like I was there for the whole time."

Faul said one of Facebook's most popular features among military families is the ability to create groups, so only certain people can see their comments and pictures. Many spouses create secret groups for intimate conversations," he said.

"It's just the two of you who are seeing it," said Jason Krafsky, a relationship speaker and blogger with his wife, Kelli, who call themselves the Social Media Couple.

"Those conversations might prove awkward when deployment ends," Krafsky said.

You're used to typing everything out and contemplating what you're saying before you hit send, so going from Facebook to face to face can create this weird dynamic," Krafsky said.

The Murphy's' daughters got so used to using Skype to talk with their father in Iraq that their youngest girl still wants to do it, Blanca Murphy said.

"Even though he is sitting in the living room, she'll say, 'No Mommy, I need to talk to him on the computer,'" she said.

## WHISTLE BLOWER

by Joe Mollica and Bob Fredericks / NY Post

### Viet Vet gets 15M for baring Medi-fraud

They scammed the wrong guy! A frail but feisty wheelchair bound Vietnam Vet with muscular dystrophy scored a 15 million whistle blowers award after uncovering a massive Medicare fraud scheme - with the help of his trusty calculator.

"From my wheelchair on a ventilator and oxygen, I have spent the last seven years in the fight. Sometimes the good guy wins," said plucky Richard West, 63, of Tuckerton, NJ.

"The more I uncovered, the more pissed off I got that someone was making money on my disability... It's people like me that will keep these big companies honest," he told the Post of the sensational case, which resulted in the largest financial settlement in home health-care-fraud history.

The savvy senior said he first smelled a rat when he went to the dentist in 2004 - and was told his medical benefits had maxed out.

West returned home and scoured his own meticulous kept records, discovering that Maxim Healthcare - the agency that provides his home-health aides - had billed Uncle Sam for care he never got, including coverage by nurses he'd never met.

West said he spent months trying to convince government agencies to investigate the matter. But it wasn't until he hired a lawyer, Robin Page West (no relations), and filed a federal lawsuit that authorities finally got involved.

Maxim - which had 300 offices in 40 states, including New York - was eventually busted for netting a total of \$64 million in phony reimbursements.

Under terms of a deal unveiled this week, Maxion which is partly owned by Baltimore Ravens owner Stephen Bisciotti, argued to fork over \$121.5 million in reimbursement and penalties for the phony Medicaid claims and another \$8.4 million to the Veterans Administration.

The Maryland-based company was also slapped with a \$20 million fine. The feds added that they will be overseeing its operation for two years.

Under federal law, Richard West was entitled to a percentage of the payback the company was ordered to fork over.

"I need a new van, my home needs work and I'm going to make donations to charities for the disabled," West said.

Maxim CEO Brad Bennett was contrite in a statement, saying, "We take full responsibility for these events."

Robin Page West said she hopes that the outcome of the case will spur others to blow the whistle to root out similar scams.

"Money is just draining out of Medicare and Social Security because of fraud," she said. "One way to stop it is for beneficiaries on the front lines to step up and say something because they are the people getting these benefits," and have the most to lose.

"The lawyer praised her client perusing the case.

## LONG TERM HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF EXPOSURE TO BURNING PITS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

(from the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies - released October 31, 2011)

During deployment to a war zone, military personnel are exposed to a variety of environmental hazards, many that have been linked to long term adverse health outcomes, such as cancer and respiratory disease. Many Veterans returning from the conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan have health problems they believe are related to their exposure to the smoke from the burning waste in open-air burn-pits on military bases. Open-air burning has long been used by the military when other disposing options have not been available. Particular controversy surrounds the burn pits used to dispose of solid waste at Joint Base Balad (JBB) in Iraq, which burned up to 200 tons of waste per day in 2007.

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs has asked the IOM to form a committee to determine the long term health effects of exposure to these burn pits. The committee used the burn pits at JBB as an example. The IOM collected data on environmental releases and concentrated on combustible products at JBB, information on possible human exposure to the base and elsewhere, and the potential for long term health effects of that exposure. The Dept. of Defense (DoD) provided rare air-sampling data, which were used to determine which chemicals were present at JBB and which were present in ambient air. Based on this data the committee found that levels of most pollutants at the base were not higher than levels measured at other polluted sites world wide.

However, insufficient evidence prevented the IOM committee from developing firm conclusions about what long term health effects might be seen in service members exposed to burn pits. Along with more efficient data gathering methods, the report recommends that a study be done that would evaluate the health status of service members from their time of deployment to JBB over the many years to determine their incidence of chronic diseases, including cancers, that tend to not show up for decades. Given the many hazards to which military personnel are exposed to in the field, service in Iraq and Afghanistan in general, rather than exposure to burn pits only, might be associated with long-term adverse health effects.

### VA MAY DESIGNATE 9 INFECTIOUS DISEASES AS SERVICE-CONNECTED (Marine Corps Times 4/2011)

In a boost for Veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War and those who have served in recent years in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Veterans Affairs Dept. has proposed changes to its list of illnesses that are to include nine infectious diseases. The expanded list also would include anything that can't be diagnosed - such as symptoms that could be related to exposure to smoke from open-air burn pits and the unexplained maladies broadly referred to as Gulf War illness. The Secretary of the VA recommends that Veterans immediately get in touch with a Veterans service officer and file a claim if they have illnesses or injuries they believe are connected to their service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan.

The new rules would assume presumption of service connection for common infectious diseases in Iraq and Afghanistan: brucellosis, campylobacter, jejuni, coxiella burnetii malaria, mycobacterium tuberculosis, nontyphoid salmonella, shigella, visceral leishmaniasis and West Nile virus. (Complete article OFF DUTY—Marine Corps Times)



## Shipboard Hazard and Defense II (SHAD II)

(Institute of Medicine of the National Academies) (IOM)

Type: Consensus Study Topics:

[Veterans Health](#)

Boards:

[Medical Follow-Up Agency](#), [Board on the Health of Select](#)

### Activity Description

From 1962-1973, more than 5,800 military personnel -- mostly Navy personnel and Marines -- participated in Project SHAD (Shipboard Hazard and Defense), a series of tests of U.S. warship vulnerability to biological and chemical warfare agents. Many of these tests used simulants, substances with the physical properties of chemical or biological warfare agents, which at the time were thought to be harmless. Only some of the involved military personnel were aware of these tests at the time, and it was only decades later that the use of these tests came to light, raising concerns about their possible adverse health effects for veterans.

The IOM's Medical Follow-up Agency (MFUA) will conduct an epidemiological study comparing the health status of the SHAD veterans with non-SHAD veterans deployed at the same time. This study will build on knowledge gained from a [prior study](#) conducted between 2003 and 2007. If the results of this SHAD II study indicate a difference in outcome between the SHAD participants and the comparison population, or if the study finds new information that would warrant new research avenues, new research may be needed.

### 360,00 Vets May Have Brain Injuries by Gregg Zoroya

#### SYMPTOMS CONTINUE TO TROUBLE TROOPS BACK FROM WAR (USA TODAY)

Washington - Pentagon officials estimates for the first time that up to 360,000 Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans may have suffered brain injuries. Among them are 45,00 to 90,000 Veterans whose symptoms persist and warrant specialized care.

Army Brig. Gen. Loree Surton provided the estimate during a news conference about March as Brain Injury Awareness Month. She heads the Pentagon's Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Pentagon officials have been reluctant to estimate the number of potential brain-injury casualties among the 1.8 million service members who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sutton based her estimates on programs showing that 10% to 20% of returning troops have suffered at least a mild concussion. Among them are 3% to 5% with persistent symptoms that require specialists such as an ophthalmologist to deal with vision problems.

Sutton's estimate is similar to a study by the RAND Corp., think tank last year that said 320,000 may have suffered a brain injury. Following direction from Congress the military last year began to screen all troops returning from war zones for brain injury.

Persistent symptoms can range from headaches and sleep disorders to memory, balance and vision difficulties. said Lt. Col. Lyn Lowe, the Army's program manager for traumatic brain injury. Research suggests the vast majority of these servicemembers recover, said James Kelly, Director of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, a Pentagon treatment center for traumatic brain injury and psychological health.

Kelly said scientists are trying to understand the severity and the extent of brain injury caused by exposure to a blast. Many of the wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan were injured by roadside bombs.

"The science is so new that it remains unclear whether symptoms attributed to brain injury are actually the result of post-traumatic stress disorder caused by the same combat incident - a roadside bomb blast, for example - that caused the brain injury," Lowe said.

The Pentagon's official figures for the U.S. military war injuries of all kinds in Iraq and Afghanistan is about 33,800.

Sutton said at least 9,100 troops have been diagnosed with injuries since the war began.

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs reports that it has treated about 8,000 former service members for brain injury after their return from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The rest of those who may require care have problems that can be treated by a family physician - issues such as headaches and sleep disorders, Kelly said. "It's not unusually complicated care."

Hot line phone number available for servicemembers concerned about symptoms that might be related to a brain injury are at the Center of Excellence, 866-956-1020, and at the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center 800-870-9244

### HELPING A HOMELESS VETERAN

IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY.

The VA's Homeless Veteran program is on a mission to ensure that everyone from VA employees, to first responders and civilian personnel know who and where to call should they encounter a homeless Veteran at risk. A major homeless outreach and awareness campaign is under way in 28 cities across the nation. The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (1-877-424-3838 : The Homeless Veterans website: [www.va/HOMELSS/](http://www.va/HOMELSS/)) Also at local VA Medical Centers. This includes brochures and other information as well as advertisement on buses, radio, TV and more.

## DEFENDING THEIR FUTURES -

Facing high unemployment and shrinking opportunities, men of New York City's military Veterans are looking to start their own business by Phyllis Furman Daily News

Jon Quinn, 39, was lucky to return home safely after serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1992 to 1999. But when it came to holding down a job after his service, Quinn felt less than secure in recent years.

"I looked at the writing on the wall," said the retired Air Force captain. "My days were numbered."

Fortunately Quinn's military experience - which included leading a team of 40 people and managing a budget of several million dollars—provided him with the foundation for opening his own business.

While still employed at a telecommunication company, he got certified as a personal trainer and two years ago launched Captain Quinn's Fitness Boot Camp in Park Slope Brooklyn.

The company which employs two people and expects to hire two more is on course to generate \$300,000. in sales next year.

They served their country. Now a growing number of New York Veterans are looking forward to starting their own business as employment opportunities shrink.

A recent survey by the Small Business Association found that Veterans are 45% more likely than those without military experience to be self-employed. One quarter say they are interested in starting or buying their own business.

A key reason is the high level of unemployment among Veterans, especially for those of Iraq and Afghanistan. The unemployment rate for Veterans age 18 to 34 was 13% last year vs. 9.9% for the general population according to the census bureau.

While many chose to use their GI bill benefits to go back to school, others are translating their skills to business ownership, while taking advantage of programs offered by the government and the private sector that favor Veteran-owned businesses.

One of the programs Veterans may be eligible for is the Patriot Express Loan—a lower cost loan for Veterans with rates ranging from 2.25% to 4.75%. The program was launched in 2007.

For additional information on Veteran Business loans and other programs related to Veterans' employment go to:

[va.gov](http://va.gov) or [military.com](http://military.com)

You can also stop by VQLAN headquarters on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

website: [www.vqlan.org](http://www.vqlan.org)

## COMPANIES JOINING FORCES ON VET JOBS

Launched in March, 100,000 Jobs Mission, a partnership of 17 companies, including JPMorgan Chase, Cushman & Wakefield, and Delta Airlines, pledged to hire 100,000 Veterans by the end of 2020. So far they have provided 2,700 jobs. Chase, the founding member of the group has brought on 2,300. Veterans need these programs, especially those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. They can use all the help they can get finding a job.

## THE VETERAN LABOR FORCE IN THE RECOVERY

(11-3-11 US Dept. of Labor)

Veterans are a honored part of the United States labor market. In this report Veterans are defined as men and women who have served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces and were civilians at the same time of their participation in the current population Survey (CPS). In 2010, there were 11.8 million Veterans working or looking for work, accounting for 7.6. percent of the US labor force. Veterans are a broad population spanning from those who served in World War II (WWII) to recent Veterans who were on duty post 9/11 period known as Gulf War-era-II. Although most Veterans are men, women are a growing part of the Veteran population, accounting for 8.1. percent of all Veterans in 2010.

As with the nation at large, younger Veterans are more racially and ethnically diverse than older Veterans. Among living Veterans in 2010, minorities account for over one in five Veterans who served during the Gulf War-era, compared to only one in ten among older Veterans who served in WWII, Korean War and the Vietnam era. Hispanic Veterans are also more prevalent among recent service members than those among previous wars. In 2010, Hispanic accounted for 11.1 percent of Gulf War II-era Veterans, versus 3.9 percent of Veterans who served during WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam-era.

This report examines employment and unemployment information about Veterans and shows how they have been faring in the economic recovery. LIST OF SOME OF THE PROGRAMS

*Veterans Employment Initiative*

*A New Day For Civil Services (ODP)*

*REALifelines*

*United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH0)*

*Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP)*

*Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVS)*

*Priority of Services*

*Employment in the Clean Energy Economy*

*Homeless Female Veterans*

*Jobs for Homeless Veterans*

*United States Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP)*

Go to the internet for entire book:

[http://www.dol.gov/\\_sec/media/reports/VeteransLaborForce.pdf](http://www.dol.gov/_sec/media/reports/VeteransLaborForce.pdf)



**Washington** - Eleven states will share more than \$10.3 million in grants to community groups to provide enhanced services for homeless Veterans this year. This is in addition to the \$59.5 million in preventative grants awarded earlier this year.

As a key component of VA's plan to eliminate homelessness among Veterans, VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program provides grants and per diem payments to help public and nonprofit organizations establish and operate supportive housing and service centers for homeless Veterans. As a result of the funding, provided through a program known as VA Special Needs Grants for Homeless Veterans Service Providers, 26 projects will receive approximately 10.3 million to continue providing enhanced services for homeless Veterans who are seriously ill. The grant will also greatly benefit the homeless who are seriously mentally ill. The grants will also greatly benefit homeless women Veterans, including women with children, elderly women, or those who may be terminally ill.

For more information, visit VA's website for the National Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Office at [www.va.gov/homeless/GPD.ASP](http://www.va.gov/homeless/GPD.ASP). Additionally, VA has a National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838), <http://www.va.gov/HOMELRSS/NationalCallCenter.asp>.

### **THE SUPREME COURT OF NASSAU COUNTY IS OPENING A VETERANS COURT.**

The court is tailored to serve our military Veterans who are struggling to assimilate to their life back home. The official dedication of the Nassau County's Veterans Court was on Thursday November 10, 2011 at 11:00 AM. The event was held in the Central Jury room located in Nassau's Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY.

The support and guidance of the entire Veterans community in Nassau is instrumental to the success of returning Veterans and of the new court. (Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 82 Nassau County Chapter)

### **VETERANS: WE ARE THE 99%**

**Financial District:** About two dozen Veterans joined the Occupy Wall Street movement back in November. They marched from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Zucotti Park. Some of them in uniform. The Veterans raised awareness on issues affecting Veterans, such as cuts in health care and unemployment.

Many of the Veterans expressed solidarity with Scott Olsen, the 24 year-year old former Marine who was seriously injured during a police action at Occupy Oakland.

The Veterans were welcomed with cheers from the protestors when they arrived at Zuccotti Park.

(Metro new York November 2011)

## **HONORS FOR FIRST BLACK MARINES**



For decades Joseph Smith, 87, didn't want to think or talk about the time in the Marine Corps. "Whenever military service came up I couldn't truthfully say, 'Yeah, I'm a proud Marine,'" Smith said, "I tried to say it and it wouldn't quite come out." Smith was one of thousands of African Americans who joined the Marine Corps during WWII and then learned they would be shipped off to separate boot camps for blacks and serve in segregated support units commanded by white officers.

Along the way they suffered indignities - limited support assignments while on duty, and confronted with racism when they were home on leave. After their service they were not encouraged to stay in the military. Most faded from history. "No one knew we existed," he said. That has changed. One balmy evening this last summer, Smith and other black World War II-era Marines sat alongside the Marine Corps commandant and watched an evening parade in their honor at the historic Marines Barracks in Washington.

Some of them were using canes. Others were in wheelchairs. Ranks of crisply dressed Marines passed in front of the reviewing stands, where Smith sat during the parade.

Smith struggled later to explain the emotions he felt. "It was liberating," said Smith, who received a doctorate after the war and went on to a career as a professor and administrator at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. "At least I feel like a damn Marine."

The Marine Corps is determined to rescue the story of the Montford Point Marines - so named because of the segregated boot camp they attended - even though it has meant confronting uncomfortable truths about the history of the Corps and some of the earliest black Marines.

Most Americans have heard of the Tuskegee airman, black pilots who flew during World War II, and the Buffalo Soldiers, the legendary African American Army units that fought the Indian wars.

The Montford Point Marines rated a footnote in the military's history. Even some Marines don't know of the story," said Chief (USA Today)

## WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS CENTER

*Veterans Organization Promotes Entrepreneurship in Military Youth*  
November 2011

The Women Veterans Business Center hosted their inaugural Military Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011. The challenge exposed military youth, ages 13 to 18, to entrepreneurship as a viable career choice. Military youth participating in the Challenge competed in teams to utilize their creativity and business acumen to produce strategies that will assist local business owners to grow their business.

The Challenge offered military the opportunity to network with successful business owners, government and non-profit leaders in the Houston, Texas community. Houston (and its surrounding counties) is home to over 200,000 Veterans, nearly 30,000 Women Veterans and many military youth. The participation in the program was free for military youth who has a parent that served or is currently serving in any branch of the US Military. The Women Veterans Business Center is a 501 C3 non-profit organization and conduit providing veteran owned supplies to industry, government and the non-profit sector. Center services include, event planning, outreach events, business training and business coaching. Contact WVBC at 713-230-8926, on facebook or LINKED or via e-mail at:

[Director@womenveteransbusinesscenter.org](mailto:Director@womenveteransbusinesscenter.org).

## VETERANS IN FRONT LINE FOR PORT JOBS

Some 1,000 Veterans could be getting jobs in the New York area over the next few years, thanks to a new program.

The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the New York Shipping Association (NYSA) said Veterans who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan will get preference in hiring as jobs become available in the Port of New York and New Jersey.

The NYSA represents carriers and marine terminal operators in the port that employs ILA members for cargo handling and other jobs.

Under the policy, the industry will provide U.S. Veterans with preferences in hiring when the longshoremen's register is opened to accept new employees into the industry.

(Daily News Nov. 2011)

## ARMY'S OLDEST FOUR STAR GENERAL, 98, DIES

Retired general Ralph Haines, the Army's oldest four-star-general, has died of natural causes in San Antonio Army spokesman Don Manuszewski said. He was 98.

Haines was Vice Chief of Staff of the Army from 1967 to 1968. He also served as Commanding General of the 1st. Armored Division and the 3rd. Corps at Fort Hood. A 1935 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Haines served 37 years.

## USING YOUR BENEFITS TO GET AHEAD

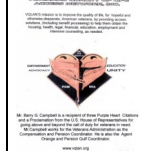
The total number of unemployed Veterans in the United States is now over 1 million. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the unemployment rate among Gulf War II era Veterans (those serving since Sept, 2011) is 11.5 percent, roughly 1 percent higher than the non-Veteran population. But Veterans do have several programs and opportunities that can give them a leg up when competing for work. The most widely known of these are the civil-service Preference Point system and Veteran's Recruitment rule.

Preference points apply to federal civil service examinations, and can add either five points for eligible Veterans and 10 points for eligible disabled Veterans depending on the nature of their service. Many state governments offer a similar preference point system for Veterans.

### A SPECIAL RULE

Under the Veteran's Recruitment Appointment rule, A Veteran can be appointed to a white-collar position through GS-11 without having to compete with other applicants.

The VRA is open to disabled Veterans who served on active duty during a war or major campaign and have left the service under honorable conditions within three years.



## VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

Note from President Barry G. Campbell

I want you to know VQLAN is still being run by volunteers. These volunteers serve thousands upon thousands of veterans and their families have prospered immensely. If we can just give back to help others, the world would be a better place.

Please donate what you can to VQLAN. We still need financial help. VQLAN functions entirely off of donations. Help us to keep helping others. (Go to [www.vqlan.org](http://www.vqlan.org) for membership application and send to VQLAN, P.O. Box 20829, New York, N.Y. 10025)

## STREET FIGHTERS

by Linley Taber New York Post

Over 13 years in the military, Eric Eberth had seamlessly transitioned from a journey in the Air Force to an Army infantryman and finally to piloting an Apache Longbow helicopter. But when a 2008 deployment to Iraq left him with a debilitating spinal cord and brain injury, the Oregon-native knew it was time for a new mission—and following his discharge he set his eye on finance.

Yet when Eberth graduated from a Florida business school, his way was government jobs akin to his military service.

"I knew there was no long-term future in teaching hand-to-hand combat revelation: "Everything that I've been taught, and everything that I've been doing for the last 13 years, isn't exactly relevant in the civilian world." But today Ebert is working in finance for the broker-dealer Drexel Hamilton. His bosses weren't so quick to dismiss what a 13 year-service Veteran could bring to the table—in large part because the founders of the firm were Veterans themselves. And in Eberth they saw an ideal match for the Wall Street Warfighters Foundation, which they'd established with the very goal of recruiting and training service-disabled Veterans like Eberth for careers in finance.

Founded in 2008 by a group of Veterans with deep connections on Wall Street — and largely funded by Drexel Hamilton's profits — the small, rigorous program is designed to combat the high unemployment rate among disabled Veterans by tapping into their fields," says Cal Quinn a former Marine and chief financial officer of Drexel Hamilton. "The character, the drive and the ethics that have allowed them to achieve excellence can be translated into the industry." The only true requirements for the six-month program, which is based in Philadelphia and chaired by retired Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, is service in Iraq and Afghanistan and a 30 percent disability and higher.

Here are some other organizations that offer assistance to job-seeking Veterans.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

VETERAN EMPLOYMENT.COM

EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES

FEDS HIRE VETS

HELMETS TO HARD HATS

AMERICAN CORPORATE PARTNERS

Read entire article in the New York Post—Monday, November 7, 2011 or [nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

## VQLAN MEMBER ANTHONY J. WILLIAMS



On January 6, 2012 VQLAN member Anthony J. Williams talked about his needlepoint design, "INSIDEME." Anthony spoke on how creating art and exhibiting his creations has allowed him to go forward and make much progress. The exhibit was 'VETERANS IN THE ARTS,' an exhibit of purchased art to be placed in the NYVA 3rd. floor conference room.

Back in May/June 2011 VQLAN and Prophecies Gallery Inc. , sponsored an all Veteran Art Exhibit. This took place in the Ocean Park section of Brooklyn, NY. The exhibit was the first of an annual exhibit to be sponsored by both organizations.

Mr. Williams is the Chairman of the Manhattan Veterans Advocacy Council (MVAC) at the NYVA Hospital. MVAC members felt that the art should be exhibited at a more visible area so that more Veterans and staff could enjoy the art. A letter was written to the associate director and the art was displayed on January 6.

Although CEO Barry G. Campbell and Lenny Goodstein owner of Prophecies Gallery Inc., were not invited to the opening ceremony, Anthony felt that they were a very important part of the Veterans exhibiting their art. "I believe that we should always keep all doors of communication open and continue to network with those organizations interested in helping Veterans," Anthony said.

Once the flyer for the event was created, Anthony e-mailed the flyer and made phone calls to assure that VQLAN and Prophecies Gallery Inc., were in attendance. Both organizations were recognized during the event.

Mr. Williams also contacted all the artists to ensure that they were all available for the event. He also made sure that the necessary VA release documents were signed.

Since becoming a member of VQLAN, I have this desire to not always accept no for an answer when rights and benefits for Veterans are concerned. Many of our fellow Veterans don't understand the VA system and often do not know the next step to take when seeking benefits.

When Mr. Campbell and Lenny came into the VA Hospital for the event, it made all the hard work worthwhile. This was just the beginning.

*Anthony J. Williams*



## VETS HEALTH CARE MAY FACE CUTS

Congressional leaders are warning that sequestration of government programs is imminent. "Sequestration" is a congressional mandated set of cuts that will go into effect later this year because the Joint Selection Committee failed to find \$1.2 trillion dollars in deficit deduction as required by the Budget Control Act of 2011. Rep. Miller (R-Florida) is concerned that the budget cuts will hurt VA's ability to pay medical staff and purchase medical supplies needed to treat Veterans, essentially blocking Veterans access to VA Healthcare services. Rep. Miller introduced the Project VA Healthcare Act of 2011 (H.R. 3895). If passed the bill will exempt VA from the effects of the sequestration.

Read more in the Military Advantage Blog. **<STRONG>Be heard</STRONG>**: Let your public officials know how you feel about the impact sequestration will have on Veterans' services.

## VA QUESTIONED ABOUT CONTRACTING VIOLATIONS

Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently admitted to illegally purchasing pharmaceuticals for Veterans off contract through its Prime Pharmaceutical Vendor (PPV). At a recent hearing, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs cited numerous contracting laws that were broken by VA leadership and contracting officials, which it has been investing in for more than a year.

Articles from <http://www.military.com/veterans-report/vets-healthcare-may-face-cuts?ESRC=vr.nl> and <http://www.military.com/veterans-report/va-questioned-about-contracting-violations?ESRC=vr>

## TROOPS WITH PTSD STRAINING RESOURCES

### 10,00 New Patients Per Quarter Flood VA

by Gregg Zoroya USA TODAY

Ten thousand combat Veterans with post traumatic stress disorder flooded into VA hospitals every three months this year, pushing the number of patients ill with the disorder above 200,000 and straining resources. Dept. of Veterans Affairs data to be released today show.

The increase is more than 5% per quarter, according to data obtained by USA TODAY, and it occurs as the VA struggles to move Veterans quickly into therapy. New mental health patients at about a third of VA hospitals wait longer than the department's goal of 14 days or less according to a USA TODAY analysis published this month.

"Demand for mental health care is only going to continue to grow as thousands more troops return home," Sen. Patty Murphy, D. Wash., chairwoman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "The VA still has work to do to decrease wait times, ... reduce the stigma around seeking care and to provide access care in rural areas."

Although the VA said it has enough staffing to handle the increase in patients, "we take the requirements seriously and are continuously monitoring ... access to mental health," press secretary John Taylor said.

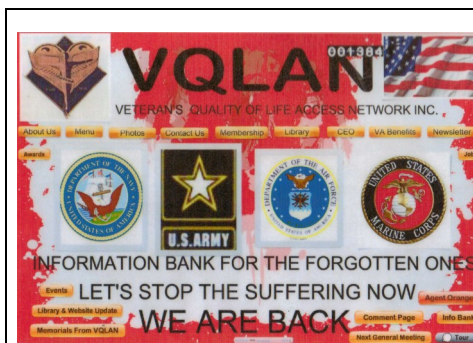
Since the Iraq and Afghanistan war began, 211,819 combat Veterans have been treated by about 16% of the 1.3 million who fought. But the VA says it sees only about half the Veterans from the two wars, because hundreds of thousands seek care elsewhere or not at all.

USA TODAY WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2011

**Web-site — More information all the time. Keep yourself updated.**

VQLAN website is one of the most innovative yet for people. Donald Hogan and the President created the website from scratch. No experience. Now, today there are over 23 countries across the world. We are a global hit and VQLAN is being contacted for assistance with Veterans claim issues and information. VQLAN is a new millennium organization, Veterans helping Veterans.

**VQLAN WEBSITE IS  
UNDER CONSTRUCTION  
FOR SIX MONTHS**



**First site over 50,000 hits**

**For the non-believers**

**5,369 hits and still climbing**

### Countries that believe in VQLAN

United States - Brazil - Russia - Spain  
Puerto Rico - France - Japan - Italy  
Canada - Germany - Thailand - India  
Belgium - Cyprus - Iran Vietnam—Pakistan  
- Netherlands - Australia  
Mexico - Costa Rica - Philippines—  
Portugal - South Korea

There is a need for a grass roots organization that understands people. One that would treat everyone with respect. We are our brothers and sisters keeper.

**WE ARE TAKING IT  
TO THE NEXT LEVEL.**

**STAY TUNED AND WATCH US GROW.**

## MANHATTAN VETERANS ADVOCACY COUNCIL (MVAC)

VQLAN member Anthony J. Williams 3-22-2012

I am the current chairman of the MVAC. The council has been working to help other Veterans through a Veteran voice advisory council. It is the belief of the council that its voice can help the VA to better understand the needs of Veterans who receive mental health care at the NYVA hospital.

My experiences working with VQLAN has allowed me to witness the shame of the many Veterans who the VA has not been able to help. At the same time I have noticed how helping Veterans can be a full time job. Often I have said to the President of VQLAN, Barry G. Campbell, "I'm glad you got that job, because I would simply go crazy dealing with all the problems associated with Veterans receiving their deserved benefits." Also, many VA employees from the Directors office on down, simply don't get it. One example:

The Chair and the Co-Chair went to the NYVA Hospital's library and spoke on the council's need to use the patient's computer room for more than a half an hour. The library employee stated that she does not like some Veterans attitudes. My first thought was just to get through this meeting. After hearing her repeat it, I thought, 'If you were a tunnel rat, have PTSD, were raped or lost a limb, you would have an attitude too.'

On the other hand, I am puzzled because of the lack of the VA's ability to listen to Veterans. Veterans know the programs that has helped them to be successful.

The VA is now pushing recovery. Veterans who attended the Curative Workshop and the Day Program were recovering all along. I believe that the VA just wants to show that it has programs, but do not really care if the Veterans issues are resolved.

VQLAN has been trying to get the entire VA system to understand what Veterans need. It is my opinion that the employees at the hospital need to take a sensibility exam at least twice a year.

When I went to get a job at the US Postal Service, a young lady was upset because I got points for being a disabled Veterans. I simply said to her, "You had the same opportunity I had to serve your country, Don't get mad at Veterans who have gone far and beyond the call of duty." If more employees of the US Government were Veterans, including the Congress and the Senate, there would be no co-payments and all Veterans would receive everything that they need in health care and benefits. That would also include free dental services for life.

## WWII NAVAJOS GOT THE MESSAGE OUT Code talkers sent secrets the Japanese couldn't crack by Lillian Rizzo Daily News 11-8-2011

When Keith Little a Native American from Arizona, enlisted in the Marines during WWII, he figured he would be given a gun, not a set of headphones. He got both.

"I wanted to retaliate because of what the Japanese had done to the U.S., recalled Little now 87. "It was the duty of all Americans to protect, and I wanted to do my duty."

Towards the end of boot camp in 1943 Little was asked if he were Native American and if he could speak Navajo.

When he answered yes, he was tapped for a secret and stunningly successful operation: using the Navajo language to send military messages the enemy wouldn't be able to understand.

The idea to use Navajo as a code came from Phillip Johnson, a protestant missionary from California who grew up close to the Navajo. Since the language has no alphabet and is difficult to master without early exposure, it is impossible to decipher. "We were astonished, all of us," said Little. We were just told by the U.S. they had to start a new operation. He was especially surprised given his time at a federal boarding school in Arizona. There, he and other Native Americans were taught to speak English and were reprimanded if caught using Navajo," Little said.

Read entire story at the NY Daily News 11-8-2011



U.S. MARINE CORPS VETERAN KEITH LITTLE

## VETERANS' DAY PARADE



MR. CAMPBELL WITH NAVEJO VETERANS

## PERCEPTIONS OF QUALITY OF CARE AMONG VETERANS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

Inger Burnett-Zeigler, PhD., Kara Zivin, PhD., Mark A. Ilgen, PhD., Amy S. B. Bohnert. PhD Psychiatric Services 2011

### Objective:

An estimated 37% to 40% of veterans treated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have a psychiatric disorder, and many of them have no morbid general medical problems. This study examined the impact of demographic and clinical characteristics on perceptions of outpatient health care experiences among veterans with psychiatric disorders.

### Methods:

Responses from the Survey of Health Care Experiences (SHEP) administered by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and administrative data from the VA were collected for 55,578 patients aged 18 and older with a psychiatric disorder surveyed in fiscal year 2005. Bivariate and multivariable analyses were used to examine the associations between demographic and clinical characteristics and patients' responses about providers' attentiveness, collaboration in health care decisions, confidence in providers, and overall quality of care.

### Results:

Most veterans with psychiatric disorders perceived their health care experiences positively. However, those who were younger, were nonwhite, had lower incomes, had a service-connected disability, and had been diagnosed as having PTSD or a substance abuse disorder were less likely to perceive their health care

### Conclusions:

An opportunity exists to improve clinical practice and design health care services to better serve certain groups of patients at VHA facilities. Areas of improvement may include rapport building and developing ways to include patients in decisions about their health care. (*Psychiatric Services* 62:1054–1059, 2011)

Abstract Teaser

For additional information go to:

<http://psychiatryonline.org/article.aspx?articleid=116541>

## VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE VETERANS ALERT

### SECONDARY CONDITION

For 50 years secondary conditions have been passing Veterans like trains in the night because 'no one told us or showed us how to link it.' I have been using secondary conditions and teaching how to use it for years. Now it's time for every Veteran to know the truth and how it works. (proven).

Secondary conditions don't work without the set-up first. **Remember, all primary conditions have secondary conditions.**

### THE SET UP:

Step 1— Go to your primary-care doctor for a consult to see a specialist—example—service connection i.e.

A. Ortho - service connected disability and depression. Get consult for psych doctor.

B. Prostate Cancer

Get consult to go for impotency or psych depression. ( whatever bothers you from your service connected disability.)

Step 2— The words to use (Most important make the link) Say the following or similar words, "I am here because I'm service connected for this condition and this condition is bothering me from that service connected disability."

Step 3 —

A. Once you create the paper trail and know it's there (the doctor evidence is on paper)

B. Put the claim in as a 'secondary condition' to your service connected condition.

*Now, I have saved millions with this. Share your knowledge.*

President VQLAN - GOD Bless —

*Too many have suffered*



On Friday February 24, 2012 at 10:00 PM, MSNBC aired the television premiere of

"Semper Fi: Always Faithful," a deeply moving personal story of one man's fight for truth and justice.

Marine Corps Master Sgt. Jerry Ensminger was a devoted Marine for nearly 25 years. As a drill instructor in the Marine Corps, he was responsible for training thousands of new recruits. But when Jerry's nine-year-old daughter Janey passed away from a rare type of leukemia, his world began to collapse around him. As a grief-stricken father, he spent years struggling to make sense of what had happened—how could an otherwise healthy nine-year-old suddenly become so fatally ill? His search for answers led him to a shocking discovery: the Marine Corps base where his family had lived for years turned out to be the site of one of the largest incidents of water contamination in US history.

For thirty years, the drinking water at North Carolina's Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base was highly contaminated by toxic chemicals, with some chemical levels at nearly 280 times the legal amount. Years later, it is estimated that nearly one million Marines and their families may have been exposed to extremely high levels of carcinogens through the water. But even now, 25 years after the wells were finally closed, only a fraction of the former residents are even aware of their exposure to the toxic chemicals.

"When this film came to us, we immediately realized that it's an important story that impacts a great number of people, who need to realize what's going on," said Scott Hooker, Senior Executive Producer, MSNBC. "For those not connected, it tells a really important story of courage and determination and a man's relentless pursuit of the truth. It also happens to be a beautifully crafted documentary, well-reported and investigated."

## SEMPER FI - BRINGING THE CAMP LEJUENE WATER POLLUTION HOME



Keith McKay (VQLAN member) is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran who contracted cancer from the polluted water at Camp Lejeune. Although his entire body was infested with cancer he lived beyond the doctors prognosis.

During several of the VQLAN meetings he spoke on his experience dealing with his health issues. One event he spoke of is when government agents came to his home because they were concerned that he was speaking out about the polluted water issue. His life's story should not be forgotten.

**"SEMPER FI" 'ALWAYS FAITHFUL'**

## H.R. 4555: Janey Ensminger Act

111th Congress: 2009-2010

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep. Bradley Miller \[D-NC13\]](#)

This bill never became law. This bill was proposed in a previous session of Congress. Sessions of Congress last two years, and at the end of each session all proposed bills and resolutions that haven't passed are cleared from the books. Members often reintroduce bills that did not come up for debate under a new number in the next session.

### VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK, INC.

THE FUNCTION AT THE JUNCTION

SIXTH ANNUAL POCONOS BARBEQUE

WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2012  
(MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR)

FEATURING SINGER ROBERT MIRRA

DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE

[WWW.VQLAN.ORG](http://WWW.VQLAN.ORG)



No children allowed



Bring your own food and drink  
Everyone shares

### VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK, INC.

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$35.00  
LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP - \$250.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ AND/OR DONATION \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMIT TO:  
VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK, INC.  
PARK WEST FINANCE STATION  
POST OFFICE BOX 20829  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10025

CUT ON LINE  
KEEP THIS PART

**YOUR RECEIPT**  
VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK, INC.

WE WILL SEND YOU A MEMBERSHIP CARD BY MAIL WITHIN TWO WEEKS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND/OR DONATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

UPDATED 02/2012

## MS MAGAZINE MARCH 6, 2012

### ***Rape in the Military Lawsuit Filed in Federal Court Today.***

A press conference was held at the National Press Conference today to announce a new lawsuit being filed in the US District Court in Washington, DC on behalf of eight current and former members of the Navy and Marine Corps. The lawsuit, filed by Susan L. Burke on behalf of the plaintiffs, charges that the "laws designed to reduce rape, sexual assault and harassment in the Navy and Marine Corps directly and seriously harmed plaintiffs and others who have reported rape and sexual assault and have challenged sexual harassment. Rather than being respected and appreciated for reporting crimes and unprofessional conduct, plaintiffs and others who report are branded 'troublemakers,' endure egregious and blatant retaliation, and are often forced out of military service."

The lead plaintiffs, Adriana Klay and Elle Helmer, stationed at the central command headquarters of the Marines in Washington, DC, are both former Marine officers and spoke out courageously at the press conference. Klay was a merit scholar and is an honors graduate of the US Naval Academy. She was sexually harassed and gang raped by a senior Marine Corps officer and his civilian friend in order to "humiliate her." Elle Helmer, the Public Affairs Officer and Official Spokesperson for the Marines, was ordered to participate in a "pub crawl" by her immediate superior officer and then raped by him.

Speakers at the press conference included Susan Burke, Feminist Majority Foundation President Eleanor Smeal, Anu Bhagwati, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Service Women's Action Network (SWAN), Linda Hallman, Executive Director of American Association of University Women (AAUW), Nancy Parrish, President of Protect our Defenders, and Colonel Ann Wright, who is retired from the military.

Smeal asserted, "The women's movement is determined to end this wonton violence against women in the armed services. The definition of rape in the military must change to comply with the new FBI definition, which has recognized that force need not be present, but rather in modern rape alcohol and drugs are used to subdue the victim. The cover-up for a few predator abusers in the military is injuring women, men, and the armed services themselves."

The Pentagon's "Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military" indicated that approximately 3,000 women experienced sexual assault in fiscal year 2008, which is a 9 percent increase from the previous year. Experts say that the real rate of sexual assault in the military is five times higher than reported. Because of the high level of retaliation, victims are afraid to report. For women in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan, the rate of sexual assaults by US military personnel increased by 25 percent.

According to a 2008 study by the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, at least one-third of all women veterans have experienced rape or sexual assault during their service primarily from US service personnel, and thirty percent of military women experience domestic violence. Moreover, rape occurs in the military nearly twice as often as in the civilian world.

### **ACCESSING VETERANS' SERVICES THROUGH NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

#### **NYC Benefits for Veterans**

##### **Veteran Property Tax Exemption**

##### **NYC Dept. of Finance**

**For detailed information and application please visit [www.nyc.gov/dof](http://www.nyc.gov/dof)**

##### **Veterans Preference Points for NYC Service Exams**

##### **NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services**

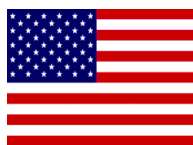
**For detailed information and applications please visit [www.nyc.gov/dcas](http://www.nyc.gov/dcas)**

**Tel# 212-442-4171**

**E-mail: [www.nyc.gov/veterans](mailto:www.nyc.gov/veterans)**

##### **Mr. Terrance Holliday Commissioner**

**346 Broadway, New York, NY 10013**



## STARS AND STRIPES

MARCH 6, 2012 Jennifer Hlad

WASHINGTON — Eight Navy and Marine Corps women are suing current and former leadership of the Navy and Marine Corps in an effort to change the way sexual assaults and rapes — and the victims who report those crimes — are treated by the military.

It's the second such lawsuit filed accusing the military of fostering a culture of sexual harassment and punishing those who report the abuse.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday alleges that nine current and former secretaries of defense, secretaries of the Navy and commandants of the Marine Corps “condoned a culture which allowed sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape” and failed to protect the women from those crimes; failed to properly investigate and prosecute offenders; and retaliated against servicemembers who reported being raped, harassed or sexually assaulted.

“This is the first time I’ve had a voice in six years, so pardon if it’s a little wobbly,” said Elle Helmer, a former spokeswoman for Marine Barracks Washington and one of two plaintiffs who appeared at a news conference Tuesday at the National Press Club.

“I’m a statistic, but I’m not powerless.”

After her hiring in January 2005, Helmer said she was harassed and reported the abuse but nothing changed. In March 2006, she said she was raped by her commanding officer.

For Helmer, the Marine Corps ideal of “Never leave a man behind” didn’t ring true once she reported the rape.

“The minute you question the commander or how they do things, you are no longer one of them and they leave you behind,” she said.

All eight servicemembers named in the lawsuit said they suffered retaliation after they reported abuse.

Ariana Klay, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and Iraq veteran, also appeared at the news conference. She was stationed at Marine Barracks Washington four years after Helmer, and said the command had “a frat-house culture.”

Our constitution forms a system of checks and balances, but I faced the military justice system unchecked,” said Klay.

After six months of “routinely being called a slut and a whore,” enduring verbal and physical sexual advances and false allegations of adultery, Klay reported the abuse. No action was taken, she alleges in the lawsuit; instead, she was told to “deal with it.” Klay said she was raped in August 2010 by a Marine officer and a former Marine. The officer was court-martialed and convicted of adultery and indecent language — a process Klay called “a farce” on Tuesday.

Susan Burke, the plaintiffs’ lead lawyer, filed a similar suit in 2011 in Federal District Court in Virginia. This lawsuit focuses on the Navy and Marine Corps — rather than the entire Department of Defense — and was filed in Federal District Court for the District of Columbia with different defendants, Burke said.

Cynthia O. Smith, a spokeswoman for the department, said she could not comment on the pending litigation but stressed that leaders “are committed to doing everything we can to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of our people.”

Panetta has asked for an assessment of how the DOD trains commanding officers and senior enlisted leaders on sexual assault prevention and response, Smith said. That is due in 120 days.

Pentagon Press Secretary George Little also said he couldn’t comment on a pending lawsuit, but said Panetta had ordered measures in recent months to combat the problem.

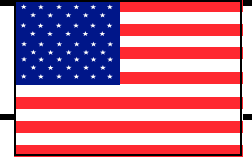
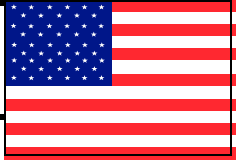
Among them, rule changes that allow servicemembers to quickly transfer units after reporting abuse. In addition, the DOD has allotted nearly \$10 million for training in 2012 to improve investigations and prosecutions.

“We acknowledge that there are issues, but at the same time we are taking aggressive measures to go after the problem,” Little said.



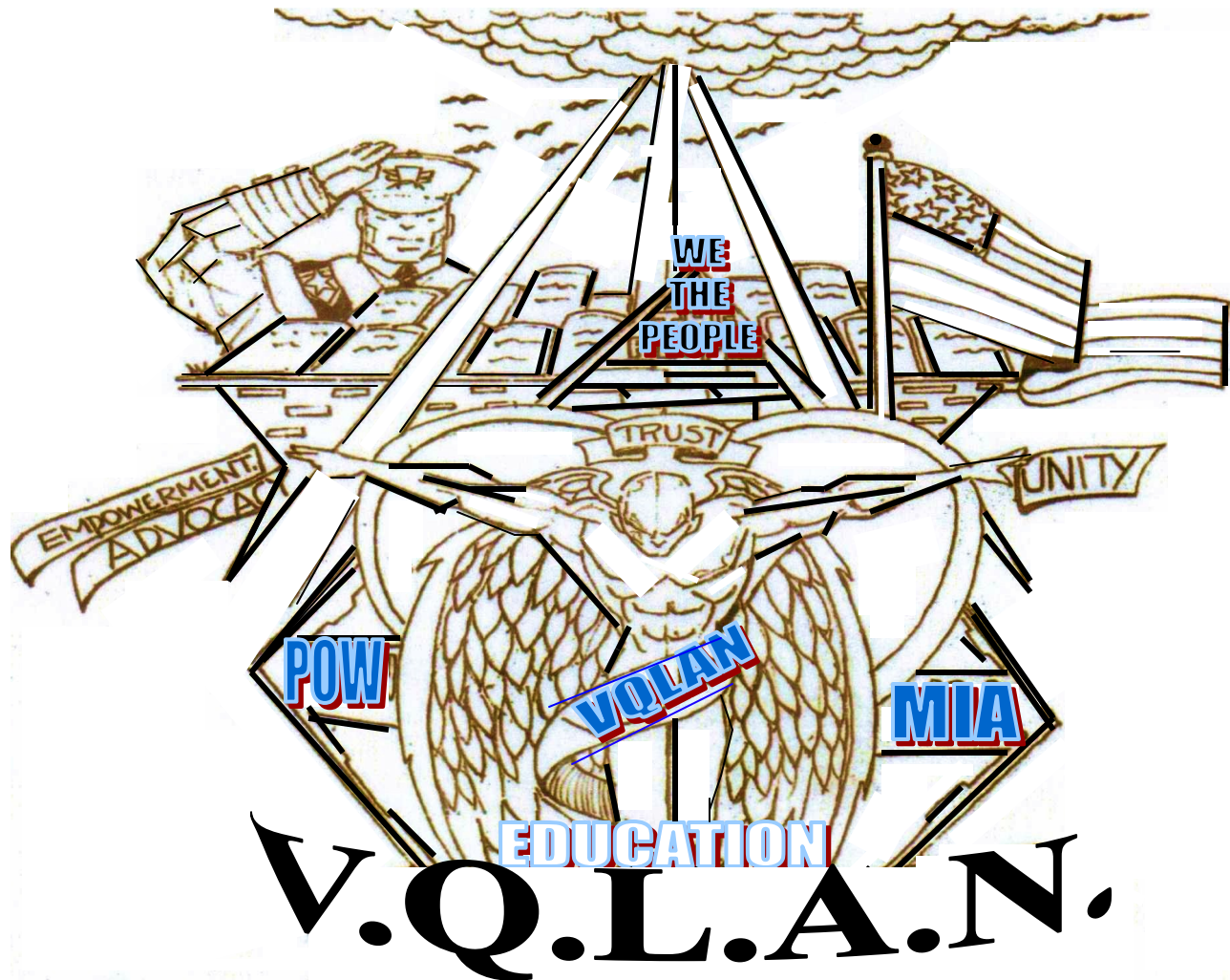
Left to right, Elle Helmer, Ariana Klay and Susan Burke listen as Anu Bhagwati, executive director of the Service Women's Action Network, speaks during Tuesday's press conference at the National Press Club. Burke is the attorney for Helmer, Klay and others who are suing current and former leadership of the Navy and Marine Corps.





**IN A  
CLASS  
BY ITSELF**

**MANY ARE CALLED  
FEW ARE CHOSEN**



**VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK**

**FREEDOM  
IS  
NOT  
FREE**

P.O. BOX # 20829  
NEW YORK, NY  
10025

**ABOVE  
AND  
BEYOND**

