

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12  
PO Box 276, Allenhurst, NJ 07711

'For those who fought for it, Freedom has a special flavor the protected will never know.'



### *Chapter Officers & E-Board*

Dennis Beauregard	President	908-902-8789	<a href="mailto:vva12p@verizon.net">vva12p@verizon.net</a>
Ernie Diorio	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	732-245-5552	<a href="mailto:litetrop67@aol.com">litetrop67@aol.com</a>
Don Davison	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	732-988-4056	<a href="mailto:soulpony@aol.com">soulpony@aol.com</a>
Paul Bausch	Secretary	732-323-8269	<a href="mailto:nayu67@aol.com">nayu67@aol.com</a>
Rich Brandon	Treasurer	518-966-8347	

#### *Committees*

Bob Lopez	Minority Affairs	732-988-9241	<a href="mailto:seabees7@verizon.net">seabees7@verizon.net</a>
Tony Corbella	PTSD	732-272-8770	<a href="mailto:paddybella@optonline.net">paddybella@optonline.net</a>
Don Davison	School Speaker Program	732-988-4056	<a href="mailto:soulpony@aol.com">soulpony@aol.com</a>
Tom Milmoie	Agent Orange	732-859-8783	<a href="mailto:milmoe7@aol.com">milmoe7@aol.com</a>
Ernie Diorio	School Speakers Program	732-245-5552	<a href="mailto:litetrop67@aol.com">litetrop67@aol.com</a>
Bob Hopkins	Membership,Grievance,Chaplain	732-531-2574	<a href="mailto:herc3000@aol.com">herc3000@aol.com</a>
Bucky Grimm	POW/MIA	732-222-9376	<a href="mailto:wheat111@comcast.net">wheat111@comcast.net</a>
Jimmy Mack	Product Sales,Cremains	908-489-7438	<a href="mailto:jmack6649@gmail.com">jmack6649@gmail.com</a>
Rich Magovern	Public,Community Affairs,Cremains	732-842-2950	<a href="mailto:richandnema@verizon.net">richandnema@verizon.net</a>
Michael Quilty	Homeless Vets, Car Show	732-939-8938	<a href="mailto:quiltym@gmail.com">quiltym@gmail.com</a>
Tony Ponzo	Finance,Fund Raising	973-979-0142	<a href="mailto:ybor47@ptd.net">ybor47@ptd.net</a>
Joe McCreary	Veterans' Health Care	732-228-7852	<a href="mailto:joecmbg@yahoo.com">joecmbg@yahoo.com</a>
Dan Higgins	Civil Affairs, Cremains	732-341-2544	<a href="mailto:danielhiggins123@comcast.net">danielhiggins123@comcast.net</a>

#### *State Council Delegates*

Michael Berman Delegate	Mike Quilty, Alternate Delegate
Paul Bausch, Delegate	Dan Higgins, Alternate Delegate
Tony Ponzo, Delegate	

#### *Other Contacts*

Margaret Wojciechowicz	Chapter Service Officer	<a href="mailto:margaret.wojciechowicz@va.gov">margaret.wojciechowicz@va.gov</a>
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Rob Ford	BITW Editor & Web Master	732-687-3846 <a href="mailto:nlvva12@gmail.com">nlvva12@gmail.com</a>



## **President's Message**

**On March 1, 2015, Chapter 12 members marched in the annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Belmar. It was another day to remember in the history of the Chapter. I arrived at 11:15 and started to park on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, and was told that the parade committee had us down for two vehicles, so I proceeded down Ocean Ave to park with Chapter Color guard vehicle on Smith to wait for the start of the parade. I must say despite the weather factor of snow and rain mix, the parade went on as scheduled with the line of travel covered with spectators looking on. This was the first parade that I was unable to actually march in since joining Chapter 12. The only thing I can say is it's not the same feeling sitting in a vehicle. With Bill Monahan on vacation, Tommy Milmoie, "The Can Do Man", gave us a new look with his new chariot that carried the Chapter color, and utilized the front of his snow plow as billboard for the Chapter banner. We had nine Chapter warriors who marched through the snow covered streets of Belmar and three, more in vehicles.**

**Next weekend the Chapter will be marching in the Rumson Saint Patrick's Day Parade, we hope to have better weather than Belmar. If anyone wishes to march, just show up and enjoy the feeling of thanks from the community, this is a nice short parade.**

**If you have not been at a Chapter meeting in a while stop by and enjoy the camaraderie of the brotherhood of Chapter 12. If you know of a veteran that wants to get out of the house bring them along, we are always looking for new members.**

**Remember April 25 is the Chapter annual Dinner Dance. Bring your friends and enjoy an evening of fun. If you wish to take out an Ad or reserve tickets just give Ernie a call at 732-245-5552**

***The Colonel***



### UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

The next Chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:30PM. Location is at VFW 2226, 210 Norwood Ave., Oakhurst, NJ.

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Rumson

Kristin Kinlin Memorial Fundraiser, March 14

Chapter Elections, April 1

Chapter Installation Dinner and Dance, April 25

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March 20, Preston Goode

Anyone born in March or April ?? Please let me know so I can put it here!!

\*\*\*\*\*

If you wish to post a birthday or anniversary please submit the info by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next month's news letter.

# Faith and Begorrah!

Once again, we kick off the marching season with two St. Patrick Day parades. All are welcome to participate.

First on the docket, is the **Belmar** parade, which is past history.

On **Sunday, March 8**, we'll be marching (or at least a semblance thereof!) in the **Rumson** parade. We'll meet in the parking lot of Rumson High School, at 10:45 am, to park the cars and get back to the center of town. We'll be going to Barnacle Bill's for a bite to eat, at 11 am. Form-up is at 12:30 pm, with step-off at 1 pm.

If you've never marched with us (and I use that phrase loosely!) it's a lot of fun. Crowds at both of these parades are usually quite large and we always receive a warm and loud reception. Anyone is welcome to march with us, including kids/grandkids.

Any questions, give me a call at (732) 531-2574.

Bob Hopkins

SLAINTE. CEAD MILE FAILTE. ERIN GO BRAUGH!

# Kristin Kinlin Memorial Fundraiser

50/50

Donation \$5.00

All profits go to the Memorial Fund

Lic # 803-7-84487 RL # 14-178

Drawing to be held by

American Legion Post 515

On March 14, 2015 at 8:00 PM

At the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Corn-Beef Dinner at VFW 2179

Donation \$15.00 Tickets sold separately.

Dinner 5:00 to 8:00 PM

Karaoke in the Bar at 8:00 PM



## ELECTION NOTICE

**As required by the Constitution and By Laws of Vietnam Veterans of America, The New Jersey State Council, and VVA Chapter 12, this is notice that the Annual Election of Officers, Board of Directors, and Nominations Committee will take place at the Annual Meeting of Chapter 12 on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, which meeting will commence at 7:30PM.**

The Offices of President, 1st Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are for a term of one (1) year. The open positions, five (5) in number, for Board of Directors, are for a term of two (2) years. There are three (3) open positions for Nominations Committee, which are for one (1) year terms.

Any member in Good Standing (membership dues paid to date), with a DD214 or other proof of eligibility on file with the Chapter, may run for any office. Simply notify the Nominating Committee, in writing, of your desire to run or contact one of the Nominating Committee members listed below. Nominations and notifications of a desire to seek a specific office are open up to the recitation of the Nominating Committee final report on the night of the elections (April 1, 2015).

**Bob Hopkins  
Nomination Committee Chair  
January 16, 2015**

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Bob Hopkins	(732) 531-2574	<a href="mailto:herc3000@aol.com">herc3000@aol.com</a>
Jay Vaughn	(732) 922-0304	<a href="mailto:jv4910@gmail.com">jv4910@gmail.com</a>
Rich Gough	(732) 539-0206	<a href="mailto:rpg3706@aol.com">rpg3706@aol.com</a>



This is courtesy of Bucky Grimm – Check the Date



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAP#12  
ASBURY PARK, NJ

OFFICERS 1983

Vic Cicconetti, Pres. USAF  
Jim Monahan, 1st V. Pres. USA  
Dennis Champ, 2nd V. Pres. USA  
Samuel Siciliano, Treas. USN  
Dick Van Dusen, Secretary, USA

DIRECTORS

Ray Blakely, USA  
Frank Callano, USN  
Lee Shelly, USA  
Nick Lorris, USA  
Marty Sherman, USA



Shore Area Slogan: GOD COUNTRY MANKIND

December 12, 1983

Dear Shore Area 1983 Chapter Members,

The Nominations Committee will submit its slate of candidates for officers and board of directors for 1984 at the December 19th meeting. Additional nominations will be entertained up to election time. The annual meeting of the chapter, at which the elections will be held, is scheduled for January 23, 1984 at 7:30 PM. It will be preceded by the annual board of directors meeting at 7:00 PM. The regular monthly executive meeting will be held on January 9, 1984. General Membership, as always, is welcomed.

At the December 19th meeting a vote will be taken to move our General Membership Meetings to the VFW Hall, Oakhurst, NJ. The VFW has voted to let us use their facilities, with no strings attached. We will keep our identity as VVA. The proposed night would be one Wednesday of each month. We would continue to use the YMCA for Executive Board Meetings. This is an important topic and we want your feelings on such a move. Any such move will not occur until after the elections.

National has advised us that all 1983 paid memberships will remain valid until March 31, 1984. This is a one shot deal and your dues from that point forward will be due on your anniversary date. Your chapter dues for 1984 of \$5.00 are due January 1, 1984. Please mail your dues in to Sam Siciliano, Vietnam Veterans of America, c/o YMCA, Main Street, Asbury Park, NJ 07712 or even better, bring it to the December 19th meeting. Also National now requires that you supply to the Chapter Secretary proof that you are a Vietnam ERA Veteran. This can be done with a D.D.214 or other verified document of proof of service during the Vietnam era. Any questions, call Dick Van Dusen at 531-2837.

Finally, these next few meetings are vitally important to the organization and all members are encouraged to attend. We need your support.

Sincerely,  
The Nominations Committee  
Bob Hopkins  
Dick Van Dusen  
Tom Evans

VIETNAM VETERANS of AMERICA  
NEW JERSEY SHORE AREA  
CHAPTER 12



**21<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL INSTALLATION & DINNER DANCE**  
**CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Our Annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday,  
**April 25, 2015, 6:30 pm at VFW 2179**, One Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth, NJ 07758. Tickets are  
\$40 per person or \$75 per couple. To reserve tickets, please contact, Ernie Diorio at 732-245-5552  
or Tony Ponzio 972-979-0142 We hope to see some more familiar faces there this year.

Featuring entertainment by **ROCK N RHYTHM**

# VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## NEW JERSEY SHORE AREA CHAPTER # 12



VVA Chapter 12 will be holding its **Annual Dinner Dance** on April 25, 2015. An integral part of our yearly operating budget is based on our fund raising efforts.

Over the past years we have enriched the lives of veterans and there families though a variety of activities including lobbying for veterans legislation , both in Trenton and Washington; assisting veterans in the VA hospitals; aiding and referring veterans for counseling in PTSD [ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder] and substance abuse; providing assistance in filing service connected disability claims. We also sponsor public awareness programs connected with the POW/MIA issue. We are active in the community, providing speakers for elementary and high schools history classes; we have participated in New Jersey Adopt a Highway program, to help keep our state highways clean.

We would appreciate your advertising in our ad journal. Let veterans know you care and support our activities. Business or personal ads are welcome.

Please fill out the enclosed ad form and send your check or money order for the appropriate amount to the above address. Make your check or money payable to: **VVA Chapter 12.**

The deadline for all ads is April 1, 2015.

### FULL PAGE

\$100.00

### HALF PAGE

\$50.00

### THIRD PAGE

\$30.00

For Further Information call:

**Dennis Beaugard** 908-902-8789

**Ernie Diorio** 732-245-5552

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

PO BOX # 276, ALLENHURST, NJ 07711 •• E-mail: [VVA12P@VERIZON.NET](mailto:VVA12P@VERIZON.NET)

# VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## NEW JERSEY SHORE AREA CHAPTER # 12



Please enclose your business card or print card or print out your ad the way you wish it to appear in the ad journal.

Thank you for your support. You also can e-mail your ad to [vva12p@verizon.net](mailto:vva12p@verizon.net)

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Please check desired size

FULL PAGE

\$100.00

HALF PAGE

\$50.00

THIRD PAGE

\$30.00

Deadline for ads is April 1, 2015

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

PO BOX # 276, ALLENHURST, NJ 07711 •• E-mail: [VVA12P@VERIZON.NET](mailto:VVA12P@VERIZON.NET)



## New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation Announces 2015 Scholarship Program

November 2014

Dear Friends:

Graduating seniors have until Friday, April 17, 2015 at 5:00 PM to submit their applications and essays to qualify for one of two (2) scholarships offered by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. The scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,500, will be awarded to high school seniors from New Jersey who plan to further their education either at a college or university or trade/technical school.

Winners will be notified in early May and will be awarded the scholarship on Monday, May 25, 2015 during the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

In addition to the scholarship application and proof of acceptance to a college or trade school, all applicants must submit an essay about his/her visit to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, located off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116 in Holmdel.

The deadline for application and essay submission is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2015. *(Those postmarked prior to due date, but received after the deadline, will NOT be accepted)*. Applications may be mailed, faxed (732) 335-1107 or delivered to the NJVVM Scholarship Program, 1 Memorial Lane, P.O. Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733.

**For more information about our Scholarship Program please** call (732) 335-0033 xt. 100.

Thanks.  
Lynn Duane

## St. Patrick's Day, Belmar, March 1





## St. Patrick's Day Parade, West Palm Beach





Chapter member Paul Sutton received the highest medal from the Chapel of the 4 Chaplains, the Gold Medallion. We, as a Chapter, are enormously proud to have him as a Brother.

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The Board of Directors of  
THE CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS  
Request the pleasure of your company at

THE 47TH ANNUAL FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY  
AWARDS DINNER

Honoring  
THE FOUR CHAPLAINS  
&  
Gold Medallion Recipients:

Ralph Galati, USAF, POW  
Paul L. Sutton, Marine Corps League

On  
Tuesday, February 3, 2015  
6:00pm - 9:00pm



To my brother and sister Vietnam veterans and friends of Chapter 12:

Many of you may know of my long involvement since about 1983 with the Chapel of Four Chaplains, now more commonly referred to as the Four Chaplains Foundation. The Foundation has encountered many hurdles over the past 7 – 8 years and is now moving forward under new, aggressive leadership, working from the historic base chapel aboard the historic Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. The Chairman of the Board is Captain Lou Cavaliere; US Navy (Ret.) and the Foundation's Executive Director is Mrs. Christine Beady of Philadelphia, who some of you may have met at various Chapel ceremonies over the past three years. The New Jersey State Council and Chapter 12, in conjunction with VVA Region II, have sponsored Chapel ceremonies at the US Coast Guard Base Chapel in Cape May, NJ; and, AVVA held several similar ceremonies there in the mid-2000s.

On Tuesday evening, 3 February 2015 (the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the USAT Dorchester off Greenland), the Foundation held its 47<sup>th</sup> annual banquet to honor ordinary people for extraordinary acts of service. The attendance was a "sell-out" crowd, with many, many Vietnam veterans, most of whom are VVA members – especially many of our friends from Chapter 12 - as well as a few representatives of other veterans' organizations. Nearly all of the Chapters from New Jersey, and several from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, were in attendance. There were VVA members there I had not seen in at least ten years, particularly many old friends (and a few new ones) from Chapter 12.

One of the highlights was the presentation of the Foundation's Humanitarian Award to an old friend – Tom Minchin of Harrisburg, PA. It was an honor long overdue and righteously presented to Tom Minchin, a brother Marine.

And, two other awards were presented that evening – the Foundation's Gold Medallion. The Gold Medallion is presented for a lifetime of service to others, without regard for race, color, creed or ethnicity; and, which has had an international impact. It is considered the "highest" award that can be bestowed on an individual. One recipient was Ralph W. Galati of Wallingford, PA who had the "distinction" of spending fourteen months as a "guest" (POW) of the North Vietnamese in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton". Upon release from captivity, Ralph returned home, left the Air Force as a Captain and has "given back" over the past forty-plus years to all. He is currently the Director of Veteran Services at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He told some interesting stories while making his acceptance.

Oh, the other recipient: just an old Vietnam veteran from Chapter 12 named Paul Sutton, nominated by a brother Vietnam veteran by the name of Bob Baker from VVA Chapter 670 in Schulenburg, Texas. I won't bore you with what I had to say. I'm still "in shock" over having had received this significant honor.

Vietnam Veterans of America – principally Chapter 12 and the State Council - has been a leader in the Four Chaplains Foundation, of which all us should justifiably be proud. As we move forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, let's all pledge to keep the unique legacy of the Four Chaplains alive and well for the generations coming after us for at least next 172 years.

Your financial support would also be tremendously appreciated.

Paul Sutton, LMP 1351  
Shore Area Chapter 12, VVA  
NJ State Council

N.J. State Council and Chapter 12 were Proud Corporate Sponsors of the Event























**MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART**  
CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

National Headquarters  
5413-B Backlick Rd | Springfield, VA 22151  
O: 703-642-5360 | F: 703-642-1841

13 February 2015

The Honorable Walter B. Jones  
2333 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Jones:

On behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), I wish to thank you for introducing H.R. 454 the "Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act".

This legislation will authorize the surviving member, or other designated survivor, to retain the full month retired pay for the month in which a military retiree dies. It will relieve much of the stress that survivors are being forced to deal with such as an over payment, while having to deal with losing a loved one and the arrangements that must be made during their time of grief.

In 1996 Congress voted to allow survivors to retain the veterans last month pay for VA disability and pension payments. The military retiree survivors should have the same consideration.

MOPH supports this legislation and urges Congress to act on it.

Respectfully,

J. Patrick Little  
National Commander

# New Pentagon Chief 'Open to Reconsidering' Military Retirement System

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160 comments



Secretary of Defense Ash Carter is greeted by Brig. Gen. Viet Luong, commander of Train, Assist, Advise Command, south, as he arrives at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Feb. 22, 2015. Glenn Fawcett/DoD

Stars and Stripes | Feb 23, 2015 | by Jon Harper

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan -- Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter said Sunday he is open to altering the [military retirement system](#) but would not want changes forced on current or former servicemembers.

A congressionally chartered Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission [submitted proposals last month](#) to lower personnel costs in the Defense Department. It recommended changes to entice troops to opt out of the current pension system, which gives substantial retirement pay to those who serve 20 years or more but none to those who serve less time. The panel suggested all troops be automatically given a savings plan account that would sock away 3 percent of pay along with a contribution from the military. The panel also recommended that [Tricare health insurance](#) be replaced with a range of private provider options.

When a servicemember asked Carter about potential changes at a troop talk at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan, Carter said: "I'm of course open to reconsidering the military retirement system. It's been around for a long time [and] it makes sense to take a look at it."

Saying he is studying the commission's report, he didn't comment on specific recommendations.

"What's critical here is that we have a system ... that will keep the all-volunteer force healthy in the future," he said.

He said the retirement system should be attractive to potential recruits and give servicemembers appropriate incentives to either stay in the military or retire at a time that is best for them and DoD.

"That's the criterion that I will principally apply when considering these things," Carter said.

But he believes any mandated changes should only apply to those who join the military in the future.

"Any change we make [should] be one that those who are in service don't have to [accept] if they don't want to, because I don't want to breach our understanding with you at the time you joined. That's not fair," Carter said. "But we can make other alternatives available to those who may join in the future and also to those who are in now."

## Web Sites

Copy and paste into your browser

[D-Day Landing Sites Then and Now: Normandy Beaches in 1944 and 70 Years Later](#)

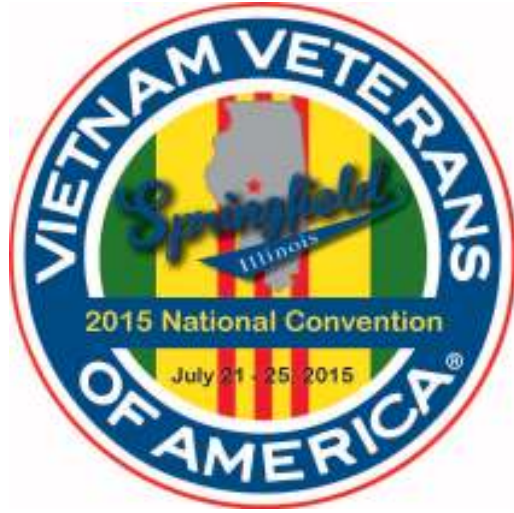
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/d-day-landing-sites-then-now-normandy-beaches-1944-70-years-later-1450286>

The Eagle Cried – Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ehbc1zU1BwQ&x-yt-ts=1422411861&x-yt-cl=84924572>

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**2015 Convention Information Is Now Available on  
the VVA Website**



July 21 – July 25, 2015  
Springfield, IL



Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald speaks during a news conference Sept. 8, 2014, in Washington, D.C. (Alex Wong/Getty Images)

Veterans and some VA doctors say that the new “choice card” program, meant to reduce long patient wait times, is confusing and causing more stress. The choice card issued by the embattled Department of Veterans Affairs was meant to end long wait times for veterans after last summer’s scandal revealed that those who fought for their country were dying while waiting for care. The card gives veterans who have been waiting more than 30 days for appointments or who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility the chance to see a private doctor.

But instead, some veterans say that when they attempted to use their card, the VA told them they had to live more than 40 “miles in a straight line, or as the crow flies,” from their VA rather than Google maps miles, which makes the card harder to use. Several VA doctors e-mailed *The Washington Post* saying they themselves don’t understand how to use the program

Another reader wrote in saying that her stepfather, Charles Schuster, who died in 2009, recently received a card in the mail, a symbol of an agency still seemingly in disarray. “Gave me a good laugh,” she wrote.

So far, 27,000 veterans have made appointments for private care with their cards, the VA said last week. It’s a fraction of the 9 million veterans who depend on the delay-plagued VA health-care system, the largest network of health centers and hospitals in the country.

“As far as I can tell, the choice card has created more confusion and aggravation than improving access to clinical care, though it did gain political points,” said one VA primary care doctor, who says he’s on the front lines of doing intakes. He spoke on the condition of anonymity because VA employees are not allowed to speak to the media without permission. But he said he and other doctors “are confused by the choice card system and don’t understand how to implement it.”

Another problem that veterans pointed to is that all veterans, whether eligible or not, get the card. Some are showing up in private emergency rooms and try to use the card only to find out it’s not valid.

During a recent House hearing with VA Secretary Robert McDonald, Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-Kan.) said the program needs to be totally revamped. The 40 mile “as-a-crow-flies” distance is a huge problem for his district, which has 63 rural counties and no VA hospital. Huelskamp co-sponsored a bill that would require the VA secretary to expand the Veterans Choice Act eligibility to better assist rural veterans by changing the 40-mile requirement to be based on actual driving distance instead of radius.

Additionally, the 40-mile criteria would apply directly to the type of care requested by the veteran – which means having a Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in the area would no longer prevent a veteran from choosing care at a local hospital if the local CBOC can’t provide the necessary service.

He also reported that there are approximately 70 rural community hospitals in Kansas willing to fill that void, but under current VA restrictions, many veterans are unable to use those facilities.

“Refusing to allow these men and women to choose their local hospital and doctor and forcing them to drive huge distances is simply unacceptable – they deserve better,” Huelskamp said.

He also said that when veterans were calling their hospitals for appointments, they were not asked for or advised to check whether they could use their cards.

Other political leaders and veterans advocacy groups are questioning how hard the VA is really selling the choice card.

The VA’s release of the choice card numbers is at the heart of a controversy over [President Obama’s 2016 budget](#), which asks for authority to reallocate funds from the temporary \$10 billion program that Congress established last year to help veterans struggling to obtain care at strapped VA clinics. VA officials say they want the “flexibility” to fund other projects, such as reducing the claims backlog.

House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) has roundly rejected the plan, calling it a “complete non-starter, which I will not support.”

Pete Hegseth, CEO of the conservative advocacy group Concerned Veterans for America, has told the media that veterans get the run-around when they call the VA for permission to use the choice card.

“The VA is making a concerted attempt to undermine anything that looks like choice,” he said.

Retired Lt. Col. Jack Martins, who has hearing loss from Vietnam, said that he couldn’t use his card because, even though his nearest facility in Virginia is 60 miles away, that mileage is using Google Maps, not “mileage in a straight line.”

“I called twice, just to verify this information. Makes you wonder why they sent out the mailing before fixing this problem,” said Martins.

Former Army private Ian Albright receives VA benefits and medical care, and his father, Tim Albright, is helping him access his care. He said veterans are scared to use the choice card for various reasons, including too much paperwork, delays getting approval by VA physicians and fear of never being reimbursed.

“It all sounds like governmentese, for no one is going to approve payment of your care ahead of time. It’s a bunch of booby traps and trap doors,” he said. “There’s nowhere you can go to get quick answers from the VA. And I see this as a life-and-death dilemma for vets and family members who really have no clue how the system works.”

While he has nothing but praise for the staff and management of the VA Medical Center in Saginaw, Mich., where his son receives treatment, he wishes getting to that treatment was easier.

Albright worked for the federal government in Social Security for 34 years and offered a solution, which he e-mailed about and left a message on McDonald’s cellphone.

The idea, he said, would involve issuing temporary Medicare cards to veterans who meet the “choice criteria.” The benefits of this plan include “little or no paperwork for veterans and the VA would save additional administrative and personnel expense since the Medicare claim system is already in place.”

“How are private doctors going to send these choice card bills in? You are talking about training tens of thousands of people, but if you use Medicare – everyone knows how to handle Medicare,” he said. “All energy and efforts should be to provide immediate medical care to those in backlogs or on waiting lists.”

# President Harry S. Truman

He was a great man and those were wonderful times.

AND he saved the country and a million soldiers' lives in the Pacific

## Dr. Michael J. Montgomery

YOU WILL PROBABLY NEVER SEE THIS AGAIN.

Thought you'd enjoy this!

It's one you want your Children and Grandchildren to read. They won't believe this happened, but it DID. Harry & Bess

Harry Truman was a different kind of President. He probably made as many, or more important decisions regarding our nation's history as any of the other 32 Presidents preceding him. However, a measure of his greatness may rest on what he did after he left the White House.

The only asset he had when he died was the house he lived in, which was in Independence, Missouri. His wife had inherited the house from her mother and father and other than their years in the White House, they lived their entire lives there.

When he retired from office in 1952 his income was a U.S. Army pension reported to have been \$13,507.72 a year. Congress, noting that he was paying for his stamps and personally licking them, granted him an 'allowance' and later, a retroactive pension of \$25,000 per year.

After President Eisenhower was inaugurated, Harry and Bess drove home to Missouri by themselves. There was no Secret Service following them.

When offered corporate positions at large salaries, he declined, stating, "You don't want me. You want the office of the President, and that doesn't belong to me.. It belongs to the American people and it's not for sale."

Even later, on May 6, 1971, when Congress was preparing to award him the Medal of Honor on his 87th birthday, he refused to accept it, writing, "I don't consider that I have done anything which should be the reason for any award, Congressional or otherwise."

As president he paid for all of his own travel expenses and food.

Modern politicians have found a new level of success in cashing in on the Presidency, resulting in untold wealth.

Good old Harry Truman was correct when he observed, "My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference!

We ought to have cloned him for telling it like it is and being frugal with our tax dollars!

--



## HUMOR

### OLD IS WHEN.....

'OLD' IS WHEN....

Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

'OLD' IS WHEN...

A sexy babe or hunk catches your fancy and your pacemaker opens the garage door.

'OLD' IS WHEN...

Going braless pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.

'OLD' IS WHEN...

You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

'OLD' IS WHEN...

You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police.

'OLD' IS WHEN...

'Getting a little action' means you don't need to take any fiber today.

'OLD' IS WHEN...

'Getting lucky' means you find your car in the parking lot.

'OLD' IS WHEN....

An 'all nighter' means not getting up to use the bathroom.

AND

'OLD' IS WHEN....

You're not sure if these are jokes

.....

An old man of ninety was sitting on a park bench crying. A policeman noticed this and asked him why he was crying.

"Well," says the old fellow, "I just got married to a twenty-five year old woman. Every morning she makes me a wonderful breakfast, and then we make fun together laughing and relaxing. In the afternoon she makes me a wonderful lunch and then we make fun together laughing and relaxing again. At dinner time she makes me a wonderful supper and then we relax more and enjoy ourselves."

The policeman looks at the old man and says, "You shouldn't be crying! You should be the happiest man in the world!"

"I know!" says the old man, "I'm crying because I don't remember where I live!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Distracted Driving Incident

**Everyone reading this will enjoy it - no matter which gender you are.....**

**This morning on the Interstate,  
I looked over to my left and there was a**

**Woman**

**In a brand new  
Cadillac**

**Doing 65 mph**

**With her  
Face up next to her**

**Rear view mirror**

**Putting on her eyeliner.**

**I looked away**

**For a couple seconds...**

**To continue shaving**

**And when I looked back she was**

**Halfway over in my lane,**

**Still working on that makeup.**

**As a man,**

**I don't scare easily.**

**But she scared me so much;**

I had to put on my seat belt  
And  
I dropped

My electric shaver

Which knocked

The donut  
Out of my other hand.

In all the confusion of trying  
To straighten out the car

Using my knees against  
The steering wheel,

It knocked

My Cell Phone

Away from my ear

Which fell

Into the coffee

Between my legs!

Splashed,

And burned

Big Jim and the Twins,

Ruined the damn phone,

Soaked my trousers,

And disconnected an  
Important call.

Damn women drivers!

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Perfect Husband

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> Several men are in the locker room of a golf club. A cellular phone  
> on a  
> bench rings and a man engages the hands-free speaker function and  
> begins to  
> talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen.  
>  
>  
> MAN: "Hello"  
>  
>  
> WOMAN: "Hi Honey,

> it's me. Are you at the club?"  
>  
>  
> MAN: "Yes."  
>  
>  
> WOMAN: "I'm at the  
> shops now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only  
> \$2,000. Is it OK if I buy it?"  
>  
>  
> MAN: "Sure, go ahead if  
> you like it that much."  
>  
>  
> WOMAN: "I also stopped by the  
> Lexus dealership and saw the new models. I saw one I really  
> liked." MAN: "How much?"  
>  
>  
> WOMAN: "\$90,000."  
>  
>  
> MAN: "OK, but for that price I  
> want it with all the options."  
>  
>  
> WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing. I was just talking to Janie  
> and found  
> out that the house I wanted last year is back on the market. They're  
> asking  
> \$980,000 for it."  
>  
>  
> MAN: "Well, then go ahead and make an offer of \$900,000. They'll  
> probably  
> take it. If not, we can go the extra eighty-thousand if it's what you  
> really want."  
>  
>  
> WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you  
> later! I love you so much !"  
>  
>  
> MAN: "Bye! I love you, too."  
>  
>  
>  
> The man hangs up. The other  
> men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths wide  
> open.  
>  
>  
> He turns and asks, "Anyone know whose phone this is?"



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## BIOLOGY EXAM:

Students in an advanced Biology class were taking their mid-term exam.

The last question was, 'Name seven advantages of Mother's Milk.'

The question was worth 70 points or none at all.

One student, in particular, was hard put to think of seven advantages. However, he wrote:

- 1) It is perfect formula for the child.
- 2)
- 3) It provides immunity against several diseases.
- 4)
- 3) It is always the right temperature.
- 5) It is inexpensive
- 6) .
- 5) It bonds the child to mother, and vice versa.
- 7) It is always available as needed.
- 8)

And then the student was stuck.

Finally, in desperation, just before the bell rang indicating the end of the test, he wrote:

7) It comes in two attractive containers and it's high enough off the ground where the cat can't get it.

He got an A.

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## TAPS

### Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord

Asia, Richard John, 63, Asbury Park, USMC

Bliss, Richard, 75, Brick, Army

Flom, Morgan "Bud", Eatontown, Army

Guzman, Francisco Ramon, 65, Keyport, Army

Lebret, Michael, 66, Freehold, Army

Noonan, Edward, 66, Toms River, Army

Prongay, Christopher, 60, Howell, Army

Roberts, Roy, 69, Farmingdale, Army

Wood, James, 68, Manchester, Navy

Zuccaro, Richard, 70, Berkeley, Navy

Zupa, John, 74, Manchester, Army

**REST IN PEACE BROTHERS**