



Volume 32 • Issue 4

VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter

April 2024



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.'

OFFICERS AND E-BOARD

Dennis Beauregard	President	908-902-8789	vva12p@verizon.net
Ernie Diorio	1 st Vice President	732-245-5552	litetrop67@aol.com
Dennis Champ	2 nd Vice President	732-859-4644	dsclnc1953@gmail.com
Tony Corbella	Secretary	732-640-1967	paddybella@optonline.net
Richard Brandon	Treasurer	518-791-2400	richbrandon1952@yahoo.com

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Greg Kucharewski	Play Hook-e,	732-429-9637	gkuchaeews@aol.com
Joe Leone	PTSD	609-577-7848	anamvet1969@gmail.com
Gene Ann Pesano	AVVA President	732 239-6928	geneann.pesano@comcast.net

STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES

Michael Berman, Delegate	732 674-5564	Phil Pesano, Alternate Delegate	848-480-3689
Carmelo Burgaretta, Delegate	732 758-9775	Tony Corbella, Alternate Delegate	732 273-8770
Dan Higgins, Delegate	732 581-9715		

OTHER CONTACTS

Margaret Wojciechowicz	VVA National Service Officer	973-297-3227	margaret.wojciechowicz@va.gov
Carol Force	BITW editor	908-601-3132	caf7881@gmail.com



NOTES FROM CHAPTER 12

- ⇒ Please remember our fellow Chapter members, and their families in your prayers, as they continue to face very serious medical conditions
- ⇒ Please visit and “like” our Facebook page, “Vietnam Veterans NJ Shore Area Chapter 12” for info on what we are doing.
- ⇒ Please visit our CHAPTER WEBSITE—www.vvchapter12.net for photo albums, news letter archives, Chapter history.
- ⇒ Anyone needing a ride to the VA, please contact Ernie Diorio for assistance. If you are able to provide transportation, please let Ernie know so the same people aren’t doing it all the time.
- ⇒ If you are looking for a fellow vet that you lost track of, or someone that you served with that might have information you need, please send it to us and we’ll put it in the monthly newsletter.
- ⇒ Check this link out if you need help with an appeal, or know a Vet that does. Keep it moving, pass it on to other Vets you know: <http://www.vetsprobono.org/index.htm>
- ⇒ Anyone wanting to submit an article, picture , or story, please send it to VVA12p@verizon.net or nivva12@gmail.com by the 25th of each month. Anything received after that will be placed in the following month’s newsletter. (Make sure your article can be verified.
- ⇒ We have been informed that in lieu of specific items to send to troops on deployment, gift cards to the PX would be appreciated. The troops can get almost anything in the PX, but could use help via gift card. This is also a money and effort saver on our part. Donations to the PX gift care fund are being accepted. **We are also switching from actual food to gift cards for our food bank as this will better serve our veterans in need.**

President's Message



As you will see for the past 4 months our Chapter has been very active, starting the new year off with our VFW Post 2179 annual Four Chaplains award service on Feb 3. This year Ernie , Goober and myself represent the Chapel awards to five of Chapter 12 , Richard Brando, Ewin Coons, Dennis Champ, Anthony Flere and Bob Amrozewicz.

Ten Chapter members had attended the Chapel of Four Chaplains annual Gala in Phil PA on Feb 1 where we were a Silver Sponsor for the event.

Chapter had sent 10 members our Brother Veterans, JWV annual Legislative breakfast on April 7 where they had honored Assemblyman Wayne Deangelo and Honor Flight of Southern Jersey, Ron and Pam Pontano.

12 Chapter members attend the Greater Ocean Township Chamber of Commerce Lunch , where Chapter member Jim Mack was honor with their Beautification award for the Vietnam Memorial of Ocean.

Special thank to my wife Dolores for idea, her support, and co-chaired this unbelievable fundraiser of a Corn Beef Dinner. As always this Chapter came together and held this fundraiser in a Special thanks to VFW Post 2179 and Auxiliary for their strong support to Chapter 12 programs.

18 Chapter members attend a very special lunch for Vietnam Veteran's on March 29, Sponsored by VFW Post 1333, Special thanks to their chairman Tony Richardson for an outstanding job. Lunch was unbelievable as always thank, Brother Bobby Jameson.

We are all looking forward to next year's event at the Jumping Brook County club for the 50Th Anniversary of the War.

The Colonel

*VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
NEW JERSEY SHORE AREA - CHAPTER 12*



**30th ANNUAL INSTALLATION & DINNER DANCE
CELEBRATING 42 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
VETERANS AND COMMUNITY**

Our Annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday,

May 18, 2024 - 6:00-10:00 pm at VFW 2179, One Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth, NJ 07758.

Tickets are \$50.00 per person.

To reserve tickets, please contact, Ernie DiOrio at 732-245-5552

We hope to see some more familiar faces there this year.

Featuring entertainment by **ROCK "N" RHYTHM**



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



VVA Chapter 12 requests your support for our primary fundraising activity, THE 30th ANNUAL OFFICERS INSTALLATION & DINNER DANCE to be held on Saturday, May 18 2024 starting at 6 PM at VFW Post 2179 located at 1 Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth, NJ.

We strive to enrich the lives of veterans and their families through a variety of activities such as lobbying for favorable veteran legislation on both the state and federal levels. This legislation is critical to assist veterans in need of hospital or clinic care for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and substance abuse as well as providing assistance in the proper filing of service connected disability claims.

We are active in locating abandoned veteran cremains in funeral homes and, then, arranging for a proper military burial. We provide speakers and exhibits for elementary, high school and other interested groups. We provide Honor Guards for special occasion events. We help maintain the NJ Vietnam Memorial on the Garden State Parkway at Exit 116. We are the largest VVA Chapter in New Jersey and rank in the top 20 nationwide with over 400 members but we are getting older and need your help to stay viable.

Let veterans know that you care and support our activities by advertising in our journal. Business and personal ads are appreciated. We also welcome monetary donations. Please complete this ad form and return it to us with your tax deductible check made payable to VVA Chapter 12. The deadline for all ads is May 1, 2024.

VVA CHAPTER 12
P. O. Box 276
Allenhurst, NJ 07711

For additional information please call Dennis Beauregard at 908-902-8789 or Ernie Diorio at 732-245-5552.

FULL PAGE \$100.00

HALF PAGE \$50.00

Please attach your business card or print out your ad the way you wish it to appear in the journal. You can also have your name listed on our FRIENDS OF VIETNAM VETERANS ad page.



Guitar for Vets

I am still giving classes at the Manalapan community center on Tuesdays at 11:30. The center is located at 114 Rt 33 in Manalapan. I also have classes at the Jackson Elks on East Veterans highway in Jackson on Thursday at 10:00. **If you are interested in playing guitar and you don't have one I do have guitars to lend.** If you are a veteran and you play or have played any instrument and you like jam with other vets come on out we'd love see you there. My name is Dennis Champ, you can email me or call me at 732-239-6288. Or email me at dsclnc1953@gmail.com.

Stay busy my brothers and sisters and be well.





Missing In America Project

www.miap.us

**BG William C Doyle Veterans Cemetery
Wrightstown, NJ**

CREMAINS REPORT

As of March 2024, Chapter 12 has interred 159 veterans and spouses with full military honors and reunited 30 veterans to their families. We have been working hard to locate many more. As a result of our efforts, we have identified another 18 for interment at Arneytown and 1 spouse to be interred with her husband at the National Cemetery in Long Island.

Our next ceremony for the above has been scheduled for June 11, 2024. Meetings are being scheduled to work on the logistics for that event. The official announcement will be coming soon.

For the Committee
Rich Gough

"Play HOOK-e" From PTSD

By Greg Kucharewski

Calling all women veterans and active-duty military women. Contact Karen Noe (732-245-2751) to register for the event that is honoring our women heroes. Also, if you would like to volunteer to help email Karen GINoe113@gmail.com

WOMEN VETERAN AND ACTIVE — DUTY FISHING DAY



WHEN: SATURDAY
Apr. 20, 2024
11 am - 2:00 pm

WHERE
Lake Julianna
Millstone Twp
265 Dishrow Hill Rd., NJ



**"IT'S COUNTRY"
LIVE MUSIC
BY VETERANS
DURING A DIRTY
DOG LUNCH**

REGISTER
Email/Phone Karen Noe at:
GINoe0113@GMAIL.COM
732-245-2751

EVENT IS FREE
Join us for Food and Fun
Military Spouses are
welcome to attend.
Loaner rods and reels,
bait, & fishing instruction
will be provided

LEARN TO FISH
Rig Bait, Casting, Lures,
Terminal Tackle Tricks
and more.

Largest Surf Fishing Tournament

Along the Jersey Shore

[Register Online>>](#)



33rd
Governor's Surf Fishing
Tournament
MAY 19, 2024
Island Beach State Park

Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 12, American Warrior Outdoors, and volunteer anglers from various fishing clubs will assist physically challenged anglers. Celebrity Ford, Toms River will provide transportation at OBA 1 for disabled anglers. **Early registration ends April 19th. If you know a disabled veteran or angler that would like to fish the tournament, please email Kevin Nolan at: kevnol22877@comcast.net**



FREE Fishing Charter

Sandy Hook Bay Anglers and VVA Chapter 12 Play HOOK-e will sponsor two free Veterans charters with Dark Horse Charter Captain Justin. Each boat will accommodate 6 passengers. Contact Karen Noe to schedule Karen at GINoe0113@gml.com Date: May 7th, 1:00PM - 5:00PM, Atlantic Highlands Marina. Special thanks to JCAA and WILD, Barry Hessinger and others who are making this possible.

Read the Play HOOK-e Newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/0677e03013b9/play-hook-e-welcome-email-15547282>

EARLE NAVAL FISHING PIER

VVA Chapter 12, Play HOOK-e Go Fishing will assist upcoming fishing programs to promote saltwater fishing. Sean Moley, Fishing Program Monitor and members from American Warrior Outdoors are assisting disabled veterans with learning how to fish at the pier. Contact Sean for more information at: Seanmoley66@gmail.com or Phone:732-895-6032

Pier Fishing Applications will be processed
at Bldg. C-29 M-F from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
For more information please phone
732-866-2448
Play HOOK-e Loaner rods and reels available.



NOW OPEN TO ALL DAYS!

**VVA Chapter 12 South
*7th Annual Veteran Fishing Event Serving those who Served.***

The CVE Fishing Club and Ellesmere E residents, hosted the 7th Annual "Take a Veteran Fishing Day." The veterans were encouraged to "Play HOOK-e from PTSD." The program promotes eco-therapy, lifetime leisure pursuits, and healthy outdoor activities for veterans that enjoy spending time outdoors. Over 35 veterans from all military branches of the armed forces and guests attended, two veterans who served together coincidentally re-connected after many years. Members from the Vietnam Veterans of America and Chapter 12 South supported our warriors by offering informational resources to assist veterans in finding health advice at local veteran outreach centers. The day was a tremendous success, most veterans fished and remained after the barbeque to socialize and swap military experiences.



VVA Chapter 12 brother, Rob Ford and his wife Carol traveled to the event to "Play HOOK-e" and contributed to help with expenses. Thank you, Rob and Carol!!!

Rebecca's Reel Quilters
Stitching the hearts of our veterans
View Quilts of Valor photos [here>>](#)



Over 85 QOV were presented since 2017 at VVA 12 meetings and events.



Art Therapy every 3rd Saturday phone Ashley to register 201-579-0041

8th Annual “PLAY HOOK- e”
Veterans, Children with Disabilities and
Active-Duty Military Fishing Day

Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024

9:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M.

FREE BBQ

Door Prizes



Pizza Truck

Rods & Reels

LOCATION LAKE JULIANNA

PONDEROSA ESTATES FARM, MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ

TO REGISTER VISIT

[Eventbrite>>](#)

For more information contact

[Don Marantz](#) or [Kevin Nolan](#)

908-347-1434

732-504-5492

SODA, PIZZA, HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS
WILL BE PROVIDED

Sponsored by:



Car Show

JULY 21st,
2024

Starts 10am till
3pm



Car entry \$25
Open to the
Public!

DETAILS:

Live Band
50/50
Raffles
Food and Beverages
Trophies

WHERE:

VFW Post 2179
1 Veterans Lane
Port monmouth, New
Jersey 07758

Rain Date:
July 28

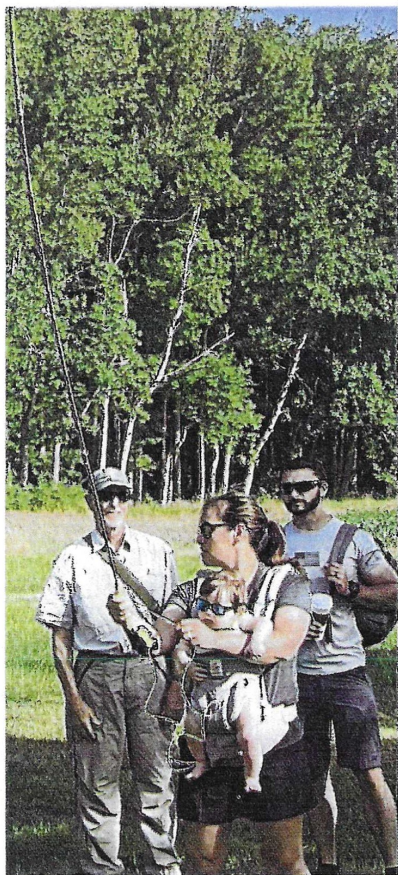


WOMEN VETERAN AND ACTIVE — DUTY FISHING DAY



WHEN: SATURDAY
Apr. 20, 2024
11 am - 2:00 pm

WHERE
Lake Julianna
Millstone Twp
265 Disbrow Hill Rd., NJ



“IT”S COUNTRY”
LIVE MUSIC
BY VETERANS
DURING A DIRTY
DOG LUNCH

REGISTER

Email Karen Noe at:

scotpfriends@gmail.com

EVENT IS FREE

Join us for Food and Fun

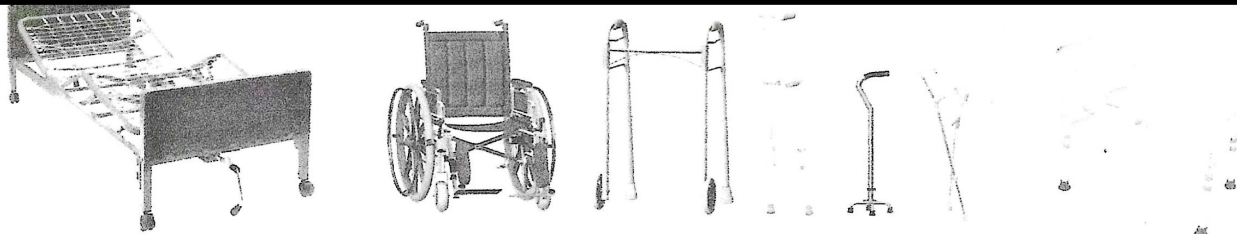
Military Spouses are
welcome to attend.

Loaner rods and reels,
bait, & fishing instruction
will be provided

LEARN TO FISH

Rig Bait, Casting, Lures,
Terminal Tackle Tricks
and more.





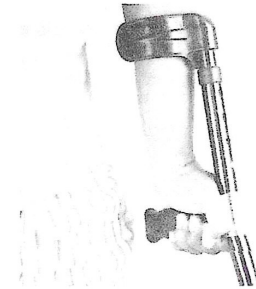
Do You Need Medical Equipment? Maybe We Can Help



CALL, TEXT, or EMAIL
(732) 440-8289 or
sjmedequip@gmail.com

Please include

- your name,
- what you are looking for, and
- how we can reach you.



A volunteer will get back to you within a few days.


It won't cost you anything.

We collect donated walkers, crutches, canes, hospital beds, wheelchairs, knee braces, tub benches, commodes, adult diapers and other new and used medical equipment and give it away for **free**. ***We want to help you.***

The **Saint James Eatontown**
Medical Equipment Ministry
is located at

Saint James Episcopal Church
69 Broad Street, Eatontown, NJ
Open Wednesday 11 - 3
And Saturday 1^o Noon



ECS  **NJ**
EPISCOPAL
COMMUNITY
SERVICES THE DIOCESE
of NEW JERSEY

We operate with the generous support of **Episcopal Community Services of NJ** and are affiliated with the Pluckemin Medical Equipment Ministry. **If you have items to donate**, we would love to hear from you, too. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your donations are tax deductible.

GETTING URGENT CARE AT VA OR IN-NETWORK COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

Submitted by:
Erwin Coons

I would like to bring to your attention how to access urgent care at a VA or in-network community provider. If you are an eligible veteran you can get urgent care at VA or in-network community providers near you. Use urgent care for minor injuries and illnesses that are life-threatening – like strep throat, sprained muscles, and skin and ear infections.

Eligibility—You can get urgent care if you are a Veteran enrolled in VA health care, **and** you received care at a VA or in-network provider in the last 24 months. To check your eligibility contact your local VA health facility or call 800-698-2411.

Covered Services Care for minor injuries and illnesses like strep throat, pink eye, sprained muscles, and skin and ear infections. Diagnostic services X-ray and some lab tests, and some types of medication and vaccines.

What to bring Bring a valid government issued photo id and a copy of the VA urgent care assistance card. Do not pay a copay. Fill out the provider's intake form and tell them you want to use your VA urgent care benefit,

How to find a VA-approved urgent care provider and pharmacy Go to VA.gov/find-locations before seeking care. Print out the VA Billing Information Guide for you, your provider and your pharmacy. If you need help using your VA urgent care benefit call 1-888-901-6609.

For best access to information and to find networks, use your Video Connect app.

For more information see the flyer on the next page



VETERAN URGENT CARE RESOURCES



Veterans enrolled in VA health care can use over 4,000 urgent care locations.

Care is available to treat non-life threatening conditions.

When to choose VA urgent care:

- If you're a Veteran enrolled in VA health care, and
- You received care at a VA or in-network provider sometime in the past 24 months.
- VA and in-network urgent care providers can meet many of your health care needs. They may be able to provide some diagnostic tests, like certain blood and urine tests.
- You can often get care for minor illnesses or injuries much faster than in an emergency room.



When using urgent care at a community provider:

You can also show the card on your mobile device.

What do to when you arrive at a community urgent care provider:

- Confirm that the provider is in VA's network. If you go to an out-of-network urgent care provider, you may have to pay for the full cost of care.
- Show your VA Health Identification Card and fill out the provider's intake form.
- Tell the provider you want to use your VA urgent care benefit. Show the provider your urgent care assistance card if requested.



Do you need help using your VA urgent care benefits?

Call **888-901-6609** if the provider is in Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., or any of these states:

- AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VA, VI, VT, WI, or WV.

Call **866-620-2071** if the provider is in any of these states:

- AK, AS, AZ, CA, CO, GU, HI, ID, MP, MT, NM, NV, OR, TX, UT, WA, or WY.

Your region listed on the card to check your eligibility.



CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY!

FIRST, CALL:
1-800-MyVA411
(1-800-698-2411)
(TTY: 711).

SELECT:

OPTION 1

THEN

OPTION 3

AND THEN

OPTION 1

Family members are not authorized to use urgent care benefits.



DOWNLOAD VA URGENT CARE BILLING INFORMATION CARD

<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/docs/programs/OCC-Billing-Information-Card.pdf>



FIND VA-APPROVED PROVIDERS AND PHARMACIES

<https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Choosing VA means getting everything you need in one spot. Learn more about VA urgent care, eligibility requirements and examples of urgent care services by visiting VA's dedicated urgent care benefit page at <https://www.va.gov/resources/getting-urgent-care-at-va-or-in-network-community-providers/>.

Have Questions? 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) is always the right number.

For more information, visit <https://www.va.gov>.

PTSD & TBI Art Therapy Group

FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY, RETIRED, VETERAN & RESERVISTS

{service dogs welcome}

Join us for open art studio, creative engagement, instruction, PTSD/TBI education & community.
No previous artistic experience necessary - materials provided, BYO materials also welcome.



RSVP to
AshleyShanahanLPC
@
alternativepathcat.com
or call 201-579-0041

*location provided
upon RSVP*

light refreshments
provided

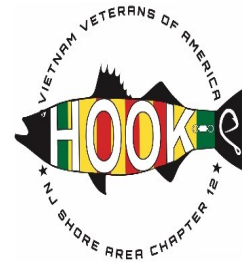
held the third Saturday of each month

facilitated by



Alternative Path
Counseling & Art Therapy

in collaboration with:



est 2022



Alternative Path
Counseling & Art Therapy

"Our art therapy group was started in October 2022 after I learned from my father-in-law Rich Thomas and his friend Greg Kucharewski (someone heavily involved in the Veteran community) that an art group held at the Lakewood Vet Center was stopped due to COVID. As a therapist and art therapist specializing in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, it seemed like the perfect fit for me to create a new group. The American Legion and Greg were major players in helping me find a space and to get me connected to a few members of the former group.

We meet once monthly and discuss some psychoeducation on the effect of trauma on the nervous system/brain, mindfulness, self-compassion, and ways engaging in art making can ease symptoms of PTSD / TBIs. We often discuss the importance of community and connection to others, and I feel so grateful to be connected to such a wonderful

If anyone is interested in learning more about the group (which is free to attend), more information as well as my contact information can be found on my web-

Ashley Shanahan, MA, LPC, ATR-BC, ACS

alternativepathcat.com

201-579-0041

Chapter 12 Corn Beef fundraiser, benefit VFW Post 2179



Presentation of check in the amount \$3601.00 to Carol Force and Commander Dan Butler . Money was profit from 500 lbs. corn beef dinner





National Purple Heart Hall of Honor

ENROLLMENT

Thank you for your interest in the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. We are pleased to provide you with information regarding *enrollment* in the *Roll of Honor* database. This database provides information about each Purple Heart recipient's story and it can include photographs and scanned documents which have been provided to us that help enrich/enhance his or her record.

The Hall of Honor is the nation's *sole* repository dedicated to the preservation and collection of the stories of Purple Heart recipients. The mission of the Hall of Honor is to collect, preserve and share the stories of Purple Heart recipients in all branches of service and for all conflicts for which the award has been available.

Enrollment Documentation

To enroll a Purple Heart recipient in the Roll of Honor, please submit the following information:

[Enrollment Form \(pdf\)](#)

- Verification of receipt of Purple Heart Medal
- Please submit a copy of one or more of the following:
 - DD-214 (or DD-215 update)
 - WD AGO 53-55 (WWII)
 - General Orders or Permanent Orders (awarding the Purple Heart)
 - Purple Heart Certificate or other supporting documentation as appropriate.
 -

To obtain a copy of the necessary documentation, please contact the [National Personnel Records Center](#) or by phone at 314-801-0800. You must complete the standard Form 180 (SF180) in order to obtain military records.

Supporting Documents

We are also collecting photographs of each recipient as well as a short narrative describing how the recipient was wounded or killed. We can accept additional materials such as letters, newspaper articles and pictures that contribute to the recipient's Purple Heart story.

We look forward to receiving the enrollment application and supporting documents, which will be added to our collection.

Again, thank you. We appreciate your support and assistance as we continue to build the nation's first comprehensive database of Purple Heart recipients.

VFW Post 1333 Vietnam Veterans Day.

Eighteen Chapter members wish to thank Tony Richardson and VFW Post 1333 for their annual Vietnam Veterans Day Lunch. OUTSTANDING JOB !



Congratulations to Jim Mack who was honored at the Greater Ocean Township Chamber of Commerce on March 19, for the Beautification award for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



Congratulations to Ewin Coons Dennis Champ, and Richard Brandon on their induction to Chapel of Four Chaplain.

4/9/24, 6:30 PM

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OUR MISSING



[DPAA Home](#) / [Families](#) / [Search Our Missing](#)

ACCOUNTING FOR OUR MISSING PERSONNEL

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Within this mission, we search for missing personnel from World War II (WWII), the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. Our research and operational missions include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world.

At present, more than 81,500 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,500 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

OUR MISSING FACTS & FIGURES

TOTAL MISSING

Missing as of 1973*

84611

Accounted For**

3319

Unaccounted For

81292

-14

WWII

Missing as of 1973*

73679

Accounted For**

1576

Unaccounted For

72103

-12
10-ARMY
2-NAVY

KOREAN WAR

Missing as of 1973*

8157

Accounted For**

677

Unaccounted For

7480

-2
1-ARMY
1-ARMY AIR FORCE

VIETNAM WAR

Missing as of 1973*

2641

Accounted For**

1064

Unaccounted For

1577

COLD WAR

Missing as of 1973*

128

Accounted For**

2

Unaccounted For

126

GULF WAR AND LIBYA OPERATIONS

Missing*

6

Accounted For**

0

Unaccounted For

6

*Casualty numbers are related to only those associated to our mission starting from 1973 to present and don't reflect the total number of missing from each conflict.

**To respect the next-of-kin, individuals are only displayed as "Accounted For" in the grids and case profiles when (1) DPAA has made the identification, and (2) the next-of-kin has been notified.

Numbers that are not associated with individual names will continue to update as soon as an identification has been made.

SEARCH OUR MISSING PERSONNEL

POW/MIA AFFAIRS BY GRANT T. COATES, CHAIR

As of February 12, the number of Americans missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam

War was 1,577. The countries are Vietnam-1,237; Laos-285; Cambodia-48; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters-7.

First Name (full or starts with):

Last Name (full or starts with):

Branch of Service:

ALL

Free Handyman Services for Seniors

WE DO SMALL JOBS TO HELP KEEP HOMES SAFE!

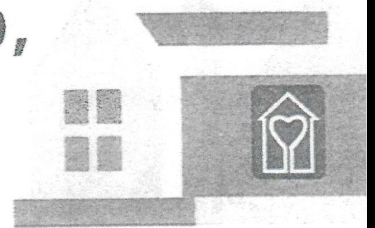
Reliable volunteer services include: minor carpentry, plumbing, and electrical repairs. Moving boxes, hanging shades, organizing garages, light bulb changes, filter changes, smoke alarm checks, changing of locks, etc.

Sorry, we can not help with any:

- Aesthetic improvements
- Painting
- Roof issues
- Ladder work
- Repairs behind walls
- Large yard care
- Repairs on homes up for sale or apartments



If you need help,
please call
732-505-2273.



caregivervolunteers.org

QUILTS OF HONOR HONOREES

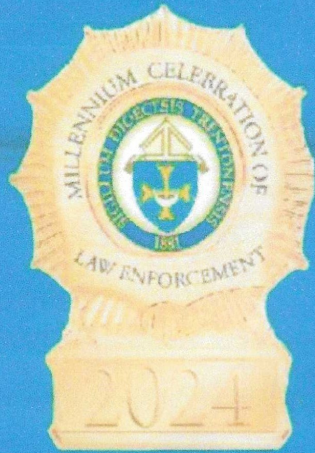


From left: Bob Lopez, Steven Leveson, Milton Davison, Larry Viig, Bob Gardner





New 988 Veterans Crisis Hotline: VA announced veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. “During a crisis, every second counts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach life-saving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.” While [Dial 988 then Press 1](#) is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#) or by texting 838255.



THE MOST REVEREND
DAVID M. O'CONNELL, C.M.
The Bishop of Trenton

22nd ANNUAL BLUE MASS

THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON'S CELEBRATION *of* LAW ENFORCEMENT

St. Robert Bellarmine Co-Cathedral
61 GEORGIA ROAD, FREEHOLD

Thursday, April 4, 2024 | 10:30 am

All Law Enforcement Officers
and their families, as well as the
public, are invited to share in this
celebration of Law Enforcement

Luncheon ticket: \$20 per person

For further information email,
dotcomm@dioceseoftrenton.org

or visit

www.bluemass.org





Dear Veteran,

The Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities specifically pertaining to the respiratory, auditory and mental disorders body systems. The proposed updates to the rating schedule for these conditions will enable VA to incorporate modern medical data and terminology to provide Veterans with more accurate and consistent decisions. Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition in these body systems will not have their disability rating impacted when the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities is updated. Updating the rating schedule allows Veterans to receive decisions based on the most current medical knowledge relating to their condition.

By incorporating modern medical data in the assessment of disabilities and how they impact earning capacity, Veterans will receive evaluations which more accurately compensate them for their service-connected disabilities. Proposed updates include:

Modernizing the evaluative rating criteria for sleep apnea, using developments in medical knowledge to evaluate it based on its responsiveness to treatment, bringing the rating criteria for sleep apnea more closely in line with the stated purpose of the rating schedule.

Evaluating tinnitus (ringing in the ears) as a symptom of the underlying disease which causes it, rather than as a stand-alone disability.

Evaluating mental health conditions based on a more robust and holistic approach that assesses how impactful the disability is to cognition, interpersonal relationships, task completion, life activities and self-care. Additionally, the proposed evaluation criteria include a 10% minimum evaluation for having one or more service-connected mental health conditions and will no longer require "total occupational and social impairment" to attain a 100% evaluation.

No change to a Veteran's current rating would occur due to these proposed changes. If the proposed changes are finalized, Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition can apply for increased compensation, but no reductions shall be made unless an improvement in the Veteran's disability is shown to have occurred. The public has 60 days to provide comments to VA regarding the two proposed updates via the Federal Register notices located here and here.

Thomas J. Murphy Director, Northeast District

Performing the Delegable Duties of the Under Secretary for Benefits

Chapter needs to recruit AVVA members to carrier on our Legacy.



ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
8917 Colesville Rd • Silver Spring • MD • 20910 www.avva.org

NEW MEMBER:

State/Chapter: 12 At-Large?
Name: _____ Phone: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Email: _____

RENEWAL:

Membership #, if known: _____ State/Chapter: _____ At-Large?
Name: _____ Email: _____
Mailing Address: _____

DUES

Annual Membership \$20 Life Membership Full payment \$100
 Life Member Time Payment Option: \$25 down / \$25 monthly until paid in full

VVA Dual Membership:

Life Membership: \$50

PAYMENT METHOD

DO NOT SEND CASH

Check Visa Master Card Discover American Express
Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____
Card holder's signature: _____

Make your check payable to **AVVA**

Remit this application and payment to:

AVVA • PO Box 49029 • Baltimore • MD • 21297-4929

VETERANS OF AMERICA DAY

Sunday, May 19th



Bridgewater, New Jersey – The Somerset Patriots, the New York Yankees Double-A affiliate, have announced that the team’s annual Veterans of America Day will take place at TD Bank Ballpark on Sunday, May 19. Fans are encouraged to arrive early for a pre-game ceremony beginning at 12:00 pm prior to the 1:05 pm game versus the Portland Sea Dogs (Boston Red Sox).

[REGISTER FOR TICKETS ONLINE HERE!](#)

All active military members and Veterans will receive complimentary tickets to the game with discounted \$7.00 Upper Box tickets for their guests. Tickets are available online [BY CLICKING HERE](#), by calling (908) 252-0700, or at the box office located at TD Bank Ballpark. If ordering online, Veterans will fill out a registration form and be contacted by a team representative to coordinate the complimentary and discounted ticket(s). Online orders are subject to fees.

Veterans of America Day’s pre-game ceremonies will include a Veterans March on the warning track, guest speakers, special presentations, performances and more to be announced over the coming weeks leading into the event.

There will also be several on-site tables featuring event partners to provide Veterans and their families with important information, as well as enhance the experience for fans attending the event.

Patriots players and coaches will be wearing special themed military-inspired jerseys that will be auctioned off online. The game-worn jersey auction proceeds, as well as the game’s 50/50 raffle, will be donated to several participating Veterans’ charities supported by the team.

The first 2,000 fans in attendance will receive a camo baseball courtesy of Financial Resources Federal Credit Union.

Agent Orange Zone

Filing a VA claim for disability compensation

Disability compensation benefits are a monthly, tax-free payment to Veterans who were injured, sustained a long-term illness or experienced a worsening medical condition during their military service.

In addition to compensating Veterans whose disabilities incurred while serving in the military, Veterans may also be granted compensation for specific post-service medical conditions that arose because of their military service. Known as presumptive disabilities, these conditions may not have arisen in service but may be granted as service-connected because its occurrence can be linked directly to military service.

VA recently added new medical conditions to a growing list of presumptive disabilities, which you can view [here](#). These conditions can be presumed to have occurred because of an exposure to Agent Orange, ionizing radiation, and service in the Gulf War.

How to file a claim for disability compensation

The COVID-19 pandemic has not halted the claims process. Veterans can still file claims, and VA is still processing them. VA recommends filing a claim online, but it can still be done in person or through the mail. To get started, visit the [VA disability compensation webpage](#) and follow the steps listed below.

Step One: Prepare documents before starting your application

Gather any [evidence](#), documentation and/or required forms that support your claim before beginning your application. This might include:

- A completed [Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits Form \(VA Form 21-526EZ\)](#),
- Private medical records related to your condition, and/or
- Military personnel records

You must include both the required and (if necessary) supplementary documents or your application will be voided. In some cases, you may need to turn in [one or more forms](#) to support your claim.

Step Two: File your claim

There are three ways to file a claim: online, in person (with a VA representative, or with a Veterans Service Organization) or through the mail. Online applications are simple and easy to complete. You can access the application by visiting the [Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits webpage](#), then sign into your VA.gov account (or create a new account at the [ID.me website](#)). You can save your progress online for up to one year before the application expires.

If you do not have access to a computer or internet device, VA also accepts printed disability claim applications that can be filed either in person or through the mail. In person applications can be submitted to your local VA regional office. Visit [VA.gov/find-locations](#) to find a VA regional office in your state. If you wish to mail your application, please do so by sending it to the following address:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Claims Intake Center
PO Box 4444
Janesville, WI 53547-4444

Step Three: VA will review your claim and notify you of its decision

VA [may require a few months](#) to make a decision on claim applications. The time it takes to review your application depends on three factors:

- The type of claim filed
- How many injuries or disabilities claimed and how complex they are, and/or
- [How long it takes VA to collect additional evidence](#) needed to decide your claim. This evidence may include service treatment records, service personnel records, private and federal treatment records, and [compensation and pension exams](#).

Once your disability claim application has been reviewed and all required documentation has been received, VA will decide on your claim and send you a notification letter of its decision. The notification letter will include specific details regarding the decisions made on your claim. You can expect to receive your notification letter 7 to 10 business days after a decision is made. Please contact a [VA call center](#) if it does not arrive within this period.

Step Four: After you receive a decision

You may ask for a second review if you are not satisfied with VA's decision. Veterans who filed a claim on or after February 19, 2019, may choose from three application review options. The first, a [Supplemental Claim](#), allows you to add new and relevant evidence (that VA doesn't already have). The second, a [Higher-Level Review](#), asks for a senior reviewer to examine your case. This option does not allow you to edit or add to your current application. And lastly, a [Board Appeal](#) requests a Veterans Law Judge with the Board of Veterans' Appeals to review your application.

If you have any questions or concerns before, during or after submitting a request to have your decision reviewed, please visit the [VA Decision Reviews and Appeals website](#).

For more information

Life comes with plenty of challenges, but ensuring the wellbeing of you and your family should not be one of them. Visit [VA.gov](#) to learn more about VA benefits and services.

If you wish to learn more about the claims process, visit the [Vantage Point](#) blog platform to keep up to date on disability claims and benefit eligibility requirements.

For more general information on the VA disability compensation and the process, [click here](#). For more on eligibility, [click here](#). You can also watch this [video series](#) produced by the Office of Information and Technology (OIT).

To request additional help filing a disability claim, learn more about [accredited representatives](#) or contact a VA regional office near you to speak with a counselor by calling 800-827-1000.



See you later, **ALLIGATOR!**



After a while, **CROCODILE!**

Gotta go, **BUFFALO!**



See you soon, **RACCOON!**



Be sweet, **PARAKEET!**

Take care, **POLAR BEAR!**



In a shake, **GARTER SNAKE!**



Hit the road, **HAPPY TOAD!**

Can't stay, **BLUE JAY!**



Bye-bye, **BUTTERFLY!**



Give me a hug, **LADYBUG!**



Toodle-loo, **KANGAROO!**



Time to scoot, **LITTLE NEWT!**

Till then, **PENGUIN!**



Adios! **HIPPOS!**



Hasta Mañana, **IGUANA!**



Give me a kiss, **GOLDFISH!**



Get in line, **PORCUPINE!**



Out The door, **DINOSAUR!**



On the bus, **OCTOPUS!**



To your house, **QUIET MOUSE!**



Our day now ends. So good bye my Dear Friends



**New Pilot VAVS Program
“Courtesy Transportation”**

**VA New Jersey Health Care System is seeking contributions of Uber
gift cards for Veterans
in need of transportation assistance.**

**Uber services will be offered to Veterans that are not eligible for
beneficiary travel and have no means of transportation home.**

Uber gift cards are now available nationwide.

**Any questions regarding this special need, please contact Voluntary
Service at
908-604-5814.**